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## Adult Cat Care Center



They're all grown up—it's time to start treating, and feeding, them that way. Just because they're older, however, doesn't mean they're completely self-sufficient. Adult cats have nutritional needs particular to their life stage just as kittens and senior cats do, and they need your help to meet them. The CatChow.com Adult Care Center will clue you in on what you need to know.

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HAVE A SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT YOUR CAT?

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#### Mentor Q&A

**?** **My 8-month-old kitten, Crackers, shows a HUGE interest in the toilet. Whenever my roommates or I use the restroom, he hops on the seat when we flush it. Do you think this is a sign that I could train my kitten to use the toilet? And if I could, how would I go about doing that?**

Lots of cats, especially youngsters, love the look and sound of moving water. It fascinates them. Dripping faucets, the fish tank, and especially flushing toilets provide cheap thrills and great entertainment.

I confess, I've never toilet-trained a cat. But Crackers certainly sounds like a good prospect. Sitting up on the seat is a very good first step, but right now, Crackers associates the toilet with a fun game. You need him to switch concepts and associated it with--ahem--personal business. After following you and your roommates, he certainly understands what YOU do, now you'll need to teach him to do the same.

Usually the first step is to set the litter box on top of the closed toilet seat. Get Kitty used to using the box in this location before anything else. Toilet-training is done in incremental steps, and there are "kits" you can purchase by mail order through pet magazines. Once the cat associates the human toilet with the kitty version, an "inset" litter pan fits into the open toilet. The amount of litter is gradually decreased, until you do away with litter altogether and he's "perching" on the seat to do his business.

One of the best systems I've seen, the CatSeat, is designed to replace your toilet seat with one the cat can more easily use. It's pretty expensive, but they've got a money-back guarantee. You can read more about this particular product at [www.catseat.com](http://www.catseat.com), or check CATS and Cat Fancy magazine for other similar training products.

### Purina<sup>®</sup> Cat Chow<sup>®</sup> Recommends:



Purina<sup>®</sup> Cat Chow<sup>®</sup> brand Cat Food Complete Formula

Balanced nutrition for cats of all ages

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Purina<sup>®</sup> Cat Chow<sup>®</sup> brand Cat Food Indoor Formula

Created for the unique needs of indoor cats

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#### FEATURED TIP

Cats use their tails to send complex messages when threatened. In general, a tail curved in an arch over the back signals a defensive position, such as avoidance and distancing. A tail that is lowered to the ground, is associated with offensive behavior and can lead to an act of aggression.

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