



10 easy litter box fixes

Litter box issues are the most common reason cats are surrendered to shelters. While litter box issues can be frustrating, IndyHumane can help! The list below is comprised of “easy fixes” that anyone can use to help their cat. We understand that not all litter box problems will be solved by one factor and some won’t be resolved by all of the advice on this sheet, so if nothing else works, see #10!

1. For urination outside the litter box, always begin by consulting your veterinarian to ensure your cat doesn’t have a urinary tract infection or other health issue. UTIs can be very painful, but most are easily cleared up with a round of antibiotics.
2. Clean the litter boxes daily. Some cats do not like to “re-use” a litter box once it is dirty.
3. Have multiple litter boxes available. The guideline is 1 litter box per cat + 1 extra litter box in the home. This means that a single cat should have access to two litter boxes.
4. Litter boxes should be spaced throughout the home instead of all in one room. This gives your cat(s) multiple options and helps to distribute their “smell,” so they don't feel the need to mark.
5. Have a litter box on each floor of the home that the cat(s) can access. If you have a two-story home with a basement, your cat will need one box on the top floor, one on the main floor and one in the basement.
6. Make sure the box is large enough for your cat to stand, turn around, and stretch out in. Litter boxes should be 1.5 times the length of your cat. Most cats prefer uncovered boxes.
7. Most cats prefer unscented, clumping litter.
8. Litter boxes should be located in quiet but not completely isolated locations in the home. Litter boxes should not be next to any appliances that make loud or unpredictable noises, such as washing machines or dishwashers.
9. Your cat’s food and water dishes should be at least 4 feet away from their litter boxes.
10. For behavioral problems that persist, please contact Feline Behavior Help at cathelp@indyhumane.org.