



Preventing & Solving Litter Box Issues

Litter box issues are every cat parent's nightmare! So let's take a second to learn what leads to these issues, how we can prevent them, and how to alleviate them if they arise.

What Do Cats Like in a Litter Box?

- **Large, open boxes that are at least as big as they are from nose to tail**
 - Having a hard time finding one? Check out hardware stores for cheap alternatives, such as cement mixing trays!
- **Easy to step in and out of**
 - If you're not sure about the ease of access, try to picture yourself doing the same movements to get to your bathroom
- **Kept somewhere quiet, accessible, and safe from other animals**
 - Try to put your litter boxes in places that your cat already spends a lot of time, with multiple options throughout the home
- **Well maintained boxes without strong odors**
 - Cats have very sensitive noses, so try to avoid heavily perfumed litter and cleaning products

Already providing litter boxes that appeal to your cat? Great! Let's cover other potential reasons for cats going outside the box.

Main Causes of Litter Box Issues:

- **Underlying Medical Problem (Urinary Tract Infection, Diabetes, Arthritis, etc)**
 - Often our feline companions simply can't help it, or are in serious pain when we notice these issues. Make sure to rule out a potential health issue with your veterinarian!
- **Anxiety, Fear, or Stress**
 - This can be brought on by a number of environmental stressors such as change in routine, new family members, tension in the home, etc. Try to alleviate as much stress as possible! There are even calming pheromone products available, if you need a little extra help.

If you have any issues, please feel free to reach out! We're happy to help! Just contact Roxie at cats@cmhspets.org