

HAS YOUR CAT **STOPPED** USING THE **LITTER BOX?**



The litter box. For many cat owners it's the most frustrating aspect of living with cats. Why is a plastic box filled with litter causing so much stress?

Here are three steps to figure out the cause:

STEP
1

Visit the Veterinarian

The cat may associate the location of the box with pain or maybe he can't hold his urine or stool long enough to make it to the box. It's crucial to rule out illness and injury before assuming the problem is behavioural.

STEP
2

Litter Box Set-Up

- Ideally, the litter box should be 1 ½ times the length of your cat and should not be covered. Covered boxes are too confining and they actually concentrate more odor.
- Use soft unscented litter
- Locate the box where it's convenient for the cat. If you have a multicat environment you'll need multiple boxes separated throughout the home to avoid territorial spats.
- Scoop the box at least twice a day.

STEP
3

Environment and Conflict

Cats are susceptible to stress, which can show up as a litter box problem. Multipet tension, moving, renovations, marriage, divorce, the appearance of unfamiliar outdoor animals, new baby, kids going to college, these are just a few of the things that can upset the feline status quo.



If you can't figure out the underlying cause of your cat's litter box problem and he has gotten a clean bill of health, talk to your veterinarian about a referral to a qualified behaviour expert.

Source: Pam Johnson-Bennett, owner of Cat Behavior Associates: www.catbehaviorassociates.com

Find out more at www.petsecure.com or call toll free at **1.800.268.1169**

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