

## **Suggestions & Recommended Products**

***for owners of cats who urinate and/or defecate in inappropriate places.***

There are many different things that can influence a cat and make him/her stressed out enough to urinate in inappropriate locations. Unfortunately, since we can't really ask them what the problem is, we have to try various methods to see which one solves the problem. Here are a few things that you might try. Remember that these are over the counter suggestions. A vet can also prescribe medication if necessary. A urinalysis and physical examination should be done as soon as problems start to rule out a health issue.



### **Important Tips**

**\*\*\* Do NOT scold your cat. He/she doesn't understand. Your cat may understand he's in trouble, but scolding will only increase his anxiety and make a repeat offense more likely!**

\* Use litter that isn't scented or at least doesn't have a strong scent. Most cats prefer clay litter, not silica, not wood, chips, not pellets, etc.

\* Only provide litter boxes that are un-hooded. Covered litter boxes are made to contain the smell inside the box, which may be more pleasant for us people, but are very unpleasant for cats.

\* Get the right kind of litter box for your cat. Large cats may need a longer box, older arthritic cats may need a lower edged box to make it easier on their joints climbing in and out. Plastic storage bins made to fit under the bed make great litter boxes (as long as they're not under the bed!) and they are usually less expensive than traditional litter boxes. Target and Wal-mart carry these bins.

\* Provide one litter box per cat, plus one extra (e.g. you own 5 cats, you should have 6 litter boxes). Place them in different areas. The idea is that some cats feel threatened for some reason (another cat might be guarding the box for example) and you need to provide at least one safe alternative litter area.

I know nobody wants litter boxes in every room, but creative spots can work well - try placing a box under the sink in a guest bathroom and either remove the cabinet door(s) (you can make it pretty by velcroing a piece of fabric across the open space to make a curtain or just leave the cabinet door(s) open. Placing a litter box in the guest bathtub is also a good option.

\* Don't put litter boxes next to their food dishes, laundry machines (no noisy areas), or in areas that people walk through frequently. On the other hand, don't put the litter box so far away that it's inconvenient for your cat to get to. Also remember, your older arthritic cat may have trouble with stairs, so be sure to have a litter box on each level of the house.

\* Scoop litter boxes at least once daily.

\* Scotch guard can help protect your carpet and furniture.

## Recommended Products

### Feliway

*(PetSmart or Spokane Cat Clinic)*



Feliway is a synthetic pheromone that comes in two forms: the diffuser (like a glade plug-in that only your cats can smell) and the spray. Personally, I'd recommend the diffuser since it's much easier and seems to work better. You just plug it in the room the cats spend the bulk of their time. With the spray you have to spray multiple areas several times a day.

The synthetic pheromone basically tricks the cat(s) into thinking that the room has been marked favorably, similar to the way they feel about areas they rub their cheeks on. Feliway is used to relieve stress in many situations such as adding a new family member or pet to the household, trips to the vet, moving to a new house, etc. It's about \$40 for the diffuser which comes with a plug in and a container, refill containers are around \$20. You can get Feliway at Petco & PetSmart, or order it online (usually a little cheaper). If you get it from the pet store, it will be marketed under the name ComfortZone by Feliway.

### Cat Attract Cat Litter

*(PetSmart or Spokane Cat Clinic)*

The Cat Attract Litter has some sort of mixture of herbs that "help bring your problem cat back to the litter box". It is a good clumping clay litter that does not have a lot of dust to it. The price is also comparable to other clumping clay litters (about \$12 for a 20lb bag). Cat Attract also makes a litter additive that you sprinkle into your litter of choice. Both products are sold at PetSmart (not Petco) and both come with a great little booklet that gives information and helpful tips for solving inappropriate urination issues.



### Anti Icky Poo Spray

*(internet or Spokane Cat Clinic)*



This is an enzyme based cleaner that can be used safely and effectively on clothing, fabric, carpet, etc. Quote from the bottle: "Anti-Icky-Poo will remove cat urine, dog urine, skunk musk, vomit, feces and a whole host of other decaying organic materials." You can certainly try one of the other enzyme based cleaners sold in pet stores, but hearing from clients, and also based on personal experience, we haven't had any luck with them.