

# ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

Is peeing outside of the litter box normal for cats? Well, actually it kind of is. It's just an unwanted behavior. Feral cats, and the big cats, mark their territory and urinate in several areas on a regular basis. This is how they create their territories.

But, that still begs the questions, Why does my cat urinate outside of the box, and how do I prevent this behavior? One of the top reasons cats are surrendered to shelters or euthanized is for doing this ultimate no-no. We want to do everything we can to help your cat maintain healthy litter box habits.

There are a myriad of reasons your cat will go to the bathroom outside if its litter box. One of the most common reasons is behavioral in nature, but may also be medical. In many cases, these behavioral problems can lead to stress for your cat. Stress has been shown to create a syndrome called Feline Idiopathic Cystitis (FIC), which causes painful bladder spasms, bloody urine, a feeling of having to urinate more frequently, etc. All of this can lead to your cat urinating outside the box.

The 3 categories that need to be addressed to prevent your cat from urinating outside the litter box are environmental enrichment, litter box etiquette, and increasing water consumption.

If urinating outside of the litter box is becoming a problem with your cat, we first recommend scheduling an appointment with one of our doctors at Patton Veterinary Hospital. This will allow us to make sure there are no medical problems, and then help you manage this problem.

Read more on this topic in our blogs at <http://www.pattonvethospital.com>.

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