

comes in an extra-strength formula.

Of all the organic litters, this one was used most by the test cats. Make sure you scoop every day as the bottom of the clumps, like any food product, may grow mold in a warm, moist environment.

This litter comes in seven-, 17- and 34-pound bags priced at \$8.25, \$18.49 and \$33.99, respectively. The extra-strength costs slightly more. This product is available in Petco, PetSmart and independent pet stores nationwide. Look for a store finder on the Web site: www.worldsbestcatlitter.com or call 877-367-9225 for more information.

Gentle Touch Pet Bedding & Litter

Gentle Touch consists of 100-percent Aspen wood and bark formed into pellet crumbles. It offers excellent odor control. The test cats preferred it over pine pellets. In the beginning, it doesn't track at all, but as the pellets break down (and become more comfortable to the cat), the sawdust tracks some.

Gentle Touch Pet Bedding and Litter comes in three sizes: 8-, 23- and 45-pound bags. They sell for \$6, \$11 or \$15, respectively. This litter is available directly from the manufacturer, select Petlands and independent pet specialty stores. For more information, contact www.gentletouchproducts.com or call 402-332-0253.

Shelby the Hemp Mouse

This no-frills toy mouse is made from hemp fabric and filled with fresh organic catnip. It contains no fabric filler and the organic catnip is 50 percent certified organic. Food coloring is used to print the cartoon face.

A 12-year-old test cat named Nixie, a shy feline, woke from a sound sleep due to being attracted by the catnip scent and began playing with this toy mouse. She wasn't keen on sharing, either. The seven-inch tail gives you plenty of distance between fingers and excitable claws. All of the



The test cats leapt at the chance to play with Shelby the Hemp Mouse, a no-frills toy made from hemp fabric and filled with fresh, organic catnip.

test cats who tried this American-made product gave it paws up. When the test cats finally wear out this product, it can be safely composted.

Shelby the Hemp Mouse retails for \$4.99, plus shipping. Be aware that there are also refillable toy mice (minus the tail) as well as Shelby the Long Tail Hemp Mouse (which features a four-foot long tail). To find a store near you, visit the manufacturer's website: www.fromthefieldpet.com or call 877-676-7689.

Celltei® Backpack

Measuring 16.5 inches by 10.5 inches by 11.75 inches, this environmentally friendly carrier comfortably holds cats who weigh under 13 pounds. It also converts to a backpack. The backpack straps are easily detachable and machine washable. A flexible support rod allows it to fit under most airline seats without collapsing. Made of biodegradable material coated in polyurethane, this product can be hosed off both inside and out for easy cleaning. Interior slots hold chemical heating packs and ice packs (not included). It comes with a waterproof interior tray. It has a couple of important safety fea-



The Celltei™ Backpack is an environmentally friendly carrier that can easily hold a cat weighing up to 13 pounds.

tures: zippers have a locking mechanism and a seatbelt loop.

I comfortably carried a 10-pound test cat named Spot around. Be aware that the locking zippers can be tricky to zip.

This feline backpack retails for \$125, plus shipping. Look for a store finder on the website: www.celltei.com. Get more information by calling 718-388-8882.