

TEACH YOUR CAT TO LOVE THEIR CARRIER

Many cats find traveling in carriers to be an unpleasant experience. Most cats don't leave the house much and when they do, it isn't usually for a happy reason. So it makes sense that many cats are not fans of traveling! Although travel can be stressful, there is a lot you can do to make carriers and vet visits less scary and even enjoyable for your cat.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT CARRIER



Entry and exit: Choose a carrier with both top and front openings, or one with a large round opening. This allows you to easily put your cat in and take them out if they are not trained to enter the carrier on their own.

Easily taken apart: It is helpful to have a carrier that can be taken apart in the middle so the top half can be removed. This way, your cat can remain in the bottom of their carrier during a check-up by their veterinarian. Many cats feel more secure and experience less anxiety when they can remain in their carrier during an exam.

Size matters: Make sure your cat can walk easily in and out of the carrier and has plenty of room to move and turn around.



Privacy, Ventilation and Visual Shield: Visual shields can help prevent motion sickness and provide your cat with privacy. Alternatively, you can place a towel that has been sprayed with a synthetic feline pheromone over the carrier. This helps minimize visual stimuli. And most importantly, make sure the carrier is well ventilated.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

LEAVE THE CARRIER OUT IN A PLACE YOUR CAT LIKES TO SPEND TIME: Chances are, this is also where you spend your time! By integrating the carrier into your home, it becomes a resting area instead of a scary traveling cage. If your cat is afraid to go inside, start with just the bottom of the carrier and slowly add the top and the cage door.

PLACE TREATS, CATNIP, AND TOYS IN THE CARRIER: This will encourage your cat to enter the carrier while they're still at home and teach them it is a fun place!

PLACE FAMILIAR BEDDING IN THE CARRIER: All the smells of home will be in the carrier, which will make it feel like a safe space.

REWARD YOUR CAT FOR GOING INTO THE CARRIER: Make sure to have your cat's favorite treats nearby so you can give one to them as soon as they go into the carrier on their own.

BE PATIENT: Do not force or chase your cat into the carrier. Allow the cat to choose to go into the carrier on their own and reward that behavior.

TRAVEL TIPS

Play classical music specifically composed for cats, and/or purring sounds

Spray Feliway in your car and/or carrier 10-15 minutes prior to your cat entering

Be calm and remember: "shh!" sounds a lot like hissing, so try to avoid that

Cool or warm the car to a comfortable temperature

