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IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Cat Owner Brochure: Prevent, Manage, or Resolve Feline House-Soiling Behaviors
Feline House-Soiling is Not Due to Spite/Anger Toward Owner

HILLSBOROUGH, NJ (August 14, 2014) – Feline house-soiling is one of the most common reasons why pet owners abandon or relinquish their cats. Unfortunately, these cats frequently end up in shelters where they are euthanized. The good news is that there are ways to prevent, manage, or resolve feline house-soiling behaviors. The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) has just released a brochure, [*Feline House-Soiling: Useful Information for Cat Owners*](#), which describes the causes, treatment, management and prevention of house-soiling. Cat owner education is the key to resolving house-soiling behaviors.

The AAFP's brochure emphasizes that cats do not urinate or defecate outside their litter box due to spite or anger towards the owner, but because its physical, social, or medical needs are not being met. The brochure gives cat owners practical tips and information on:

- Four Basic Causes of House-Soiling – Medical Causes and Problems, Feline Idiopathic Cystitis, Marking Behaviors, and Environmental and Social Factors.
- Designing the Optimal Litter Box – Number of litter boxes, location and placement of boxes, size of box, type of litter, and managing the litter box.
- Removing Marking Triggers – Spay or neuter, restrict potential threats of other cats, and clean thoroughly and frequently.

It also reminds cat owners to contact their veterinary practice immediately if their cat is exhibiting house-soiling behavior.

"I implore veterinary professionals to share this brochure with their cat-owning clients. Educated cat owners can prevent, address, and hopefully manage the problem before they reach the point of complete frustration," said Heather O'Steen, Executive Director of the AAFP.

"Veterinary team members should work to identify the causative factors for the house-soiling behavior and effectively address those factors with their clients to cease or markedly decrease the unwanted behavior. The *AAFP/ISFM Guidelines for Diagnosing and Solving House-Soiling Behavior in Cats* can provide more details for veterinary practices," states Hazel Carney, DVM, DABVP (Canine and Feline), co-chair of the Guidelines. "Together, we'll reach success if we can prevent more cats from being relinquished or abandoned due to these behaviors and keep more cats living long, happy lives in their current households," says O'Steen.

The AAFP would like to thank Ceva Animal Health for their sponsorship of this brochure and their commitment to help the veterinary community develop projects that will improve the lives of cats.

- Access the brochure: www.catvets.com/cat-owners/brochures
- Access the House-Soiling Guidelines: www.catvets.com/guidelines/practice-guidelines/house-soiling
- For more information on the AAFP visit: www.catvets.com

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About the American Association of Feline Practitioners

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) improves the health and welfare of cats by supporting high standards of practice, continuing education and scientific investigation. The AAFP has a long-standing reputation and track record in the veterinary community for facilitating high standards of practice and publishes guidelines for practice excellence which are available to veterinarians at the AAFP website. Over the years, the AAFP has encouraged veterinarians to continuously re-evaluate preconceived notions of practice strategies in an effort to advance the quality of feline medicine practiced. The Cat Friendly Practice program is the newest effort created to improve the treatment, handling, and overall healthcare provided to cats. Its purpose is to equip veterinary practices with the tools, resources, and information to elevate the standard of care provided to cats. Find more information at www.catvets.com.