



ANIMAL ANTICS

Note for Pet Owners:

Pet Patrol 365 provides this information for educational purposes only. You should seek the advice of your veterinarian if your pet is ill, as only they can correctly advise on the diagnosis and the recommended treatment for your pet.

WHY IS MY CAT SPRAYING?

Reasons for spraying

1. Urine marking is a communication system for cats. Cat urine contains pheromones which are chemical substances that tell other cats certain messages. Spraying is a common component of cat behaviour during the mating season with males and females communicating their availability with their pheromones.
2. Territorial - multi-cat households usually have a far greater problem with spraying than single cat households. Overcrowding of cats will often result in problems with territory marking.
3. Spraying can also be stress related. A cat that feels threatened by certain circumstances around the house may feel the need to mark out their own zone. It is an important part of communication among cats, helping to establish and define boundaries and reassure cats whose area is whose.

Preventing spraying

There are several approaches you can take, but not all may work for your situation:

1. Anti anxiety drugs are available from your vet which may be useful in preventing your cat from spraying. However, some people report that their cats lose their personality and become zombies when on anti anxiety drugs.
2. Friendly Pheromone diffusers and sprays such as Feliway might help. It offers a solution to help manage unwanted, stress-related behaviours in cats. This therapy works by spraying a 'friendly' pheromone in places where your cat sprays. Also available are plug in diffusers. These pheromones pacify cats who are spraying urine around the house.
3. If you have the problem with your cat spraying in one particular area then a repellent called SSSCAT might work for you. SSSCAT™ has two elements: a motion detector and an aerosol can. It will detect the cat's motion and will release a harmless spray. Once this is repeated a few times, the SSSCAT will keep the cat away from unwanted areas.
4. To keep cats out of certain areas there is a product called ScatMat. The ScatMat responds to your pet's touch with a mild, harmless static pulse. Pets soon learn which areas to keep away from.



Removing the odour properly

Clean up all areas where the cat has previously sprayed as the scent can trigger them to spray again in the same area. First wash all surfaces that have been sprayed with cat urine with a laundry detergent containing enzymes. Then mix up 50% white vinegar and 50% water in a spray bottle and spray the area well with the vinegar solution to discourage the cat spraying urine in the same place again.

Stress can be the cause of your cat spraying

Cats are creatures of habit and thrive in a consistent and familiar atmosphere. When their 'comfort zone' is disrupted it can often result in stress which contributes to spraying. It is vital to discover under which situations the problems occur as treatment often depends on defining any specific anxiety-inducing triggers for the behaviour.

Here are some questions to ask yourself. These could be reasons your cat may be stressed and has begun spraying:

1. Did someone new come to live in the house?
2. Is there a new baby?
3. Is there a new pet?
4. Could your cat be a victim of a neighbourhood cat that is coming into your garden or house?
5. Has your cat's daily routine been changed in any way?
6. Is your cat part of a multi-cat household?
7. Has your cat been ill?
8. Has the layout of your house or garden changed in any way that may be affecting your cat?
9. Is your cat being bullied by another cat?
10. Have you changed your cat's litter brand or changed its litter tray?

Seek veterinary advice

You could have your cat examined for lower urinary tract diseases to rule out medical conditions which could be causing the problem. For example a painful case of cystitis or urethral blockage may have your cat associating the pain of urination with its litter tray and it will therefore avoid its litter tray.

ARTICLE BY PET PATROL 365

01342 851333 / 07974 728967

www.petpatrol365.co.uk

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