

## **What should I do if..... my cat is urinating in my house?**

There are a number of factors which might result in a normally clean cat starting to urinate in the house. Some of these are behavioural, some are caused by illness.

The first step is to recognise that stress of various kinds is a common trigger for this behaviour. Telling your cat off will be of no benefit and will probably make things worse so start by avoiding doing that. Act now as this problem will only get worse with time.

### **Litter tray**

If your cat normally uses a tray, make sure there is more than one tray available and provide an alternative type of litter in one of them. Sometimes providing a tray that is open when they have a covered one or vice versa may solve the problem.

Ensure the tray is well away from food and disturbance.

### **Cleaning**

Use biological washing powder followed by surgical spirit to clean the affected area- check for colour fastness/damage to the fabric/floor first. Effective cleaning will discourage your cat from returning to the same spot.

Do not use bleach or other standard cleansers as this may encourage further urination at the site.

### **Feeding**

Feed at the site of urination to discourage further episodes.

### **Stress reduction**

Have you had a lot of visitors or strange animals in the house? Territorial stress is often triggered by other cats entering the house. Consider locking the cat flap if you have one. Follow the cleaning regime around the outside house doors and strange cats often urinate around the door areas and your cat may be able to smell this.

If you have several cats in your household, it may be that low grade inter-cat stress maybe contributing. Get a feliway spray or diffuser from the surgery and ensure you are providing a litter tray for each cat plus one more.

### **Infection**

A number of cats presenting with these signs will have undetected urinary tract infections.

Contact the surgery to discuss collecting a sample and having your cat examined if you see no improvement in 2-3 weeks after following the above advice.

If your cat seems unwell then make an appointment straight away.