

Lethargy (low energy) in cats

Overview

- Does your cat seem lethargic (low in energy), quieter than usual, less interested in food, playing, hunting and going outside?
- Lethargy is a symptom that can be caused by many different problems, some minor and some more serious.
- Take your cat to the vet if they have been lethargic for more than 24 hours or book an urgent appointment if they are severely lethargic.

General information and causes



Cats save energy for hunting which means they often sleep for 12-16 hours a day (or more). However, if your cat is sleeping more than usual it could be a sign that something is wrong. Lethargy can be caused by many different conditions ranging from a simple [cat bite abscess](#) to more serious problems such as [kidney disease](#), [diabetes](#) or poisoning. There are so many different causes of lethargy in cats that it would be difficult to list them all here.

When to contact your vet

Book an appointment with your vet if your cat has been lethargic for more than 24 hours. Book an urgent appointment if they seem severely lethargic, and be sure to let your vet know about any other symptoms you have noticed, such as [eating less](#) or [drinking more](#).

Am I eligible for PDSA veterinary treatment?

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