What Type of Carriers are Best?



The best carriers are inexpensive hardsided carriers that open from the top and the front, and can also be taken apart in the middle. An easily removable top allows a cat which is fearful, anxious or in pain to stay in the bottom half of the carrier for exams. Your veterinarian can often do the exam in the bottom of a well-designed carrier. Avoid carriers that require a cat to be pulled from or dumped out for an exam.

Choose carriers that are sturdy, secure and stable for the cat, as well as easy for you to carry. Carriers should be seat-belted into the car to keep your cat safer and to reduce the bumpiness of the ride.

Some cats like to see out, whereas others are less anxious when the carrier is covered with a blanket or towel to prevent seeing the unfamiliar.



You are an important member of your cat's healthcare team. You can be instrumental in helping your cat have more relaxed veterinary visits and improved healthcare.

We wish to thank CEVA Animal Health Inc. for sponsoring this document.

To access the full guidelines document,
please visit www.catvets.com and www.isfm.net.



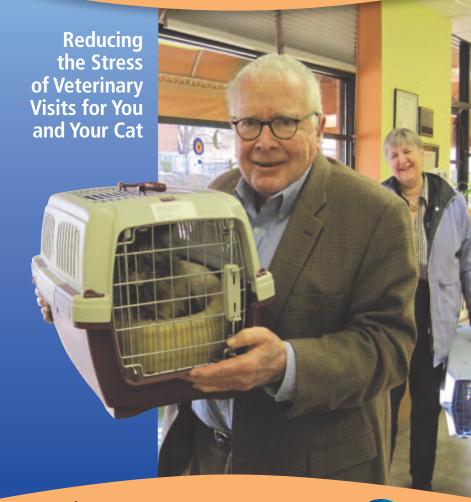


AAFP AND ISFM

STRATEGIC PARTNERS IN FELINE HEALTH AND WELFARE TOGETHER IMPROVING CATS' LIVES WORLDWIDE



Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian









Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian

Reducing the Stress of Veterinary Visits for You and Your Cat



Getting an Unwilling Cat into the Carrier

tollowing may help: away, and is not yet accustomed to the carrier, the If your cat needs to go to the veterinarian right

Encourage the cat with treats or toys to walk Do not chase the cat to get it into the carrier. and close the door. Move slowly and calmly. tew hiding places. Bring the cat into the room • Start by putting the carrier in a small room with

to transport to help calm the cat.

into the carrier.

- bottom half, and then calmly replace the top as pictured above. to remove the top half of your carrier while getting the cat to go into the the top, gently cradle your cat and lower it into the carrier. Another option is If your cat will not walk into the carrier, and your carrier has an opening on
- pheromone (Feliway®) analog spray in the carrier at least 30 minutes prior Use familiar bedding inside the carrier. Consider use of synthetic feline facial

Coming Home – Keeping the Peace in a Multi-cat Household

tollowing a veterinary visit: another as a stranger. These suggestions can help avoid problems between cats longer recognizing another. Aggressive behavior can occur when one cat senses Cats are very sensitive to smells, and unfamiliar smells can result in one cat no

- Leave the returning cat in the carrier for a few minutes to see how all of
- If all cats appear calm and peaceful, let the returning cat out of the carrier. your cats react.
- resulted in conflict, keep the cat in the carrier and take it to a separate room If you sense tension between the cats, or if previous home-comings have
- If there is still stress after this time, contact your veterinarian for more advice for a minimum of 24 hours while it regains the more familiar smell of home. to avoid potential injury from an upset cat. Provide food, water and litter box
- on slower introduction or medication to help the process.
- A synthetic feline pheromone (Feliway®) can help provide the sense of
- For future visits: tamiliarity.
- Use a synthetic feline pheromone (Feliway®). smell of home and helps with reintroduction. Use familiar bedding or clothing with your scent, as it retains the
- tuture conflict as both cats will carry the scent of the clinic. - Bring both cats to the veterinary practice together. This can prevent

entire veterinary visit is usually less stressful. of getting the cat into the carrier. If we can make this step easier, the cats dislike going to the veterinarian, and that starts with the difficulty cannot happen unless they see the veterinarian for needed care. Many allow your cats to have longer, more comfortable lives. However, this Providing good health care, especially preventive health care, can

The following tips will help make veterinary visits easier for you and your cat.

Understanding your Cat's Behavior

- need for time to become familiar with new situations, people and places. car, and the veterinary hospital are usually unfamiliar. Respect your cat's unfamiliar. The visit to the veterinarian is often difficult because the carrier, Cats are most comfortable with the familiar, and need time to adjust to the
- to become fearful or anxious. Stay calm. Cats can sense our anxiety or frustrations, which may cause them
- cat, which may be in the form of food, play or affection. Be persistent and handling paws, ears and mouth). A treat is what is highly desirable to your with the type of handling that may be encountered at the veterinarian (e.g., give a treat. Likewise, rewards can be given to help your cat become familiar positive behavior. For example, if your cat is sitting calmly in or near a carrier, Cats do not learn from punishment or force. Give rewards to encourage

The goal is for your cat to learn to associate the carrier with positive experiences Helping Your Cat Become Comfortable with the Carrier

and routinely enter voluntarily.

- Make the carrier a familiar place at home by leaving it in a room where your
- scent can make them feel more secure. Place familiar soft bedding inside the carrier. Bedding or clothing with your cat spends a lot of time.
- carrier during the night. will first see that treats are removed from the encourage the cat to enter at home. Often, you Place treats, catnip or toys inside the carrier to
- starts to trust the carrier. Remain calm, patient It may take days or weeks before your cat
- the carrier itself. If you still have trouble, you may need to assess and reward desired behaviors.



reward every time.