



Coughing



It's normal for your cat or dog to cough every now and then. It's part of everyday life for an animal that can sniff 4 to 6 times per second.

But if your pet does it a lot or can't seem to stop, you may have a sick pet, and they may need treatment.

Dog Coughing

Like us, dogs cough to get rid of dust, germs, and other stuff they breathe in. Also like us, they sometimes get infections or viruses.

Dogs are social creatures that naturally sniff and slurp. This is why bacteria and viruses - including a canine form of the flu - quickly spread from dog to dog. Germs also can land on floors, furniture, food bowls, toys, and other surfaces where the next dog to come along picks them up.

A dog may be coughing because of:

- Kennel cough. Kennel cough is the common name for a deep, honking canine cough. Is your dog having bouts of hacking, followed by gagging? Think back a week or so. Was he at the groomer, dog park, obedience class, shelter, or playground? Chances are, he was around another sick dog. Kennel cough is highly contagious, but it's not a serious problem on its own. As long as your dog is eating well and acting like himself, he'll probably feel better in a week or so. Your vet should make sure that he doesn't need antibiotics or cough suppressants.
- [Canine Influenza](#) (also known as dog flu) is a contagious respiratory disease in dogs caused by specific Type A influenza viruses known to infect dogs. These are called "canine influenza viruses." No human infections with canine influenza have ever been reported. There are two different influenza A dog flu viruses: one is an H3N8 virus and the other is an H3N2 virus.
- Congestive heart failure. Fluid in the lungs can cause coughing.
- Heart disease. Leaky valves and other problems can weaken and thicken the heart muscle. This puts pressure on the lungs and airways. Medication along with the right diet and exercise can bring relief.
- Lung problems Sometimes dogs get bronchitis or pneumonia. They also may suck in dirt, grass seeds, or food, which can lead to an infection of the airways. Antibiotics can help. In rare cases, lung cancer is the diagnosis. Your vet will help you decide if

medication or surgery is the best course.

- Heartworms. Mosquitos spread this disease. Monthly medication or an injection that lasts 6 months can prevent it. Treatment is hard on your pet, and expensive.

Make an appointment if:

- His cough lasts more than a week, or worsens
- He seems extra tired
- He has a fever
- He won't eat
- He has other health problems

We may ask you some questions like:

- Does your dog have trouble breathing between coughing fits?
- When does he do it? (At night? After eating? After drinking water? After exercise? When he's excited?)
- What does it sound like? (A goose? A seal?)
- Is the cough dry or moist?
- Does it sound like he's about to vomit?
- Where has your dog been lately? (In a place with other dogs? With you on a family vacation? Around a smoker?)
- Have there been any changes to his daily routine?
- Is he up-to-date on his shots, and heartworm prevention?
- When did he last take his medication?

We will examine your dog and run tests to find out if the problem is due to a virus, an infection, an allergy, or a different problem. The treatment will depend on the cause.

Cat Coughing

Has your cat's rumbly purr turned into a cough? That means something is irritating his throat, airways, or lungs.

Some causes are easy to treat. Others are more serious and can be life-threatening. Your vet can find out what's bothering your pet and keep him in good health.

Asthma is the most common feline respiratory disorder. About 800,000 American cats – or 1 percent of all domestic cats in the U.S. – have some form of it. Ones that spend at least part of their time outdoors are most likely to get it.



When something irritates your cat's airways, they get inflamed and shrink. This makes it hard for him to breathe. He could get a slight, ongoing cough.

Asthma causes include:

- Pollen
- Mold
- Cat litter dust
- Cigarette smoke
- Perfume
- Obesity
- Stress

If you notice your pet coughing, take him to the vet. Asthma can worsen quickly, and he might not be able to breathe at all.

Other Causes For Coughing:

- Allergies. The causes and symptoms are similar to those of asthma. Your vet can figure out which is to blame.
- System diseases. Coughing can be a sign of pneumonia or congestive heart failure. An ultrasound, X-ray, MRI, or electrocardiogram can confirm.
- Lung cancer. Some tumors can be controlled with medication. If not, surgery may be an option.
- Heartworms. This disease is spread by mosquitos. If you live in an area with these bugs, your cat is more at risk. You can get preventative medicine from your vet. The symptoms resemble asthma, so your pet could be misdiagnosed. Your vet can test him to make sure.
- Tight collars. Pressure on your cat's windpipe can cause damage and lead to a cough.
- Worms. These are common in felines. It's one reason your pet gets regular blood and fecal tests at the vet.

How to Help Your Vet

Give her detailed information about the cough:

- Its quality: Does it sound wet or dry?
- Timing: When it happens at night, that's often a sign of fluid in the lungs or heart failure.
- Triggers: If your cat coughs after exercise, he might have heart disease. If it happens after a meal, it could mean problems with his larynx or esophagus.

Knowing this can help [Adobe Animal Hospital](#) pinpoint the most likely causes, choose tests to confirm a diagnosis, and prescribe the best treatment.

For More Information:

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/canineflu/keyfacts.htm>

<https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/gastric-volvulus-bloat-dogs#1>

<https://pets.webmd.com/cats/coughing-cats-causes-feline-coughing#1>

<https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/coughing-dogs-causes#1>



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appointment
to discuss your
pet's health:***



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