Feline Urinary Issues

There are many reasons why cats won’t urinate in the litter box. Here are some questions to determine the answers to try to get a better understanding of what may be going on:

* How many cats on are in the home?
* How many other pets and what type are in the home?
* Are there cats outside of the home that he can see and that upset him?
* How many litterboxes are in the home?
* Are the litterbox(s) in one location only or multiple?
* Has various litter types been tried?
* Is the cat declawed?
* How old is the cat?
* Is the cat showing any discomfort with its limbs or back, such as arthritis?
* Does the cat ALWAYS have access to the litterbox or has the door to the room it’s in been shut before?
* Is the cat drinking more water than usual?
* Does he seem to be having to urinate more often than usual?
* Have you taken the cat to a vet to get bloodwork and a urinalysis done since this started?

Various things that can cause this issue include anything from painful urinations (urinary tract infection, crystals in the urine, etc.), to arthritis pain, to other medical conditions that cause increased frequency of urination, to preference for a certain type of litter, to things that may have been negative while s/he was using the litterbox that now s/he avoids, or if his/her access to the box is blocked off sometimes, s/he may just avoid it all the time now.

Some things you can try if medical conditions have been ruled out:

1. Add more litter boxes and put them in various locations and on various levels in the home.
2. Try different types of litter and see if there is one s/he prefers more.
3. Try different heights and types of litter boxes- with and without lids to see if there is one s/he prefers more
4. Put cat nip in and around the litterbox.
5. Purchase “Feliway” feline pheromone diffuser and plug a couple of these in the rooms where his/her litterboxes are and around the home. It also comes in a spray version, that you can spray on the area in the basement where he has been urinating to make him/her not want to go there.
6. Increase play time and attention time s/he gets.
7. Make sure the litter boxes are not difficult for him/her to get to and are readily accessible.
8. Make sure to do a good deep clean with an enzymatic cleaner on the base board and carpet where s/he has been urinating before applying the “Feliway” spray.