

Elimination disorders in cats

In this sheet I have tried to distill down the most important aspects of feline house soiling.

Collecting urine from cats can be a bit of a challenge. Most times we collect it via cystocentesis. This involves using a needle to collect the urine. If your cat is peeing on plastic, then get a syringe from our office and bring it into us in a clean container. Saran wrap can be placed over the litter and the urine can be collected in the same way. Plastic pellets called Nosorb can be purchased from the clinic and can be used instead of litter. After your cat pees the urine can be decanted off.

Most cases of feline house soiling are behavioral. Making it easy for your cat to use a litter box is the single most important thing you can do. If your cat is peeing in the living room, then put a litter box where the cat pees. I am not saying you have to leave it there forever. After a week of the cat using the litter box, move the box a foot every day to a more inconspicuous spot.

Use a big litter box. Plastic totes are great for this purpose. A box two and a half times the size of your cat would be an ideal. You can provide a litter box "buffet" of assorted cat litters to see what type your cat prefers. Most cats prefer unscented clumping cat litter in an uncovered box. Clean the litter two times daily.

If your cat is nervous and hides a lot consider trying a drug that will relieve anxiety such as amitriptyline. Cats that are afraid of other cats in the family or that are just generally skittish may benefit from it.

If your cat is peeing in just a few areas, cover the area with tinfoil. I had trouble with my cats peeing on our leather couch. I purchased a Ssscat cat from the Pet Valu store. It sprays compressed air when the cat goes near it and it solved my problems.

If your cat is peeing on flat smooth places ie. the bathtub or on plastic, then use minimal litter in the box and place the box on a slight angle so some plastic is exposed. If your cat is peeing on towels and carpeting put a carpet around the box so your cat can scratch on it after eliminating.

Make sure you have read the sheet House Soiling in Cats. It is a lot more detailed than this sheet.