

### **Vomiting and Diarrhoea in Cats**

Vomiting and diarrhoea can be mild and self-limiting, or can be potentially fatal. As cats are more fussy with what they eat than dogs, vomiting (except for hairballs) is not as common in cats.

Cats can dehydrate very quickly with vomiting and diarrhoea, especially if they are not drinking and keeping the water down. Please offer your cat small amounts of water (no more than one tablespoon) frequently to encourage them to drink. Please do not let them drink large volumes quickly, as this may trigger more vomiting.

Common causes of vomiting and diarrhoea in cats include dietary indiscretion (ate something they shouldn't have), food poisoning, eating something toxic, foreign bodies that get lodged in the gut, mechanical irritation from foreign materials moving through (this includes hairballs), bacterial and viral infections, parasites and inflammatory conditions such as food sensitivities or inflammatory bowel disease. Other causes, such as liver, kidney or pancreatic problems, or hormonal diseases can also cause vomiting or diarrhoea. It can be difficult to find the actual cause for the upset in many cases.

A bland diet is recommended if your cat has a gastrointestinal upset, to allow the stomach and gut time to settle down and return to normal function. It is important that you give any medications as directed.

If there is any recurrence of clinical signs (e.g. vomiting, diarrhoea, regurgitation, not eating, lethargy) or you are concerned in any way, please revisit or call us on (08) 9384 2644, or visit an after-hours clinic.

