

Causes of Constipation

Is your cat constipated? One of these causes may be to blame.

Constipation is defined as infrequent or absent defecation associated with retention of feces or stool within the colon and rectum. The following circumstances lead to constipation:

1. Ingestion of indigestible material: hair, bones, wool, cloth.
2. Lack of exercise: illness or debility, obesity.
3. Painful defecation: abscessed anal sacs, tumors, draining tracts around anus.
4. Obstruction: pelvic fractures causing narrowing of the pelvis, masses obstructing colon or rectum, congenital lesions such as imperfect opening at anus.
5. Neurological disease: megacolon, paraplegia, spinal cord deformity, dysautonomia (autonomic nervous system disorder seen primarily in English cats), inflammation of spinal cord/brain.
6. Other: potassium deficiency, dehydration, certain drugs, soiled litterbox.