

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS



Feline Vomiting

Many people tell me that cats “just vomit”--that it is “normal” for cats to vomit. While there are some instances when this might be the case, there are certainly more instances when chronic vomiting is NOT normal. Normal vomiting for cats includes hairballs, a process due to an accumulation of hair in the stomach from grooming. If the vomit has a large ball of hair, this is probably normal. There are some diets and medications that can help prevent hairballs. Some cats with very long hair that suffer from chronic hairballs may benefit from shaving or frequent professional grooming. Another type of “normal” vomiting is from speed eating. Some cats will gorge on their dry food. The unique thing about cats is that their stomach does not stretch much. If they consume a large quantity of dry food in a short period of time, they may vomit it back up WHOLE. You can recognize this type of vomiting as it typically happens within 5mins-30mins after eating and the food looks largely undigested. If your cat is suffering from a type of chronic vomiting that is not listed above, there may be a medical issue that needs to be addressed. Conditions such as foreign body ingestion, chronic pancreatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, food allergy, cancer, chronic kidney disease, and hyperthyroidism are all possible causes of chronic vomiting in cats. So if your cat vomits more than once a week, it would be a good idea to discuss with your veterinarian about possible causes and testing.

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