

Feline House Soiling Overview

A wonderful book regarding kitties (and litter box issues) is “Think Like a Cat” by Pam Johnson-Bennet. It is \$16.95. It can be purchased at any bookstore and is well worth it!

We recommend you try the suggestions in the **Feline House Soiling** handout first and allow your cat to have usual access to your home. Please answer the two medical questions below and see a vet if either exists. If the Feline House Soiling suggestions don't work, try the following re-training. If all suggestions are followed, this problem can be fixed. It takes patience and love!

Re-training:

1. Place your cat in a room with TWO litter boxes (some cats like to urinate in one and defecate in the other). Put the boxes next to each other. Fill them about one inch each with UNSCENTED litter. Follow the litter suggestions in Feline House Soiling. The litter must be unscented.
2. Place kitty's food and water bowls FAR away from the litter boxes. Remove all rugs.
3. Scoop litter boxes TWICE a day and dump the boxes completely twice a week and wash them out with vinegar and liquid dish soap and rinse them thoroughly and dry them.
4. When kitty is using the box(es) regularly while in the room, you can start letting her out and if she continues to use the box(es), you might consider leaving them where they are. If that is not workable, try moving them a little at a time to the new location.
5. If you have tried all the suggestions in Feline House Soiling and tried confining kitty to a room and kitty is still not using the box, you can try confining kitty to a large dog metal crate with the same procedures.

Other questions to be answered:

1. Are kitty's stools normal or loose? A cat with loose stools might not use the box (she might associate the discomfort of diarrhea with the litter box itself). If kitty's stools are loose, you need to get kitty on a food that will firm up her stools. We recommend you talk to your vet about a different food. Usually a high quality food will take care of the problem. If not, your vet might recommend either a high fiber or high fat diet depending on the symptoms. There are some foods that are all natural/no preservatives that can be purchased at garden stores, natural food stores or vet offices. Two excellent natural foods are: Wellness (available at Frontier Garden in Cedar Rapids) and Innova (Cedar Rapids Animal Hospital). Make sure you switch to a new food gradually. Another good food is Pro Pac (Frontier Garden, Petco). If you must use food from a grocery store, try Purina One. Your vet might recommend a diet of rice and chicken broth or medication to get kitty back on track.

2. Is kitty's urine dark or tea colored? If yes, kitty might have a urinary tract infection that will require that she sees a vet immediately. Again, kitty might associate the pain of urinating with the litter box itself.

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