

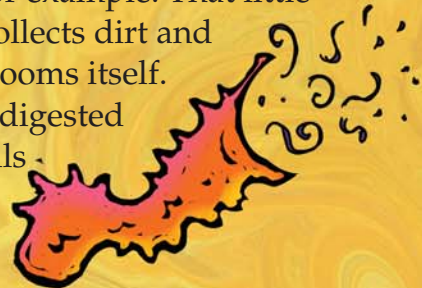
THE POWER OF PUKE!

by Lee Lamb

What goes in an animal doesn't

always stay in. Take the family cat, for example. That little sandpaper-like tongue collects dirt and shedding hairs as a kitty grooms itself.

Sometimes swallowed hairs mix with half-digested food, creating a hairball in the stomach. Cats puke up hairballs to keep the slimy, fuzzy blobs from plugging their intestines.



NATURE'S TRASH COMPACTOR

An owl may fly with grace, but that's sure not how it eats. First, an owl scarfs its prey in giant gulps—mice go down whole. Then strong acids in its stomach separate the meat and organs from the bones, fur, feathers and claws. This "trash" is rolled into a compact little oval called a *pellet* that the owl eventually pukes up. You can tell what an owl's been eating by sifting through the animal parts inside a pellet.

BARF BOMB

You probably know that a vulture's favorite meal is *carrion*, or rotting meat. But did you know that the bird will puke its meal right back up at anyone who threatens its nest? Just the vile smell of vulture puke sends potential intruders packing.

A sea cucumber literally spews its guts to ward off predators, leaving behind its stomach and intestines. It then makes a getaway while the marauder feasts on the offering. The cuke grows back new innards within a few months. A frog will also hurl up its stomach, but rather to get rid of a poisonous meal. It simply wipes off the bad bug with a front leg and then gulps its tummy back down.

SUPER STOMACH

Did you know an elk can eat up to 15 pounds of plants in one meal? That's equal to about 120 dinner salads! Elk swallow grasses and leaves unchewed and store them as a "cud" in the first chamber of their stomach. Later the elk beds down, regurgitates (*ree-grr-ja-tates*) the cud, chews it thoroughly and swallows it again. The food then passes through the second, third and fourth chambers for further digestion.

CAN YOU FIND THESE SLIMY WORDS?

SPEW * HURL * CUKE PUKE * HAIRBALL * PELLET
CARRION * REGURGITATE * CUD



XVSP EWWLISOM
PBD OUSTZ YUYFCDF
QTR EGURGITATEK M
PTXC QXVWADTGOYNY
USY HOGX BBSV GKZXOQ
RRH J BHEZMYIRWTCI
CUKE PUKEIDTFIFZR
XWFZBRVANXEMB HFR
PYLSULJWGQOUSTTA
ELRKJFERXVCGQTYC
LPCSJUBYEWKVZAU
LCZZHAIRBALLW MV
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