



Kitten 101: Marking

Marking can quickly become a lingering problem and extends well past the simple stain on the carpet.

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Marking



Although not uncommon, marking in kittens is less of an occurrence seen among the older generation. Marking can be triggered by a variety of causes that range from medical (i.e. incontinence) to behavioral. If your companion is displaying this behavior it is important to consult a veterinarian regarding the driver.

Many times the first step in addressing this behavior, before it occurs is to have your kitten spayed / neutered. This of course is not a magic cure. If you find your kitten developing this practice, look to implement a variety of strategies to dissuade them and reduce your preventive measures to those that suit your lifestyle and produce the desired result.

Things to Do

- Identify the triggers for marking;
 - Is there a link between marking and other activities, such as viewing cats outside your home.
- Minimize your cat's exposure to marking triggers;
 - Block views from specific windows
 - Separate your cat when specific visitors are present
- Offer plenty of healthy outlets in the form of scratching posts / pads.
- Leverage pheromones that are available commercially to encourage facial marking instead of urine marking.
- Create multiple food, water, and litter box sites throughout the living space.
- Provide several elevated sleeping / resting perches.

Things to Avoid

- Do not punish your cat's marking; it will not solve the problem and may have the opposite result, making it worse.
- Do not ignore the activity. Try the suggestions to the previous section to isolate the trigger(s) and address them.
- Do not introduce new stimuli in to the situation in an all at once fashion (i.e. new pet). Many cats will adjust to a new pet given the room and time.