

ASK OUR VETERINARIANS

Intestinal blockages

Intestinal blockages are a common problem in our patients. These blockages can be caused by foreign objects (you name it, we have seen it!), tumors, or twisting of the intestines. Intestinal blockages are always considered an emergency and in 95% of cases require surgery to remove or correct the blockage.

Symptoms of an intestinal blockage would include, but are not limited to: restlessness, lethargy, vomiting food, inability to keep water down, abdominal pain, and regurgitation.

Diagnosis of an intestinal blockage is not always as easy as it sounds. Radiographs (plain or with contrast such as barium), ultrasound, blood work, and physical examination may be necessary to diagnose this problem.

Treatments for intestinal blockages are intravenous fluids to alleviate dehydration, surgery to remove the obstruction (in most cases), antibiotics, pain medications, and anti-nausea medications.

Some of the most common intestinal foreign bodies we have found: corn cobs, bones, toys, strings (cats), towels, socks, and acorns. If you suspect that your cat or dog has an intestinal blockage, please seek medical attention for that pet ASAP.

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