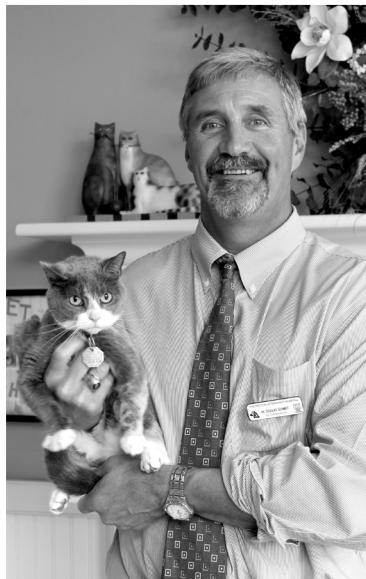


ASK OUR VET, DR. SCHMIDT



Why is my cat peeing in the corner?

Imagine the frustration of finding out your cat has used your bath mat or corner of the living room as a toilet instead of his litter pan. Why would your cat do this? Well, there are many reasons.

Cats urinating outside their litter pans may be anxious or stressed, may be marking territory or may have what is known as a location preference or a substrate preference. A dirty litter pan, different type of cat litter than the cat is used to, or noise or distractions in the area where the litter pan is kept may also cause elimination outside the litter box. Of course, medical issues like urinary tract infections, bladder stones, or other problems may also cause a cat to find another place to do her business.

What can you do to prevent your kitty from using the whole house as a litter pan? First, make sure the litter pan is scooped daily. We all know what public restrooms look like. You don't like to use a dirty toilet—neither does your cat. If you have more than one cat, provide multiple litter pans, ideally one more pan than cat. So, if you have three cats, you should ideally have four litter pans. Cats do not like change, so it is best to stick with one type and brand of cat litter. It is also important to not move the litter pan around so your cat always knows where it is. Avoid putting the litter pan in a noisy or high traffic area like a laundry room as loud noises may startle the cat and many cats like privacy just as we do when using the bathroom.

If your cat is urinating in the same spot over and over, he or she may have a liking for that particular location. While it may not be possible to place a litter pan under the dining room table, if the area is in a fairly unobtrusive spot and you're willing to place a litter pan in or near the spot, it may resolve the problem. Also, if a cat is urinating on a certain surface like clothing, he may like

shredded paper or clumping litter. If he is urinating on a smooth surface like in the sink, he may like an empty litter box with no cat litter.

Any cat who is experiencing inappropriate urination should first be evaluated for medical problems. If none are found, your veterinarian can discuss some of the measures above as well as products that may deter urination or even anti-anxiety medications to try to alter the behavior. There are many things that can be done to get your cat back on the right track to using her litter box. While frustrating, don't give up on your furry feline too soon. Most behavior problems can be resolved if you are willing to work with your vet and your cat.



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