

INAPPROPRIATE URINATION

QUESTION: “Why is my cat peeing where he shouldn’t?”

ANSWER: FLUTD (feline lower urinary tract disease) is a condition that veterinarians spend a large amount of time dealing with, in practice. It is a disease that involves inflammation of the urinary bladder and urethra. It is seen equally in male and female cats. It is beyond the scope of this article to discuss all of the underlying causes of **FLUTD**, but suffice to say that one symptom is universal - that is painful urination. When cats suffer from urinary tract pain they often will choose to urinate in places other than their litter box, either all of the time or just some of the time, strain and assume a prolonged stance or cry or vocalize when urinating. In the early stages can often, in male cats, lead to complete obstruction (inability to urinate) followed quickly by death.

I often encounter cat owners who mention to me that their cat is **“peeing all over the house”**. Most owners assume that this is just spiteful behavior. In my practice, 80% of cats that are in this category actually have a treatable disease. I always encourage owners to bring their cat in for an examination and urinalysis. Once **FLUTD** is diagnosed, appropriate treatment and diet change result in a very good prognosis, in the majority of cases.