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Title: DOES PREVIOUS USE AFFECT LITTER BOX APPEAL IN MULTI-CAT HOUSEHOLDS?

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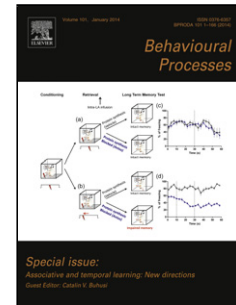
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9 **Highlights:**

- 10 • Cats prefer a clean litter box to a dirty litter box
- 11 • Identity of the previous user did not impact litter box preferences
- 12 • Presence of odor from urine and/or feces did not impact the litter box preferences
- 13 • Presence of odorless faux urine and/or feces did impact the litter box preferences
- 14 • Results emphasize regular removal of obstructions promotes proper litter box use

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19 **Abstract**

20 It is commonly assumed that cats actively avoid eliminated materials (especially in multi-cat homes),  
21 suggesting regular litter box cleaning as the best defense against out-of-box elimination. The  
22 relationship between previous use and litter box appeal to familiar subsequent users is currently  
23 unknown. The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between previous litter box use  
24 and the identity of the previous user, type of elimination, odor, and presence of physical/visual  
25 obstructions in a multi-cat household scenario. Cats preferred a clean litter box to a dirty one, but the  
26 identity of the previous user had no impact on preferences. While the presence of odor from urine

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