Treatment: Inappropriate Elimination

- Treat any underlying or contributing medical conditions

Maximize Appeal of Litterboxes

- Number of Boxes = # cats in house + 1
- Boxes in numerous locations: low traffic but accessible
- Litterbox hygiene
  - Scoop at least once a day
  - Dump litter and wash box weekly
  - Wash with mild, unscented detergents and water
- Reward elimination in box

Litterbox Preference Tests

- Cafeteria Style
  - confine cat
  - Offer many litterboxes
  - Different substrates, box types, depths
  - 2-4 days

Good Rules for Litterboxes

- Use uncovered litterboxes
- Use unscented litter
- Don't use box liners
- Majority of cats prefer fine clumping litters
- Put boxes in quiet locations
- Keep boxes away from cat's eating, drinking and resting areas
- Every "rule" has exceptions!

Cleaning the Environment

- Enzymatic cleaners (Anti-Icky-Poo, Nature's Miracle)
- Clean all old and newly soiled spots
- Use senses of touch, sight and smell +/- blacklight to find spots
- **As long as it smells like urine it is an appropriate toileting spot!**

Decrease Appeal of other Locations

- Make frequently targeted areas aversive
- Block access
- Change significance
- Remote punishment if catch "in act"
- No direct physical or verbal punishment!

Remote Punishment

- Criteria for using remote punishment
  - Cat is unable to directly associate punishment with YOU
  - Punishment must occur within two seconds of occurrence of behavior
- Noise
  - Shaker can
  - Drop heavy object on ground
- Physical
  - Spray (water bottle w/ vinegar water)

Sscat

- Motion activated aerosol spray

Refractory/Severe Cases

- May need to consider confinement followed by gradual reintroduction to house
- Referral to a professional
  - www.dacvb.org
  - www.avsabonline.org

Drugs for Inappropriate Elimination

- Generally not indicated and won't help!
- Consider in cases involving anxiety

Urine Marking

- deposits urine as a form of communication
- Males > Females

Effect of Neutering on Urine Marking

90% of males no longer urine mark after neutering

95% of females no longer urine mark after spaying