

## Litter Training Your Kitten

From a young age, cats have a strong instinct to void in sand or soil. Cats exhibit a wide range of normal behavior relating to elimination. Some normal cats dig enthusiastically before and after voiding while others do not cover waste. They often prefer a specific litter box location and type of litter. To *encourage kittens to use the litter box, gently place the kitten in the pan soon after each*

*meal.* If the kitten has had an “accident” outside the box, simply place the mess in the box to help the kitten make the desired association. *Punishment is never necessary*, as kittens usually learn quickly. *Avoid disturbing your cat* while it is using the box and never punish it for any reason when it is near the box.

## Tips for the Litter Box and Litter Material

- The box size should be large enough to comfortably accommodate an adult cat.
- The box sides should be low enough for easy access by a kitten.
- Begin with a litter material that is basic and simple.
- Consider first and foremost what your kitten prefers. Some have no preference, others are surprisingly choosy.
- If you change brands, mix the new brand with the old brand for a time.

## Care of Litter Boxes

The most important thing to encourage litter box use is cleanliness. Cats are very clean animals that avoid foul-smelling and damp places. *Consider not what you think is clean*, but what your cat considers acceptable.

- Change the litter completely and frequently according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- As a rule of thumb, provide one litter pan for every cat in your household.
- Each cat has its own tolerance of litter box contamination and may avoid using the box if it's too dirty.

## Litter Box Location

- Choose a quiet location.
- Place the litter pan away from a food dish or water bowl.
- Never block access to the litter box.