

IS YOUR CAT URINATING INAPPROPRIATELY?

Is the litterbox clean enough for the cat?

→ Cats are naturally clean creatures. No one wants to potty in a dirty bathroom and your cat is no different. Their keen sense of smell makes this even more of an issue that it may for you – they also have to step in it. The box should be scooped 2+ times a day and remember that even clumping litter doesn't get the gross out completely. You will need to toss the used litter completely, wash the litterbox, and add new litter regularly. Litter boxes can be a lot of work, but cleaning your carpets is worse. Your cat may simply be telling you that you need to up your cleaning in their personal bathroom. Another factor can be the litter itself. Their nose or eyes may find the smell or ingredients irritating also, so do not be afraid to try different types of litter.

HOW MANY LITTERBOXES AND CATS DO YOU HAVE?

→ Just like they don't want to potty in a dirty area, they also might not want to share their bathroom. Your cat might be like the person who refuses to allow others to use their toilet. That's totally acceptable, but you will need to accommodate their needs if you don't want them making their own personal bathroom somewhere else you don't approve of. The general rule of thumb is one box per cat + one extra.

DID YOU CHOOSE A LITTERBOX THAT LOOKS COOL ?

→ We all fall victim to sometimes "upgrading" our litterbox so it isn't such an eyesore, but it's your cat's bathroom – not yours. You may need to consider that they don't like the way they have to enter it, maybe the cover doesn't have a clear area and it's too dark, maybe they don't want to duck to get in, walk up tiny stairs, etc. One thing we see a lot are cats who are simply uncomfortable getting in to the box. They may not look arthritic or seem like they have any physical issues that would affect them entering it, but animals often conceal ailments well. Joint discomfort is quite common in older cats, but younger ones can suffer from the same issues. Try a simple box with a low edge that they will not need to bend their knees to enter. You can try testing this out by using the shallow box that a case of canned cat food sometimes comes in.

ARE YOU FEED YOUR CAT WET/CANNED FOODS?

→ Cats that do not intake enough moisture in their diet are prime candidate for not only urinary issues, but also kidney disease. Cats need a high moisture diet. Consider changing your cat's diet to mostly or completely canned foods.

DOES YOUR CAT DRINK WATER OR HAVE A WATER FOUNTAIN?

→ Cats should get their required moisture in a wet food diet, but cats have become used to drinking water outside of their meals to compensate losses especially with the convenient dry diets of today's world. If your cat does not intake enough moisture - urine will sit in the bladder instead of flushing/urinating out often enough. Urine sitting in the bladder commonly leads to urinary tract infection, the formation of mineral crystals, and even larger stones. These are the same issues that can happen when pets (or people) hold it too long. **Ouch!** Increasing water intake even more by adding an enticing trickling fountain to your home can help promote more drinking which leads to more flushing out of the bladder.

Has your vet had a urine sample tested at the vet?

→ Sometimes it's too late for prevention if there is already an issue. You will need your vet to diagnose and resolve the current problem before a prevention can help. Increasing moisture in their diet can help prevent, but it can't cure infections that is already present or make every crystal/stone disappear. Diagnose – Treat – Prevent. Keep in mind that prescription/RX diets may be required for extreme cases in order to prevent reoccurrence.



I don't feel well
it's time for a vet visit to be sure I'm not sick



My box doesn't fit
I want a bigger box at least 1.5 times my body length



The box isn't as clean as I like
clean it more often & replace old boxes



I don't like the box location
get me out of high traffic areas but don't corner me



I need more boxes
make sure there is one box per cat plus an extra, & spread them apart in the house



I don't like this kind of litter
Can we try unscented, clumping this time?