

**Covid-19 update: If you think your cat may have a temperature it's always safest to contact your vet for advice. It's very unlikely that the COVID-19 virus will be the cause, see our information on [coronavirus in pets](#) for more details.**

## High temperature (fever) in cats

### Overview

- A high temperature (fever) usually means something is wrong.
- If your cat has a high temperature you may notice them eating less, drinking less, that they are hot to touch, obviously unwell, low in energy, or that they just don't seem themselves.
- A high temperature can be caused by many different conditions ranging from minor to very serious.
- Contact your vet if you think your cat has a high temperature.

### General information and symptoms



Normal body temperature for a cat ranges between 38-39°C, if it rises above the normal range your cat is likely to feel unwell and become lethargic ([low in energy](#)).

A high temperature can be caused by many different conditions ranging from minor to very serious problems. If your cat has a high temperature, you may notice that they feel hot to touch (especially their feet, ears or face), hide away, [not want to eat](#), shiver and breathe more quickly than usual.

## Causes

- **Infections and abscesses** - especially [cat bite abscesses](#).
- **Pain or inflammation (swelling)** - due to conditions such as a [urine infection](#).
- **[Pyrexia of unknown origin](#)** - high temperature with no obvious cause.
- **[Poisons/toxins](#)** - such as insecticides and slug pellets can cause muscle tremors and a high temperature.
- **[Heatstroke](#)** - cats stuck inside hot spaces can become dangerously overheated.
- **Stress** - cats can get easily stressed which sometimes raises body temperature.
- **[Medicine reactions](#)** - can cause a high temperature.
- **[Obesity](#)** - overweight cats find it more difficult to lose body heat so become overheated more easily.

## When to contact your vet

You know your cat best, if you are concerned that they have a high temperature, or they show any of the signs listed above, book an appointment with your vet.

## Treatment

Treatment for a high temperature depends entirely on the cause.

## Pyrexia of unknown origin (PUO)

‘Pyrexia (which means high temperature) of unknown origin’ means your cat has a high temperature with no obvious cause. This is a tricky condition to treat. It can take some time, and several different tests before a cause is found and the correct treatment is started. It’s very common to never find the cause but the high temperature to get better in a short space of time.

Published: April 2020