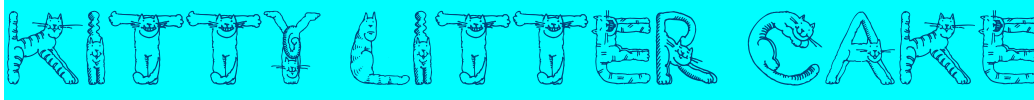


Recipe for



adapted by Lee Wardlaw

author of *Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku*

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers

You will need:

- One *brand new* plastic kitty litter box
- One *brand new* plastic litter scoop
- One or two 9 x 12 x 2 sheet cake pans
- One 3-quart sauce pan
- One 2-quart casserole dish with lid (or other covered container)
- 3/4 measuring cup
- Large spoon
- Large bowl
- Electric hand mixer
- One large Ziploc® storage bag (quart or gallon size)
- One microwave-safe dish or sturdy paper plate

Ingredients:

- One box German chocolate cake mix
- One box white cake mix
- One 3.5 ounce box vanilla pudding mix
- One 12 ounce package vanilla sandwich cookies
- One 12 ounce package Tootsie® Rolls (small ones are best)
- Eggs, milk and vegetable oil (check cake and pudding mix directions for amounts needed)

Directions:

1. Prepare the cake mixes according to the package directions. When baked, set aside to cool.
2. While the cakes are baking, prepare the pudding mix in the saucepan according to the package directions. When cooked, pour the pudding into the casserole dish, cover, and chill for at least two hours. Keep cold until you're reading to assemble the cake.
3. Open the package of sandwich cookies. Pour them into the Ziploc® bag and seal. Crush and crumble the cookies through the bag, using your hands or the flat side of a wooden kitchen mallet. (If you have a food processor, you may use it to crumble the cookies in small batches.) Put aside 3/4 cup of the cookie crumbles.

4. When the cakes have cooled to room temperature, wash your hands; then crumble each cake into the large bowl.
5. Add all the cookie crumbs, except the 3/4 cup.
6. Using a large spoon or your hands, toss the mixture until well blended.
7. Spoon the chilled pudding into the mixture and toss. (You might not need the entire container of pudding; you want the mixture moist but not soggy.)
8. Spoon the cake mixture into the kitty litter pan. (If the pan came with a liner, you may place that in the bottom before pouring in the mixture.)
9. Unwrap three or four Tootsie® Rolls and place on the microwave-safe dish or paper plate. Microwave on high for about 15 seconds. Pinch the ends of each Tootsie® Roll so they are no longer blunt; curve or coil each Tootsie® so that it resembles a kitty 'poop'. (Be careful – the Tootsies may be very hot in the center!) You may want to experiment, making each 'poop' a different thickness by rolling it between your hands (like when you make a snake out of clay) or by joining two Tootsies® together before coiling.
10. Bury each 'poop' so that it sticks partially out of the cake mixture; or place the 'poops' at random atop the cake. Sprinkle with some of the cookie crumbs that you set aside.
11. Continue softening and shaping the Tootsies®, three or four at a time, placing them atop the cake and sprinkling with the leftover cookie crumbs. (You will need only about half the bag of Tootsie® Rolls.)
12. Microwave three or four more Tootsies® until they are almost melted (about 30 seconds). Drape them over the side of the box and sprinkle with a bit more of the cookie mixture. (Be very careful – these melted 'poops' are HOT!)
13. Sprinkle any remaining cookie crumbs over the top of the cake.
14. Cover the litter pan loosely with aluminum foil and refrigerate until ready to serve.
15. When ready to eat, serve using the pooper scooper!

Tips:



The day before your event, bake both cakes and prepare the pudding. When the cakes have cooled, cut each into large squares and seal inside two large Ziploc® bags so they stay fresh.

The next day, follow the rest of the directions, above, and serve immediately Or within an hour or two.

Place any remaining cake in a sealed container and refrigerate. It will stay fresh and tasty for 2-3 days.

To create the complete litter box look, place the litter pan on top of an open sheet of newspaper. (I prefer the Sunday colored comics!)



Since most packaged cake mixes contain chemicals, trans fats, and corn sweeteners, I recommend using all-natural cake mixes. (Or, better yet, bake both cakes from scratch!) You will find all-natural cake mixes at your local health food store or online. I also recommend purchasing an all-natural vanilla pudding mix at the health food store.



This cake is fun to serve at Halloween or cat birthday parties! (Do not serve to cats, however; chocolate can be poisonous to felines.)



Lee Wardlaw's Kitty Litter Cake
(It tastes much better than it looks. Honest!)