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 out 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 coexist 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)