



# LITTER KWITTER®

## Newsletter

Issue 3 2009

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“We recommend splitting the slow learner up away from the cats that progress well”

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The purpose of this newsletter is to pass on the many useful tips that are sent in to us by owners either during or after their cat or cats have commenced Litter Kwitter training. These solutions to common problems are easily applied and attract virtually no cost other than additional time & effort on your part. We will update this Newsletter regularly to add or modify things as we learn more.

We urge you to read through these solutions and please feel free to write to us at Litter Kwitter ([info@litterkwitter.com](mailto:info@litterkwitter.com)) with your own versions.

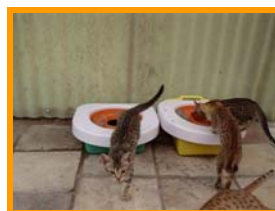
It is our intention to continue to perfect the Litter Kwitter training and this can be achieved with feedback from the many people (and their cats!) who have gone on to graduate from the Litter Kwitter and on to the household toilet.

### More than one cat

Training one cat is easy, training two cats takes more time and training three or more takes a huge commitment on behalf of the owner and their cats. Rest assured, however, that it is quite possible. We have professional Breeders training litters of kittens from early kitten-hood that are sold virtually toilet trained to customers who do not have the time or patience to train Kitty themselves. These breeders work with us to perfect the training techniques for multiple cats. With their help and Animal Behaviorists' advice we can offer the following advice & tips:

When training 3 or more cats it's a good idea to buy a second unit. We recommend splitting the slow learners up away from the cats that progress well. Place their Litter Kwitter on a container, into which a bowl of water is placed beneath the opening of the Amber disc (and later the Green disc)

Into this bowl of water tip a capful of Enzymatic cleaner. We recommend Urine-Off or Animal Odour Eliminator but any brand will do as long as it is an enzymatic solution. These products can be purchased online & from Pet specialty stores. The reason we do this is to keep the water fresh & odour free until you can clear it out and replace with fresh water. Some cats object to another cat's odour and will often soil the floor in protest. These solutions are excellent for general cleaning up of any urine stain & odour.



*Litter of Kittens training on the portable Litter Kwitter*

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*“In the same way cats can detect sounds we cannot hear, they can detect odours we cannot smell. And their territorial instincts compel them to re-apply their own scent!”*

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Urine-Off with the Black Light Cleaner

With the lights turned off the black light will show up the urine stains.

## Enzymatic Cleaners

To understand how enzymatic cleaners like **Urine-Off™** work, it is important to know a little about urine. Urine, whether human or animal, has three main components: Urea, a slightly sticky substance; Urochrome, gives urine its yellow colour & Uric Acid is a mild acid, rich in nitrogen.

Uric acid contains non-soluble salt crystals, which present the biggest challenge to removing urine from surfaces and fabrics.

The first two components can be washed away with ordinary cleaning and commercially-available urine odour products, but the uric acid crystals are extremely insoluble and remain tightly bonded to the surface. After initial cleaning and drying with ordinary products, it may appear that the problem is solved. However, any type of moisture will reactivate those remaining crystals and the smell returns, as strong as ever.

There are a number of urine odour products available to the retail customer. Most are composed of surfactants (detergents) and a masking agent. A few also employ enzymes and some use alcohol as a solvent. Still others are chemicals, whose molecules encapsulate, or coat, the urine molecules to “seal in” the odour. The shortcomings of these approaches are that the odour is usually addressed only temporarily, and the stain often not at all. None appear to have success with old, dried urine deposits.

In the case of cats, the problem is compounded because of their territory-marking behavior and their very acute sense of smell. In the same way cats can detect sounds we cannot hear, they can detect odours we cannot smell. And their territorial instincts compel them to re-apply their own scent! So once an animal has ‘gone’ in one spot, they frequently return to it again and again, no matter what we do. Enzymatic cleaners contain bacteria and enzymes that ‘eat’ the urine salt crystals in addition to removing the other components of urine.

How well do enzymatic cleaners work? So well that even long-neglected problem areas with the highest concentrations of urine residue are quickly taken care of... so well that even dogs and cats can’t detect the urine odour, which greatly aids in breaking unwanted behaviour patterns...

Some people have had problems finding enzymatic cleaners in their supermarket because they aren’t always labelled as containing enzymes. The cleaners mentioned above (**Urine-Off™**) are usually only available in pet shops and can be quite expensive. However, some people have written to tell us that some **Vanish®** brand carpet cleaners contain enzymes and also some laundry detergents contain enzymes (just mix in some water & use as you would for hand-washing clothes). Be sure to read the instructions to make sure they are safe to use on your surfaces.



The MultiKatKit is available for \$US14.95 plus \$5.00 shipping via the website [www.litterkwitter.com](http://www.litterkwitter.com)

If you purchase the MultiKatKit at the same time as the Litter Kwitter you will receive a \$5.00 discount, plus you will pay no additional shipping costs (saving \$10 overall).

The MultiKatKit consists of additional training discs that smooth out the transitions from Red... to Amber... to Green... to removing the LITTER KWITTER altogether. They are basically additional Amber and Green discs with different sized holes. These help slower learners keep up with the faster ones and can help more nervous felines overcome their fears.

The MultiKatKit will be shipped from Sydney, Australia.

## A Kit for Multiple Cats

At Litter Kwitter we have developed Multi-Cat intermediate Amber and Green discs for owners with 2 or more cats in training. A small number of owners with multiple cats in training find that they have problems with one or more cats while the others race ahead. This usually manifests at the stages where the hole first appears then grows, which can cause some feline anxiety. Below are some testimonials from those involved in testing the intermediate discs:

*"The intermediate discs were great. My two girls would not use the amber disc at all and the intermediate discs changed that completely."*  
Jo

*"Bob my Abyssinian used the intermediate disc straight away with no problems and no accidents! He has now progressed to the green disc with no hesitation although we have to swap back to the amber disc for solids. I'm hoping that he will be ok with the green disc completely in a few days"*  
Alison

*Was still difficult, but yes, defiantly yes!!!! My youngest and smallest had no problems and went right away. My older 22lb cat is not so happy about this change. He turns around about 10 times before looking at me, growling, and then doing his business. I had to sit with him for about 6 minutes when I KNEW he had to go but was holding it in. He kept jumping off and I kept putting him right back on. Finally he decided it wasn't worth the pain and he went on the disc. Even went through the hole!!!!*  
Mel

## Solutions & tips from our graduates

A newsletter is a great forum for announcing new products or training tips that we've either discovered or been sent by our trainees. Some of these trainers & their cats have already graduated and passed on their priceless tips. Here are just a few for you to try.



**The Amber Reveal Technique:** A simple perspex sheet cut to size and 'Bluetac-ed' in under the opening can be an easy solution for those anxious learners who lodge a protest when the Amber disc is introduced. Sliding the Perspex along to gradually (over a few days) expose the hole & the water below can help your cat accept the change and prevent their protestations.

**Red Under Amber Technique:** Place the Red disc under the Amber disc to give your cat a gentle introduction to the hole. You can try this with and without litter in the red disc. Wait until they're OK with this before using the Amber disc alone. This technique can also be used with the transition from Amber to Green.



*Warning: We strongly advise against using clumping clay as this will block plumbing if flushed. These pictures were sent in from a trainer who used clumping clay. We only recommend flushable litter.*



### **Red Disc – minimum period on the floor & on the rim 2-4 weeks**

Make sure the LK is stable. If your tiles are slippery & the LK moves around your cat may not feel safe. Non-slip mats can help & are available through hardware stores everywhere.

Sometimes a cat will appear too large to balance on the Litter Kwitter. This can come as a surprise to both the cat & the owner, especially if the cat does not position itself as we show in our training DVD. We recommend gently re-positioning your cat followed by a special treat if this is the case. They will soon get the hang of it!

### **Amber Disc – minimum period on the rim 4 weeks**

This disc is the most important stage in the LK training & can be the most challenging. Some cats will immediately refuse to use the Amber disc, because they seem to not like either the water or the hole – or both. This is often because they've not spent enough time on the red disc getting used to using the toilet. Even though they may find the Red Stage easy, and you may feel it's time to move them on, the Red Stage's most important role is to establish the cat's habit of using the toilet. The cat is more likely to persevere with the Amber stage if he or she regards the toilet as their natural place to 'go'.

If your cat starts toileting in any sinks or showers block them off by filling a little water in the basins and closing shower doors or by putting something in the way of your cat to block access.

Similarly, some cats will defecate on the floor near the toilet. Make sure you clean up with an enzymatic cleaner & show your cat where they should be going. This is simply your cat taking the easy way out & may indicate that not enough time was spent at the Red stage.

## **Solutions & tips from our graduates**

### **Amber – Green Transition tips:**

1. You can try going back & forth between the amber & green on a daily basis - or even one in the morning & one in the evening;
2. You could try putting the green disc on top of the amber disc & only putting litter in the green to see if this works as a transition between the two;
3. You can leave some water in the bath, shower & washbasin to discourage the cat from going in there (they don't like getting their feet wet);
4. You can put tin foil on areas where they repeatedly go on the floor (they hate to tread on tin foil);
5. You can put a bowl or some other barrier in the toilet to hide the water & see if the cat will gain confidence in their balance before removing it again a few days later;
6. You can try removing the LK entirely - believe it or not this has worked in several cases & the cat starts using the normal seat;
7. You can buy special tape to create a textured surface from hardware stores (like anti-slip surface for baths) which might help the cat develop more confidence.

Ultimately, the psychology is straightforward (notice we didn't say simple!!!) - your cat wants to be discreet with its waste by covering the smell which makes it feel safe. If it can't do that then it will go somewhere else that makes it feel safe. These are places that it has a) been before & survived, or b) smells of people it trusts to protect it, places like your bed etc.

If there's a problem in progressing it's likely to be due to some anxiety around feeling safe - either from predators (other cats in the home) or from simply falling & being hurt. We like to imagine our cats are stubborn, wilfully disobedient or displaying some other human-like personality trait, but this is simply how we see the world as humans - it's not how they see it as cats. There is something in their toileting environment that's causing - or has caused in the past - some anxiety. It's usually to do with the water in the bowl, balance & the sudden transition between discs. The key is finding the best way to reduce this anxiety - most cats manage it by themselves but some need a little creativity to help them!

## **Training & Reward**

It's important to understand that cats love to please and they love to receive rewards. Rewards can be in the form of love, praise and touch - but let's not forget the reward cats love most: food!

We recommend **Pit r Pats** or **Greenies** Feline Training treats for this very reason! A number of trainers have reported tales where Kitty refuses to get down off the toilet until he gets a training treat. These treats can be found in all good Pet Specialty stores or online.



**Cat Attract** - Litter designed for cats that do not consistently use their litter tray. helps during training by attracting the cat back onto the Litter Kwitter.

[www.preciouscat.com](http://www.preciouscat.com)

Try laying some foil on the floor or bottles of water – sounds crazy but it works. At worst your cat may defecate in your handbag or bed, be aware that they do this because it smells the most of you & is simply more comfortable for them to do this. Again ensure you block off access to these areas or items until the training is complete

### Green Disc minimum period 2 – 4 weeks

Some people get stuck at this stage not quite knowing when to remove the LK altogether! You need to reduce the litter daily to eventually be down to a few grains. You can also try taking out the Green disc and using only the white base plate. Then you can try putting the regular toilet seat down on top of the white base plate if it will fit. Ultimately, you have to be bold and remove the LK and see what happens. What usually happens is that the cat carries on using the toilet as though they were born to it!

## Profile of Sophie- the worlds cutest cat during training

Click on the link below to read a fellow trainers blog about her cat named Sophie & the antics she gets upto during training. There is plenty of useful content here too!

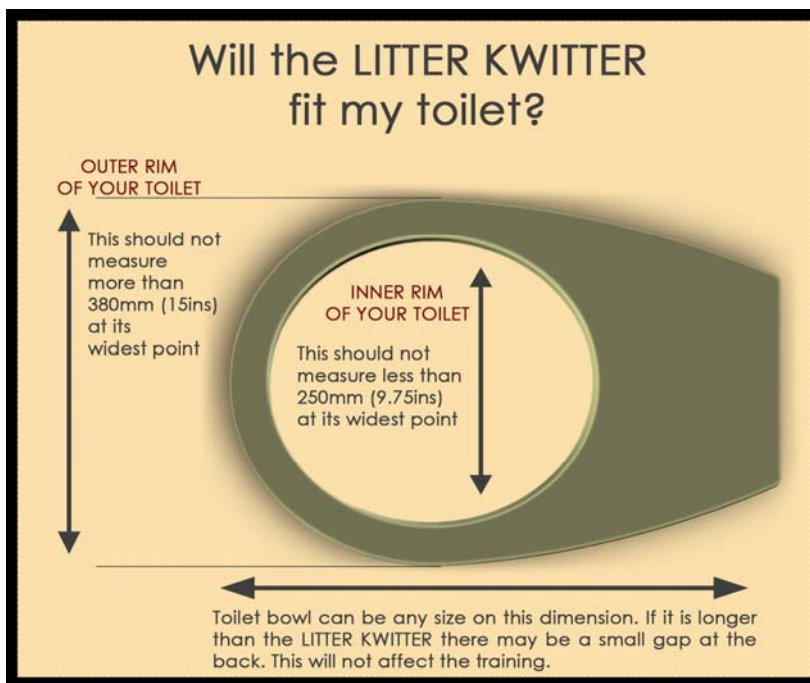
[www.sophiecat.co.uk](http://www.sophiecat.co.uk) – the worlds cutest cat

## Elongated toilets



Litter Kwitter **will** fit this type of toilet, popular in the USA, however you will need to remove the 4 clips at the back of the white base plate. There will be a gap between the rear base plate and the rear of the porcelain rim (see the photo left) of the toilet but this will not affect the function of the unit.

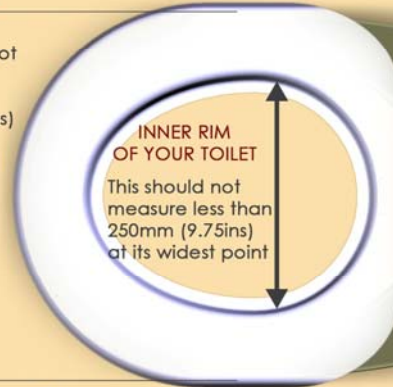
## Toilet measurements



## Will the LITTER KWITTER fit my elongated toilet?

OUTER RIM  
OF YOUR TOILET

This should not  
measure  
more than  
380mm (15ins)  
at its  
widest point



INNER RIM  
OF YOUR TOILET

This should not  
measure less than  
250mm (9.75ins)  
at its widest point

Small gap may  
be present at  
rear of  
LITTER KWITTER  
seat.  
This will not  
affect the  
training.

Toilet bowl can be any size on this dimension. If it is longer than the LITTER KWITTER there may be a small gap at the back. This will not affect the training.