

Remove Marking Triggers

- Neuter or spay your cat to physiologically eliminate sexually-related marking behavior.
- Restrict the potential threat of other cats; outdoor roaming cats encroaching on the household can act as triggers. *Tips:* if the resident cat resides indoors only (never goes outside), use motion activated water sprinklers to make the yard unattractive to feline visitors. Laying plastic carpet protectors upside down in front of sliding glass doors creates an uncomfortable surface and may dissuade other cats from sitting close to the house and intimidating your cat.
- Remove or block cat doors that allow roaming cats to enter the household. *Tip:* use microchip- or magnet-operated devices to only allow access to your cat.
- Cleaning urine-marked areas frequently will reduce a cat's habit of refreshing its scent on the marking site. Use a black light (UV) to find soiled areas. Clean affected areas with a good quality urine odor and stain remover according to the type of surface that the cat has soiled. Test products on an inconspicuous area first and clean a sufficiently large area to remove the odor, which may be up to three times the size of the soiled area. Avoid using ammonia-based cleaners, which smell like urine to a cat.

Additional Considerations

- Ensure that all your cat's environmental needs are being met. For more information, visit: www.catvets.com/cat-owners/brochures or www.icatcare.org/vets/guidelines.
- Never punish your cat for house-soiling. Punishment can lead to fear-related aggression, reduces the bond between cat and human, and encourages urine marking in less obvious areas.
- Consider use of comforting synthetic pheromones. Spray Feliway® on affected areas after cleaning to reduce the likelihood of re-marking. After individualizing toileting areas for the cat's preferences, adding a Feliway® diffuser in the room most frequented by the cat reinforces the cat's feeling of security.

Feline house-soiling can be a frustrating problem. Resolution requires patience, as it can take some time to determine what is causing these behaviors and may involve making changes to several aspects of a cat's home environment and care.

If you are experiencing house-soiling with your cat, please contact your veterinary practice immediately. The sooner these issues are addressed, the happier everyone will be, including your cat. Working with your veterinarian to identify the causative factors for the house-soiling behavior, and effectively addressing those factors, will dramatically increase the chance of resolving the house-soiling issues.

By understanding and providing for your cat's environmental and medical needs, you can help your cat to live a long and happy life.

You are an important member of your cat's healthcare team. You can be instrumental in helping with the success of treatments and improved healthcare.

We wish to thank Ceva Animal Health for sponsoring this document.



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Feline House-Soiling

Useful Information for Cat Owners



House-soiling is one of the most common reasons why pet owners abandon or relinquish their cats. Unfortunately, these cats frequently end up in shelters where they often are euthanized.

House-soiling can be a complex problem to solve, but there are ways to prevent, manage, or resolve feline house-soiling behaviors. Your cat does not urinate or defecate outside the box due to spite or anger towards you, but because its specific physical, social, or medical needs are not being met.



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