



FELINE ASTHMA

ABOUT THE DISEASE

Feline allergic bronchitis or feline asthma is a respiratory disease that can affect feline patients of any age causing episodes of coughing, wheezing, and in severe cases, labored breathing (dyspnea) and open mouth breathing. Airways (bronchioles) constrict/block, like human asthma. Can cause permanent lung damage if unchecked—often life-threatening.

Signs:

Coughing, wheezing; severe: labored breathing (dyspnea), open-mouth gasps.

Triggers:

Inhaled: Allergens, smoke, litter dust, dander, cleaners. Stress too.

OBTAINING A DIAGNOSIS

Presumptive diagnosis from symptoms (cough/wheeze) + physical examination with a veterinarian.

Imaging:

X-rays confirm & rule out other diseases like congestive heart failure/pneumonia.

Other Tests:

Heartworm screening—can mimic or trigger asthma.

TREATMENT

Core Therapy:

Steroids (glucocorticoids) reduce inflammation/triggers. Start oral, shift to feline inhaler for long-term (special devices available).

Rescue Tools:

Albuterol inhaler for acute attacks. Oral bronchodilators: Optional, mixed results—not main control.

Urgent Action:

Immediate evaluation by a veterinarian.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Reduce exposure to triggers (smoke, litter dust, and certain cleaners) and change furnace filters regularly.
- Feline asthma is a life-long disease, and often requires a life-long management strategy.