



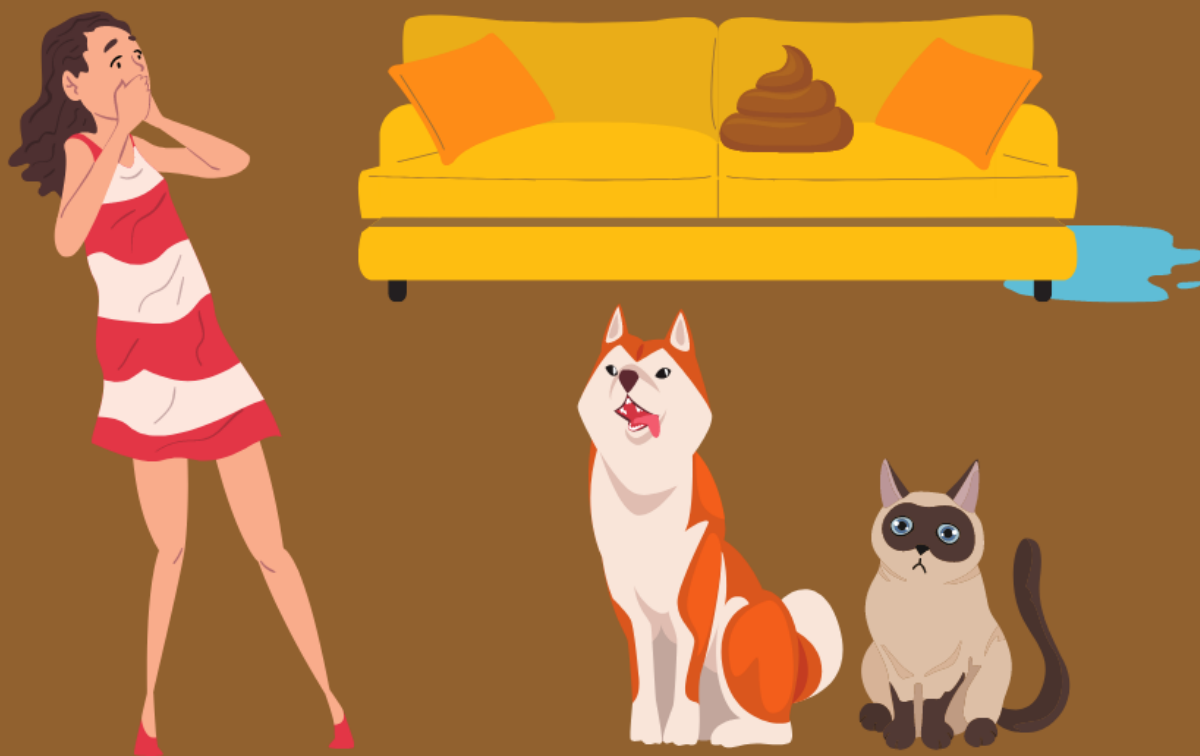
Answering nature's call

**All pets have toilet habits.
What's normal for cats & dogs?**



Natural drives

One of your pet's more obvious daily needs is using the toilet safely and comfortably. They will eliminate without having to learn how, as do human babies. As adults, we invariably use toilets and know this from watching our parents as we grow up. But how do our companions learn to meet our expectations when it comes to their bathroom habits, and what should you do if things go wrong?





Dogs

Newborn pups' bladders are activated by their mum licking their abdomen. At 8-9 weeks, they naturally start soiling in areas away from their bed or resting area. They will be drawn to the smell of urine & faeces to recognise their 'toilet' area. Here it's vital to teach them where YOU would prefer they toilet. If taught to 'go' outside, they will learn grass under their feet = toilet time.





Cats

Kittens are fast learners, and will have full voluntary control of their toilet processes at 5-6 weeks of age. Before this, the mother will have stimulated toileting by licking the abdomen, like in dogs. Also attracted to the scent of urine/faeces to identify the toilet area, kittens naturally dig, toilet, and cover when they feel loose soil or litter beneath their feet. Cats also will 'go' naturally away from their bed area, and copy their mother.





DAILY NEWS

World • Business • Finance • Lifestyle • Travel • Sport • Weather
www.dailynews.com



Young, flea-free male seeks healthy female in heat, for dentastix & chill



Hidden messages

Cats and dogs use urine and faeces to communicate with each other. Humans have language, so we can steer clear of this *ahem* rather creative use of bodily functions. Other animals need simpler ways of speaking to each other. Smelling urine or faeces can give lots of information about another animal, a bit like reading it's facebook profile. Pets may double up their toileting habits as signposts to other pets.



Identifying motives

Both cats & dogs have two distinct types of toileting. The purpose of marking is to communicate something to another animal, or to reinforce their own scent, making them feel safe. Elimination is simply relieving themselves. Marking is often done on vertical surfaces in male cats, and for both sexes and species only small amounts will come out. Urine or faeces can be used in marking behaviour. Elimination will be large amounts.





House soiling

Soiling in the house is a problem. For you, of course, but it may signify a big problem for your pet. Consulting your vet should be your first move - there may be a health issue affecting your pet's ability to hold it. If the vet gives them the all clear, marking behaviours are often related to social stress. Perhaps the animals in the home aren't getting on, or they don't feel safe. Or they may not yet understand where you want them to 'go'.





A process of Elimination

Excuse the pun, but it genuinely takes time and effort to figure out why your pet is soiling. A behaviourist has the skills, knowledge and connections with your vet to diagnose a behavioural toileting problem, and how to teach them where to 'go'. If you've found your home is becoming a latrine, get in touch.

www.Pets-Explained.co.uk