

Cat Litter Training: How to Train a Cat to Use a Litter Box

Just like her big cat cousins, your little kitten prefers to go to the toilet in privacy. That's why it's important to keep her litter tray in a quiet, safe, place where she can get to it easily and use it without anybody watching.

Using a litter box is something that a furry feline learns from a very young age, mostly from the mother. However, if you bring home a feral cat or a stray fur kiddo or if you rescue a small kitten off the streets and adopt them, you will have to take the responsibility of the mother cat and give them cat litter training. It will take time, but with proper cat training, you don't have to worry about cat pee and poop all over your house. However, there might be times when even a well-trained fur baby might poop or pee around the house, especially when they become old. In such situations, you will have to retrain your old kitty to use the litter box again to do its business.

But how to train a cat to use a litter box? This article aims to guide you on how to train a cat to use a litter box.

Finding the Perfect Litter Box for Your Cat

Litter training kittens begin with finding the perfect litter box. Here are certain points to keep in mind while finding the perfect litter box for litter-training kittens:

- **The right size of the litter box**

  If you have full-size boxes, your small kitty might find them highly intimidating and too big. For kittens, a cat litter tray measuring 13 inches by 9 inches is ideal. However, when you have adult cats or your cat is growing older, you will need larger-sized litter boxes. Simply put, get a litter box as per the size of your furry munchkin. Ideally, the litter box should be 1.5 times the length of the cat. As the kitten grows, the size of the box increases.

- **Covered or uncovered**

  Generally, cats prefer using uncovered litter boxes. Covered boxes give some cats a feeling of being trapped. Again, there are cats which like to excrete within a covered space. You can try giving your furry little friend both options and see what it likes.

- **Number of boxes**

  It is recommended that you should have one extra box for cat poop in your house. For instance, if you have three cats, you must have four litter boxes.

Placing Litter Box

Wondering how to train cats to use toilet? Proper placement of litter boxes is an integral part of how to train a cat to use a litter box. With proper availability and placement, you do not have to worry about your small fur ball pooping and peeing around the house. Here are some important points to consider when deciding on placements:

- **Try avoiding distractions**

  This is the first step in how to train cats to use toilet. Distractions might stop your little kitten from using the litter box. Therefore, you must place the litter box in a place where there is minimal or no distraction or disturbance.

- **Easily accessible**

  The litter box that you place for your little feline friend should be easily accessible by them when they need them. Refrain from putting these boxes in corners or closets as cats feel trapped or cornered during peeing and pooping. They also prefer some light around the litter box for easy visibility.

- **Placed in multiple locations**

  If you don’t want cat poop and cat pee all over your house, place litter boxes in different areas of the house. When the boxes are spread out, the furry felines find the litter boxes more easily and can use them as needed.

Steps to Litter Train a Kitten

How to litter train a kitten or how to teach a cat to use a litter box is not a very simple task but it isn't all that complicated either if done correctly. Here are some steps to how to toilet train a kitten:

1. **Step 1 - Proper placement of the litter box**

   Try placing the litter box in a quiet place, which is away from chaos. Do not place the litter box close to the food and water area of your feline friend. Cats do not excrete in the same area where they eat and drink.

2. **Step 2 - Provide enough litter in the box**

   Make sure that you cover the bottom of the box with a minimum of 2 inches of litter. Cats cover their excretion after eliminating it and they must have an adequate amount of litter for that. Initially, your furry friend will take some time to get accustomed to the feel and smell of litter before it starts peeing or pooping in the box.

3. **Step 3 - Place the kitty in the box to familiarise it**

   Place your kitty in the litter box regularly, particularly after the fur balls have eaten. Kittens usually eliminate right after their meals. Interrupt your cats if you see them poop anywhere else and bring them to the box. Reward them if they do their business inside the litter box.

4. **Step 4 - Make changes and try to make the cat use the litter box**

   Even after repeated attempts if you fail to litter train your fur friend, try changing the kind of litter that you are using in the box. You can also experiment by moving the litter box to some other place.

Steps to keep the litter box clean

Now that you know how to train a kitten to use a litter box, follow these steps to keep the cat litter box clean:

- Clean the litter every time your kitty poops during training, as having poop in the box might put off the kitty from using the box. Make sure that you add clean litter to maintain a depth of 2-3 inches.
- When your kitty gets older, scooping the litter box once daily is enough. By this time, the kitty will have learnt to use the litter box.
- Empty all litter from the box, clean it thoroughly, and then fill it with fresh litter.
- In case of clumping litter, you need to change them every week.

What should I do if my cat refuses to use the litter box

It is quite a common occurrence when a furry munchkin refuses to use the cat litter box. Then how to teach kitten to use litter box? If you are tired of how to teach a cat to use a

litter box but your little fur baby is still refusing to get litter-trained, you can try and follow these steps:

- Make sure that the litter box setup is perfect. The box should be easily accessible and placed in a quiet spot without any distractions or disturbances.
- Try changing the kind of litter in the box or the whole litter box to see if your fur kiddo prefers a different kind of litter or box.
- Scoop up the poop more often and replace litter frequently.
- Using pheromone diffusers is often great help as kitties have a feeling of marking their territory.
- If the problem still doesn’t resolve, get your furry munchkin checked by a veterinarian to rule out problems like urinary tract infections, parasites, or other medical conditions.

FAQs on litter training kittens

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1. **Can you toilet-train a cat?**

   Yes, it is possible to toilet-train your cat. With patience and by following the right methods, you can train your kitten to use the toilet and keep it clean too! But it might take a little longer than litter training.

2. **Do you have to train a cat to use the litter box?**

   Yes, a cat needs to be trained to use the litter box. Generally, a kitten learns from its mother to pee and poop in the right place. But you too can train your cat by getting them used to the litter box.

3. **How can I train my cat to use the litter box?**
   - Keep the litter box in a proper place
   - Put enough litter in the litter
   - Put the kitty in the box so that it gets accustomed to the litter box
   - Try making changes to the litter box if the kitty doesn't use it
4. **How long does it take to train a cat to litter?**

   Kittens have to be placed in the box many times for several days to get an idea of the litter box. It might take longer to train adult cats. On average, it takes around 4 weeks to train a cat to litter.

5. **What is the fastest way to litter train a cat?**

   The fastest way to litter-train a cat is to start training it when it is still a baby. Kittens are quick learners and less fussy about their preferences. Use positive reinforcements

such as treats and cuddles to train them easily.

6. **Is it cruel to keep cats indoors?**

   Indoor cats often lack the freedom enjoyed by outdoor cats, which may cause them to feel irritated or upset. However, being indoors significantly eliminates the risks to their health. Just make sure to keep them stimulated, well fed and hydrated.

7. **Are outdoor cats happier than indoor cats?**

   Outdoor cats have easy access to go on wonderful adventures and exercise their freedom. Hence their curiosity and sense of self are more prominent and satisfied. In comparison, indoor cats often feel restricted, causing them to be irritated or upset, creating a stark difference when it comes to indoor vs outdoor cats.

8. **Is it ok to have an indoor-outdoor cat?**

   Confused with indoor cats vs outdoor cats? It is natural for your indoor cat to want to go on outdoor adventures. It is okay to have an indoor cat who enjoys going outside but make sure that your kitty is regularly checked out for diseases and parasites.

9. **Is it better to have an indoor or outdoor cat?**

   Indoor vs outdoor cats have their fair share of strengths and weaknesses. However, when it comes to the general health and life expectancy of cats, indoor fur babies tend to be healthier and live much longer than their outdoor counterparts.

10. **Should I kitten-proof my balcony or window?**

    You can take steps like keeping cotton drapes and blind cords out of your fur baby’s reach, keeping windows and balcony doors closed unless the kitten is being supervised, and ensuring that plants toxic to cats aren’t within their reach.

11. **How do I kitten-proof my home?**

    Some crucial first steps of kitten-proofing homes are:

    - Keeping doors and windows locked
    - Having protective covering on wires and vulnerable furniture like sofas
    - Keeping small objects off the floor
    - Never leaving food uncovered
    - Using childproof latches on cabinets

12. **Is kitten-proofing my house necessary?**

    If you are thinking of getting a kitten, definitely! You would want to create a safe cat house for your new furry friend and also protect your household goods and furniture from curious kitties. Kitten-proofing your home ensures both.

13. **Do cats fake sleep?**

    Yes, they do. Cats fake sleep for a number of reasons such as when they are stressed or looking to get some pets from you.

14. **Do cats care if you sleep with them?**

    Most cats love co-sleeping with their humans and they will happily snooze curled up beside you or on your lap.

15. **Is a Cat Always in Deep Sleep?**

    Cats deep sleep for about 1/4th of their sleeping hours with the rest 3/4th dedicated to light sleeping or just snoozing. During light sleep, your furry friend is still resting, but in an alert state.

16. **How many hours does a cat sleep in a week?**

    In general, cats sleep for around 13-16 hours per day, but this duration can extent to over 18 hours in some cats. So, how long do cats sleep in a week? Well, cats sleep a whopping 91 to more than 126 hours per week!

17. **Do Cats Dream and Snore?**

    Yes, cats dream and snore. You will find your sleeping kitten twitching, moving their paws, making noises, and stretching. They can also snore when deeply asleep. Snoring is normal as long it’s not accompanied by other problems like sneezing, nose or eye discharge, coughing, or appetite changes.

18. **How do I calm my cat to cut its nails?**

    While most cats are tolerant of having their nails cut by someone they love, it is always a good idea to reward them with cat treats or shower them with affection, helping them calm down while you trim their nails.

19. **Do cats get mad when you cut their nails?**

    Trimming nails can make cats uncomfortable and fussy. So, avoid cutting cat nails when they are playing or stressed. It is important to give your kitty a nail trim once it is relaxed and comfy, like right after their mealtimes.

20. **What happens if you don’t trim your cat’s nails?**

    Once it grows too long, your fur baby’s nails can curve and grow into their soft paw pads, causing immense discomfort and pain. Failing to make sure to cut the cat’s nails also significantly raises the risks of bacterial infection.

21. **Is it necessary to trim a cat’s claws?**

    No, it is not always necessary to cut cat nails unless they have grown too long. Cats rely on their claws for multiple purposes like climbing and marking their territories, making it a significant limitation of cut cat’s nails.

22. **Do cats realise their claws hurt?**

    As kittens, felines are used to rough play which often includes playfully scratching and

biting their loved ones. However, they do not always realise that their claws can hurt their favourite humans, however innocent and loving their intentions may be.

23. **Do cats remember their owners when alone for a few days?**

    Cats are territorial and independent, but they are also incredibly affectionate and loving and miss their loved ones in their absence. So, you do not have to worry about your cat forgetting you when left alone for a few days.

24. **Can I leave my cat alone for a few days?**

    While it is not recommended, you can leave your fur kiddo for 2-3 days alone at home without any supervision. Just make sure there are sufficient food, fresh water, and litter tray with enough litter available at their disposal.

25. **What can I do with my cat when I go away?**

    To ensure your fur buddy stays healthy while you are away, you can opt for a cattery or cat-sitting service. Also, remember to take the necessary measures to make sure they are well-fed and hydrated while you are away.

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