

# Litter Box Issues

Cats naturally tend to use the litterbox so when they start peeing and pooping outside, there is usually a reason. Ask yourself some questions:

## **Have you taken the cat to the vet to have this problem checked out recently?**

Urinary tract infections are very common causes of litterbox issues. Because of the infection, the cat experiences pain while peeing and then thinks the litterbox caused that pain. Antibiotics often clear up the infection quickly.

## **How old is the cat?**

Sometimes older cats have bladder problems so a vet visit is important to rule out any medical concerns. If he is a young or old cat, make sure he can get to and into the litterbox without issues (maybe going upstairs is too hard, or the litterbox walls are too high).

## **How many litterboxes do you have?**

A good guideline is to have one more litterbox than cats. So if you have two cats, try setting out three litterboxes.

## **How often is the litterbox cleaned?**

Some cats are very picky about how clean the litterbox is kept. Try scooping it at least once a day, and completely change it out more often.

## **Where is the litterbox?**

The litterbox should be in a quiet area that is always available to the cat. Don't keep it in a closed room.

## **What type of litter are you using?**

Cats can have preferences on what type of litter they want. If he is longer-haired, clumping litter may cause little balls of litter to stick between his toes. Or maybe he doesn't like that particular scent. Try switching it up to see if it makes a difference. Options include clay litter, pellets, potting soil, sawdust, or wheat litter.

## **What kind of box are you using?**

If it's covered, try uncovering it - some cats don't like being closed in to do their business. Or it may be too small for your cat's comfort so see if a larger one helps.

In addition to these tips, make sure you're cleaning any accident spots well with a mild bleach solution because if your cat can smell that he has gone there before, he might think it's a good idea to go again.

