

# VBSPCA

## LITTER BOX ISSUES

### CAUSES & SOLUTIONS



The most common reasons your cat may be experiencing litter box challenges are illness, stress, or anxiety. Your veterinarian will be able to determine if there are any medical problems, such as a urinary tract infection, and provide treatment if it is needed.

#### **CHANGES IN THE HOME**

Adding new people or pets to the home can cause stress. Help them relax by feeding, grooming, and playing with the cat when the new resident is around.

#### **RELOCATING**

Moving can also cause stress. Set your cat up in a small space with everything they need and gradually allow them access to more of the home.

#### **DIRTY LITTER BOX**

Scoop the box at least once a day, add in fresh litter often, and change the litter completely twice a month.

#### **FEELING ANXIOUS**

Make sure the litter box is in a quiet, convenient place for your cat to access. If your box has a lid, your cat could feel trapped, so try removing the lid entirely.

#### **SOILED AREAS**

Animals are likely to go to the bathroom in a place where they can smell urine or feces. Be sure to thoroughly clean soiled areas so your cat is less likely to be drawn back to that specific place.

#### **PREFERENCE RELATED PROBLEMS**

If your cat goes to the bathroom on soft surfaces, switch to a scoopable litter and put a soft rug under the litter box. For felines who prefer smooth surfaces, put a thin layer of litter on one side of the box and leave the other side empty. If your cat has a history of being outside, try adding some soil to the litter box.

#### **TERRITORIAL MARKING**

Territory related issues can be complicated and require behavior modification, and it is best to start by consulting with your veterinarian.



While litter box issues can be frustrating, it is important not to punish your cat. Doing so will only make your feline friend afraid of you. For more information visit, [vbspca.com/pet-care-resources](https://vbspca.com/pet-care-resources).