

## Electronic Catmouse Litter Odor Eliminator

With 13 rats, a cat, a dog, and a hedgehog in a 900 square foot house, smell builds up fast, no matter how often I clean. In addition, the Swheat Scoop litter I use clumps well and is safe to ingest, but its odor control just doesn't match that of a scented litter. I won't use scented clay litters for my pets' health, but even with daily scooping I find myself holding my nose near the litterbox. So, when I received the Electronic Catmouse Litter Odor Eliminator for review, I wasn't expecting the palm-sized gadget to make a huge difference.

Boy, was I wrong! It turns out the Electronic Catmouse lives up to every marketing blurb on its packaging. Within a few hours of installing the Catmouse and turning it on, the litterbox odor had decreased noticeably. The device also operates silently when deodorizing. In fan mode, it makes a quiet whirring noise. I was thrilled with the results in terms of odor elimination.

That's not to say that the Catmouse is entirely without problems. The sticky-backed velcro included to mount the device wasn't strong enough. After a couple of days, the Catmouse started falling down, and I had to use a small nail and the plastic peg included for more permanent wall-mounting. For those living in apartments with strict rules about holes in the walls, this could be bothersome.

I'd also rather see a battery-powered model than the plug-in. The Catmouse works best when mounted above the litterbox, because the ions it uses to remove odors are heavier than air. That means there's a dangling cord for a curious cat to swat and potentially unplug the device or pull it off the wall.

This also makes it difficult to use the Catmouse to deodorize the area around small animals' cages, since they may pull cords into the cage and chew. However, given the device's warning not to inhale its activated oxygen and negative ion emissions for an extended period of time, I wouldn't recommend permanently mounting it above a pet's cage anyway. Chances are it would be perfectly safe, but I'm not volunteering my pets to be the first to test that theory!

One handy extra feature of the Catmouse: It can also serve as a therapeutic pheromone diffusion fan. You supply the pheromones, but the gadget comes with a fan function and a package of wicks for use with the fan. The jury's still out in the pet world on the effectiveness of pheromone therapy, but in my opinion pheromone products like Feliway certainly won't hurt your cat, and I've heard a few anecdotes indicating that they can be remarkably effective. If you're planning a move or have a pet showing signs of stress, pheromone therapy may help. If not, hey, you've got a handy litterbox deodorizer, and the only wasted money is on the bottle of pheromone product!

Overall, for \$39.99 online or at Petsmart, the Catmouse is a good buy for cat owners and anyone with a particularly stinky spot of 50 square feet or less in their home (teenage sons don't count as stinky spots). I'll likely give a few to cat owners on my gift list this Christmas. It's a unique gadget that does exactly what it's designed to do, and that gets it top marks in my book!

*Photos taken with my IPEVO PoV web camera, reviewed previously.*

Posted on September 22, 2008 by Jelena Woehr