

Common Signs of Illness

DOGS

CATS

DIARRHEA



If your dog has persistent constipation that lasts for longer than 48 hours or there are any differences in the poo such as the presence of blood or mucus, it is recommended to visit your vet. If possible, bring a sample.

DEHYDRATION



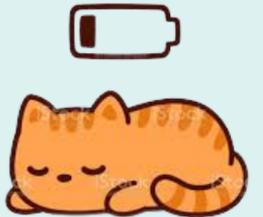
Dehydration is a common problem in cats that are not well. To see if your cat is dehydrated, gently grasp her skin near her shoulder blades, then let go. If the skin remains "tented", then your cat is dehydrated.

VOMITING, GAGGING



Persistent sickness or choking when eating is a concern. Vomiting can be a sign of a developing allergy or a more serious infection, particularly in older dogs.

LOW ENERGY LEVELS



As a general rule, cats that are sick will have lower energy levels. The only thing you may notice is that your cat sleeps more, does not play as much, or is restless.

SNEEZING, COUGHING, RUNNY NOSE



Sneezing, panting, runny eyes and nose or flu-like symptoms may be signs of respiratory problems, as are gasping or shortness of breath.

UNKEPT COAT



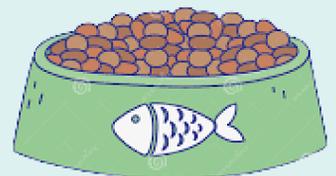
Cats that are not feeling well do not tend to groom themselves very well. Therefore, you will usually see a messy or greasy coat, mats of fur, or clumps of loose hair. In some cases, you will see a difference in the coat's shine or an increased amount of dandruff.

REFUSAL TO EAT



For a range of reasons, your dog's eating patterns may occasionally become irregular. But if your dog refuses food for a day or more, consult your vet.

CHANGE IN APPETITE



Since sick cats may eat less or eat more, or may have more or less thirst than usual, any change in appetite or thirst may be of concern. If your cat has not eaten properly for 24 hours, seek immediate veterinary attention.

RED OR SWOLLEN GUMS



Reddened or swollen gums, particularly when associated with bad breath, are an indication of gum disease. When severe, dogs may lose teeth, drop food from their mouths and suffer weight loss due to difficulty eating.

LITTERBOX CHANGES



Both diarrhea and constipation are indicators of disease in cats. Diarrhea is usually easy to recognize in the litterbox, but constipation can be more problematic to notice. Small, hard, dry stools are never normal and are often an early indication of kidney disease.