

## Litter box Retraining

**1<sup>st</sup> step-** Confine cat to small room like bathroom with good size litter box (see litter box rules), with food, water, bed.

A. This will be where the cat lives for the next 3-4 weeks (if not accidents). The cat can be let out for short periods of exercise each day but **MUST BE CLOSELY SUPERVISED** to make sure no accidents occur. Return cat to litter box every half hour.

B. If any accidents outside box occur during these 3-4 weeks, cat must be moved to smaller space, like dog kennel.

C. If you witness cat using box, wait until cat is finished and then **IMMEDIATELY** give the cat a treat and praise. You have to have treats handy to make this effective.

**2<sup>nd</sup> step-** After 3-4 weeks of absolutely no accidents outside box, move cat, litter box, food, water and bed to slightly larger room like bedroom. Continue A. and C. while in bedroom for the next 3-4 weeks. If any accidents occur, go back to step 1 and keep in bathroom for 2 months before moving to step 2.

**3<sup>rd</sup> step-** After 3-4 weeks of no accidents at step 2, then start letting cat have access to entire house for set times. The rest of the time the cat stays in the bedroom. It is very important to make sure all of the Litter box Rules are being followed at this point.

1<sup>st</sup> week the cat gets 1-2 hours a day of unsupervised access.

2<sup>nd</sup> week the cat gets 4-5 hours a day of unsupervised access

3<sup>rd</sup> week the cat gets 8-10 hours a day of unsupervised access

**\*\*If any accidents occur during this period, go back to previous timed access but extend to 3 week intervals.**

**4<sup>th</sup> step-** Let cat have access to entire house with no forced confinement periods.

If cat still has accidents outside box, please consult veterinarian for other options.