

NEW BROCHURE TARGETS TROUBLESOME ISSUE

House-soiling is a big reason people relinquish their cats, but it can be corrected, says the American Association of Feline Practitioners.

To teach cat owners that they can resolve litterbox issues, the organization released a free four-page brochure titled "Feline House-Soiling: Useful Information for Cat Owners."

The brochure explains the basic causes and ways to prevent or manage house-soiling behaviors, says Heather O'Steen, AAFP executive director.

"This brochure is a complete and comprehensive tool with the purpose to educate, thus decreasing the number of cats being abandoned or relinquished due to these behaviors, and allowing more cats to live long, happy lives in their current households," she says.

Some tips from the brochure:

→ The basic causes of house-soiling are environmental and

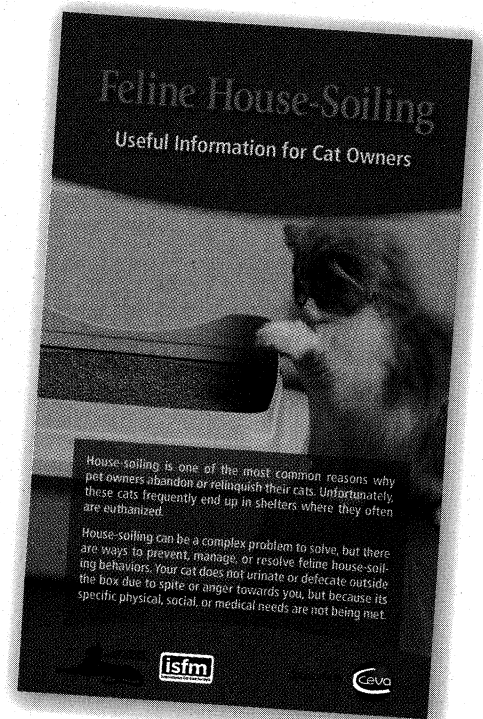
social factors, marking behavior and medical problems such as feline idiopathic cystitis, a lower urinary tract disease.

→ Manage the environmental and social causes by providing one litterbox per cat plus one extra; making sure the boxes are the right size (at least 1½ times the length of the cat from nose tip to the base of its tail); putting them in quiet places; filling them with a litter the cat prefers; and cleaning them at least once per day.

→ To handle the marking behavior, neuter or spay your cats, restrict access to other cats who are perceived as a threat and clean urine-marked areas frequently.

→ Visits to the veterinarian can identify and resolve medical causes of house-soiling behavior.

To download the booklet, visit www.catvets.com/cat-owners/brochures. While you're there,



don't forget to check out the other educational resources and informational booklets available. These include "Your Cat's Environmental Needs," "Vaccinations for Your Cat" and "Nursing Care for Your Cat."



712 PETS ADOPTED AT AMERICA'S FAMILY PET EXPO

An unprecedented 712 animals — 579 dogs, 132 cats and one guinea pig — were adopted at this year's America's Family Pet Expo in Costa Mesa, Calif. That's a 30 percent increase over 2013's tally, when 550 pets found forever homes.

"By partnering with trusted adoption organizations, as well as the marketing the America's Family Pet Expo as one of the biggest adoption opportunities in Southern California, Expo guests and hundreds of adoptable animals were brought together under one roof," says Doug Poindexter, president of the World Pet Association, producers of the AFPE. *Rescue Me* magazine was a proud sponsor of the event.

In addition to all those furry friends, 450 exhibitors set up shop and showcased the latest in pet products and pet trends. WPA is already organizing next year's event, which will be held April 10 to 12, 2015, at the Orange County Fair and Event Center.

"We're proud to serve as an educational and entertainment platform," Poindexter says. "And most importantly, as a venue where the bond between humans and animals is strengthened."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AFPE

Adoptable animals wait for homes at America's Family Pet Expo.