

No Love for the Litter Box?



Understanding and curing
house-soiling in cats


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 A Happy Miez Book

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book.

About the Author

Cat behavior therapist Christine Hauschild helps cat owners to gain a better understanding of their cats and offers strategies for curing behavioral problems and abnormal behavior. Besides all aspects of house-soiling, the most common issues she deals with are aggression against humans or cats of the same household, demonstrative vocalization, overgrooming, excessive scratch marking and anxieties.



Christine Hauschild regularly conducts seminars for cat owners, covering a wide range of topics, such as exciting entertainment for kitties, responsible cat ownership, strategies against inappropriate elimination and clicker training. The latter is also covered in her second book, *Trick Training for Cats - Smart Fun with the Clicker*, which will be published in spring 2011.

Christine Hauschild lives in Hamburg (Germany) with her two cats Eazy and ZsaZsi.

Visit her homepage at: <http://www.mobile-katzenschule.de/english>

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In my case studies, I use many cat names I learned from friends and acquaintances, but also from clients. With the exception of litter throwing champion Easy, none of these cats have done or experienced what is described in this book. However, all stories told from the cats' perspective have happened to one of their fellow felines in exactly the manner depicted here.

Preface

Some time ago, I received a phone call from a lady living in one of the better neighborhoods in town. She asked me for help, telling me about her male cat Jocky, who she had taken in a year before as a sick stray. Ever since, Jocky had lived with her and her other cat Gina. No deep friendship had developed between Gina and Jocky. They merely tolerated each other with the odd dispute, and their owner had probably worried for some time about the not-so-happy relationship between the two cats.

Now she claimed not to know what to do. She said Jocky had begun to soil the house, which was the last straw for her. No one among her friends wanted to take him, and several veterinarians she had consulted had refused to euthanize him. When I probed her about how bad this house soiling actually was, I was shocked. Jocky had suffered from diarrhea once and relieved himself on the carpet. Another time he had thrown up some grass and hair on the couch. That was all.

We made an appointment for me to visit her house, so I could examine Gina's and Jocky's relationship more closely to improve it with suitable measures. I also hoped to be able to put in a good word for little Jocky in regard to his alleged house-soiling. The appointment was canceled by his owner. She stated that a colleague had offered to adopt Jocky. I very much hope that this colleague of hers does actually exist, and that Jocky has found a new home where he can be what he is - a normal cat!

In the context of my work as a cat psychologist, I am frequently called by desperate people who tell me about their cats' inappropriate elimination problems. About thirty to forty percent of my patients fall into this category, and I