animal rescue league NH

Help your cat "think inside the box"

Set your cat up for good litter box habits!

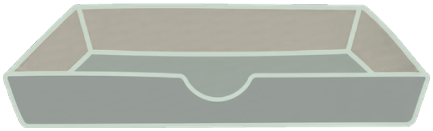


What is the best litter box?

- a favorite for cats is the **standard uncovered plastic litter box**
  - urine creates ammonia, which stings the eyes, so uncovered boxes are preferred over covered for health/comfort
  - many cats will use automatic boxes, but some will not due to fear of the noise and sudden movement (if you choose to try one, offer a basic box as well!)

TIPS

- to avoid litter getting kicked outside the box, select a box with higher sides or put a pad or old towel underneath
- for big cats, get a larger box for comfort & to help prevent accidents over the side
- for older cats or those with painful health issues, use a senior litter box (large with low sides) & offer extra boxes throughout the house as they need to pee more often



What is the best litter?

- cats tend to like **fine grain litter** like unscented clay, corn litter, etc.
  - natural like dirt, easy on paws, easy to dig through and covers soiled areas well
  - some will use pellet litter (pine, paper, etc.), but many will not as (different than dirt and harder on the paws, especially for seniors)
  - clumping litter is often preferred over non-clumping; clumping is easier to scoop but little more costly (mix 50% with 50% non-clumping to cut back costs and have benefits)

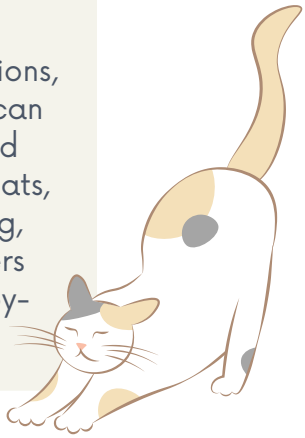
Your cat may have a preference for a certain type of litter!



TIPS

- like food transitions, switching litter can be surprising and off-putting for cats, so if transitioning, mix the two litters together little-by-little over time





How many litter boxes?

Follow "the golden rule":

GIVE 1 ½ BOXES PER. CAT

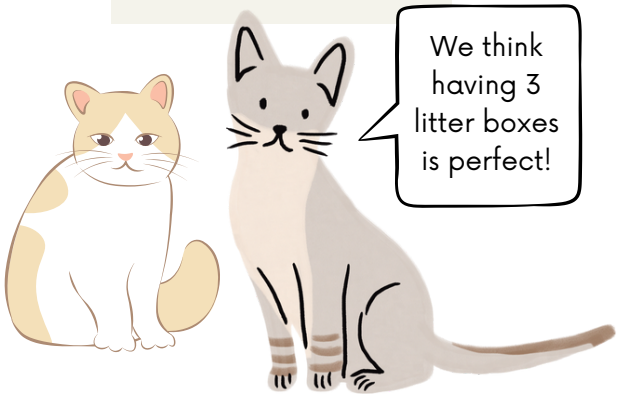
breakdown: 3 boxes for 2 cats, 5 for 3 cats, 6 for 4 cats, 8 for 5, etc.

- some cats like to pee in one spot and poo in another
- others will only potty in unsoiled spots (so if there is only one box and it is dirty, they will look for a clean place to potty, even if it is on the floor)



"golden rule"

1 cat = 2 boxes
2 cats = 3 boxes
3 cats = 5 boxes



Where to put litter boxes?

YES

- a room your cat likes/spends time in
- somewhere in the open (easy to find)
- a quiet place

NO, PLEASE

- "hidden" places, like the basement, on furniture, in closets (hidden places are difficult to find)
- on the other side of a cat door (if a cat door is necessary, ensure they find it and are willing to use it)
- areas with lots of people/activity
- places with dogs
- places with small children
- next to/on things that make loud noises/vibrations like the dryer



TIPS

- avoid leaving piles of dirty clothes around (sometimes cats potty in areas with odors)

How often to clean?

- **scoop daily** and add fresh litter as needed
- **deep clean** with bleach water, rinse well and fill with fresh litter **at least once every 2 weeks**



TO DO

- DAILY: **scoop** and add fresh litter as needed
- EVERY 2 WEEKS: **deep clean** and change litter