



## Reducing Urine-Marking Behavior

Cats are territorial animals and urinating can be a form of marking their territory. Unfamiliar scents and sounds can be causing your cat to reaffirm claim on its territory.

**Sometimes changes in the home can cause anxiety that can be seen in the form of urine marking. Some examples are included below.**

- New home
- New people in the home
- New pets
- Moving things around in the home

### **What can you do about this problem?**

Take your cat to the vet to ensure there is no medical reason for this behavior.

Once your vet gives your cat a clean bill of health you may want to try some of these steps:

- Spay or neuter your feline
- Resolve conflicts between animals in your home
- Restrict your pet's access to doors and windows
- Keep your cat from running around outside
- Clean soiled areas thoroughly with an enzymatic cleaner
- Make previously soiled areas inaccessible
- Feed, treat, and play with your cat in areas he was previously inclined to mark
- Try to monitor your cat's movements when possible

### **What not to do:**

- Don't punish your cat after the fact as they don't urinate or defecate out of spite or jealousy
- Don't rub your cat's face or nose into the mess as your cat won't understand why they are being punished