

## LITTER BOX CARE TO PREVENT OR TREAT ELIMINATION PROBLEMS

### What Kind of Litter Should I Use?

- Most cats will prefer a fine-grained, unscented litter substrate (for example: clumping litter).
- Ideally boxes should be scooped 1 to 2 times each day.
- Clumping litter should be completely changed at least weekly, and more often if more than one cat uses it.
- Clay litter should be changed a minimum of every other day, and more often if more than one cat uses it.
- Wash litter boxes with warm, soapy water and dry well before adding new litter.

### How Many Litter Boxes Do I Need?

- The ideal number of litter boxes is one per cat, plus one.
- Litter boxes should be placed in at least 2 different locations, and preferably more in a multiple cat household.
- Locations should be private and easy to access.
- Boxes should not be placed near noisy appliances.

### Other Hints:

- Never trap or corner a cat in its litter box to give medication, or do other things the cat may dislike.
- Many cats prefer a litter depth of 1.5 inches, however each cat may vary.
- Cats prefer their litter box to be 1.5 times the length of their bodies, many commercial litter boxes are too small for larger cats.

### Facts Regarding Urination and Defecation:

- The average cat urinates twice daily and defecates once (but up to 3-4 times in outdoor cats) daily.
- Some cats may sniff and cover their eliminations; other will not, both are considered normal behaviour.
- Elimination outside of the litter box is often a sign that there is an underlying medical condition, the earlier the problem is addressed and corrected, the better the chance for the cat to return to the litter box.
- Call your veterinarian if your cat begins, or has been eliminating outside the litter box.

(The above information is from the American Association of Feline Practitioners)