

Multi-cat Households/Intercat Aggression Checklist

Territory/Competition for resources:

___ Multiple feeding/water bowls

___ One more litter box than cats

___ Multiple scratching posts

___ Hiding spots (tunnels, cubes)

___ Vertical space/high resting spaces

___ Play sessions

___ Treats when together

___ Hissing

___ Growling

___ One cat withdrawing

___ One cat is the bully

___ Physical fights

___ Are they ever ok together

___ Introduction/reintroduction

Scratching Post/Pad Problems Checklist

Texture:

- Sisal covered (good)
- Rope-wrapped (good)
- Carpet (doesn't do the job)

Location:

- Convenient (not in the main part of the home)
- Where the cat wants to scratch
- Not in "far-away" area (e.g., attic, basement, remote corner)

Height/weight:

- at least 3 feet tall
- wobbly (cat won't feel safe - must be sturdy, need to withstand pushing and pulling)
- Sturdy with a wide base
- Heavy enough to withstand a cat leaning on it to scratch, play, pull
- Vertical vs horizontal scratcher (may prefer a scratching pad)

Deterrents & Redirection:

- Slick or sticky
- Deter & redirect at the same time (can't do one without the other)

Litter Box Problems Checklist

Medical Issues:

- Straining
- Blood/discoloration
- Very hard poops or diarrhea/soft poops
- Cries/vocalizes in the box
- Frequent trips to the box with little or no elimination (pee or poop)
- Stress/Changes
- Going a little bit at a time

Setup:

- Multiple levels and rooms of home (preferred)
- Too close to food/water
- Number of boxes/cats (one more box than cats)
- Convenience for the cat (not placed in a faraway location)

Location:

- Clear 360 degrees sight lines (necessary)
- Against a wall (can block the visual field)
- In a corner (can block the visual field)
- Piece of furniture blocking the cat's view
- Under something (sink, desk, table)
- Same wall as the room entrance (cat can't see into hallway)
- Laundry room (intermittent noise e.g., spin cycle, loud buzzers)
- Window view of outdoor cat
- Basement

The box itself:

- Size (too big/too small depending on cat)
- Sides (high/low might be preferred depending on cat)
- Plastic litter box liners (claws get stuck, urine can pool in the folds)
- Covered/uncovered
- Cleanliness/scooping (how often is box scooped)
- Cleanliness/washing (how often is litter changed/box washed)

Litter:

- Soft, sandy texture
- Scented/perfumed
- Additives
- Switching brands/type
- Accommodations for declawed cats (may need no litter or softer litter)

Household:

- New humans
- Babies
- New pet/multi cat households
- Bully/alpha cat
- Loss of family member (human or animal)
- New sounds (e.g., construction, musical instruments)
- New objects in the home (e.g., furniture)
- Visitors
- Any changes (even ones that seem small)

Introduction/Reintroduction Checklist

Reintroduction is not needed when:

- If they hiss/growl when too close but can peacefully-co exist by keeping their distance
- Can use the litter box
- Cats are not always on edge, looking over their shoulder
- There are times during the day that they tolerate each other
- Occasionally will lie together
- No resource guarding

Reintroduction is needed when:

- There was never a structured introduction between the resident cat and newcomer
- There is physical fighting/harm
- The victim/intimidated cat has withdrawn and hides a lot
- The victim/intimidated cat is not eating and/or appetite is poor
- Avoiding the litter box (has been or is afraid of being ambushed)
- The victim/intimidated cat is vomiting

Biting/Scratching Aggression Checklist

- ___ Interactive play sessions with a wand/fishing pole toy
- ___ Interactive play follows a hunting sequence
- ___ Interactive play ends with a catch & kill, cat eats the prey (treat or food)
- ___ Environmental enrichment
- ___ Puzzle feeders/activity toys
- ___ Solo toy rotation
- ___ Time of day
- ___ Goes after moving ankles/arms
- ___ Distraction/redirection (throw a toy or treat)
- ___ Laser pointer (no)
- ___ Calming chews
- ___ Veterinarian consult (pain aggression)