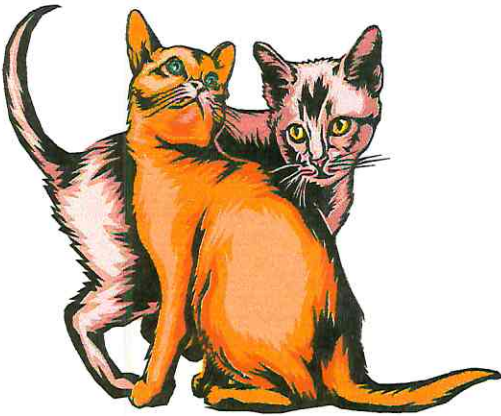# What To Do When your Cat Won't Use The Litter Box

If your cat is urinating or defecating outside of the box, ideally you should first determine whether there is a medical reason—parasites, bladder infection, etc. Once medical reasons have been ruled out by your vet, here are a few ticks for you to try.

**Use plain clay litter.** Deodorizers in the litter are often unappealing to cats. Even if you have been using deodorized litter with no problems you should switch to a plain litter.

**Make sure the box is clean.** It is recommended that litter be dumped daily. You need only use a small amount of litter (approx. 4-6 cups). Scooping poop daily is not good enough for some cats. The remaining urine soaked litter can produce enough odor for the cat to find the box unclean. If you do not believe it, put your nose 2 inches above the litter and inhale.

**Check location of food dish to box.** Many cats may be avoiding their litter box because their food is nearby. You wouldn't want to eat your dinner in the bathroom!

**Provide more than 1 box for several cats.** One box being used by two or more cats gets dirty and smelly fast.

**Strategically place food dishes on the soiled areas.** This trick may coax your cat back to the box. This is usually helpful only when the cat is soiling the same area repeatedly. Simply place food dishes on these spots.

**Changes in routine, lack of attention or new household members** may be bugging your cat and he is rebelling by not using the box. Take time to determine if there have been changes prior to the start of the litter box problems. Sometimes, simply paying more attention to the cat is all that is needed.

**Have your cat spayed or neutered.** It can be that your cat is reacting to other felines outside the house by marking his territory in the house. Spaying or neutering your cat will decrease this tendency.

The most important thing you can do is act on any litter box irregularities immediately. It may become harder to correct these problems if left unchecked because it simply becomes habit.