

Vomiting and Diarrhoea

Family Matters

Few things worry a pet guardian more than seeing their pet suddenly vomit or develop diarrhoea.

The first question is usually:

"Should I be worried?"

The answer depends on **why** it's happening.

At Amity, we believe that vomiting and diarrhoea are **symptoms, not diagnoses**. Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand when you can monitor your pet at home and when they should be seen by a vet.

Vomiting and Diarrhoea Aren't Diseases

Many different conditions can cause vomiting or diarrhoea.

Some are mild and settle on their own.

Others require urgent treatment.

Common causes include:

- Eating something they shouldn't.
- Sudden dietary changes.
- Viral or bacterial infections.
- Parasites.
- Pancreatitis.
- Foreign bodies (objects stuck in the stomach or intestines).
- Kidney or liver disease.
- Poisoning.
- Hormonal disorders.

The challenge is that many of these conditions look very similar at the beginning.

That's why our job is to identify **the cause**, not simply stop the vomiting.

When Should I Be Concerned?

A single episode of vomiting in an otherwise bright, happy dog or cat isn't always an emergency.

However, you should contact your vet promptly if your pet:

- Vomits repeatedly.
- Cannot keep water down.
- Has blood in the vomit or diarrhoea.
- Is unusually quiet or weak.
- Has a swollen or painful abdomen.
- Is a puppy, kitten or elderly pet.
- May have eaten something poisonous or a foreign object.
- Has diarrhoea lasting more than a day or two.

Trust your instincts. If your pet simply isn't themselves, it's always worth asking for advice.

Why Doesn't My Vet Just Give an Injection?

Many people expect an anti-sickness injection or antibiotics.

Sometimes that's appropriate.

Often it isn't.

If the vomiting is caused by a blockage, simply stopping the vomiting doesn't solve the problem.

If the cause is viral, antibiotics won't help.

Good medicine isn't about treating the symptom.

It's about treating the cause.

Sometimes Tests Are Needed

Depending on your pet's examination, we may recommend blood tests, X-rays, ultrasound, faecal tests or other investigations.

These help us determine whether we're dealing with a simple upset stomach or something more serious requiring specific treatment.

We'll always explain why we recommend a particular test and how it may influence your pet's care.

The Importance of Hydration

One of the biggest risks with vomiting and diarrhoea is dehydration.

Some pets need nothing more than rest and a bland diet.

Others require intravenous fluids, medication and hospitalisation to replace lost fluids and support recovery.

The earlier dehydration is recognised, the easier it is to treat.

Most Pets Recover Well

The good news is that many cases of vomiting and diarrhoea improve quickly with appropriate treatment.

The important thing is knowing which pets simply need time and which need immediate intervention.

At Amity, we'll assess your pet as an individual, explain what we think is happening and recommend the treatment that gives them the best chance of a rapid recovery.

Because great veterinary care isn't about giving every pet the same treatment.

It's about giving **your** pet the right treatment.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.