

# Your cat threw up? *No, it's not normal!*

Hairballs are normal, yes but chances are that's **NOT** what's making your cat wretch.

**V**omiting is a common and frequently complex problem in cats. According to Gary Norsworthy, DVM, DABVP (feline practice), the greatest of all feline myths is that vomiting is normal. It's not.

If one of your human family members seemed healthy but was vomiting twice a week—or twice a day—would we accept it as normal? Give up on these excuses:

- > He eats too fast.
- > She has a sensitive stomach.
- > They're just hairballs, and they are normal.
- > That's just the way he is; he's a puker.

## Sign of disease

Gastrointestinal diseases, renal failure, inflammatory or other liver diseases, pancreatitis and even

lymphoma can cause chronic vomiting. Don't wish away vomiting as probably a hairball—get it checked out by your veterinarian.

## Sign of poisoning

Vomiting that isn't chronic could be caused by poisoning. The following substances are the most common household toxins for cats:

> **Plants:** Autumn crocus, azalea, cyclamen, kalanchoe, lilies, oleander, dieffenbachia, daffodils, lily of the valley, sago palm, tulips, hyacinths, poinsettias and amaryllis to name a few

> **Over-the-counter medications:** Including aspirin, acetaminophen, Advil, Aleve, Motrin, Kaopectate, Pepto-Bismol

> **Prescription drugs:** Including antidepressant drugs, such as Prozac, Pacil, Celexa and Effexor

> **Dietary supplements and vitamins**

> **Human food:** Onions, for example

> **Household cleaners:** Drain cleaners, concentrated dishwashing chemicals (including dishwasher tabs), lime-removal products, oven cleaners and concentrated toilet cleaners pose the biggest threat.

> **Topical flea/tick treatments, flea shampoos and collars**

> **Essential oils:** Often found in potpourri

> **Insecticides and rodenticides**

If you fear your cat has ingested a toxin, remove your cat from the area, check to make sure your cat is breathing and acting normally, do not give any home antidotes, do not induce vomiting without consulting a veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline, and call the **Pet Poison Helpline** at **(855) 764-7661**. If veterinary attention is needed, go to your veterinarian.

