



Protocol for Cats with Elimination Disorders

This protocol aims to address substrate and location preferences in cats, promoting appropriate litter box use and resolving aversions. Please follow these steps carefully to help manage your cat's behavior effectively.

1. **Clean Affected Areas:** Use an odor eliminator to thoroughly clean any areas where elimination has occurred.
2. **Cover with Heavy-Gauge Plastic:** After cleaning, cover affected areas with heavy-gauge plastic to alter the tactile sensation for the cat and prevent further soiling.
3. **Multiple Litter Boxes:** Encourage the use of multiple litter boxes, ideally one more than the number of cats in the household. Place these boxes in various locations and offer different styles (open, covered, deep, shallow, large, small).
4. **Litter Maintenance:** Scoop litter boxes daily and replace most litters entirely every other day. Clumpable litters can be topped up instead of completely changed. Clean litter boxes thoroughly with hot, soapy water weekly, avoiding ammonia-based products.
5. **Offer Variety of Litters:** Experiment with different types of litter (e.g., clumping, non-clumping, sand, shredded paper) and different box setups to determine your cat's preference.
6. **Behavior Encouragement:** Cats are not trained to use litter boxes like dogs; they develop this behavior naturally. Encourage litter box use by placing the cat in the box frequently, praising them for using it.
7. **Confinement Consideration:** Some cats may benefit from initial confinement to a specific area with appropriate litter boxes. Ensure the cat has social interaction and access to preferred litter setups during confinement.
8. **Medication Consideration:** In some cases, anti-anxiety medications may complement behavior modification efforts. Medication should be used alongside behavior strategies, not as a sole treatment.

Checklist

- Scoop litter boxes daily
- Change litter at least every other day
- Wash litter boxes weekly with hot, soapy water
- Clean soiled areas with odor eliminator and cover with plastic
- Encourage litter box use through positive reinforcement
- Provide one more litter box than the number of cats
- Experiment with different litter types, depths, and box styles

Location and Substrate Tips

- **Location:** Use scent deterrents, place food/water dishes, and consider placing a litter box in problem spots.
- **Substrate:** Try various litters (clumping, non-clumping, alternative materials), experiment with different box liners, and offer both covered and open litter boxes.

By following these steps and adapting to your cat's preferences, you can help address elimination disorders effectively. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us for further guidance.