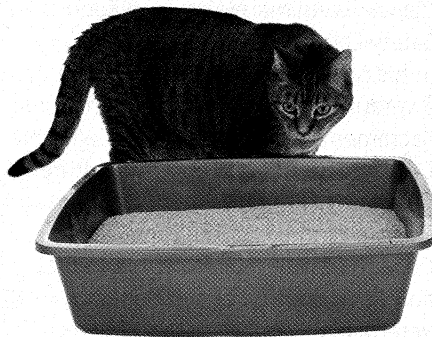


## Guidelines address house soiling in cats

The American Association of Feline Practitioners and the International Society of Feline Medicine have released the AAFP and ISFM Guidelines for Diagnosing and Solving House-Soiling Behavior in Cats, which have been endorsed by the American Animal Hospital Association.

The guidelines convey scientifically documented information, when available, and provide practical insight that reflects the accumulated clinical experiences of the authors. The document emphasizes that house soiling is not a result of spite or anger toward the owner but a result of the cat's physical, social, or medical needs not being met. The guidelines replace the term "inappropriate urination" with the term "house soiling" because the latter implies no misconduct by the cat and thus could encourage owners to follow veterinary recommendations.

The document helps clinicians identify the causative factors of house soiling and includes a questionnaire for cat owners. Within the guidelines is an algorithm for the diag-



nosis and treatment of four basic categories of house soiling. The document offers two universal recommendations for the management of all cases of house soiling: optimizing the litter box and meeting the five pillars of feline environmental needs. The guidelines also include specific treatment suggestions for each diagnostic category, take-home instructions for cat owners, and steps for practitioners to take if a client is considering euthanasia.

"Our hope is that by using these guidelines, veterinary practices will be able to more effectively and confidently address cases of feline house soiling," said Dr. Hazel Carney, co-chair of the panel that developed the guidelines.

"Success with these cases will improve the veterinary-client-patient relationships and overall feline welfare, while keeping cats in their homes with a good quality of life."

The guidelines appeared in the July issue of the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*. They are available at <http://bit.ly/1mc59fP>.

## Tramadol becomes controlled substance



The Drug Enforcement Administration has designated tramadol as a controlled substance, effective Aug. 18.

In a July 2 final rule designating tramadol as a schedule IV controlled substance, the DEA recognized the use of tramadol and tramadol-containing products for management of moderate to moderately severe pain. The DEA classified tramadol as an opioid

because of the agency's findings that tramadol's pharmacological effects are similar to those of other opioids. In veterinary medicine, tramadol has been administered for pain control, especially in dogs and cats.

In comments on the proposal to classify tramadol as a schedule IV substance and in previous correspondence on opioid issues, the AVMA recognized public health concerns regarding drug abuse and misuse while also underscoring the importance of such products in veterinary practice. In line with

federal findings, the AVMA emphasized how little diversion of drugs is associated with veterinary medicine.

The American Veterinary Distributors Association supported designation of tramadol as a controlled substance because variations in state laws covering tramadol have been logistically challenging for veterinary distributors.

Members of the AVMA can learn more about "Veterinary Compliance with the Controlled Substances Act and the DEA" by visiting [www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference](http://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference).

## Videos promote care for cats

The American Association of Feline Practitioners has developed a three-part video series to promote routine veterinary care and its Cat Friendly Practice program to cat owners.

The titles of the videos are as follows:

- "Cat Friendly Practices Can Reduce Stress of Vet Visits"

- "Why Cats Need Routine Veterinary Checkups"
- "A Cat Friendly Practice Helps Me and My Cats"

The videos are available at [www.catvets.com/education/online/videos](http://www.catvets.com/education/online/videos).

