

# ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*Helping animals since 1899.*

## Encouraging Litter Box Usage

Congratulations! We're so happy you've decided to give a rescued cat a happy home and a fresh start. Thanks for adopting from the Animal Rescue League of Boston!

Your new family member had a rough start in life. Because of this history, your cat may need more help getting started with proper litter box habits. If there were litter boxes available in this cat's previous home, they were most likely not kept clean and therefore the cat was forced to go to the bathroom in inappropriate places.

Thankfully, there are many positive and proactive things you can do to encourage reliable use of the litter box in your own home.

### **Confinement**

Please confine your cat to a small, easy to clean room such as a bathroom for at least the first week after adoption. This will not only give your cat time to adjust to the new surroundings, but any accidents will be easy to manage.

Once you begin to let your cat out around your house, please continue to confine him or her at night or other times when you cannot directly supervise. If you want your cat to sleep in the bedroom with you, consider a large dog crate with comfortable blankets, a clean litter box, and some water.

### **Supervision**

Supervise your cat when he or she is out and about. If you see your cat start to eliminate inappropriately, you can gently move him or her to a litter box. Your cat should only be allowed access to the whole house when supervised until you see repeated, consistent use of the litter box.

### **Encouragement**

Keep the litter box clean, and consider several litter boxes to choose from. Avoid very smelly litters like Feline Pine. You can purchase a product called Cat Attract, which is a litter designed to be as attractive as possible to cats who have problems using the litter box reliably.

You can also ask to go home with some soiled litter from your cat's box at the shelter. This way their new litter box already smells like them when they get to their new home.

### **Time**

While it's exciting to bring a new cat home, an extended period of confining and supervising will mean greater success in the long run. Set your cat up for success by not moving faster than he or she is ready for! Your cat will thank you!

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The Animal Rescue League of Boston is dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment and neglect. We do not receive government funding. We rely solely on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. Help us help more animals today at [arlboston.org](http://arlboston.org)!

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