

Controlling Intestinal Gas in Cats

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Although gas production is a natural part of the digestive process, some pets produce more than others and are not always fun to be around. Here are a few ways to reduce flatulence in cats:

- Slow down dinners. Flatulence is often caused by air that is gulped down when pets eat too quickly. Putting ping pong balls in your cat's food dish will force your cat to slow down when eating. If you have more than one cat, feed them separately to reduce competition for food. You may also try scattering dry food around the house so the cat will need to 'forage' for it.
- Encourage light exercise. Light exercise aids digestion and may help work out the gas.
- Switch food. Your brand of cat food may be the culprit, particularly if it is high in soy. Switch over gradually so your cat's digestive system can adapt to the new food. Substitute about 25% new food for the old food each week so that by the fourth week your pet is on 100% new food.
- Add Acidophilus or Prozyme to food. These products help in the digestive process and may help eliminate gas completely.
- Watch what they eat. Too much food at one time can cause gas, as can eating too many table scraps, or too much 'people food.'