



## Urine Marking Dogs

Some dogs try to pee on everything and anything, even when they do not actually have to go to the bathroom. The dog urinates in small amounts, often lifting their leg. The term for this is “marking”. This behavior occurs in both male and female dogs. If this sounds like your dog, keep reading!



### What ISN'T marking

Medical Issues: always rule out any health issues, especially if the behavior is suddenly onset. Common medical issues that may be the cause include: incontinence, urinary tract infections, kidney stones and other medical issues.

Marking is also different from a dog who simply is not housetrained. If your dog is new to you or has had a change of living area, he just may need a refresher course on housetraining. Be sure to check out our article on crate training and housetraining.

Separation anxiety and submissive urination are both issues that are not the same as marking. We have great handouts about those topics also.

### Common Triggers

Unaltered pets- If one or more dogs in your home are not spayed or neutered, it can increase the chance that they will mark. A female dog in heat or about to go into heat may mark more frequently.

Other animals- this can be in or outside of your home. You may notice dogs marking on top of the other dog's urine. Some of us refer to this as keeping up with "Pee-mail". Just like those obsessed with social media, some dogs may take this too far by marking.

Anxiety- An anxious dog may mark furniture, people, another dog's bedding and more. Changes in environment can be a factor as can a change of schedule.

## Tips

- Don't punish your dog, this can increase behaviors!
- Spay or neuter
- Working on calming and self-control exercises such as sitting politely for access outside or to be leashed
- If the trigger seems to be a new family member (of any species) read through our handout on Bringing Home Your New Dog. Sometimes a fresh start is needed
- Clean areas marked previously indoors with an enzyme cleaner
- Do not allow unattended access to areas he has marked in the past
- Indoor urination- look for signs and get him outside before he goes to the bathroom
- Provide an outdoor area that has a specific "target" to mark. Many people use a tree trunk. When your dog goes to the bathroom there, be sure to praise and reward
- Calming items such as a DAP collar or flower essence products may help
- A belly band may help with a male dog that marks. Always clean your dog after to prevent urine burns
- Contact a professional trainer or behaviorist if you cannot manage the situation on your own. Please contact our Animal Behavior Department for references:  
[behavior@jaxhumane.org](mailto:behavior@jaxhumane.org)