

MOMMY WHY DOES FLUFFY LIKE TO EAT KITTY'S LITTER
and
WHAT'S THAT SHEEN ON THE PUDDLE FLUFFY IS DRINKING
FROM?
And
WHAT'S THAT NASTY SMELL COMING OUT OF FLUFFY'S BUM?

Cat litter – It's the Gritty Kitty Show

By: Dr. Douglas R. Yearout
All Animal and Bird Clinic
Everett, Washington, USA
www.holisticanimaldoc.com
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Should I use clumping cat litter? It sure makes it easy to scoop doesn't it? Let me tell you all I know about cat litter. I've used them all. Clumping, scoop it, toss it, smelly stuff, wood, clay etc. What are the Dr. Doug picks of the week? Glean what you can from these words. There are lots of cat litter experts out there! Cat litter should be clean, dust free, and should not stick to the hair or the toes. It should not contain any odor retardants, in my humble opinion, as most of these can be toxic when eaten, or breathed in through the nasal and sinus membranes. The scents make the cat litter smell less from the odor of the cats eliminative frenzies, but I just figure if it smells you ought to change it more often, and not rely on odor eaters. They don't work for feet, and they don't work well for cat litter either.

Cat litter of the clay type often sticks to the feet and the bum. It is worse for long haired cats as the hair acts like a snow shoe picking up the litter on the bottom of the foot. When the cat cleans herself the litter is ingested. If there are any odor additives the cat can get ill eating the litter. Dr. Doug (Yearouts'-for those of you that don't know me) favorite cat litter is plain old rabbit pellets. Cheap – big bag – all flushable. The used pellets can also just go in your garden. Alfalfa meal is good for the soil. Just dump the 'dumps' in the toilet, and flush it down. It'll do you good. Don't leave the litter in the toilet too long or it will swell up like a constipated pig.

Why do cats use litter in the first place? It's that endearing side of them that begs cleanliness at all costs. Cats bury their eliminative goldmine because their ancient ancestor's were, and still are individualistically private. It's the secret of life of Walter Mitty syndrome.

They bury it to prevent anyone else from knowing the cat had been there before. This makes them excellent, clean, and tidy housepets. So don't spoil it by buying cheap, clumping lards of clay, with odor additives.

The other organic litters made from wood chips, and wheat should be sampled before buying large bags. The wheat type products have me all up in a wad. They form huge, nasty, wet clumps that stick to the pan, and need to be jack hammered to remove them. The wood chips are not bad at all. My favorite is Mountain Cat. It is fresh, like a newly mown forest clear cut. It smells nice, lasts a fairly long time, and can also be used as

mulch in the garden, or just tossed. Cats in multiple cat households should have at least one litter pan per cat. They should be placed where they can get at them. If there are three stories in the house then plan on one pan per floor. Keep pans clean, remove the piles at least every other day, and change the entire box often (at least weekly), and more often when more cats are using them.

Muddy puddles - The creepy lair of “Muddy the Mudskipper”

What evil lurks there in those standing pools of water? A little common sense and some water quality 101 will go a long way in solving this question. Dogs and cats like fresh water, rain water, and water without chemicals added, like chlorine and fluoride. This reminds me; always use a good quality pitcher or faucet water filter for you, and your pet’s drinking water to remove the harmful chemicals in our water systems. It tastes a lot better too.

Dogs will also eagerly drink some of the skankiest standing water around, and even seem to enjoy the taste. When on walks, I absolutely forbid my dogs to drink from street puddles. Who knows if there was a car with draining antifreeze or some other awful street chemical. It’s probably diluted out enough with a nice fresh rain, but who wants to chance that? Muddy puddles that are fresh, but are just dirty because they are present on the soil or grass, are fine if there have been no toxic chemicals put on the ground such as fertilizers, pesticides and others. If you know there are none, then let them drink, if not then ban it. If it is a larger standing pond, a marsh, or even a small slow moving stream I caution everyone to be wary. Chances are that the water itself is not a problem, but if any aquatic or other animal such as beaver, raccoon, or otter have used this water to do their business in then there is a possibility of contracting the diarrhea causing organism giardia from the water. At certain times of year (summer–fall) there can be a lot of giardia in water around here. Even larger lakes and streams can be contaminated so that good old fresh puddle of rain water in your own guarded territory can be a safe zone, and one of nature’s best gifts to your thirsty canine friend.

There is air leaking from my pressure cooker

And save the best for last” – “GAS” What about high quality canned food and gas?
Bleeeaaaah!

What makes gas? Some of you are blessed with pets that have iron clad digestive systems, and some have to cope with SBD’s that can literally send you retching, and

gagging out of the room. This is one of Dr. Doug (Yearout's) favorite subjects. In fact one of the most awe inspiring places to write about – GAS—is while sitting on the throne with pen and paper in hand. I always like to maximize my time and be productive, so GAS – is being written as we speak on the you know where.

If your pet has gas from any cause it is all about the maldigestion and absorption of nutrients in the G.I. tract (gastrointestinal). It is a sign that GI health must be augmented with supplements for awhile. You will find the addition of (probiotics) beneficial bacteria (the good guys), and digestive enzymes to the daily food will go a long way in reducing or eliminating the noisy or smelly bum syndrome in your house. Just remember Beano for people, and you'll know what I mean. A new food introduction of any kind that causes gas will in the normal pet soon cease to cause a problem, after a time of adaptation. When bowel organisms and enzyme levels shift and balance, the problem should go away. Many of our pets, unfortunately are not healthy, have received many prescriptions, and gas will persist even with supplements. You may have to settle on changing the food again to a good quality that agrees with him more, or better yet seek out the services of a veterinarian who will holistically tailor a program to get your pet to cure itself of these ills. The addition of some raw foods, and not using drugs which will further the imbalance will usually enable your pet to return to a more energetic and healthier (gas free) life.