VOKRA

VANCOUVER ORPHAN KITTEN RESCUE ASSOCIATION

Urinating Outside the Litter Box:

Definitions:

Inappropriate elimination is typically characterized by the cat discontinuing—either completely or partially—use of the litter box for urination and/or defecation. When eliminating outside of the litter box, the cat usually squats while urinating, and typically deposits a large amount of urine on a horizontal surface.

Urine marking or spraying is characterized by the cat typically continuing to urinate and defecate in the litter box, but also marking or spraying vertical surfaces. When marking/spraying, the cat is usually standing, with the tail up and twitching. Urine marking can be a complicated problem, often involving medical issues.

For Cats that have inappropriate urination issues pre intake/switching fosters with no medical issues.

Start in a small room, not necessary to be a bathroom as the cat needs to have a bigger comfortable space.

Litterboxes should be a **large size** at least 3 to be placed in the room

2 or 3 types of litter to find cat’s preference at the start.

The litterbox needs to be cleaned frequently

No hood or a liner

No bedding, laundry or soft items should be in the room with the cat.

Once the cat has no issues, place more litterboxes outside the room with preferred litter, making sure that they are **not** placed near washing machines, furnaces or other noisy areas.

POSSIBLE STRESSORS

*Newcomers to the home

*temporary or permanent absences can be extremely disquieting.

*new cat or dog in the neighborhood that is visible to your feline?

*new furniture

*rearranged the layout of your home

*Is another person or child in the house messing with the cat while it's in the box, on the way to the box?

If inappropriate urination happens out of the safer space, follow the following steps with:

Aversion techniques

This course of treatment attempts to make inappropriate elimination an undesirable act for the cat.

*Use a cleaning product that will neutralize the odor in the places your cat has urinated outside the box. Some products simply mask the smell which will not discourage the cat from re-using the same areas. There are numerous products on the market that neutralize cat urine, but a favorite is Nature's Miracle.

soak up urine with paper towel

Spay area with Nature’s Miracle on spot and around area by at least 6 inches let dry, and repeat 3 times.

If it reoccurs:

Cover said area with double-sided tape or aluminum foil taped to the furniture or carpet. In general, cats do not like walking on these textures.

Place orange or lemon peels at the base of any potted plants that your kitty uses as a bathroom. You can also try covering the area with a piece of plastic or cardboard and rocks on top to prohibit your cat from digging in the potting soil.

And

Attraction therapy:

Place a new litterbox near where the inappropriate urination is occurring to encourage your kitty to use it. After several days, move it two to three feet closer to the original location every day until it is back where it belongs. Of course, the time required for the litterbox to return to its original location and the number of feet you need to move it each day depend entirely on your cat's progress.

Keep the old litterbox in its usual location just in case the aversion therapy works and your cat decides to reuse it without additional encouragement.

Make sure you never:

Rub the cat's nose in the urine or feces. This increases stress in cats.

Yell at your cat, or carrying/dragging it to the litterbox. Again, this is simply going to make things worse.

Confine it and the litterbox to a tiny room, this will add major stress to the cat who has had company and more room.

Use ammonia-based cleaners. Urine contains ammonia and cleaning with ammonia will attract kitty to the same spot again.

Absolutely no water guns or spray bottles to be used on the cat.

No vibration or shock collars

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