

Pet Urine Odors & Hot Weather/Humidity, Carpet Cleaning Denver Metro

Pet Urine Problems & Solutions by Steve Moran

Are you dealing with pet odor in your home?

While one may clean the top of the carpeting that does nothing for what is hidden below the surface. Most times with a good flushing through the carpeting and into the padding it can be controlled. Understand that while you may see a small spot on the surface it can be much bigger under the pad where it spreads out and soaks into the subfloor. So here are just a few facts about that sometimes pungent malodor.

Urine contains water, yellow pigment, urea, uric acid, cholesterol, enzymes, etc.. When urine leaves the body (man or animal) it is in an amino (uric) acid state, with a pH of approximately 5 to 6. It is rather pure and generally contains no harmful bacteria or microorganisms (so if you ever had to drink it for survival, that would be the perfect time). The warm acid state of the urine does, however, create a perfect breeding ground for bacteria, which immediately begin to flourish.

The urine also transforms, as the water evaporates, changing its hydrogen content forming crystalline salts, which take on a high alkaline pH (ammonia). This change's the urine from the acid to the alkaline state (salt) is known as the primary and secondary stages of decomposing urine contamination.

The original acid state of the urine begins to oxidize and react with the carpet to create a color change, which can become permanent, depending on the fiber affected. The resulting color loss is due to the ammonia, and is often mistakenly associated with the presence of (yellow color) urine. Many times a Professional Carpet Cleaner is able to alter the color so that it is not visible.

The odor molecule is very volatile and that increased moisture and rising temperature activates the odor. The alkaline salts and crystals, that are formed, are hydrophilic (love water) and draw moisture to them. As the salts are reactivated by moisture, they give off a greater proportion of odorous gases as the temperature rises.

Usually what we find is that the odor becomes more present while the temperature outside rises. In these cases is that the urine was masked with an adsorbent or absorbent powder usually found in the grocery stores. These products only temporarily mask the odor, they do not treat the source, and eventually the salts begin to reactivate with added humidity and heat during the summer.

The proper way to treat pet urine is to first neutralize the source. Depending on the amount of contamination the area can be flushed with a neutralizer and then treated with a protein enzyme, finally the use of a product designed to alter the reflection of the color can be used to sometimes alter the yellow pigment. If the area of the carpet has been scrubbed or agitated in an attempt to remove the spot you have altered the cylindrical design and reflection of the original fiber, it will never look like the rest of the carpet. If the contamination is severe the only real alternative is the removal of the source, removing the pad, cleaning and possibly sealing the subfloor and replacing the padding. Professional Carpet Cleaning & pet stain or odor removal is recommended in most cases. Call one of the PACR professionals in your area!