



# Cats and Hairballs

## St. Michael Veterinary Clinic

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Cats spend as much as one third of their waking hours cleaning and grooming. This natural instinct makes them ideal house pets, but it can lead to "HAIRBALLS."

### **THE PROBLEM:**

During the cleaning process, cats often swallow their own hair. Hair cannot be dissolved by the cat's digestive system and accumulates in the gastrointestinal tract where it can interfere with normal digestion and elimination.

### **WHAT CAN BE DONE:**

Daily brushing of the cat's coat to remove loose hair is good preventive medicine. Besides brushing the coat, several medications are available to eliminate hairballs and help prevent their recurrence.

Laxatone contains a gentle, non-irritating, effective intestinal lubricant to aid in the elimination of swallowed hair and prevention of hairballs. Cats usually like the fish flavor of these preparations and take them easily. Other cats will take it by licking it from a paw or nose.

### **LAXATONE DOSAGE:**

The average cat should get one inch of hairball remedy 2-3 times weekly as preventative. During periods of heavy shedding, or if signs of problems with a hairball are seen, cat lax can be given up to two or three times a day for five days. If too much cat lax is given, the stools will become loose. If hairballs continue to be a problem despite regular use of cat lax, your veterinarian may recommend increasing the amount of fiber in the diet with a supplement or new food. If the vomiting becomes more frequent, it would be best to consult with your veterinarian on next best steps/diagnostics.