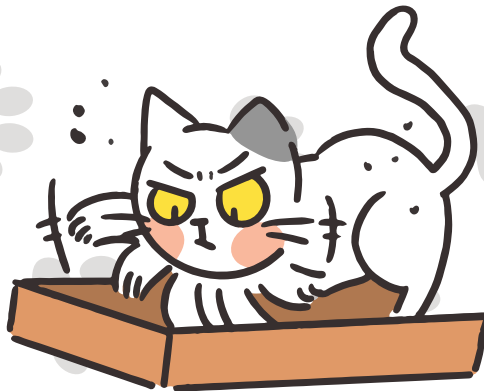




LITTER BOX CHECKLIST

<input type="radio"/> Is the litter box clean?	<p>At least once a day, scoop pee and poop from the litter box and replace old litter with about an inch of fresh litter.</p> <p>No less than once a month, empty the litter and thoroughly clean the litter box.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Do you have enough litter boxes?	<p>The rule of thumb is to have at least one more litter box than the number of cats.</p> <p>You should also have at least one litter box on each level of your home.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Is the litter box the right type?	<p>Some cats dislike covered litter boxes because they hinder escape, while others feel more secure in them.</p> <p>Similarly, some cats detest the noise of self-scooping boxes, while others aren't bothered.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Is the litter box the right size?	<p>Cats need room to turn around and give the litter a few kicks. It's recommended that a litter box's longest side should be at least 1.5 times the length of your cat (nose to rump).</p> <p>It's also recommended that the sides of the litter box be 6 inches high, but kittens and seniors will need at least one lower side.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Are liners ever used?	<p>Many cats don't like plastic liners because they can snare their claws when they dig.</p> <p>If a cat's claws puncture the liner, urine can seep underneath it where it won't be absorbed by the litter and can cause odors.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Is the litter box in the right location?	<p>Cats don't like to soil the areas close to where they sleep or eat.</p> <p>Don't place the litter box in high-traffic areas, but also don't place it too far off the beaten path. Avoid closets, basements, and garages.</p>



WANT TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR CAT?

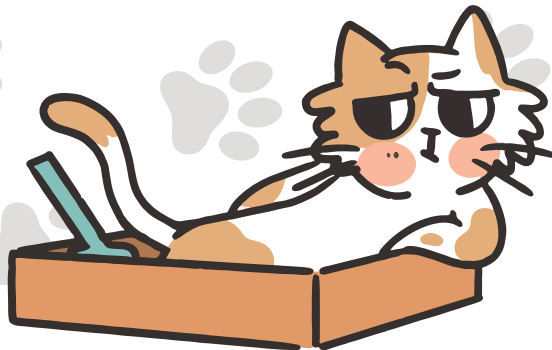
Find answers to your cat's behavior from the comfort of your home through my services. I offer educational content, Q&A chats, webinars, classes, and consultations to solve your cat's behavioral needs. Contact me at allisonhelpscats.wordpress.com



LITTER BOX CHECKLIST

<input type="radio"/> Does your cat have adequate escape routes?	<p>Place litter boxes where your cat can see who is approaching from any side. These locations should also have multiple escape routes.</p> <p>If you have more than one cat, make sure the litter box isn't in a location where one cat can corner the other.</p> <p>If your dog hangs around when your cat is using the litter box, use a baby gate to block your dog's access to that room.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Is the litter the right type?	<p>Most cats prefer unscented, clumping litter. But don't use clumping litter in litter boxes that are accessible to kittens younger than four months old!</p> <p>If your cat perches on the edge of the litter box and runs off without scratching the litter, chances are it doesn't find the texture or smell appealing. Try another kind of litter.</p> <p>If there's an issue with the litter, go back to the basics. Provide cats with sand-like litter similar to what they have in the wild, and work from there to see what else they might like.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Does your cat have a favorite location outside of its litter box?	<p>If your cat is eliminating outside of its litter boxes in a particular location, find ways to make that location less appealing:</p> <p>If the location is dark put a bright light or a motion-activated light in that area.</p> <p>If your cat prefers to pee on some other inappropriate surface, change the texture of the surface by placing an overturned rug or carpet runner in that area.</p>
<input type="radio"/> Has anything changed in your house?	<p>Cats are creatures of habit. Introduce changes in your cat's life gradually.</p> <p>Something as simple as a new mat underneath the litter box could stress your cat. If your cat begins eliminating outside the litter box after you make a change, restore the original setup!</p>

Disclaimer: This checklist is intended to serve only as a starting point. A cat with inappropriate behavior should always see a vet for a health check. If your cat receives a clean bill of health, please consider contacting a cat behavior consultant. Many behavior modification techniques have detrimental effects if misapplied. A qualified professional will take a complete behavior history, develop an intervention plan customized for your cat, and guide you through its implementation.



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