



## Companion Animal Behavioural Services Creating Contentment From Knowledge And Kindness

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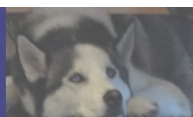
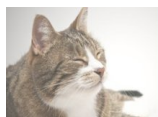
# SPRAYING IN CATS



Spraying in adult cats (male and female) is a natural behaviour but it can be extremely unpleasant if it happens indoors. Cats spray small amounts of urine to mark their territory so it often occurs on windows, doors and cat flaps when cats spray in your home.

In the same way as dogs use marking to communicate with other dogs, cats are effectively leaving a big “Keep Out” sign for other cats who will be able to tell how fresh the urine is and thus how close the depositing cat may be.

However, cats may also spray when they are stressed, possibly as a coping or displacement activity. This kind of spraying can become habitual if the source of the stress is present for long enough and may therefore continue if it disappears.



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### Effects of Neutering

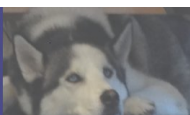
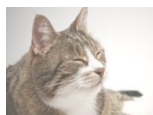
Neutering will change the composition of the urine and diminish the strong odour that is characteristic of the entire cat. However, approximately 10% of male cats and 5% of female cats continue to spray after surgery. Unsurprisingly, there is a correlation between the number of cats present in the home and/or the immediate vicinity and the persistence of spraying.

Spraying in neutered cats can be mitigated with behavioural support and by using appropriate cleaning materials.

### Clinical Causes

Although spraying is a natural behaviour once cats reach sexual maturity, lower urinary tract problems such as cystitis may cause a cat to appear to be marking. Your vet will be able to perform urine tests to rule out disease.

Stress can also cause cats to spray urine so should not be ruled out of the marking represents a change in usual behaviour. The causes of stress are multiple and can include the presence of other cats, strangers and children in the house, a change of environment such as moving house or decorating, moving a litter tray or using punishment.



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### Solutions

Soiled areas should be cleaned using a commercially produced enzymatic cleaner or a 10% solution of biological or enzymatic washing powder followed by wiping with surgical spirit. This should prevent the cat from repeating the behaviour in the same area.

Using a Feliway diffuser could help to reduce stress and Feliway spray can be used in the area where your cat has marked. You can also feed your cat in the area where he has marked.

Use blinds, curtains or opaque window coverings to prevent other cats from staring in.

Provide separate resources for each cat in multi-cat households.

**Contact Companion Animal Behavioural Services at  
[info@dogsnet.org](mailto:info@dogsnet.org) for more help**

