



House soiling problems are one of the most common complaints from cat owners. Given the characteristics and strong preferences of cats, it can be a relatively simple problem to correct and often results are seen almost immediately.

There are, however, a number of factors that contribute to and cause cat house soiling problems.

Firstly, ensure you have the correct number of litter trays: one per cat plus one more. For 3 cats, that's 4 litter trays. Ensure they are kept clean (at least once a day they should be emptied); are situated on each floor of your house (a house with 3 floors will need a litter tray on each); are easily accessible (no tall sides that the cat has to climb over); don't have a hood that covers them (this keeps the odour trapped inside and becomes aversive) and have a litter substance as close to sand as possible.

Cats are very particular about the substances they toilet in. Litter trays should also be positioned somewhere quieter and not near entrances and exit points – just like humans, they like a bit of privacy. Cats are sensitive to changes and new smells, for example. a new cat or a recent move or changes within your household can cause distress, which can lead to house soiling.

Ensure you thoroughly clean the areas that the cat has eliminated in – use an ultra violet light



to check for unseen urine patches and a good odour neutraliser. If your cat is regularly eliminating in the same place, you have a new animal in your house or the elimination is happening on vertical surfaces and is largely urine and not defecating, it is likely to be a urine marking problem and not a house soiling issue. Although they may seem similar, the treatment for them is different.

It is also important to note that a medical issue may also be at play, so it is always best to seek the advice of your vet.

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