

7. Some cats dislike stepping into the box to use it. These cats frequently urinate/defecate just outside their litterbox. Remove the hood and add a ledge around the box that the cat can stand on to use it.

8. Encourage your cat to use the new box by praising him quietly while in the box, and with special food treats & petting immediately after he leaves the litterbox.

9. Never punish the cat for eliminating outside the litterbox! This simply does not work and can increase the problem.

It takes a lot of patience and diligence to correct a litterbox problem. Your cat's life is worth it!



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## Solving Litterbox Problems



### The Top Three Reasons Why Cats Stop Using Their Litterboxes Are:

**Medical Problems**

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**Trauma**

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**Dislike Of Litter Or Placement Of Litterbox**

**Cats stop using their litterbox for a variety of reasons:**

- 1. Medical problems**
- 2. Trauma associated with using the litterbox (Pain, fear, etc.)**
- 3. Dislike characteristics of litterbox (Location, type of litter, urine/feces smell, deodorizers, etc.)**

**The number one reason cats are euthanized is because they have stopped using their litterbox or frequently urinate/defecate outside the box. This problem can often be corrected by taking the following steps:**

- 1. Take your cat to your veterinarian to rule out a medical problem. If your cat has a urinary tract infection, Feline Lower Urinary Tract Disease (FLUTD), impacted anal sacs or other physical problems, he may associate the litterbox**

**with painful elimination and stop using it. Follow your vet's treatment recommendation and the suggestions below.**

- 2. Cats will continue to eliminate in areas that smell like urine/feces. Remove the odor of any soiled areas using a commercial enzymatic odor neutralizer (such as Nature's Miracle) or a 1:1 vinegar & water solution. Because the urea in urine breaks down to ammonia in the environment, using ammonia-based cleaners will continue to encourage the cat to eliminate there.**
- 3. Cover the area with a plastic drop cloth or aluminum foil. Use strong citrus air fresheners to discourage your cat from eliminating here. Or, place the cat's food dishes, toys, bed, etc. in this area.**

- 4. Make sure you have *at least* as many litterboxes as you do cats. Clean them every 3 - 5 days with soap and water. Rinse them with diluted bleach water (1:30) to disinfect them.**
- 5. Start over with a new box. Place it in a quiet, warm place that is easily accessible to your cat and far away from his food dish. Make sure he is not disturbed by other animals or children while using the box.**
- 6. Add or remove a hood. Try new types of litterbox filler (scented/unscented clay litter, clumping litter, sand, hay, shredded corn cob, sawdust, carpet remnants, etc.).**