



WHY IS MY CAT VOMITING?

Cats are very unique creatures and we can see them vomiting for a lot of different reasons. They include:

1. A normal part of life... unfortunately, we have to face the fact that some cats will just vomit on a regular basis and there is no medical reason for it. Cats like this will normally vomit anywhere from once to twice a week consistently.



2. Hairballs...this is probably the number one reason why cats vomit. Primarily a problem of long haired cats, it can still be seen in medium and short-haired cats. The most effective way we have found to deal with this problem is either using a product like Laxatone on a long term basis as a preventative measure, or a product called Lactulose, which is used only for a short term (3-5 days) when cats have a more pronounced hairball problem.

3. Eating too fast...

some cats, if they eat too fast, will vomit a short time after eating.

4. Dry food...most commercial dry foods have a fat coating spayed on them which give them that nice shiny coat. Cats with sensitive stomachs may vomit up dry food after eating it but be fine on moist food.

5. Seafood... some cats seem to be sensitive to seafoods and will vomit

whenever they eat them, whether it is in hard food or moist food.

6. Acid reflux...some cats have a condition similar to acid reflux in people, such that, if they are not fed by a certain time each day, they will vomit, due to the excessive acid in their stomach. Cats with this problem seem to have a more regular pattern to

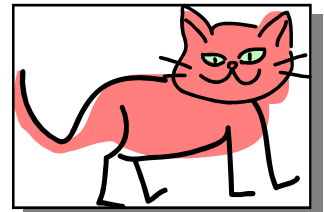


when they throw up (i.e. certain time of the day). We can rule out this problem by trying cats on liquid Cimetidine, which reduces the amount of acid in their stomach.

7. Hyperthyroidism... this is a hormonal disease that causes a cat's metabolism to greatly increase. As a result of this condition, some cats will have an increased amount of vomiting. This disease is easily tested for by a blood test.

8. Metabolic disease... kidney failure, liver failure, and diabetes can all cause cats to vomit. These diseases can also be ruled out with a simple blood test.

9. Foreign Body Ingestion... we often see these in younger cats that like to play with toys. They ingest foreign material that ends up blocking their intestinal tract. Cat with this problem will usually vomit up everything they eat, and oftentimes, everything they drink. Cats with a foreign body obstruction usually also



have other dramatic changes associated with this problem like decreased appetites and energy levels.

What to Look For...

The important things that we are looking for in cats that vomit are the following:

1. Any increase in the frequency, amount, or intensity of vomiting. If you not that your cat vomits more than it used to, or it never used to vomit and now it does, they should be seen.
2. Blood in the vomit...if this is ever seen, your cat should be immediately checked as it could be a major health problem. Other clinical signs associated with the vomiting, such as changes in appetite or energy levels, skin problems, coughing or weight loss.