



Litter Boxes and Inappropriate Urination

General Guidelines

- Have at least one more litter box than you have cats
- Space the boxes in various places around the house, in quiet, low traffic areas. There needs to be a box on every floor of the house. (Next to the washer/dryer or other noisy appliances is **not** a good place.)
- Use fine grain clumping litter without added fragrance. Fresh Step® with carbon is a good choice.
- The size of the box needs to be at least 1.5 times the length of the cat (clear, deep, sweater boxes make good cat boxes.) Cut down an area for the cat to go in and out easily, especially if your kitty is older or has joint problems.
- Scoop the boxes **every single day**, twice is even better.
- Scrub the box regularly with *mild* dish detergent, dry completely and replace with all fresh litter. Avoid citrus or pine scents in the box.
- Uncovered boxes are better. In nature, cats do not go into small caves to eliminate, they prefer to see what's around them and be able to make a quick escape if need be.
- Cleaning soiled areas: Blot to remove as much urine as possible
 - ✓ Soak and blot 5 times with tap water.
 - ✓ Apply enzymatic cleaner made for cat urine. Brands include Equalizer® and Anti Icky Poo®.

Why do cats spray? Triggers include conflict between household cats, excessive household activity, over-attachment to a human family member, stray cats outside, the claiming of territory or the spreading of information, (e.g. I was here at 2:00am, it's mine.) Spraying is a normal cat communication tool. It is *not* spiteful even though we sometimes tend to think that.

We have a lot more information about litter box issues. This is just the starting point. Please schedule a consult to discuss this problem further.