|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CityPetsLogoResized.JPG | **City Pets Veterinary Clinic**  1723 Plymouth Road  Ann Arbor, MI 48105  Phone: (734) 929-4071  Email: [Info@CityPetsVetClinic.com](mailto:Info@CityPetsVetClinic.com)  Website: [www.CityPetsVetClinic.com](http://www.CityPetsVetClinic.com)  Visit us on Facebook! |

**Inappropriate Elimination:**

This is one of the most common cat behavioral disorders and can quickly become a very frustrating problem for owners, vets, and your cat. The hope by addressing this problem early is that any medical problem can be identified early and that this behavior does not become a long term habit.

There are many possible causes that can initiate this problem.

**Possible Causes**:

* Urinary Tract Infection
* Cystitis (inflammation in the bladder wall)
* Pain associated with the littler box: cystitis, stones, arthritis (hips, knees, or back) abdominal pain, paws or nails, constipation.
* Metabolic Diseases such as: Diabetes, kidney disease, hyperthyroidism
* Behavioral Causes such as: new pet in the house, new people in the house, new carpet, new furnishings, rearrange of furniture, other animals or children bothering cat, number or interactions between cats.

**Testing**

The following test may be recommended to determine if the urination is truly a primary behavior problem:

* Urinalysis to check for blood, signs of infection and crystals will likely be the initial test preformed.
* Culture and sensitivity of the urine sample to determine if there is a bacterial infection and if so what specific antibiotic will it be susceptible to.
* Bladder ultrasound to identify any stones or masses that may be present.
* Radiographs to evaluate the bladder, hips, back and knees for signs of arthritis or pain.
* Bloodwork to evaluate your cat for other diseases that may cause inappropriate unination.

\*\*We understand that testing to evaluate all of the possible causes can be expensive, but the hope is that we can better determine the problem and save you time, money, and frustration in the future.

**Treatment:**

Identify the areas where your cat is urinating (a black light can also be used to aid in the search) and use odor control cleaner (Kids and Pets, Zeroodor, Natures Miracle). Pour ½ cup of water over area and then use cleaner and soak up all moisture, this will help draw urine out of the carpet pad as well.

Block off these areas to the cat if possible: close doors, lay out plastic covers or tarps if needed.

**Litter Boxes:**

Avoid a change in routine or household arrangement during this time.

* Provide one littler box per cat in the household plus one additional box
* Provide littler boxes in more than one room and on multiple floors
* Provide open and hooded littler boxes (cats often prefer open littler boxes)
* Avoid: “multicat” marketed litter (the odor appeals to us, but not to cats), litter box liners, putting boxes in high traffic areas of the house.
* Especially for older cats make sure the height of the litter box sides aren’t too high. It may be difficult for cats with arthritis to get into.
* Offer various amounts of litter in boxes

**Litter box care:**

* Scoop at least once a day.
* Add new litter as needed to maintain proper amount of litter in the box.
* Dump, wash litter boxes, and replace litter every 1-2 weeks (even with scoopable litters).

**Pheromone Sprays:**

Feliway sprays or plug-in diffusers

**Medications:**

* Dasuquin (Joint supplement)
  + These medications are anti-inflammatory supplements that can aid in decreasing pain caused by cystitis and arthritis.
* Anti-anxiety medications if needed.
* Antibiotics if needed.
* Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory if needed.

The best results will occur if all the above changes and treatments are initiated at the same time.