

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LITTER BOX TRAINING

The cat or kitten you have adopted from the Monroe County Animal Shelter is litter box trained. A cat always wants to use their litter box. A new home is very large and confusing at first to a new pet. It is up to **YOU** to make sure your cat knows where the litter box is located...in relation to each and every room in the house. If you have multiple levels in your home, you should have a litter box on each level.

Adult Cats: For the first few days make sure your new cat KNOWS where the litter box is located. Have the cat follow you from each room of the house to the litter box....multiple times per day until you know the cat can find the litter box when needed. If the feeding area is in the same room, this will go pretty fast.

Kittens: They may take more time to train on location of the litter box....a new house (and even an apartment) is HUGE to a kitten and they will get lost looking for the litter box if you don't do this right. (Remember.....they have been living in a caged area at the shelter and the litter box is right next to them). Kittens are like babies, they will play until they just can't hold it anymore...so your baby cat needs to know where to run when that time hits. If the kitten won't follow you TO the litter box, while it is roaming the house, pick the kitten up and put him/her in the litter box every 10-15 minutes.....he/she will either use to litter right then (often they will wait and watch) or not, but they will follow out of the room and that will also help them learn. Cats and kittens are pretty easy to train.

LITTER BOX PLACEMENT

A litter box should be located where the cat can access it easily and safely. Cats are inclined to eliminate their waste by pawing through a sand-like substance in a private location.

Common Reasons Cats Avoid Litter Box

A cat may not use a litter box for a variety of reasons:

- **Not in a private and safe location.** We like to use the restroom in private, our cats do as well. Cats will avoid a litter box located in a noisy or busy part of the house.
- **Wrong size litter box-**Cats like a large litter box. They need to be able to turn around, and need room to be able to “dig a hole” and then cover their deposit. High sided boxes keep the area around the box a little less messy.
- **Many cats are very particular about litter.** Using a litter your cat doesn't like will cause him to avoid using the litter box
- **Not enough litter boxes.** A common rule of thumb is one additional litter box for number of cats in the house. For example, a household with two cats should ideally have 3 litter boxes.
- **Litter box isn't clean enough.** Cats can be very particular about the cleanliness of the litter box. They will often eliminate beside the box to communicate their displeasure. Scoop twice per day!
- **Wrong type of litter box.** Some cats don't like the hooded litter boxes. It may be too confining, and hold in litter box odor.
- **Multiple litter boxes are too close together.....3'- 4' apart if they are in the same room**
- **Not enough litter in the box-need at least 1 ½-2 inches at all times.** The first time you fill the litter box it will take a lot of litter, thereafter use a coffee can as a scoop to supplement litter depth as needed.

Litter Box Placement: Do's And Don'ts

The location of a litter box is key to successful litter box training! Best litter box placement is a clean and quiet corner in a family room or nook in a spare bedroom.

Because cats fear being ambushed, do not place a litter box in areas that make your cat feel trapped, such as closed end hallways or closets. If you have multiple cats, a dominate feline may assume control over the litter box(es).

Additionally, with a heightened sensitivity to smells, cats don't want to use a litter box placed near their food and water bowls.

Training A Kitten

When bringing a new kitten into your home, keep him/her in a small space near where you intend to put the litter box. This will allow your cat to be comfortable with his/her surroundings.

Do not put the litter box in a place where your cat will have to climb stairs; this will make it harder to access the box.

When considering litter box placement, locate one on each floor in your home. This will ensure one is always readily accessible. Because cats enjoy consistency, keep the litter boxes in the same location. Rule of thumb-have one more litter box than you have cats. (If you have 2 cats, you should have 3 litter boxes)

When the new cat is ready to venture further out into the home, allow him/her to make his/her own path to the litter box. Your cat can determine his/her own route to and from the litter box and build confidence each time.

CATS WANT TO USE THEIR LITTER BOX-IT IS UP TO YOU TO
MAKE SURE YOUR CAT KNOWS WHERE IT IS!

Thank you for choosing adoption!