

## Head Shaking in Cats

### Overview

- Is your cat shaking his/her head more than usual?
- Head shaking usually indicates a problem with the ears.
- Book an appointment with your vet if you have noticed your cat shaking their head more than usual.

### Causes



The occasional head shake is perfectly normal, but if your cat suddenly starts shaking their head a lot more than usual it's likely to indicate a problem such as:

- [An ear infection](#)
- [Aural haematoma](#)
- [Ear mites](#)
- Something stuck inside the ear
- An ear injury
- Allergic or inflammatory skin disease
- A lump (growth) in the ear

## Other symptoms to look out for

It will help your vet if you tell them about any other symptoms you have noticed such as itchy ears, smelly ears, face rubbing or loss of balance. If you take a careful look inside your cats' ears you may see that one (or both) of them look red, swollen or gunky.

## When to contact your vet

Contact your vet for an appointment as soon as you notice your cat shaking their head more than usual. Your vet will be able to find the cause, treat it, and relieve their irritation.

## Head tremors

A head shake is when your cat shakes their head on purpose, a head tremor is when they develop a shake that they can't control. If your cat develops a head tremor (a shake they cannot control), contact your vet for an emergency appointment.

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