Removing Cat Urine and Other Large Area Protein Stains Completely and Efficiently

By Bob Edwards

When I visit dry cleaners, I find that people are usually very interested when I can show an easier way to successfully tackle protein stains which cover a large area of fabric. These are stains like cat urine. They also include other pet and human stains, odors, as well as blood, body fluids, urine on pants, residual perspiration, throw up stains and baby formula. Spotters, did I miss anything.

Often we find that these stains cover broad swaths of fabric on blankets, duvet covers, comforters, and on clothing. One could potentially use QwikGo, or a protein remover on the spotting board. But how long would that take? And do you really want a huge puff of urine smell (or other protein related smell) permeating your plant and your customer service area? Do you want your employees to be exposed to these body fluids? And if one does use ammonia, or a formulated protein remover, will it take out the smell AND the stain? Also, is ammonia going to react with the fabric (if it is wool or silk)? Note: Ammonia will leave a yellow mark from the chemical reaction between high alkali in the ammonia and natural protein fibers, so do not use ammonia on wool and silk!

The key to effective and efficient protein stain AND protein smell removal is to purchase products, which will enable you avoid unnecessary hand work. The secret is to follow the number one rule of efficient processing: LET THE CHEMICALS DO THEIR WORK, AND ALLOW THE WASHER TO EXTRACT THE STAIN AND THE SMELL.

STEP 1. First, you need an effective NEUTRAL LUBRICANT with micro emulsion penetrating action. Micro emulsion chemistry acts like a sponge to sop up soil; it digs in deep and loosens soil, lifts soil, dissolves and emulsifies oils, and also swells the fiber to prepare the way for whatever stain treatment you use as a next step. The product I use is called RiteGo.

Products like RiteGo have multiple uses. Use it as an additive to your soaks, or to your washer, or use it as a laundry spray spotter for wedding gown dirt, and collar soil. Use it as a neutral lubricant before spotting ink and other tough stains, such as the yellowing or browning caused by cat urine and other protein stains. Other neutral lubricants do not have the flexibility of deep penetrating, lifting, emulsifying and cleansing ability of RiteGo. RiteGo is the key to fabric and stain preparation, which will help step number two work efficiently.

STEP 2. Second, you will need a temperature tolerant enzyme blend. Wilson's SoGo "1" will withstand water temperatures up to 145 degrees Fahrenheit. Optimum operating temperature of SoGo "1" is 90 to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. SoGo "1" is a

powerful, powdered double enzyme, especially designed for protein removal in the wheel or in a bath. It contains surfactants and water softeners built in to the formula. SoGo “1” is the key to removing tough protein stains with a minimum of labor, which maximizes your EFFICIENCY in processing troublesome protein stained articles.

Procedures:

1: Bath method.

If you only have one pair of pants to process, simply fill a bucket with three to four gallons of water. Add 2 oz. of RiteGo as a NEUTRAL LUBRICANT. Next add two capfuls of SoGo “1” from the one pound container, or measure half a cup if you have a ten pound pail of SoGo “1”. Soak the pants for 30 to 60 minutes or more, depending on how heavily they are soiled. If you are working on old blood, you may need to soak them a couple hours.

Tip: Using an old beer cooler as a soaking vessel allows you to keep the water warm for longer periods of time than does an open bucket. Just shut the lid on the cooler. When finished soaking, either wet clean or wash as required.

If the clothing has a dry clean only tag, test for color fastness with water and light steam. If you pass the test, keep the water temperature around 100 degrees for dry clean only. You don’t want to shrink anything by overheating water. Rinse when finished, hang dry, and then dry clean to complete the process.

2. In the Wheel Process.

Dingy duvet covers are usually dingy because of perspiration and other soils covering the fabric. Using SoGo “1” as an additive to the wash cycle is a no brainer. It works!!! Your duvet cover will come out nice and bright white. Pet stains on comforters are processed the same way. In this case let us assume the washer is 50 lb size. Your regular soap will serve to prepare or wet out the fabric and allow the SoGo “1” to penetrate deeper. Fill your wash machine to the low level for minimum dilution of chemicals. When your soap goes into the wash cycle, lift the lid on top of the washer and add one to one and a half cups of SoGo “1” to the washer. Run it for 20 to 30 minutes. Alternatively, if you have a “soak cycle,” let it soak for an hour before extracting.

Other Applications for SoGo “1”or similar products

1. SoGo “1” can also remove grass stains on athletic uniforms, if you follow the same procedures which are listed above.
2. If a shirt has been overstarched and has not been rinsed properly, one will have a starch residue which will become “baked in,” once the shirt is heated on the buck. If this has happened the shirt will have a yellowish hue. Processing the over starched, yellowed shirt with SoGo “1” will break down starch.
3. SoGo “1” will break down and remove smoke smell in a fire restoration project. Use in the wheel directions I listed, above.

CONCLUSION:

If you combine RiteGo and SoGo “1” in a bucket, and soak garments, you will be able to remove urine, blood, and other protein stains with out spotting on the board.

If you use SoGo “1” as an additive to your soap cycle in the wash machine, your duvet covers, blankets and comforters will come out stain free and free of protein generated odors. There is no need to spot, spray, or otherwise hand treat those items.

Remember: EFFICIENCY = Let the chemicals do the work. Let the washer do the stain extraction, safely and effectively.