



Monitor the Litterbox



When might a change in the color of your cat's stool alert you to contact your veterinarian? Here are a few instances:

- Chalk-colored or light gray feces. Not commonly seen in cats, but may indicate an obstruction of the bile-draining tubes in or near the liver. (No bile, no color)
- Dark black ("tarry") feces. Usually signifies bleeding into the stomach or small intestine. As the stool passes out of the body, bacteria in the large intestine have time to change the color of the blood from red to black.
- Bright red or blood-streaked feces (sometimes accompanied by mucus). Usually an indication of a problem in the large intestine, rectum, or anus. The blood stays red because the large intestinal bacteria don't have time to change its color.

Needless to say, you should be alert to more than just the color of your cat's stool. Prolonged diarrhea, straining to defecate, painful defecation, or absence of defecation after a reasonable period of time all may indicate a problem requiring veterinary attention.

Ten Warnings Signs for Hyperthyroidism



- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Weight loss | 6. Increased defecation |
| 2. Increased appetite | 7. Increased thirst and urination |
| 3. Hyperactivity | 8. Vomiting |
| 4. Elevated body temperature | 9. Increased vocalization |
| 5. Increased heart rate | 10. Matted, unkempt coat |

If you notice any of these signs contact your veterinarian immediately.

Greetings: The Meaning of Face Rubbing



Does your cat greet you by rubbing her face against your leg? If so, you should feel welcomed. Your kitty has just given you his version of the warm greeting.

When cats that are friends greet each other, they typically rub faces. Because you're a lot taller than the average cat, your cat makes contact with your leg instead. You may notice that your affectionate feline begins by rubbing the top of his head or the side of his face against your leg. He'll then rub the length of his body against you and will wrap his tail around your leg. If you reach down and stroke her, she'll grow more insistent. She may rub the side of her mouth against your hand, nudging your hand upward with her head.

While there's no doubt your kitty loves you, his actions have an ulterior motive. Cats have scent glands in the temples, near their mouths, and at the base of their tails. Cats touch those parts of their bodies against us because they want to leave behind their scent — a result of substances called pheromones — as a mark of their high regard. Conversely, the contact leaves some of your smell on him. After the scent exchange, your cat is likely to retreat, sit down, and begin licking his fur. It's his way of experiencing your scent — tasting your smell, so to speak.



The information for Feline Forum has been prepared by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. Copyright 2002

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