

These steps will prevent your dog from marking in your home. Some dogs, no matter what their level of retraining, will continue to mark in the home. Neutering generally reduces the tendency to urine-mark. It is difficult to stop this behavior in adult dogs that have been in the habit of urine marking for years. The only way to prevent these dogs from marking in the house is to keep them confined.

Your veterinarian may be able to prescribe medications that will reduce the incidence of marking. For more information, contact your veterinarian or a local veterinary behaviorist (the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association can refer you to a veterinary behaviorist in your area).

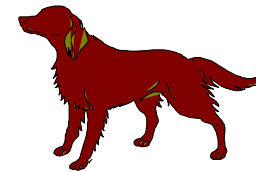
For more information on animal welfare-related topics, contact our Education Department at (630)407-2800.



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Urine Marking in Adult Dogs



**Marking Is A Problem
Commonly Seen In
Unneutered Male Dogs,
Especially Bossy Or
Dominant Ones.**

**This Brochure Contains
Information That Will
Help You Help Your
Dog Break This Habit.**

Urine-marking is a problem most commonly seen in unneutered male dogs, especially bossy or dominant ones. Neutering reduces

the dog's tendency to urine-mark. But if this behavior is a well-established habit, neutering **will not** eliminate it. Owners need to train the dog not to urine-mark in the house.

Urine-marking allows your dog to scent-mark his environment. It is thought to be a way of establishing territory and also may make the dog more comfortable by making the environment smell more familiar. Dogs urine-mark objects that smell like urine (their own or other dogs'). If there is a urine smell in your house, the dog will continue to mark in the house. They may also mark areas that simply don't smell like them, such as a new home.

Once a dog starts marking in the house, it is more difficult to stop the behavior. If your dog is **already marking in the house**, you must REMOVE THE SMELL OF URINE COMPLETELY USING AN ENZYME URINE ODOR REMOVER ON ALL SURFACES THE DOG HAS MARKED. Then follow the guidelines below for preventing a dog from urine-marking in the house.

Regular household cleaners will not completely remove the odor. Your dog's sense of smell is 100's or even 1,000's of times more sensitive than yours. Even if you don't smell urine, your dog still

can. You must use an enzymatic urine odor remover (available at pet supply stores). Nature's Miracle works very well.

Also, **do not use ammonia** to clean up after the dog. Urea, a compound in urine, breaks down into ammonia in the environment. The smell of ammonia will encourage the dog to urinate in the house.

It is best to **prevent** a dog from urine-marking in the first place. This is done through CONFINEMENT, SCHEDULED WALKS, and USE OF A MARKING POST.

First, do not give the dog an opportunity to mark in the house. Keep the dog in a **crate**. Keep the crate in a well-used room of the house where family members are most likely to be. Let him out frequently (4+ times a day) for bathroom breaks and outdoor exercise. Take the dog to his marking post (see below) to urinate/defecate. Then walk your dog to allow him to urine-mark

frequently enough to empty his bladder.

Bring the dog back inside and give him a **limited** amount of freedom in the house. Confine the dog in a single room or half of the room

where his crate is normally kept. It may help to have other familiar items in the room, such as his toys, blanket, etc. After an hour or two of freedom, return your dog to his crate. After a few hours in the crate, take the dog out for another walk and repeat the whole process.

If your dog marks in the house at any time, clean the area thoroughly with enzyme cleaner and reduce the dog's freedom (smaller area or shorter time period).

To encourage your dog to mark outside, give the dog a **marking post**. Erect a wooden fence post in the area of your yard that you want your dog to use as his "bathroom." Invite other dog owners from the neighborhood to bring their pets over to mark on the post. Praise your dog lavishly when he uses his post and give him treats. This will encourage your dog to mark the post whenever you bring him outside.

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