

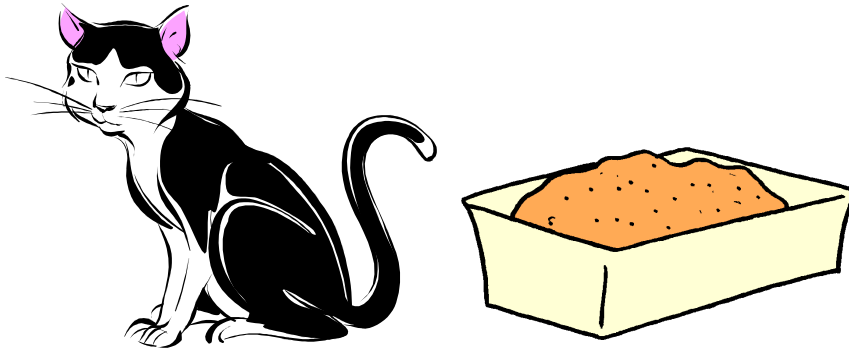


INAPPROPRIATE URINATION

By: Angie Summers V.M.D.

Did you know the most common behavioral complaint in cats is inappropriate elimination? This can be a very frustrating problem and in many cases will result in relinquishing the cat to a shelter or euthanasia. There are many different reasons why cats are perceived to do this, including medical and behavioral, and some are easier to fix than others. Many times if the behavior is not corrected immediately, it will become learned and be much more difficult to treat.

In order to try and avoid a problem such as this, there are some general guidelines to follow.



- * Make sure to scoop the litter box at least once daily. Some cats will avoid the litter box if it is too dirty! (wouldn't you?)
- * Make sure to change the litter frequently.
- * Clean out litter boxes with hot soapy water once weekly. Some cats will avoid a litter box with strong odors. If the litter box is old and strong odors cannot be washed out, consider getting a new litter box.
- * Make sure to clean soiled areas with an odor eliminator. Avoid products that contain ammonia - this smells like urine to a cat!
- * A good general rule is to have one more litter box than the number of cats in the household.
- * Avoid placing litter boxes in dark, dingy places or next to loud objects that may scare the cats. Sensitive cats may learn to avoid the litter box only after one bad experience in the litter box (i.e. - dryer timer goes off loudly while cat is in the box).

More specific advice can be offered with a proper history, and it is important to make sure there are no medical problems that have caused the problem. If your cat exhibits elimination in an inappropriate place, please call immediately for an appointment or behavioral advice!