

# **Downers Grove Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic, P.C.**

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[www.DGAnimalHospital.com](http://www.DGAnimalHospital.com)

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## **Elimination Problems**

One in every 10 cats will have a litter box lapse in his or her lifetime. Many of the most common reasons are listed below:

- The cat is suffering from a medical problem involving the urinary tract.
- The cat experiences a bout of geriatric constipation
- The caretaker does not keep the litter box as clean as the cat wants it to be.
- The owner changes the brand or type of litter. (esp. deodorized or perfumed litter)
- The owner changes the location of the litter box.
- The owner buys a new box and throws out the old one.
- The owner cleans the litter box with too harsh a cleaning product.
- The location of the litter box is too busy or not private enough for the cat.
- The home is too large for just one litter box.
- The cat inadvertently gets locked out of reach of the litter box.
- The cat is kept from using the litter box by another animal in the house.
- There are too many cats and not enough territory.
- There are too many cats and not enough litter boxes.
- Stray cats can be seen/smelled near the cat's territory.
- The unneutered male cat has come of age and is marking his territory.
- The unsprayed female is in heat and advertising for suitors.
- Over time, the cat has developed an aversion to the texture of the litter.
- The cat was never properly trained to use the litter box in the first place.
- The cat is stressed by a change in routine or environment, including a new baby, new furniture, work schedule changes, vacations, overnight guests, or a move.