

# FELINE health topics

for veterinarians

FELINE BEHAVIOR  
PROBLEMS:  
House Soiling

## FYI:

The information in this newsletter was obtained from our updated client brochures on feline behavior problems.

You can purchase these new brochures through our office by calling (607) 253-3443.

## Feline Behavior Problems: Destructive Behavior

*Many owners complain that their cats scratch furniture and carpets, chew on fabric, or munch on houseplants. These are considered destructive behaviors, which can not only result in the loss of valuable items, but can also be harmful to the health of your cat. One common misconception is that cats are "out for revenge" when they destroy household items. But actually, these innate behaviors occur throughout the course of a cat's normal investigation and play. The good news is that they CAN be managed.*

### Scratching

#### Q: Why do cats scratch?

Cats that scratch your favorite sofa or expensive drapes are not on a mission to destroy your home, but rather to satisfy certain innate needs. Scratching is a marking behavior; it allows the deposition of scent from special glands on the cat's paws. It also removes the translucent covering, or sheath, over the claws. The scratch marks, along with the claw sheaths left behind, may also serve as displays of confidence.

#### Q: How can I stop my cat from scratching?

Because it is an innate behavior, scratching is difficult to stop or even curb. It is like trying to stop a cat from grooming, or burying its waste. However, cats can be taught to scratch on more appropriate objects like scratching posts and tree stumps. The following three tactics will help you redirect your cat's scratching behavior:

#### A: Identify your cat's scratching preferences

To find out what your cat likes best to scratch on, observe her carefully. Does your cat prefer to scratch on carpets, drapes, wood, or some other surface? Does she scratch vertically, with her paws stretched out above her head, or does she prefer horizontal surfaces? Once you have figured out your cat's preferred scratching materials and orientation, you will be better equipped to buy a scratching post that suits her needs.

#### A: Provide items that match these preferences

Scratching posts of all shapes, sizes, and textures are available at most pet stores. If your cat likes to scratch on carpets, a carpet-covered post would be a good choice. But if your cat prefers couches and other nubby surfaces, a post covered in sisal or some other rope-like material might be your best bet.

The scratching post should also match your cat's preferred orientation for scratch-



# Destructive Behavior

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ing. A cat that climbs and scratches on drapes would probably prefer a post tall enough for a long stretch, such as those that mount on a wall or door. However, a cat that likes the horizontal motion of scratching on a carpet might be more likely to use a flattened cardboard box, or a log placed on its side.

Some owners get creative and build their own scratching posts and kitty activity centers. You can cover pieces of wood with carpet, fabric, sisal, or other materials, then nail them together to create a "cat tree"

with climbing perches. This will help keep your cat entertained and satisfy her need to scratch. Any scratching post you buy or build should be sturdy enough so that it does not topple over when your cat uses it, and should be at least as tall as your cat standing on her hind legs with her front legs outstretched.

The proper placement of the scratching post is an important part of redirecting your cat's scratching behavior. Place the post next to an area your cat likes to scratch. It can then be moved gradually to a location of your choice as your cat develops acceptable scratching habits. If your cat scratches in several locations, provide a post near each of these.

Take your cat to the new scratching post, and reward her with treats, strokes, and praise for using it. Some posts come with toys attached. You can also place food treats or catnip on top of or around the post as an added enticement. Once you get your cat to use a scratching post, do not discard it when it looks ragged and worn—that means the post is well used and serving its intended purpose!

## **A: Make unacceptable items unavailable or less attractive to your cat**

The only guaranteed way to stop your cat from scratching a given area or object is to block her access to it. Closing doors may be the simplest solution. However, if this is not practical, there are booby traps you can set up to discourage scratching. A tower of plastic cups that topples over when bumped can be placed in front of scratchable items to startle your cat whenever she begins to scratch. Items covered with blankets, sheets of plastic, or double-sided tape also hinders scratching behavior. A more expensive tactic is to purchase an indoor fence that delivers

mild, harmless shock when your cat crosses a given boundary.


Because scratching has a scent-marking component, cats are more likely to re-scratch areas that already have their scent. To help break this cycle, try using an odor neutralizer to deodorize areas where your cat has previously scratched.

In addition to altering the accessibility, appearance, or scent of household items, you can further minimize scratching damage by regularly trimming your cat's nails. Also available are plastic claw caps, or sheaths, that can be glued over your cat's claws. These should only be applied to cats that allow you to handle and manipulate their paws. While wearing these sheaths, your cat is able to go through the motions of scratching, but because the claws are hidden, no damage is done. The sheaths need to be replaced every six to 12 weeks.

Declawing, or permanent removal of the claws, should be considered only as a last resort when the above strategies have been unsuccessful, and in cases where a cat's scratching would otherwise necessitate its removal from your home. Declawing will not curb your cat's desire to scratch, but will prevent scratching damage. Declawed cats should never be allowed outside, as they are less able to climb trees or defend themselves. Talk to your veterinarian to determine whether this procedure is right for your cat.

## **Q: Does punishment teach a cat to stop scratching?**

In general, cats do not respond well to punishment, because they see no link between the punishment and their "crime." The only thing punishment does is teach your cat to fear you. Worse, it may lead to aggression. Yelling, squirting a water gun, or startling your cat with a loud noise when



The ultimate purpose of the Cornell Feline Health Center is to improve the health of cats everywhere by developing methods to prevent or cure feline diseases, and by providing continuing education to veterinarians and cat owners. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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he scratches the couch teaches him that your presence, rather than the act of scratching, brings punishment. If your cat is punished for scratching only when you are present, he will simply learn to scratch when you are not there. More effective deterrents to scratching—such as the “tower of cups” booby trap mentioned earlier—are consistent and immediate.

## Fabric Chewing and Sucking

Fabric chewing and sucking is relatively rare in cats. Some speculate that it is a comfort-seeking behavior, or that it fulfills a desire to play and investigate. It is perfectly normal for kittens to chew as they explore, and although many grow out of this behavior, some exhibit it for life. Fabric chewing and sucking—wool often being the fabric of choice—is most commonly seen in Burmese and Siamese cats. This suggests a genetic predisposition comparable to obsessive-compulsive disorders in humans.

A cat with a serious chewing habit can destroy sweaters, socks, blankets, pillows, and other valuable items. But this behavior is even more important to recognize because it can be harmful to your cat's health. Obstruction of the gastrointestinal tract with bits of swallowed fabric can be life threatening. In addition, cats that chew on fabric may also chew on dangerous items like electrical cords, twist ties, or even pins and needles.

### **Q: How do I get my cat to stop chewing on fabrics?**

You may have to simply hide all valuable and/or dangerous chewable objects, and leave out a few non-valuable fabrics for your cat to chew on—so long as long as he does not swallow too much of it. You can also try offering your cat alternative items to chew

on. Rubber dog toys spread with fish oil, a well-cooked chicken wing or other bone with some meat on it, or even dry cat food can safely satisfy the need to chew.

A cat that habitually chews on inappropriate objects like fabric may need other outlets in order to fulfill unmet needs. A home-built or purchased “kitty condo” with crawl spaces, perches, hanging catnip toys, and other diversions will help occupy your cat's time. Additionally, try to increase the amount of time you spend playing with him. Dangling ribbons, or tossing walnuts or ping-pong balls for your cat to chase are great ways to engage him and provide him with some exercise. You can help meet

your cat's need to forage by putting a large ball in the food bowl, or by providing toys that deliver treats when moved or scratched.

Spraying bad-tasting commercial pet repellents on preferred fabrics can also deter chewing. It is best to rotate the positions and types of items sprayed so your cat learns that all fabric tastes bad. Because your cat should not be able to predict by smelling which items are sprayed, the repellent you use should not have a foul odor. Finally, in severe cases, your veterinarian may prescribe medications that decrease your cat's desire to chew or suck. However, the medicine will not affect your cat's ability to do so.

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## RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

### **ODOR NEUTRALIZERS:**

**Anti-Icky-Poo (AIP)**  
Bug-A-Boo Chemicals  
11924 NE Sumner  
Portland, OR 97220

**Nature's Miracle**  
Pets 'N People Inc.  
27520 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 125  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
*(Also available at most major pet stores)*

**Outright Stain & Odor Removal Products**  
The Bramton Company  
P.O. Box 655450  
Dallas, TX 75265-5450

**Oxyfresh Pet Deodorizer**  
Oxyfresh USA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3723  
Spokane, WA 99220

**DOUBLE-SIDED TAPE:**  
**Sticky Paws**  
Fe Lines, Inc.  
Rt. 1, Box 438  
Burlleson, TX 76028

### **INDOOR FENCES:**

**Room Free Indoor Containment System**  
Innotek, Inc.  
9025 Coldwater Road, Bldg. 100A  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

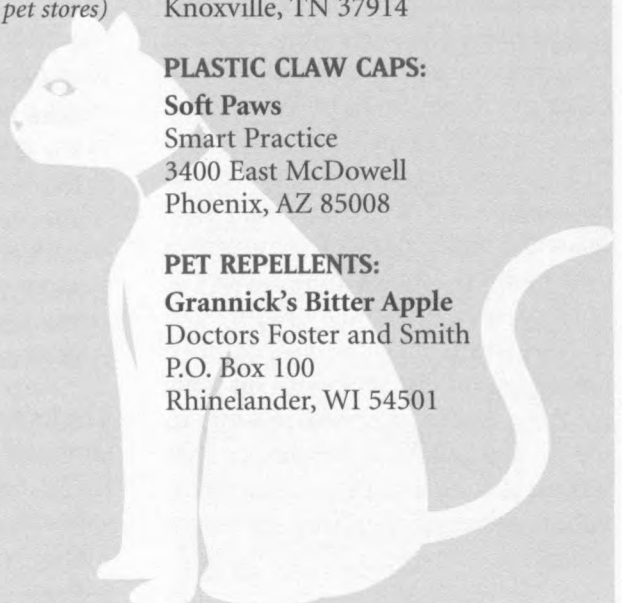
**Indoor Radio Fence**  
Radio Systems Corporation  
5008 National Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37914

### **PLASTIC CLAW CAPS:**

**Soft Paws**  
Smart Practice  
3400 East McDowell  
Phoenix, AZ 85008

### **PET REPELLENTS:**

**Grannick's Bitter Apple**  
Doctors Foster and Smith  
P.O. Box 100  
Rhineland, WI 54501



# Feline Behavior Problems: House Soiling

*House soiling is the most common behavior problem reported by cat owners.*

*It includes urination and/or defecation outside the litter box, as well as urine spraying.*

## **Q: Why do cats eliminate outside of the litter box?**

One common misconception is that cats soil in inappropriate places for revenge. It is tempting to conclude, "He defecated on the living room carpet to punish me for leaving him for the weekend." But this kind of calculation requires sophisticated cognitive abilities that cats aren't believed to possess. Furthermore, this conclusion assumes that cats view their urine and feces as distasteful, when in fact they do not. It is only we humans who view it that way.

## **A: Medical Problems**

So why *do* cats urinate or defecate on your bed or carpet? Medical problems are one possibility. Inflammation of the urinary tract may cause painful or frequent urination, inability to urinate, bloody urine, and crying during urination. An affected cat is likely to eliminate outside the litter box if he comes to associate the box with painful urination, or if he has an increased urgency to urinate. In addition, kidney, liver, and thyroid diseases often lead to increased drinking and urination. Inflammation of the colon or rectum, intestinal tract tumors, intestinal parasites, and other gastrointestinal conditions may cause painful defecation, increased frequency or urgency to defecate, and decreased control of defecation. Age-related diseases that interfere with a cat's mobility (for example, arthritis, nervous system disorders, or muscular diseases), or with his cognitive functions can also influence his ability to get to the litter box in time. In short, any medical condition that interferes with a cat's normal elimination behavior can lead to house soiling.

## **A: Litter Box Aversions**

Behavioral problems, such as litter box *aversions*, inappropriate site preferences, or *urine spraying* can also lead to house soiling. An aversion implies that there is something about the litter box that your cat finds unsavory. It could be the box, the litter, the location of the box, or all three.

Something about the litter box bothers your cat.

- *The box contains harsh odors.* The litter box may have an offensive odor if you clean it with harsh chemicals. Or, if you don't clean it enough, the box may smell strongly of ammonia (a normal byproduct of urine). In either case, covered litter boxes hold in and amplify such odors.
- *The sides of the box are too high.* Cats with painful legs, sore joints, or other mobility problem may have trouble getting into a box with high sides. Kittens have similar problems.

- *Your cat is afraid to use the box.* If another cat, dog, or human terrorizes your cat when she's in the box, or ambushes her as she exits, she may avoid the box altogether.

Cats with aversions usually eliminate on varying surfaces. You may find puddles of urine and/or feces on either soft surfaces like carpets, beds, or clothing, or on hard, shiny surfaces like tile floors or bathtubs. Depending on the severity of your cat's aversion, he may continue to use the litter box, but only inconsistently.

## **A: Inappropriate Site Preferences**

Alternatively, your cat may develop a *preference* for eliminating in a spot other than the box. Preferences can be categorized as follows:

- *Another surface is more desirable for elimination.* Cats that prefer certain surfaces usually stick with that choice. For example, a cat that finds it more pleasing to eliminate on soft

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*In addition, kidney, liver, and thyroid diseases often lead to increased drinking and urination.*



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- *The litter is dirty.* Cats usually prefer clean litter.
  - *The texture of the litter is distasteful.* Your cat may have a preference for finer-textured clumping litter over coarser non-clumping litter—or vice versa.
  - *The scent of the litter is unpleasant.* Most cats prefer non-scented litter.

The location of the litter box bothers your cat.

- *The box is in an unpleasant area.* Avoid placing the litter box in a high-traffic, noisy, dark, or dank area.

- surfaces like clothing or carpets would be unlikely to use tile floors.
- *Another location is more desirable for elimination.* This usually results from an aversion to the current box location.

As with aversions, cats with preferences for certain surfaces or locations may continue to use the litter box inconsistently. One cause for house soiling may lead to another. For example, a cat with a urinary tract disorder that can't make it to the litter box in time will urinate wherever she is. She may then develop a preference

for the new site and continue to eliminate there.

#### **A: Urine Spraying**

When your cat rubs against your leg with his face, or scratches his scratching post, he is also depositing his scent from the glands in his cheeks and paws. Another equally normal but less pleasant marking behavior is *urine spraying*—the deposition of small amounts of urine around a

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*Cats may spray when they perceive a threat to their territory, such as when a new cat enters the home, or when outside cats are nearby.*



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given area. Spraying announces a cat's presence, establishes or maintains territorial boundaries, and advertises sexual availability.

Cats usually spray on vertical surfaces, like the backs of chairs, or walls. They don't squat to spray (as they do to urinate), but the tail lifts and quivers, and small puddles of urine are left in several consistent locations. Cats that spray are usually unneutered males and, to a lesser extent, unspayed females, but 10% of neutered males and 5% of neutered females also spray. In households with more than seven cats, the likelihood of spraying is high.

Cats may spray when they perceive a threat to their territory, such as when a new cat enters the home, or when outside cats are nearby. New furniture and carpet smells can prompt spraying as well. Cats may also spray out of frustration resulting from factors—like restrictive diets, or insufficient playtime—often wrongly perceived by humans as revenge.

#### **Q: My cat is not using the litter box reliably. What should I do?**

First, address the problem promptly. The longer the behavior persists, the more likely it is to become habit. If you have more than one cat, you may need to separate them until you can identify the responsible party. Alternatively, your veterinarian can provide you with a special non-toxic stain given by mouth that will show

up in the urine. In cases of defecation outside the box, you can feed one cat small pieces (about twice the size of a sesame seed) of a brightly colored non-toxic child's crayon that will show up in the feces. If you find urine puddles in the house, it is important to distinguish between spraying and other forms of house soiling. Watch your cat for signs of spraying—or set up a video camera when you're not around.

Once you have identified the house-soiling cat, it is wise to take him to your veterinarian for a thorough physical examination and appropriate diagnostic tests to see if there are underlying medical problems. Cats with medical conditions may not always act sick. Once medical causes have been ruled out, your detective work begins. Here are some patterns that may point to a cause:

- *Is there one type of surface upon which your cat eliminates?* If so, she may have a preference for certain surfaces, and you can modify your litter to match it. If she likes soft surfaces like carpeting, buy a softer,

## Helpful Hints for preventing litter box problems

### **1 Choosing an appropriate litter and box**

Most cats prefer unscented, finer-textured litter, at a depth of one to two inches.

Young kittens, elderly cats, and cats with mobility problems need boxes with low sides.

Overweight and large cats need bigger boxes.

Most cats prefer an uncovered box that lets odors escape and allows a 360-degree view of their surroundings.

Have as many litter boxes as cats in the house—plus one.

### **2 Choosing a good litter box location**

Most cats prefer a location that is quiet, private, separate from their feeding area, and easily accessible 24 hours a day.

Do not locate the litter box up or down stairs if your cat has trouble climbing.

Place multiple boxes in different areas of the house.

### **3 Keeping the box clean**

If you use clumping litter, remove feces and clumps daily and add clean litter as needed.

A liner may help keep the box cleaner, but many cats don't like them.

To clean the box, scrub it with a gentle detergent, dry it, and refill with clean litter. Litter should be changed often enough so that it looks and smells dry and clean. The more cats using the box, the more often this will need to be done.

Replace old boxes that smell or are cracked.

# House Soiling

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finer litter, and put a carpet remnant in her box. If she has a penchant for smooth, shiny surfaces, consider putting tiles in her box, covered with only a small amount of litter. Over time more litter can be added.

- *Is there a certain location she prefers?* She may have developed a preference for a new area because something bothered her about the old area. Try placing a litter box in her “preferred” location. Once she reliably uses it, gradually move the box just a few inches a day back to the desired location. Stop moving the box if she stops using it; instead simply move it back to the spot where she last reliably used it, then gradually begin moving it again. (See “Choosing a Good Litter Box Location.”)
- *Is yours a multi-pet household where another animal terrorizes your cat while she’s in the litter box or as she exits?* If so, the cat may be afraid to use the box. If you currently use a covered box, replace it with one that gives her a 360-degree view. This will give her more confidence while she’s in the box and make her less prone to ambush. Also, position the box so that she has more than one way out (i.e. don’t have the box surrounded on three sides). Finally, place multiple boxes in multiple locations to give your cat more options.
- *When your cat uses the box, does he cry, refuse to bury his waste, perch on the edge of the box without touching the litter, or eliminate right near the box?*
  - If so, first be sure the box is clean. Some cats refuse to use a box containing any urine or feces whatsoever; meticulous litter box cleanliness is necessary for these individuals. (See “Keeping the Litter Box Clean.”)

- Your cat may dislike the litter you use, especially if you’ve recently and suddenly changed brands. If you must switch brands, do so gradually, adding more of the new litter to the old with each cleaning. Most cats prefer their litter unscented, and an inch or two deep.

by closing blinds or shades, or by placing double-sided tape or electronic mats that deliver mild shocks onto your windowsills.

Address possible sources of frustration that may be causing your cat to spray. For example, introduce a new diet gradually, or discontinue it until the spraying is under control.

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*Address possible sources of frustration that may be causing your cat to spray.*



- The box itself may be the offender. Larger cats need bigger boxes, and kittens and elderly cats need boxes with low sides. Although humans like covered boxes for reducing odor and stray litter, from your cat’s point of view, covers hold odors in, and restrict his view of the area. You may need to purchase several types of boxes and several types of litter to determine which combination your cat likes best. Finally, provide as many boxes as there are cats in the house—plus one. For example, if you have two cats, there should be three litter boxes. This decreases competition and gives each cat a box of his or her own.

Increasing the amount of playtime for an under-stimulated cat may also help ease frustration.

Spraying can also result from territorial disputes between cats in the same household. They may need to be separated and reintroduced slowly, using food treats to reward and encourage peaceful behavior.

Applying odor neutralizers anywhere your cat has sprayed may prevent him from spraying there again. Another useful commercial product is Feliway<sup>®</sup>, a synthetic pheromone that, when applied to household surfaces, mimics the scent of cat cheek gland secretions. Many cats will not spray on areas that have this scent. (See the end of this brochure for information on where to purchase the above-mentioned products.)

## **Q: How can I stop my cat from spraying?**

Because spraying is different than other types of house soiling, different tactics are necessary to manage it. First, because there are often hormonal components to spraying, any intact animal should be neutered or spayed. Next, identify the stimuli that cause your cat to spray. If outside cats are responsible, motion detectors attached to sprinklers can be used to deter them from coming onto your property. Additionally, you can discourage your cat from looking outside

## **Q: Will medications stop my cat from house soiling?**

Spraying is more responsive to anti-anxiety drugs than other types of house soiling. However, medication is only part of the solution, and must be used in conjunction with environmental changes. Any medication can have potentially damaging and/or unwanted side effects, and not all cats are good candidates. Cats placed on long-term medication must be monitored closely by a veterinarian.

**Q: What can I use to clean my cat-soiled carpet, couch, and other household items?**

Cats will re-soil and spray areas previously impregnated with their scent. Therefore, cleaning up your cat-soiled belongings is important, not only to undo the damage, but to break the cycle of elimination. Because it is much easier to eliminate odors in recently-soiled areas, clean them as soon as possible. A cat's sense of smell is far keener than ours; therefore odors must be neutralized, not just deodorized. However, avoid cleaning products containing ammonia or vinegar—they smell like urine and can be irritating.

**Q: What other methods should I consider?**

Sheets of plastic, newspaper, or sandpaper, electronic mats that deliver harmless, mild shocks, or a carpet runner with the nubs facing up may all discourage your cat from entering a soil-prone area.

Try changing the significance of a soiled area. Cats prefer to eat and eliminate in separate areas, so try placing food bowls and treats in previously soiled areas. Playing with your cat in that space and leaving toys there may also be helpful.

Try denying your cat access to a given area by closing doors, or by covering the area with furniture or plants. Baby gates will not keep a cat out of a room.

Catch him in the act. A bell on a breakaway collar tells you his where-

abouts. If you can catch him within the first seconds of his elimination routine, startle him with a water gun or shake a jar of pennies, so that he associates being startled with those actions. It is important that you startle rather than scare him; fear will only worsen the problem. Moreover, if you catch him after he's eliminated, your window of opportunity is gone—you must catch him just as he's about to eliminate.

*Never hit, kick, or scream at a cat.* Not only does this create more anxiety, which may contribute to house soiling behavior, but also such tactics provide no link between the "crime" and the punishment. Some owners resort to rubbing their cat's face in their excrement to "teach the cat a lesson." This is completely ineffective, first because cats do not view their urine and feces as distasteful, and second, because even moments later, cats cannot make the connection between the mess on the bed and this kind of punishment.

**Conclusion**

A common and frustrating problem, inappropriate elimination can be difficult to control. A full resolution depends on early intervention, followed by detective work to determine the cause of the behavior, and time and effort on your part to solve the problem. In partnership with veterinarians, both cats and the people who love them can live in harmony and good health.

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*Never hit, kick, or scream at a cat. Not only does this create more anxiety, which may contribute to house soiling behavior, but also such tactics provide no link between the "crime" and the punishment.*

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## Recommended cleaning products and resources

**ODOR NEUTRALIZERS:**

**Anti-Icky-Poo (AIP)**  
Bug-A-Boo Chemicals  
11924 NE Sumner  
Portland, OR 97220

**Nature's Miracle**  
Pets 'N People Inc.  
27520 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 125  
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274  
(Also available at most major pet stores)

**Outright Stain & Odor Removal Products**  
The Bramton Company  
P.O. Box 655450  
Dallas, TX 75265-5450

**Oxyfresh Pet Deodorizer**  
Oxyfresh USA, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3723  
Spokane, WA 99220

**PHEROMONE SPRAYS:**

**Feliway**  
Abbott Laboratories  
1401 North Sheridan Road  
North Chicago, IL 60064

**ELECTRONIC MATS:**

**Scatmat/Scarecrow Motion Activated Sprinklers**  
Contech Electronics, Inc.  
P.O. Box 115  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2C3  
Canada

**PetMat**  
Radio Systems Corporation  
5008 National Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37914

**MOTION DETECTORS:**

**Scarecrow**  
The Dog's Outfitter  
1 Maplewood Drive  
Hazleton, PA 18201  
(Motion detector that turns on a sprinkler when activated)

# Destructive Behavior

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## Houseplant Chewing

Cats that chew on houseplants are usually indoor cats with little access to grass or other greens. Cats may chew on plants as part of their normal investigation and play, or they may simply be craving vegetable matter in their diets. While most plants are harmless, several can be deadly. These include:

- Caladium (*Caladium* spp.)
- Dumb cane (*Dieffenbachia* spp.)
- English ivy (*Hedera helix*)
- Lilies (*Lilium* spp.)
- Mistletoe (*Phoradendron* spp.)
- Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)
- Philodendron (*Philodendron* spp.)
- Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*)

Please be aware that this is not a complete list of poisonous plants. Consult your veterinarian or local poison control center for more information.

The only way to guarantee protection for your houseplants and your cat is to deny your cat access to the plants. If your cat craves vegetable matter in her diet, you can provide alternative plants for her to munch—although she may still continue to snack on yours. Oat grass, catnip, and catmint are all safe and enjoyable for your cat to eat. You can also try adding lettuce or parsley to her food bowl. Switching to a cat food with a higher fiber content may help meet her needs as well.

Houseplants can be made less attractive to your cat by spraying the leaves with water, then sprinkling them with cayenne pepper. Spraying with a commercial pet repellent serves a similar purpose. The odor of mothballs in the soil may keep your cat away as well. The previously described “tower of cups” booby trap can also be placed around a plant pot to startle your cat when she begins to chew.

## Conclusion

It is unfortunate that some innate, normal cat behaviors happen to be destructive within the confines of a house. As cat owners, we need to find a balance between protecting both our valuables and our cats' health, and satisfying our cats' needs. Together with your veterinarian, you can devise management strategies that will enable you and your cat to live in peace and good health.

## DON'T MISS

### Tufts Animal Expo Boston, Sept. 12-15

Educational opportunities for professionals in animal assisted therapy and the human-animal bond.

[www.tuftsanimalexpo.com](http://www.tuftsanimalexpo.com)  
Look in the “News” section!



**Cornell Feline Health Center**  
Cornell University  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
Ithaca, New York 14853