

RESOURCES

When thinking about cat resources, remember that **“providing abundance and distance means peaceful coexistence.”** Resources are the key to allowing cats to be confident and feel in control of the environment.



What are cat resources?

Cat Resources are items that **allow cats to be cats and do what is natural for them.** Resources can include litter boxes, water sources, food sources, sleeping spots, hiding spots, and places to scratch. Resources should consist of positions at different height levels from which to watch their world along with lots of toys that allow them to **“hunt.”**

Why are resource locations important?


It's all about **location, location, location,** especially in homes with multiple cats.


Territoriality can quickly become a concern that can cause behavioral challenges between cats. Jockeying for resources can lead to health concerns such as not wanting to eat due to being chased away by a housemate or feeling unsafe around the food bowl. They can develop UTIs from holding their urine if they feel unsafe in the litter box. **Not having access to resources can cause stress in cats, resulting in physical and emotional health issues.** Offering plentiful resources in multiple locations allows cats to choose on their terms where they will eat, sleep, go potty, and spend their time. These options give them control of their environment. When your cat sees the water bowl in the dining room is in use, they can say, “Okay, I’ll head to the bowl in the bathroom,” and thus avoid a confrontation with their cat housemate. The same can apply to any cat resource.




Best Practices:


For Locations:


 **Water** - Water should be **located away from food and litter boxes**. In the wild, animals do not kill or eat near a source of water if it can be helped, as water with carrion nearby could be contaminated. Cats in the wild also do not go potty where they drink and eat as they are vulnerable to attack by predators.

 **Food locations** - Each cat should have their own safe spot to eat in comfort without feeling threatened.

 **Cat trees** - Think vertical; most cats love to be high. Trees should be spread out throughout the house with different levels. **Offering multiple high spots offers each cat an option without having to fight for a coveted high spot**. Cats use scratching to scent mark. By having trees in each room they are able to mark their territory in a cat-appropriate way. Scratching is a natural cat behavior.



 **Hiding spots** - Cats naturally want **safe, secure locations to sleep** and rest. Examples are cat cubbies with cardboard scratchers, towers with tunnels, animal carriers, etc.

 **Litter boxes** - The rule of thumb is 1 per cat, plus 1. Place boxes at **each end of the home and on each level of the house**. Litter boxes should be in **quiet, open areas** where the cats can see who is coming towards them and have multiple exit routes.



What's in our 9-cat home?

- 29 Cat trees = **3.22 per cat**
- 19 Cardboard scratchers = **2.11 per cat**
- 17 Beds with K&H Heater Pads = **1.88 per cat**
- 10 Litter boxes = **1 per cat, plus 1**
- 26 Cat hiding spots = **2.88 per cat**
- 3 Water fountains, 3 water bowls
- 7 Timed feeders
- Too many wands to count
- 4 Baskets full of toys
- 4 Strollers
- 30 Wet food bowls

