

FORBES Veterinary Clinic

TRAUMA IN CATS

Recognising, Responding & Getting Help Fast

Trauma can occur suddenly and may be life-threatening. Early recognition and prompt veterinary care can make a critical difference in your cat's recovery and survival.

**Trauma is an emergency.
Every second counts.**

TRAUMA
CAN BE HIDDEN.
EARLY TREATMENT
CAN SAVE
YOUR CAT'S
LIFE.



? WHAT IS TRAUMA?

Trauma is any injury caused by an external force such as:

- 🐾 Road traffic accidents
- 🐾 Falls from heights
- 🐾 Animal attacks
- 🐾 Crush injuries
- 🐾 Gunshot or bite wounds
- 🐾 Being hit by objects
- 🐾 Trapping or entrapment



Trauma can affect internal organs, bones, nerves and blood vessels.

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

- 🐾 Cats are experts at hiding pain and injury.
- 🐾 Seemingly minor injuries can mask serious internal damage.
- 🐾 Any cat involved in a significant incident should be examined by a veterinarian.



COMMON CAUSES OF TRAUMA



Road traffic accidents



Falls from heights



Animal attacks



Hit by objects



Trapped or crushed

Indoor cats can also be injured by falls or accidents.

1 RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Signs of trauma may include:

- 🐾 Limping or inability to walk
- 🐾 Bleeding or wounds
- 🐾 Laboured breathing
- 🐾 Collapse
- 🐾 Vomiting
- 🐾 Pale gums
- 🐾 Hidden or withdrawn
- 🐾 Seizures
- 🐾 Swelling or bruising
- 🐾 Inappropriate urination/defecation



⚠️ **Some cats show very subtle signs.
If in doubt, seek veterinary care.**

2 WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- 🐾 Ensure your own safety first
- 🐾 Keep your cat as calm and warm as possible
- 🐾 Handle gently and minimally
- 🐾 Do not give food or water
- 🐾 Transport to your veterinarian as soon as possible
- 🐾 Cover with a blanket if available

DO NOT:

- ❌ Move your cat unless necessary
- ❌ Attempt to treat at home
- ❌ Delay veterinary treatment

Time is critical in trauma cases.

3 HIDDEN INJURIES CAN BE DEADLY

Trauma may cause internal injuries such as:

- 🐾 Internal bleeding
- 🐾 Lung or chest injuries
- 🐾 Abdominal organ damage
- 🐾 Broken bones
- 🐾 Spinal or nerve damage
- 🐾 Head trauma
- 🐾 Blood clotting disorders



⚠️ **Even if your cat seems 'okay',
there may be serious internal damage.**

4 HOW IS TRAUMA DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may perform:

- 🐾 A physical examination
- 🐾 Assessment of vital signs
- 🐾 Pain assessment
- 🐾 X-rays
- 🐾 Ultrasound
- 🐾 Blood tests
- 🐾 Urine testing
- 🐾 Other tests as needed
- 🐾 Monitoring of organ function



A thorough examination helps identify hidden injuries.

5 TREATMENT OPTIONS

Treatment will depend on the type and severity of injuries and may include:

- 🐾 Pain relief
- 🐾 Wound management
- 🐾 Fracture stabilisation
- 🐾 Surgery
- 🐾 Intravenous fluids
- 🐾 Oxygen therapy
- 🐾 Blood transfusion (if needed)
- 🐾 Hospitalisation and monitoring



Supportive care and monitoring are essential for recovery.

6 RECOVERY & AFTERCARE

Recovery depends on the severity of injuries. Your cat may need:

- 🐾 Rest and quiet environment
- 🐾 Medication
- 🐾 Wound care
- 🐾 Restricted activity
- 🐾 Follow-up examinations
- 🐾 Monitoring for complications
- 🐾 Time and patience



Follow your veterinarian's instructions for the best outcome.

7 PREVENTION TIPS

You can reduce the risk of trauma by:

- 🐾 Keeping cats indoors or in secured areas
- 🐾 Supervising outdoor access
- 🐾 Ensuring windows and balconies are safe
- 🐾 Using pet-safe enclosures
- 🐾 Keeping chemicals and hazards out of reach
- 🐾 Providing a safe home environment
- 🐾 Driving carefully in residential areas

Prevention is always better than treatment.



ADDITIONAL TIPS



Transport safely in a secure carrier



Keep your cat warm but not overheated



Do not delay veterinary care



Early treatment greatly improves outcomes

EVERY CAT COUNTS

If your cat has been in an accident or suffered any traumatic event, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Rapid treatment can save your cat's life and give them the best chance of recovery.

