



Pet Stains

Dogs, cats, and other household pets can wreak havoc on oriental and other specialty area rugs. The often clandestine interactions between pet and rug can result in permanent staining, dye bleed, foundation dry rot, strong objectionable odors, and an overall unhealthy environment.

Types of Pet Stains

Pet stains typically come in three varieties; urine, feces, and vomit. Pet urine can present several issues. Staining can occur from pigments in the urine. The most common is urochrome which gives urine its yellow color.

What Causes Staining

Staining can occur on contact and can be influenced by age, diet, and any medications the animal may be taking. Urine, especially if not cleaned, can also affect the dye structure sometimes causing a slight bleaching effect in addition to destabilizing the dyes resulting in color bleed.

If enough urine is present and is left unattended dry rot, a fungal disease which causes cellulose to become brittle and crumble into powder, can occur.

On certain types of rugs, especially Chinese rugs, staining will most likely be permanent as the process used to remove the urine will alter the dyes in the rug. This is due to the way the wool was processed during manufacturing.

Stain Treatment

- Over-the-counter spotters can have high pH cleaners or oxidizers which can bleach out the rug or alter the dyes.
- In most cases pet stains and odors can be removed by an experienced ARCS cleaner and it is best to contact them prior to attempting any at home spotting remedies.
- In other cases, irreversible damage happens to the rug during home-spotting attempts.

ARCS
ASSOCIATION OF RUG CARE SPECIALISTS



Pet Stains Before Treatment



Pet Stain Close Up