

Information Sheet - Cats with Toileting issues!

There is nothing worse than coming home, or waking up to find that your cat has not used the tray AGAIN. If this was on carpet, the couch or the bed it can end up costing you thousands.

So why do they do it? Unfortunately there can be thousands of reasons, ranging from ill health to fear, to pain, to preference, to boredom, to something they learn (or haven't learnt) previously. You rarely meet a cat that really did it just to spite their owner, although it really feels like that if you are the human who gets to clean up!

How do we find out what causes the issue?

Well it takes a lot of sleuthing often the help of your vet and a behaviourist. They should both ask you the following questions:

- Have you taken your cat to the vet and checked for a urinary tract infection or similar? This is an important starting point!
- Does this cat have other behaviours that concern you? I.e. night time activity/restlessness.
- How many other animals do you have? How much time does this cat spend with each of them? Do they get on with anyone?
- How many other animals is this cat exposed to (i.e. neighbours)?
- Is this cat inside and/or outside cat?
- If you have other animals how much time does this cat spend where they can't be disturbed by any of them?
- How big are the puddles this cat makes?
- Does the cat urinate on vertical surfaces? Or at doorways or windows?
- Describe the places they defecate outside the tray? I.e. behind couch
- Is there any pattern to the accidents? I.e. overnight; on rainy days; when you work late? Certain days in the week? After visitors?
- How often does it happen daily/weekly?
- Where is the tray/s?
- Do they use the tray at all?
- What kind of litter is in the tray? How often do you replace the litter completely?
- What are the dimensions of the tray and is it covered? Is it self-cleaning?
- How often do you clean it?
- What do you clean it with?
- What do you use to clean up his accidents?
- Where is the food and water?
- What do you feed the cat? How often?
- Does this cat play with toys? If yes how often and what? How long for? Who stops playing first?
- Lastly what have you tried already to fix the problem?



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OK so when you have answers to all of that there are some guidelines that have been proven work well and are key in preventing toileting issues from developing.



Have at least one tray per cat plus a spare. Place them out of sight of each other. If you have a two storey home put one on each level.

Choose a litter that is sandy or soil like most cats prefer these.

Make sure food and water are a long way from the trays. We don't eat and toilet in the same place and cats don't like to either.

Make sure the tray is somewhere quiet, away from washing machines and other automatic or remote controlled appliances.

Clean up with products that contain active enzymes, avoid ammonia products.

Keep a track of when and how much your cat is eating and drinking, and when they use the tray, this will help you predict when they are likely to need to go use the tray.

