

## Environmental Enrichment

For prevention/management of feline behavioral inappropriate elimination  
Provide at least one of the following for each cat in the household



- Food bowl
- Water bowl
- Litter box (unscented litter is recommended)
  - One additional for the household is preferred. Ex: 3 cats would require 4 total litter boxes and food/water dishes.
  - “Self cleaning” litter boxes are not recommended because some cats find the noise aversive and may avoid using them.
  - Uncovered litter boxes can shut odors in and make your cat feel trapped. Open litter boxes provide a large enough space for your cat to feel comfortable and safe.
  - Cats do not like loud noises and are easily frightened, so it is important to place these in quiet, safe locations.
  - Fecal matter and urine should be scooped daily and dumped/cleaned with unscented soap and water on a weekly basis.

### Scratching & Chewing

- Scratching/clawing is a normal behavior that maintains claw health and is a form of pheromonal marking.
  - It is recommended to provide scratching posts and/or “kitty condos” in close proximity to resting areas/or areas frequently visited by the cat(s). Kitty condos also provide a place for your cat to hide and explore his/her environment.
- Unwanted chewing can be avoided by making cat-safe plants and grasses available.  
**\*\*Caution– some plants are toxic; make sure the plants/grasses are safe before bringing them home!!!**

### Personal Space

- Cats need to have easy access to safe areas where everyday stressors like loud noises, other cats/dogs and small children are reduced.
  - Provide separate stations for each cat’s own food/water bowls, and litter boxes.
- Cats really enjoy perches placed throughout the house. It helps the cat feel safe by giving them a vantage point away from stressors.



### Outlets for play

- Play is an essential factor of your cat's well being whether it's with you, other animals in the house, or alone with toys.
- Appropriate toys include: self-propelling toys that mimic prey, cat nip filled toys, balls inside a box or bathtub, and laser pointers (be sure to provide a reward for the "hunt" from laser pointers so your cat doesn't become frustrated.)
  - Switch out toys every couple days to keep cats interested.
- Set aside 10–15 minutes per day specifically for petting, playing, or trick teaching to keep your cat entertained and active.



### Pheromones

- Feliway® is a pheromone product that comes in a plug-in (similar to an air-freshener) or spray. This product contains feline specific pheromones that help relax/calm cats.
- Litter additives such as Dr. Elsey's® are also a great natural way to keep your cat attracted to their little box.



*The secret to happy cats*



- ❖ If the above steps have been met and you are still having inappropriate elimination issues, please consult with a veterinarian.

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