



# Is your pet trying to tell you something?

From poop eating to ankle attacking, dogs and cats can act a little nutty. But some behaviors might mean your pet is being *driven* nuts by a common medical issue.

Everyone misses messages from their pets sometimes—after all, they can't talk! But if you see these signs, get your pet to a veterinarian as soon as you can. The longer you wait, the worse (and more expensive!) it could get.



## **BUTT SCOOTING, CARPET SURFING**

It's hilarious when your dog starts scooting around the house like he's riding a magic carpet, right? Not so fast: He may have mess stuck to his skin or fur, causing a rash or preventing him from going to the bathroom. He may also be trying to empty his anal sacs, which can fill with fluid and become itchy and painful or even cause an abscess.



## **EAR SCRATCHING, EARWAX EATING, HEAD SHAKING, SMELLY EARS**

Your dog or cat will be peacefully sleeping and then suddenly awake with a start and violently scratch inside one ear, lick earwax off his paw, then shake his head so hard his ears flap. Gross! Quirky! But also, signs of itchy mites, allergic dermatitis, a mass in the ear or a painful ear infection.



## **STINKY BREATH, DROOLING, SWALLOWING TREATS WHOLE, PAWING AT CHEEKS**

"Dog breath" is normal, right? Well, no, and cat breath isn't normal, either. Your pet might have a painful tooth or gum infection or even a foreign object stuck in his palate.

→ **FOR TIPS ON FINDING LOW-COST PET CARE**, ask your veterinarian or local shelter or check out [humanesociety.org/affordingvetcare](https://www.humanesociety.org/affordingvetcare).