



# Stanhope Park Veterinary Hospital

## SYNTHETIC FELINE PHEROMONES

### WHAT ARE PHEROMONES?

Pheromones are volatile chemical signals which are widely used for communication between animals. When emitted by an individual, these pheromones may then be detected by others of the same species, and can affect their subsequent behaviour. As well as targeting other individuals, the signal that is released may also act as a reminder for the animal emitting the pheromone. For example, a cat rubbing its face around its environment indicates it is their territory to other cats, but also to themselves later on.

Different types of pheromones may be secreted by different parts of the body, and associated with specific functions.

**Feliway Classic** is a synthetic copy of the “**Feline Facial Pheromone F3**” that cats leave behind when they rub their face on people, furniture, doorways and other objects in the home. It is used to mark their territory boundaries, and is a sign they feel safe and comfortable within their home environment. By using **Feliway** in the cat’s home environment, this same comforting effect is provided by mimicking a cat’s natural pheromones, to give your cat a feeling of calm and reassurance, and so is frequently recommended to help reduce stress and anxiety that can lead to unwanted behaviours such as urine spraying and scratching furniture.

**Feliway Friends** contains a different synthetic copy of a pheromone – the “**Cat Appeasing Pheromone**”. This pheromone is naturally produced from the mammary area when a queen is nursing a litter of kittens, and helps to bond the kittens whilst allowing them to feel safe and secure. **Feliway Friends** is recommended to help reduce tension and conflict between cats in a multi-cat environment by mimicking this appeasing pheromone.

Both **Feliway Classic** and **Feliway Friends** are available as a plug-in diffuser, which covers an area of 50 - 70m<sup>2</sup>. The diffuser should be left switched on constantly to ensure optimum effect and provide continuous diffusion of the pheromone into the environment. It is important to ensure that diffusers are not blocked by any furniture, or behind a door or curtain, or under shelves, as this will impair the diffusion. The diffuser should be placed in an area often visited by the cat, with at least one diffuser on each floor of the home that the cat has access to. Refills last approximately 30 days, and it is recommended to replace the diffuser every 6 months if used continuously, to ensure optimum efficiency.



**Feliway Classic** is also available as a spray, and is useful for providing calming pheromones on the go, such as when travelling for veterinary or cattery visits. Because the spray contains ethanol, it is important to wait a **minimum of 15 minutes** before introducing the cat to the area or bedding which has been sprayed, to allow the alcohol to diffuse fully, as the smell can be upsetting to a cat’s highly specialised senses. The spray last for approximately 4 – 5 hours. **Feliway Spray** can also be useful to reduce scratching in unwanted areas such as furniture, and can be used where cats have urine sprayed (*after thorough cleaning with an appropriate solution*), to help reduce further occurrences.

Please visit: [feliway.com/uk](https://feliway.com/uk) for further information

If you have any questions about your pets call us on 01325 620968, or ask a member of our team