

# ScatMat

## *Owner's Manual*



***Please read this manual before using this product***

## **How It Works**

The Scat Mat provides instant stimulation at the exact time and place of your pet's offending behavior. With the Scat Mat in place, it is the environment which conditions your pet, rather than you, the owner.

The Scat Mat electronics emit pulses similar to common static electricity. Touching two of the wires on the mat's surface will complete a circuit, causing the pulses to be felt. These harmless but surprising pulses repel most pets and condition them to avoid the location of the Scat Mat. It rarely takes a pet more than one or two exposures to the Scat Mat to get the idea. However, periodic reinforcement may be required. Should this be the case the Scat Mat should be laid out again.

Scat Mat is not intended to be left in place permanently, although in some situations this may be necessary. Effectiveness and length of time for results to become apparent varies by pet. Variables affecting results include paw pad toughness, pet size, intelligence, memory, temperament and motivation to perform the unwanted activities.

## **I. Installing battery**

The Power Pack is located at the bottom left-hand corner of your Scat Mat. Pull back the Scat Mat from this corner to reveal the underside of the Power Pack and its battery cover. Remove the cover and install the battery. After you install the 9 volt Alkaline battery, return the battery cover to its closed position. Typical battery life is three months.

*Cautions: Do not allow Scat Mat's metal buttons to lie on any metallic or conductive surfaces.*

## **II. Test your Scat Mat's operation.**

Slide the switch underneath the Power Pack from OFF to LO. The Red LED light (marked Action Indicator) will blink for four seconds while the electronics warm up. Touch the Mat to test.

*Note: We recommend you test your Scat Mat in the LO setting and touch the surface of the Scat Mat with the side of your hand, rather than with your sensitive fingertips.*

Once the Scat Mat senses your touch, its Activation Indicator glows and it sends static pulses to the Mat for 3 seconds. You will feel them if you leave your hand touching across two adjacent wires (these are visible upon close inspection, separated by about 1.25 inches (3 cm)).

After the pulses, the Power Pack blinks out the number of Activation Incidents— the number of times the Scat Mat has been activated (including 1 blink for your touch/activation). The Power Pack's Activation Incident memory is limited to six.

Turn off to reset memory.

*Note: If the Scat Mat does not perform as described above, try again with a fresh battery.*

## **III. Position and Training with your Scat Mat**

Scat Mat training should be used in conjunction with other training methods. We recommend consulting your pet's veterinarian if your older pet is exhibiting a new problem. Place at a location, or in the path leading to the location where the pet exhibits undesirable behavior. Position the Scat Mat so the pet must step on it with two feet before reaching its objective. Suggested locations are on or beside furniture, inside the entrance of a room, on the hood or roof of an automobile, or on the spot a pet has repeatedly soiled.

The Scat Mat will not stop a pet from scratching, shedding, spraying or making a mess. It can only prevent the pet from returning to the location where the activity has taken place, thereby breaking the cycle and preventing further damage. Each problem spot must be individually addressed.

## ***Doorways and Entrances***

This is the toughest job for the Scat Mat. If training a pet not to go through an entrance, which has a door, we recommend using the door as an obstacle to slow the pet's progress across the Scat Mat. Do this by leaving the door slightly open.

Controlling the speed of the pet crossing the Scat Mat ensures two paws land on the mat. This significantly increases your Scat Mat's effectiveness. On the first day, lay the mat on the threshold with the majority of the mat inside the room the pet is to stay out of. Prop the door open just wide enough for the pet to squeeze through. Stop it from opening further with a heavy object. In the days that follow, gradually increase the size of the door opening. After a few weeks the pet should have given up trying and the door can be left open. If a door isn't available, you can use a large object such as a cardboard box, hamper, chair, etc.

Unlike many other situations where the mat can be removed when avoidance begins, this is not usually possible with entrance training. It is OK to leave the Scat Mat in place and ON indefinitely.

If your pet is persistent, be prepared to work a couple of weeks to achieve your goal. Treat this as a positive training experience with your pet. Be sure to offer praise often during this period and let the mat provide the negative reinforcement. If, however, you do see the pet on the "wrong side" - let the pet know right away!

## ***Automobiles***

The Scat Mat also works well on the horizontal surfaces of automobiles.

NOTE! The Scat Mat may cause water spotting on some automobile finishes when exposed to hot, wet conditions. If these conditions apply to you, place a linen cloth between the mat and the car. The cloth prevents a watertight seal from forming between the mat and the car. Or simply postpone usage until dry conditions are assured.

*WARNING! Do not use near open gasoline containers, gasoline, or fuel spills.*

## **IV. Correction Settings - Low/Medium/High**

Select the appropriate Power Pack setting for the size of your pet. LO setting is for kittens, MEDIUM setting for cats and small dogs, and HIGH is for longhaired cats, large dogs and doorway training situations. Pets with tougher foot pads or more insulation due to thicker fur require higher settings.

## **V. Maintenance**

Scat Mats will withstand considerable abuse. They are water resistant, cold crack treated to minus 0 degrees Fahrenheit (18 degrees Celsius) and UV stabilized. They can also be walked on.

*Note: Clean your Scat Mat with mild soapy water. Do not submerge the electronics. Make sure the Scat Mat is off and the battery is removed before cleaning.*

***IMPORTANT! The Mat must be stored in the same manner it arrived. This will prevent accidental creases and bends in the conductive leads imbedded in the vinyl. Failure to store the Scat Mat properly renders its' warranty invalid.***

## ***Water and the Scat Mat***

If the Scat Mat gets wet there will be no change in its output properties or effectiveness. Should your Scat Mat's Power Pack get wet, it will resume working normal after it dries. If your Scat Mat gets wet often, remove its' Power Pack and place the Power Pack in a dry location.

## **VI. Trouble Shooting**

**The LED doesn't light up**

- Turn off, take battery out for 5 seconds, reattach and try again.
- Try a new battery.

### **I can't feel anything when I touch the Scat Mat**

- *Ensure that you are touching the Scat Mat across two adjacent embedded wires.*

### **I feel something when touching the grommets under the Power Pack, but not when I touch the Mat.**

• *Ensure that you are touching across two adjacent embedded wires. / If there is power at the grommets, but not in the wires, there is likely a break in one of the wires. Using the side of your hand (with the unit set at LO) begin at the top of the Power Pack and follow the wires around the Mat. Work your way into the middle until you have found the break.*

### **The pet steps onto the Mat, but doesn't seem to feel anything.**

- *Confirm the unit is working, and if so, increase the output to the next higher level.*
- *Otherwise, leave Mat in place a little longer. Eventually even well insulated paws will contact the mat in such a way that the pet will complete the circuit and feel the pulses.*

### **My pet jumps over the Scat Mat.**

- *Read the section "Doorways and Entrances" of this manual.*

### **The LED light blinks intermittently.**

- *Remove any conductive objects, which may be on the Mat.*

## **VII. Scat Mat Removal**

There are two schools of thought as to when you should remove the Scat Mat. The preferred choice is right after the pet has begun to avoid the area (after one or two exposures). The second option is to leave the mat in place for a month or longer to habituate the pet to going around the problem area protected by the Scat Mat. The theory in this case is that the pet will develop a new traffic pattern that avoids the problem location. The stronger the pet's motivation is to spend time at the problem location, the more likely it is that you should employ the second option of long term usage. It is also possible to employ the first option, and if it fails then try the second.

## **VIII. Scat Mat Tips**

Position the Scat Mat with your pet out of sight, and use the highest setting appropriate for your pet's size.

Introduce the Scat Mat with new furniture, especially if the old was destroyed by the pet, and conceal when possible under car covers, sheets, tablecloths etc. to minimize the chances your pet will associate the uncomfortableness with the Scat Mat.

Warn individuals of the Scat Mat's existence before they have an unexpected encounter.

Keep children away from the Scat Mat. Although the electrical energy emitted by the Scat Mat is extremely small, if a small child comes in contact with the mat, he or she will recoil from it, just as an unsuspecting adult will.

## **IX. Return Procedure**

Send your product with a brief description back to the address below complete with a legible return address. No prior authorization is needed. We recommend that you ship your return via a carrier that offers tracking capabilities. *You must pay the shipping or freight charges to us. We will then pay the freight charges back to you.*

Your product will be repaired or replaced immediately and shipped back to you. There is a nominal labor charge for out of warranty products but all parts are free during the warranty period. If you have had your system for more than one year, call customer service at 1-800-732-2677 to determine the labor repair charge.

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