

Cool Cat



HOW TO TOILET TRAIN YOUR CAT

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***Yes it is TRUE!
You Too Can
Toilet Train Your Cat!***

There are dozens of sites on the web that provide useful tips on how in just days you can train your cat to use the toilet. Sure we were skeptical, I thought this was just another urban myth. But the temptation of NO MORE LITTER BOX was too great so

we tried it ourselves. If you have a cat who really loves you (i.e. she comes when you call her, she rushes to the door to greet you...) and you have a WHOLE LOT OF PATIENCE, this just may work for you too.

Transition from "litter-box" to "litter-potty". Some people recommend a very gradual introduction to this big adventure, by placing her existing litter box in the bathroom and gradually (over several days) moving it closer to the potty. Next they raise the litter box slowly with telephone books over the course of another week or so until eventually the litter box sits on top of the toilet seat. If you choose to do this, you should make sure the box is taped to the books or the lid itself as a slip at this initial stage will certainly result in a cat who has lost trust and confidence in your efforts! As for Millie, she loved her kitty litter, so placing the box in the bathroom and on top of the toilet seat was a no brainer. She'd use litter anywhere we'd put it. So our adventure began with the "litter-bowl" in Step One.

STEP ONE:

The first adaptaphone you'll need is a stainless steel salad bowl that fits the inside of your toilet bowl. Sounds impossible but we found a \$5 bowl at a local discount store and pounded it a few times with a hammer and it worked just fine.



Fill the bowl with litter and put the seat down. For the next few days you'll use this just as you would her normal litter "box". Scoop and discard clumps as you have been doing. Make sure you keep this really clean and scoop after each use...for your sake and for hers.

IMPORTANT TIPS: Remember this is now the **ONLY** place your cat is going to use. You must be absolutely sure the bathroom door doesn't get closed. (We placed a refrigerator magnet on our door to make certain it would not latch shut.) You must also make sure the **LID IS NEVER DOWN**. We actually taped the

lid to the back of the toilet. This way if Millie rubbed up against the lid it would not crash down on her.

STEP TWO

Once your cat has mastered the new litter "bowl" you'll want to begin to introduce the concept of sitting on the seat instead of down in the sand. We used a plastic deli tray -- or you can use heavy cardboard -- and cut it to fit over the steel bowl. Make sure it is sturdy enough to hold the weight of your cat. Cut a small hole in the center, so she can still get a paw down into the litter to dig. This is a really neat trick. Cats like to dig holes in the litter. So what she'll do (if you are lucky) is dig a whole with one paw, turn herself around and do her business right down into the hole! Reality is that she'll probably miss. But that's OK, as long as she's going on the platform you are still headed in the right direction. The deli tray plastic allowed us to



easily rinse off any "mistakes." Remember to keep scooping and discarding. But don't worry about adding more litter to the bowl you'll want to keep the level going down to prepare for the next phase!

STEP THREE

Now that your cat has given up sitting in her litter "box" and she reliably uses the platform, you are ready for the BIG SWITCH. Gradually decrease the litter in the bowl until you have just a scant spoonful. Then when you are planning on being home for the weekend (as this is the hardest part of all) fill the bowl up an inch or so with water instead of litter. I'll be honest this phase is really gross. It smells, it's messy and you'll probably hate doing this ALMOST as much as your cat. But once you've got this mastered you are home free!



STEP FOUR

Once kitty is going on the platform into the bowl of water, you can remove the steel bowl altogether. Now she'll be using the toilet directly -- with the help of your platform.

If this goes well, you can begin to cut a larger hole in the platform. Until finally VOILA kitty is sitting pretty and all you need to do is flush a few times a day!



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