

Why is my pet vomiting?

There are so many things that cause vomiting, the same as with humans. Some can be for minor reasons whereas others can be more severe... so when can we know it's time to see the vet? The answer for this is pretty much **any time it occurs**, however we have provided some information which may help you determine how severe it may be and whether you can monitor or should seek medical advice as soon as possible.

Signs Your Pet Feels Sick

Signs of nausea prior to vomiting may include hyper salivation (excessive drooling), behavioural changes such as depression/lethargy, licking lips and swallowing.

Regurgitation Versus Vomiting

'Regurgitating' is when your dog brings up the contents from their oesophagus or stomach without abdominal heaving and churning - when food just slips back out without any warning. Whereas 'vomiting' is where the contents of the stomach and upper intestines are brought up forcibly, through muscle contractions.

Pet Vomit Chart



White foam



Digested food or grass, may contain yellow bile



Red or contains blood



Dark



Green



Contains mucous



Metallic odour



Contains worms

When to See a Vet

If they only vomit once it's generally not too much to worry about but if they continue to vomit they can become dehydrated, painful in their abdomens, weak, depressed, lose weight, and younger animals can drop their blood glucose and place them at risk of seizures. If you're at all concerned, contact a vet and they'll be able to help. Vomiting is common, but it can mean something more sinister is happening inside.

Note: It's not too much of a worry if your dog eats their vomit, but if they have eaten a toxin definitely don't allow them to eat their vomit.



Adapted from "Why is my pet vomiting?" article by Dr Duncan Houston, Veterinarian and Pet Nutritionist. Find it here: www.bigdogpetfoods.com/guides/why-is-my-pet-vomiting

If your pet has vomited, ask yourself these questions:

Have they eaten something different today?

Does this happen often?

What's in the vomit? What colour is it?

How many times have they vomited today?

Are they acting normally or has their behaviour changed?



Vet Number and Address

Emergency Vet Number and Address