**LITTERBOX 101**

One of the most common reasons cats end up in a shelter is inappropriate elimination. These tips can be followed to help you and your cat make the right choices when it comes to litterbox issues. As always, feel free to call us and ask any questions you may have on the information below!

**Location, location, location**:

It’s not just for real estate. Litterboxes need to be placed in multiple spots and levels around the house. Be sure to make them safe and accessible. Try to stay away from noisy appliances that could startle the cats. Also, cats generally do not like to eliminate where they eat, so create a separate spot for food and water. And remember- we tend to like to keep the litterbox in an out of the way spot.. and that is not always best for your cat.

**Keep it clean**:

It may sound silly, but keep the box clean for your cats. They need to be scooped a minimum of once daily. Sometimes more depending on the number of cats in your house. Dump litter and replace weekly, and wash that box out at least monthly. Also, the box should be replaced at least once a year. Most are made of plastic, and begin to retain odors no matter how often they are cleaned.

**Size does matter:**

Litterboxes need to be big enough for your cat. They should be able to comfortably stand up, turn around and dig in the box. A good rule of thumb to follow is 1.5 times the length and width of the cat. That being said, you may find that many commercially available boxes are not big enough! You can always look into other options, such as making your own. My favorite litterbox is one I made from a storage container. And remember, for your elderly cats, you may need a box that offers a lower step in for them. Look in to options like boxes for ferrets or rabbits.

**Types of litter:**

There are so many types of litter to choose from today!! Most cats prefer unscented scoopable litter. That’s right- no perfume!! 2-3” depth in the litterbox is usually adequate. It may take some time, and trial and error to see what kind of litter your cat prefers, so be patient. And be willing to give something different a try.

**Number of boxes:**

The rule of thumb is- one box per cat in the household, plus one. So, if there are two cats in your house, there should be three boxes available for them. And remember, two boxes in one location is equal to one box!! They should be in different locations.