



# DOOGIE'S DO'S AND DON'TS

www.litterkwitter.com

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## Doogie's Tips & Tricks

### Ideas for common training hiccups

The purpose of this letter is to pass on the many useful tips that are sent to us by cat owners during or after Litter Kwitter training. These solutions to common problems are easily applied and require little more than additional time & effort on your part.

We urge you to read through these solutions and please feel free to write to us at Litter Kwitter (info@litterkwitter.com) with your own ideas.

It is our intention to continue to perfect the Litter Kwitter training and this can be achieved best with feedback from the

many people (and their cats!) who have graduated from the Litter Kwitter to the household toilet.

### 1. Multiple Cats

Training one cat is easy, training two cats takes more time and training three or more takes a huge commitment on behalf of the owner and their cats. Rest assured, however, that it is quite possible.

We have professional Breeders training litters of kittens from early kitten-hood that are sold virtually toilet trained to customers who do not have the time or patience to train Kitty themselves.

These breeders work with us to perfect the training techniques for multiple cats. With their help and Animal Behaviorists' advice we can offer the following advice & tips:

When training 3 or more cats it's a good idea to buy a second unit. We recommend splitting the slow learners up away from the cats that progress well. Place their Litter Kwitter on a container, into which a bowl of water is placed beneath the opening of the Amber disc (and later the Green disc).



Kittens training on portable Litter Kwitters

Into this bowl of water tip a capful of Enzymatic cleaner. We recommend Urine-Off or Animal Odour Eliminator but any brand will do as long as it is an enzymatic solution. These products can be purchased online & from Pet specialty stores.

The reason we do this is to keep the water fresh & odour free until you can clear it out and replace with fresh water. Some cats object to another cat's odour and will often soil the floor in protest. These solutions are excellent for general cleaning up of any urine stain & odour.

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## DOOGIE'S DO'S AND DON'TS

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### 1. Multiple Cats

More than one cat? Tips on how to manage multiple moggies.



The MultiKatKit is a kit for multiple cats.

At Litter Kwitter we have developed Multi-Cat intermediate Amber and Green discs for owners with 2 or more cats in training. A small number of owners with multiple cats in training find that they have problems with one or more cats while the others race ahead.

This usually manifests at the stages where the hole first appears then grows, which can cause some feline anxiety. Below are some testimonials from those involved in testing the intermediate discs:

*"The intermediate discs were great. My two girls would not use the amber disc at all and the intermediate discs changed that completely."*  
Jo, Sydney, Australia

*"Bob my Abyssinian used the intermediate disc straight away with no problems and no accidents! He has now progressed to the green disc with no hesitation although we have to swap back to the amber disc for*



Sophie Cat ponders the MultiKatKit's smaller Amber hole.

*solids. I'm hoping that he will be ok with the green disc completely in a few days"*  
Alison, Oregon, USA

*Was still difficult, but yes, defiantly yes!!!! My youngest and smallest had no problems and went right away. My older 22lb cat is not so happy about this change. He turns around about 10 times before looking at me, growling, and then doing his business. I had to sit with him for about 6 minutes when I KNEW he had to go but was holding it in. He kept jumping off and I kept putting him right back on. Finally he decided it wasn't worth the pain and he went on the disc. Even went through the hole!!!!*

Mel, New York, USA

The MultiKatKit is available for \$US14.95 plus \$5.00 shipping via the website [www.litterkwitter.com](http://www.litterkwitter.com)

If you purchase the MultiKatKit at the same time as the Litter Kwitter you will receive a \$5.00 discount, plus you will pay no additional shipping costs (saving \$10 overall).

The MultiKatKit consists of additional training discs that smooth out the transitions from Red... to Amber... to Green... to removing the LITTER KWITTER altogether. They are basically additional Amber and Green discs with different sized holes. These help slower learners keep up with the faster ones and can help more nervous felines overcome their fears.

### Where else can I get it?

The MultiKatKit is also available through Petco and Petsmart in the USA and Pets At Home in the UK.

## 2. Pees in Toilet, Poops on Floor!

Why oh why? Why indeed, and what you can do about it.

### CSI Litter Kwitter



Moses discovers something fishy.

Some people find that when they introduce the Amber disc their cat will pee in the toilet but poop on the bathroom floor. Or in the basin, or in the bath, or on the carpet. Or worst of all on the bed!

You think it was a one-off but they keep going back to the same place and doing it. But why? And more importantly how do you get them to stop?

We have more questions about this than any other training need, so we've dedicated a large section here to the question and have also consulted the Humane Society of the United States for their advice:

To start, you need to find which areas are soiled before you can re-train your cat to avoid eliminating in those areas. Then



The evidence keeps piling up. It looks like the cat did it.

you'll have to clean those areas, and clean them well. Here are the steps you'll need to take:

### 1. Find the scene of the crime

Use your nose and eyes to find the soiled areas. You might want to use a black light, which you can purchase at a home supply store. A black light (actually, it's ultraviolet) will usually show even old urine stains. Turn out all of the lights in the room; use the black light to identify soiled areas, and lightly outline the areas with chalk. Just like on CSI.

### 2. Remove all the evidence

Clean the area comprehensively. To be successful, you need to follow all of these steps. If you fail to completely clean the area, your re-training efforts will be useless. You need to get forensic!

As long as your cat can smell their personal scent, they'll continue to return to the area they've soiled - the 'crime scene'. Even if you can't smell traces of urine, your cat can. Cats navigate the world with their noses and the reason their species still exists is due to their highly developed ability to detect odors

### Don't punish your cat!

Sometimes it seems deliberate: "They did it to make a point, well I'll show them!". That's how we think, but it's not how cats think. Don't punish them, they live to please you but sometimes get it wrong.

that tell them who's there and who's been there. They feel safer toileting where they can detect their own scent. Your most important chore is to follow these steps to remove (neutralize) that odor:

1. Make the 'crime scene' unattractive and/or unavailable to your cat;
2. Make the toilet/Litter Kwitter attractive as a way to retrain your cat. Then use positive reinforcement techniques to show them the appropriate place to eliminate (e.g. through the Amber hole).

To do this successfully, follow these cleaning and retraining recommendations for your cat.

- ◊ To clean hard surfaces (tiles, wooden floors, vinyl floors etc): Clean as usual with your regular hard surface cleaners (avoid ones with ammonia if possible). When the area is clean treat it with enzymatic cleaners. Make sure you follow the directions to avoid damaging any hard surfaces with inappropriate chemicals; To clean washable items:
  - » Machine-wash as usual, adding

a one-pound box of baking soda to your regular detergent. It's best to air dry these items if possible. If you can still see the stain or smell the urine, machine wash the item again, and add an enzymatic cleaner (available at cat supply stores) that breaks down cat-waste odors. Be sure to follow the directions carefully.

- » If your cat urinates or defecates on the sheets or blankets on a bed, then cover the bed with a vinyl, flannel-backed tablecloth when you begin the re-training period. It's machine washable, inexpensive and unattractive to your cat;

- ◊ To clean carpeted areas and upholstery
  - » For 'new' stains (that are still wet): Soak up as much of the urine as possible with a combination of newspaper and paper towels. The more fresh urine you can remove before it dries, especially from carpet, the easier it will be to remove the odor. Place a thick layer of paper towels on the wet spot, and cover that with a thick layer of newspaper. If possible, put newspaper under the soiled area as well. Stand on this padding for about a minute. Remove the padding, and repeat the process until the area is barely damp;
  - » If possible, put the fresh, urine-soaked paper towel in the area where it belongs—the Litter Kwitter. This will help remind your cat that eliminating isn't a 'bad' behavior as long as it's done in the right place;
  - » Rinse the 'crime scene' thoroughly with clean, cool water. After rinsing, remove as much of the water as possible by blotting or by using a wet vac. Then treat the area with an enzymatic cleaner;

- ◊ For stains that have already set:
  - » Consider renting an extractor or wet vac to remove all traces of heavy stains in carpeting (get one from a local hardware store). This machine works much like a vacuum cleaner

and is efficient and economical. Extracting/wet vac machines do the best job of forcing clean water through your carpet and then forcing the dirty water back out. When you use these machines or cleaners, carefully follow the instructions. Don't use any chemicals with these machines; they work much better with plain water;

- » Use a high-quality enzymatic odor neutralizer once the area is really clean (available at pet supply stores). Be sure to read and follow the cleaner's directions for use, including testing the cleaner on a small, hidden portion of fabric first to be sure it doesn't stain; Try any good carpet stain remover if the area still looks stained after it's completely dry from extracting and neutralizing;
- » Avoid using cleaning chemicals, especially those with strong odors such as ammonia or vinegar. From your cat's perspective, these don't effectively eliminate or cover the urine odor and may actually encourage your cat to reinforce the urine scent mark in that area.
- » Enzymatic cleaners won't work until you've rinsed every trace of the old cleaner from the carpet if you've previously used cleaners or chemicals of any kind on the area. Even if you haven't used chemicals recently, any trace of a non-protein-based substance will weaken the effect of the enzymatic cleaner. The cleaner will use up its "energy" on the old cleaners, instead of on the protein stains you want removed.

### 3. Re-train your cat

Go back to the last stage in the training where they were having success and take it from there. See the other tips and tricks in this bulletin.

## Why do cats like their scent?

In the same way cats can detect sounds we cannot hear, they can detect odors we cannot smell. And their territorial instincts compel them to re-apply their own scent!

Cats feel safe when they can smell their own scent, and so they will re-apply it whenever it starts to fade.

This is cats' territorial instinct - it won't go away. You just have to understand it and make sure to remove all traces as soon as possible.



Mmm. Something smells nice!

### 3. Enzymatic Cleaners

What they are, how they work and why you need them.

#### Time to Clean



A clean, fragrant kitten.

To understand how enzymatic cleaners like Urine-Off™ work, it is important to know a little about urine.

Urine, whether human or animal, has three main components:

- ◊ Urea, a slightly sticky substance;
- ◊ Urochrome, gives urine its yellow colour; &
- ◊ Uric Acid is a mild acid, rich in nitrogen.

Uric acid contains non-soluble salt crystals, which present the biggest challenge to removing urine from surfaces and fabrics.

The first two components can be washed away with ordinary cleaning and commercially-available urine odor products, but the uric acid crystals are extremely insoluble and remain tightly bonded to the surface.

After initial cleaning and drying with ordinary products, it may appear that the problem is solved. However, any type of moisture will reactivate those remaining crystals and the smell returns, as strong as ever.



Some enzymatic cleaners. These may or may not be available where you live.

There are a number of urine odor products available to the retail customer. Most are composed of surfactants (detergents) and a masking agent. A few also employ enzymes and some use alcohol as a solvent. Still others are chemicals, whose molecules encapsulate, or coat, the urine molecules to 'seal in' the odor.

The shortcomings of these approaches are that the odor is usually addressed only temporarily, and the stain often not at all. None appear to have success with old, dried urine deposits.

In the case of cats, the problem is compounded because of their territory-marking behavior and their very acute sense of smell. In the same way cats can detect sounds we cannot hear, they can detect odors we cannot smell. And their territorial instincts compel them to re-apply their own scent! So once an animal has 'gone' in one spot, they frequently return to it again and again, no matter what we do.

Enzymatic cleaners contain bacteria and

enzymes that 'eat' the urine salt crystals in addition to removing the other components of urine.

How well do enzymatic cleaners work? So well that even long-neglected problem areas with the highest concentrations of urine residue are quickly taken care of.

So well that even dogs and cats can't detect the urine odor, which greatly aids in breaking unwanted behaviour patterns.

Some people have had problems finding enzymatic cleaners in their supermarket because they aren't always labelled as containing enzymes. Cleaners like Urine-Off™ are usually only available in pet shops and can be quite expensive. However, some people have written to tell us that some Vanish® brand carpet cleaners contain enzymes and also some laundry detergents contain enzymes (just mix in some water & use as you would for hand-washing clothes). Be sure to read the instructions to make sure they are safe to use on your surfaces.

#### How do enzymes work?

Enzymes actually digest the organic matter in cat waste rather than just cleaning it away like regular cleaners. They work in a similar way to enzymes in our digestive systems.

### 4. Amber Issues

The whole story on the appearance of the hole.

Our online forum is a great place where people share their training tips and other experiments to graduate to the toilet. Here are just a few for you to try.



Ready Steady Go!

#### The Amber Reveal technique

A simple transparent plastic sheet cut to size and 'Blu-Tack-ed' in under the opening can be an easy solution for those anxious learners who lodge a protest when the Amber disc is introduced. Sliding the Perspex along to gradually (over a few days) expose the hole & the water below can help your cat accept the change and avert their protestations.



#### Red Under Amber Technique

Place the Red disc under the Amber disc to give your cat a gentle introduction to the hole. You can try this with and without litter in the red disc. Wait until they're OK with this before using the Amber disc alone. This technique can also be used with the transition from Amber to Green.



#### Steady Stance

There is another trick someone has suggested to help your cat adopt the correct stance in the Red disc in preparation for the Amber disc. Place some tin foil in the central reservoir (which cats hate to stand on) with litter around the outer parts. This should encourage your cat's paws towards the outer regions of the Red disc.



#### Do cats simply hate amber?

Some people think maybe if they saw a hole in the Red disc their cat might like it better than the Amber disc. But this is not the case.

Cats are not color-blind, but they have restricted color perception. They can distinguish between green and blue but not between shades of red. In other words, cats probably see red and amber as the same color. The color-coding is to help you distinguish the stages better rather than to communicate anything to your cat.

Also, the DVD is for you. Don't let your cat hog the remote!



My favorite show!

## 5. Miscellaneous Tips

Various tips from some of our graduates.



Some cats love the Green disc.

### Amber to Green Transition

1. You can try going back & forth between the amber & green on a daily basis - or even one disc in the morning & one in the evening;

2. You could try putting the green disc on top of the amber disc & only putting litter in the green to see if this works as a transition between the two;

3. You can leave some water in the bath, shower & washbasin to discourage the cat from going in there (they don't like getting their feet wet);

4. You can put tin foil on areas where they repeatedly go on the floor (they hate to tread on tin foil);

5. You can put a bowl or some other barrier in the toilet to hide the water & see if the cat will gain confidence in their balance before removing it again a few days later;

6. You can try removing the LK entirely - believe it or not this has worked in several cases & the cat starts using the normal seat;

7. You can buy special tape to create a textured surface from hardware stores (like anti-slip surface for baths) which might help the cat develop more confidence.

Ultimately, the psychology is straightforward (notice we didn't say simple!!!) - your cat wants to be discreet with its waste by covering the smell which makes it feel safe. If it can't do that then it will go somewhere else that makes it feel safe. These are places that it has

- a) been before & survived, or
- b) smells of people it trusts to protect it, places like your bed etc.

If there's a problem in progressing it's likely to be due to some anxiety around feeling safe - either from predators (other cats in the home) or from simply falling & being hurt.

We like to imagine our cats are stubborn, wilfully disobedient or displaying some other human-like personality trait, but this is simply how we see the world as humans - it's not how they see it as cats. There is something in their toileting environment that's causing - or has caused in the past - some anxiety. It's usually to do with the water in the bowl, balance, the sudden transition between discs or some hierarchical issues with other cats in the home. The key is finding the best way to reduce this anxiety - most cats manage it by themselves but some need a little creativity to help them!

### Flushable Litter

Warning: We strongly advise against using clumping clay as this will block plumbing if flushed. Some of these pictures were sent in from a trainer who used clumping clay. We only recommend flushable litter.

### Training & Reward

It's important to understand that cats love to please and they love to receive rewards. Rewards can be in the form of love, praise and touch - but let's not forget the reward cats love most: food!

We recommend Pit r Pats or Greenies Feline Training treats for this very reason! A number of trainers have reported tales where Kitty refuses to get down off the toilet until he or she gets a training treat. These treats can be found in all good Pet Specialty stores or online.



Some cat treats. These brands may or may not be available where you live.

## 6. Toilet Measurements

Will it fit my toilet? Find out here.

We claim that the Litter Kwitter fits all standard toilets. The problem is that not everyone has a standard toilet. The Litter Kwitter also fits the majority of non-standard toilets too, but because they can be virtually any shape and size it's impossible to make it fit every toilet in the world. Here are some images and measurements to help you understand if it will fit your toilet.



### Moving House

Many people ask whether their cats will be able to use the toilet in a new home, or a new toilet in an existing home. The answer is that most cats will be able to.

However, some cats may need to be reminded that the toilet is their place to go. It is probably wise to use the white Litter Kwitter seat for a week or so before you move, then use it in the new home so your cat's scent moves with it.

Alternatively, you could take the toilet seat your cat uses from the old home and put it on the toilet in the new home.

The idea is to allow your cat to identify their scent on the new toilet which will help them identify the toilet as their place to go.

If your cat still has a problem identifying the toilet then you may have to partially repeat the training. This will be a reminder course for your cat and should not take long.

### US Elongated Toilets

Litter Kwitter will fit this type of toilet, popular in the USA, however you will need to remove the 4 clips at the back of the white base plate. There will be a gap between the rear base plate and the rear of the porcelain rim (see the photo right) of the toilet but this will not affect the function of the unit.



Small gap may be present at rear of LITTER KWITTER seat. This will not affect the training.