Vomiting pussycats and why you should see your vet!

There have been many occasions where an owner brings in their pussycat stating “my cat is a regular vomiter, it’s normal for him” and I am here to tell you why you should be seeing a vet if your cat is vomiting regularly, or has an acute vomiting episode.

Why would your cat be vomiting?

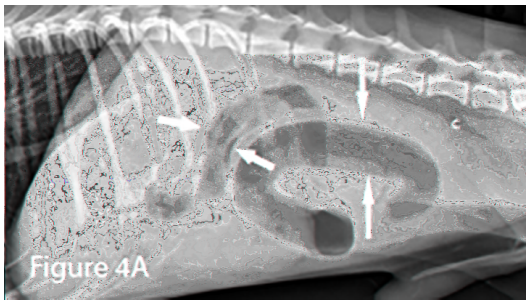
There are many reasons your cat may be vomiting and these should be investigated as your cat may have something more sinister going on. When we think about the reasons for an animal to be vomiting, we categorise it into gastrointestinal (inside the gut) and extra gastrointestinal (outside the gut). Therefore, there could be either something in the gut or outside the gut that is causing the vomiting.

How do we know which one it is?

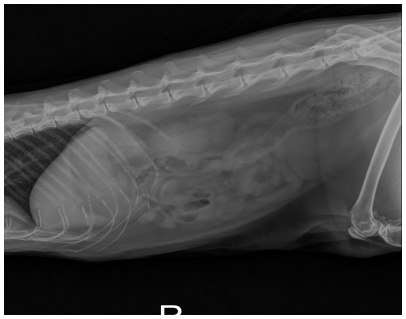
To accurately diagnose the cause of vomiting we rely on both your cat’s personal history and a full physical examination. During this examination we look at the mucus membrane (gum) colours and feel the abdomen to see if or where their tummies are painful.

Gastrointestinal

When we suspect there may be something inside the gut, such as a foreign body, we typically recommend x-rays to evaluate whether or not there is a blockage present indicating the need for surgery.



Obstruction/blockage



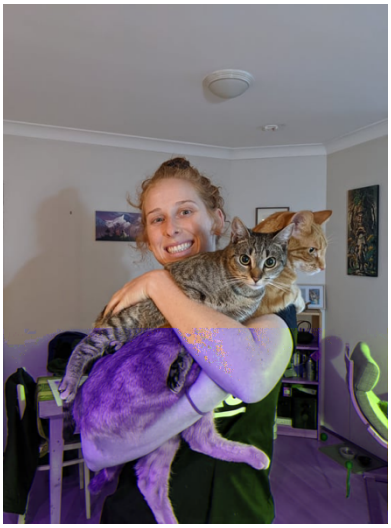
Normal Abdomen

Extragastrointestinal

When we suspect an extra gastrointestinal cause for your cat’s vomiting, we typically will recommend a blood test. The blood test allows us to evaluate the functions of the other organs in the body such as the liver, pancreas, thyroid and kidneys that could be the underlying reason for your cat’s vomiting.

I have listed below a few other reasons your cat may be vomiting:

Gastrointestinal	**Extragastrointestinal**
Foreign body (such as string or a sock)	Endocrine disease 1. Hyperthyroidism 2. Diabetes 3. Cushing's Disease
Infectious - Bacterial - Viral	Metabolic disease 1. Liver disease a. infection/toxin/inflammation 2. Kidney disease
Inflammatory bowel disease (very similar to IBS in humans)	Pancreatitis
Stomach ulcers	Middle ear disease/neurological disease
Neoplasia (cancer) – Mix and Brennan said they didn't know what neoplasia was	



As you can see there are many reasons that your cat may be vomiting. Some are more serious and require immediate intervention and treatment.

We had a pussycat that recently came in for vomiting and ended up having a nasty liver infection! He is home and going well after a course of antibiotics.

So, if your pussycat is vomiting, bring them in to see us so we can give them a check over and make sure something more serious isn't going on.

Dr Bri