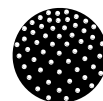


SECOND CHANCE

CENTER FOR ANIMALS



INAPPROPRIATE ELIMINATION

(URINATION, DEFECATION & SPRAYING) IN CATS

Inappropriate elimination (urination, defecation outside of the litter box and spraying) are the most common behavior problems in cats. There are several causes for the behavior, many of them are medical, and so a cat that has problems with inappropriate elimination should be examined by a veterinarian.

MEDICAL REASONS FOR INAPPROPRIATE ELIMINATION:

Some causes for inappropriate elimination are medical conditions such as: colitis, inflammatory bowel disease, diabetes mellitus, hyperthyroidism, kidney or liver disease, and feline urinary tract disease. Some of these medical conditions can cause painful, urination or defecation which makes it difficult for the cat to get in and out of the litter box. Treatment of these medical conditions may help resolve this behavioral problem.

STRESS

Stress can be a major cause of this behavioral problem in cats of all ages. Stressors such as moving, changes in the daily routine, holidays or changes in the make up of the family can result in inappropriate elimination. Reducing these stressors or decreasing their impact on the household will benefit your cat. For example when moving, keep your cat in a quiet room with not a lot of activity, placing your cats food, water and litter box along with a piece of your clothing in the room with them and gradually let the cat become accustomed to the rest of the house will help.

LITTER PREFERENCE

Some cats develop an aversion to the litter box due to the type of litter that is used. Some cat litters contain perfume or antiseptic, and the smell may dissuade some cats from using them. You can try different types of litter, sand, or newspaper.

LOCATION OF THE LITTER BOX

Some cats are very particular, and may not like where their box is located. It may be too close to their food or water or it may be in a high traffic area where they can not have privacy. It may also be in an area where they feel they can be ambushed by another cat. You relocated the litter box, or place more litter boxes in different locations around the house. There should always be at least one more litter box than the number of cats in the house.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

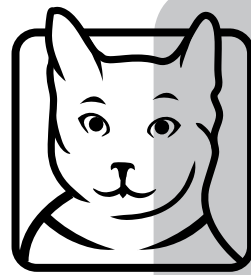
Sanitary conditions of the litter box are very important. Some cats will not defecate in the same box where they urinate. Others will not go in a box that has been used by another cat. Just as we do not like to use a dirty bathroom neither do cats. If the litter box is not cleaned regularly they may decide to find a different bathroom.



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INAPPROPRIATE ELIMINATION **(URINATION, DEFECATION & SPRAYING) IN CATS**

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- Have your cat checked by a veterinarian for possible medical conditions.
- If you have more than one cat, place multiple litter boxes around the house.
- Use different litter such as clumpable, newspaper, non-clumpable, sand, sawdust (non cedar) or not litter at all.
- Try different amounts of litter. Some people use too much litter and the cat only wants a small amount and vice versa.
- Clean the litter box at least once daily and wash the litter box once weekly.
- Try Feliway, which is designed to help reduce anxiety in cats, It contains pheromones from the cats fec. Feliway is also available in a plug in diffuser for areas where the cat spends most of his/her time.
- Use litter boxes with lower sides, placing the litter box in an area where the cat spends most of his/her time.
- Take your cat to his/her litter box frequently and if he/she uses it praise him/her and even give a treat.
- Do not punish your cat, such as rubbing his/her nose in it. It will only stress your cat more.
- In some situations, it may be helpful to confine your cat to a small room with food, water, toys, bed and a litter box. Once he/she is using the litter box in the smaller area, gradually allow him/her into the larger areas

