

Urine Marking In Cats

What You Can Do

Cats are only doing what comes naturally when they urine mark, but it can be extremely inconvenient for you, the pet owner, especially when it's done inside. Here are some treatment options to consider

Desexing

Have your cat desexed.

Environmental management

Avoid the triggers. Anxiety is often caused by other cats. Separate cats or deter outside cats.

Clean soiled areas

Use warm water and an enzymatic cleaner (e.g. Trigene wipes) to ensure urine is thoroughly cleaned

Environmental enrichment

See Ceva's "Resources checklist for a cat friendly home".

Behaviour modification

Establish regular routines. Try to spend at least 10-15 minutes each day playing, grooming and otherwise interacting with your cat to provide regular, predictable attention.

Avoid punishment

A stern voice, spraying with water bottles or making loud noises are likely to increase anxiety.

Medication

Use a Feliway[®] diffuser in the room where the unwanted behaviour is occurring. Leave switched on for at least 4 weeks. Feliway[®] spray can provide additional support. Spray on urine marked areas and prominent objects after cleaning, once a day until the behaviour stops

Other medications

Sometimes further medications are required to reduce anxiety. It's essential that these are prescribed with behaviour modification advice as described above.

Resources checklist for a cat friendly home

Basic resources

Food

- Feed several small meals a day
- Food bowl separated from the water bowl

Puzzle feeders are great for overweight or bored cats

Litter tray

- Placed in a quiet, well ventilated and accessible area
- Cleaned and scooped daily, washed weekly
- Unscented, clumping litter preferred
- Consider size and type of tray to fit cats needs and ability (arthritic cat - low sides and wide base. Covered Vs uncovered etc.)

Water bowl

- Clean water regularly renewed, away from the feeding area
- Water fountains are available to encourage reluctant cats to drink



Basic resources

- Provide Feliway[®] to mark areas and new objects as safe and secure
- Use Feliway[®] to give added support during challenging events (moving house, redecoration etc)



Structural features

Climbing opportunities: Shelves, cat trees...

Scratching post:

- Entry and exit points and/or next to resting/sleeping areas
- Vertical grooves are preferred (high enough to fully stretch)

Resting area: Provide several throughout the home

Hiding places: Boxes, baskets, cupboards with door left open

Outdoor access: Free and easy access to outside where possible.

Consider microchip cat flaps (to keep neighbouring cats out)



Social contact

- Playing sessions: With the owner on a daily basis, if the cat wants to!
- Petting sessions: Daily, if the cat enjoys



Activity & stimulation

- Toys: Regularly rotated to provide novelty
- Radio or television: On when the cat is home alone



Multi-cat needs



- Feed in private (separate rooms/floors in multicat homes)
- Multiple resources (food and water bowls, litter boxes) distributed in different locations to avoid competition for access
- Enough climbing hiding & resting areas for all cats
- Facial pheromones (Feliway[®] Diffuser) to decrease overall tension and help cohabitation

