

Behavioural Modification for Cats that Urinate Inappropriately

- ❖ Appropriate cleaning of soiled areas is of paramount importance in controlling further accidents. Many commercially available options exist, including F.O.N. (Feline Odor Neutralizer), A.O.E. (Animal Odor Eliminator), K.O.E. (Kennel Odor Eliminator), F.E.O. (Feline Eliminator-Odor), and "Equalizer." You will need to follow the directions for the individual enzymatic cleaner. (See <http://indoorpet.osu.edu/cats/problemsolving/cleanupurine/index.cfm> for greater detail.)
- ❖ Never use ammonia or ammonia-based products on the carpet. The smell may attract the cat to that area and can encourage cats to urinate in the area.
- ❖ Provide at least a number of litter boxes equal to the number of cats you have plus one.
- ❖ Provide a litter box on each level of your home that the cat has access to, at least temporarily.
- ❖ Keep the litter boxes in "quiet areas" of the house (avoid high traffic or high noise areas).
- ❖ Do not use covered litter boxes.
- ❖ Most cats prefer unscented, fine-grained type litters, but some cats may prefer different litter types... consider trying clay litter in one box, and pine litter in yet another box. Give your cat some choices. Many people have had good experience with the new silica types of litter.
- ❖ Change the litter frequently.
- ❖ Scrub the litter boxes clean at least once weekly. Old, dirty, "urine-etched" boxes should be replaced.
- ❖ Keep food and water bowls in a quiet area of the home, away from windows, heat vents, exhaust fans etc. Keep the food and water bowls away from the litter box location.
- ❖ Allow the problematic cat more chance to be a "cat". Cats are independent creatures and like to be in control. It would be great if the cat could have its own room complete with scratching post, food and water bowls, and litter box. Provide the cat with toys to chase and catch.
- ❖ Try and determine if the cat has experienced a recent stress in its life. "Stressors" could include changes in the weather, the cat's environment (a recent move, addition of a new pet or family member), change in diet or feeding schedule, change of litter type, etc.
- ❖ Make any changes in the cat's routine, including diet changes, very slowly.
- ❖ Highly stressed cats may require pharmacological intervention. Please call us to discuss options.