

Kibble Dribbler

Patent Pending

Sherman is a tiger striped cat we rescued from a shelter. He wasn't the prettiest cat in the shelter, but he was the friendliest, so he came home with us. Sherman loves to eat. We feed him dry cat food twice a day, and he would eat it down within a minute or two. When he was about four years old, he weighed thirteen pounds. Our veterinarian told us he needed to lose weight and become more active. The first feeder that I made was a plastic cat food dish with a duct tape cover and partition. It worked fairly well, making him roll the dish over and bat it around. The final design, the Kibble Dribbler, is the food box toy you see today. Within a year, Sherman dropped from 13 pounds to 9-1/2 pounds, a weight our veterinarian called "ideal" for his size. Since then he has maintained that weight for a year.

Any cat that is overweight and loves food should be able to learn how to use the Kibble Dribbler. The instructions are fairly simple and outlined below. We can't be certain that every cat will lose weight using the Kibble Dribbler any more than a diet and exercise program will work with every human. But people who combine diet and exercise with a *personal trainer* have a much greater success at losing weight. Just think of yourself as your cat's *personal trainer*. If you are consistent with using the Kibble Dribbler and control your cat's food intake, your cat should become more active and achieve its ideal weight. Training your cat to use the Kibble Dribbler may take a few weeks, or even a month or more. Be patient!

Training

Caution: the Kibble Dribbler should be only be used with dry pet food.

Step 1: Remove the lid and place the dry cat food into one of the compartments. Your veterinarian should be able to recommend the proper amount of food to give your cat each day. Leave the lid off and place on the floor in the location where you normally feed your cat. Your cat should be able to eat the top few layers of food, and then may pull some out with its paw or tip the Kibble Dribbler on its side. If your cat is having difficulty, you could try tipping the Kibble Dribbler on its side and even shake out a few kernels.

Step 2: After your cat has mastered the Kibble Dribbler with the lid off, fill it as usual, but put the food in the compartment farthest from the latch. Slide the lid on so it covers about half of the compartment. Rotate the latch so it goes into the center hole in the lid, keeping the lid from opening or closing. Set the Kibble Dribbler down and watch your cat. If your cat is having

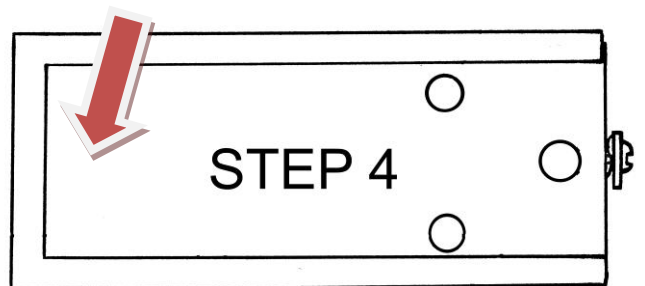
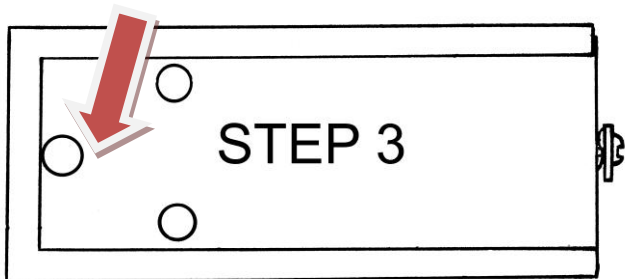
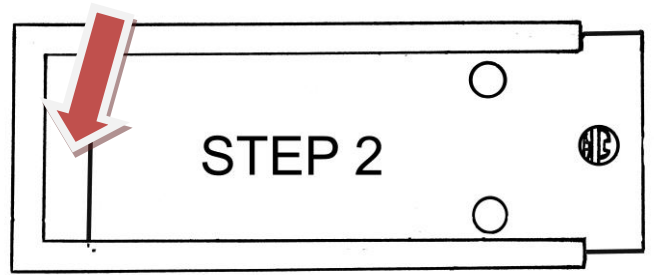
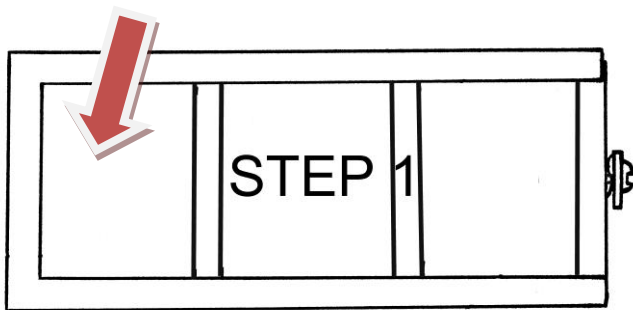
trouble getting food out, you could help by tipping the Kibble Dribbler on its side, or by shaking out a few kernels.

Step 3: After your cat has mastered feeding with the lid half open, fill the Kibble Dribbler as usual, but place the food in the compartment farthest from the latch and turn the lid around so the end with the holes is over the food. Rotate the latch to lock the lid closed. Again, you might have to shake some kernels out to help your cat learn to use it. Your cat should learn to lift, push, and pull on the Kibble Dribbler to make it tumble and release the food.

Step 4: Finally, place the food in the compartment farthest from the latch and slide the lid all the way closed with the holes in the lid closest to the latch. You may have to shake a few kernels from the first compartment to the second, then to the third, and finally shake out a few kernels. Your cat should now be pulling, lifting, and pushing the Kibble Dribbler on its own. It should take about a half hour of vigorous tumbling to release all the food. It is normal for cats to leave a few kernels in the Kibble Dribbler, only to return later and tumble it some more to get out the last few kernels.

A Word of Caution: It may be tempting to feed your cat more often and actually provide more food because he seems to enjoy playing with the Kibble Dribbler. Remember, you are your cat's personal trainer, and it is up to you to control his diet. The goal is to help your cat control his weight, although entertainment is a side benefit!

Training Steps



Place food where shown by the arrow.