

Remember! Cats spray or urinate outside of the litterbox for a reason.

Spraying or urine marking occurs in both male and female cats. A cat may be perfectly litterbox-trained but still spray urine, because this behavior is not just a physiological function of eliminating waste. Urine marking is a sexual, territorial, or social behavior.

Spraying often starts if there are too many cats in the house, if a neighborhood cat is roaming the area, or if a new cat or person comes to visit. It is a common reaction to stress and can be triggered by even the smallest of changes in the cat's environment or routine.

Any threat to her territory can make a cat feel insecure and cause her to spray. Punishment should not be used, as it will only add more stress to the cat's life and make the problem worse. Treatment of this problem is directed toward helping your cat feel more secure, relaxed, and content.

Confinement to a quiet room is a wonderful security-blanket for many stressed cats. Spend time there with her if she wants company. Provide plenty of toys and scratching posts, logs, etc. This is not punishment or prison: this is her quiet retreat from whatever is frightening or unnerving her.