

Vomiting in Cats

Vomiting is not normal for cats. It is caused by:

1. Hairballs
2. Eating too fast
3. Sensitive stomach

Most vomiting in cats comes from the small intestine, not the stomach.

The conditions that cause vomiting in the small intestine include:

1. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
2. Lymphoma (a type of cancer)
3. Bacterial or fungal infection
4. Food allergies

Hairballs can cause an obstruction of the small intestine, because the small intestine is not functioning properly. If your cat is vomiting more than 2 times per month, they need to be seen.

At the appointment, we will do bloodwork and check a stool sample. At that time we will decide if more testing is needed. The additional testing may include abdominal ultrasound, endoscopy or surgical biopsy.

We use a food trial to rule out food allergies. The food trial lasts for 4 – 6 weeks, if no vomiting occurs during this trial we may leave your cat on the hypoallergenic diet for life. If there is vomiting, medication may be added or we may need to do the ultrasound at this time. There are good medications to treat the underlying causes of vomiting.

A diagnosis is needed to ensure the best outcome. Chronic vomiting is usually managed but not cured. Together we can help your cat stop vomiting.

