

PICA By Dr. John Fudens HMC DVM PH

If your dog or cat eats and/or swallows objects that have no nutritional value, the condition is called pica. Some of the causes to consider are parasites, poor nutrition, deficiencies of certain vitamins and minerals, liver disease, anemia and psychological problems. The psychological reasons can include stress, boredom, playing in which owners use tug of war games and attention seeking.

Major problems can develop from this condition. In extreme cases, surgery to remove foreign objects from the intestinal tract is needed. I find most cases of pica to be associated with a deep chronic disease layer in the immune system. It rarely exists in any animal without other serious health problems whether a pet owner or veterinarian can see these health issues or not.

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