



MEDICAL REASONS CATS PEE OUTSIDE THE LITTER BOX

Bladder and urinary tract conditions: A cat's urinary system includes the bladder and the urethra. Issues involving the urinary system are common for cats and are often due to a combination of factors. Cats with urinary issues most often show signs of pain when urinating, increased frequency of urination, and blood in the urine. The average age for urinary issues to develop is four years. Male cats are more prone to urethral blockages because of their narrower urethras. Untreated urinary issues can cause partial or complete obstruction of the urethra, preventing a cat from urinating, and should be considered a medical emergency.

Endocrine disorders: A cat's endocrine system is the system of glands that produce and secrete hormones into the bloodstream to regulate bodily functions. Hyperthyroidism is the most common endocrine disorder in cats. It occurs when the thyroid glands, located in a cat's neck, produce an excess of thyroid hormone. The most common symptoms are weight loss, restlessness, and peeing outside the litter box. Feline diabetes is another common endocrine disease and is most often found in older and overweight cats.

Kidney failure: The kidneys remove metabolic waste products from the blood stream, regulate the levels of certain essential nutrients, conserve water, and produce urine. As kidney disease progresses, some classic clinical signs are: increased drinking and urination, vomiting, weight loss, and bad breath. Chronic kidney disease is common in older cats, affecting approximately 3 in 10 geriatric cats.

Liver disease: The cat's liver is a metabolic organ that performs or controls many of the chemical processes necessary for normal bodily function. Hepatic lipidosis (fatty liver) is one of the most common severe liver diseases and occurs when there is excessive accumulation of fat in the liver. This most often happens to cats that don't eat for a few days and to obese cats.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Dr. Hiebner of Pitts Veterinary Hospital recommends encouraging a cat's intake of water to prevent medical causes of bathroom issues by providing fresh water daily available, canned food, and water fountains.

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Anal sac diseases: A cat's anal sacs are located on either side of the anus. If a cat's anal glands fail to properly expel, anal sac disease can develop. Causes include bacterial infection or gland impaction. As pressure builds up, your cat will find it painful to poop.

Colitis: The colon helps manage a cat's waste by storing feces and removing water from them. When the colon becomes inflamed, colitis can occur. Causes of colitis can be simple, such as a negative reaction to something your cat eats, or serious, such as irritable bowel disease. Colitis can be acute or chronic.

Constipation: When an abnormal accumulation of feces occurs in a cat's colon, constipation and difficult bowel movements can occur. Cats often don't drink enough water, which makes them prone to constipation. Signs of constipation are failure to produce stool for a few days or dry and hard feces outside the litter box. Other signs include straining while trying to defecate, decreased appetite, and vomiting.

Diarrhea: Your cat is suffering from diarrhea when its feces are expelled as unformed or loose stools. Some common causes of cat diarrhea include dietary changes, food allergies or intolerances, and bacterial and viral infections of the gastrointestinal tract.

Inflammatory bowel disease: If your cat's gastrointestinal (GI) tract becomes chronically irritated and inflamed, your cat may have IBD. Chronic vomiting is the most common clinical sign. The disease most often occurs in middle-aged and older cats.

OTHER MEDICAL REASONS CATS PEE/POOP OUTSIDE THE LITTER BOX

Arthritis or other neuromuscular conditions: Cats with aching joints may find it more painful to climb into a standard litter box. The easiest solution is to buy litter boxes with lower sides. You may also want to add additional litter boxes.

Cognitive dysfunction or other age-related diseases: It's estimated that cognitive dysfunction affects more than 50-80% of senior cats, with the percentage rising as cats increase in age. Cats with these conditions may forget previously learned habits such as using the litter box. The easiest solution is to place additional litter boxes where they're easy to find and easy to get into.