



Getting Your Cat to the Clinic

Getting your cat into the carrier:

- If you don't already own a carrier, there are a couple things you should keep in mind when buying one.
 - Be sure it is convenient for you, your cat, and your veterinarian.
 - Keeping the carrier out in your home and putting treats inside helps you train your cat to see the carrier as a safe place.
- While there are many carriers on the market, be sure to choose one that has a top opening, and possibly an additional opening on the side
 - Top opening carriers are much easier for placing your cat inside.
 - Other options include carriers in which the top half is removable so the cat can remain in the carrier during the examination.
- Always remove your cat carefully from the carrier.
 - Never dump the cat out of the carrier.

Adjusting to car rides:

- When traveling with your cat in the car, always put the cat in a carrier or other protected container. This is safer for both of you, rather than allowing the cat to roam freely.
- To make your cat comfortable when riding in the car, take the cat to places other than the veterinarian's office.
- Start with short rides at first, and then gradually extend the length of the drive.
- Because cats travel best on an empty stomach, do not feed your cat for several hours before traveling.
- After each successful car trip, reward your pet with positive attention and treats.

Pleasant Veterinary Visits:

- To make your cat feel at home in the veterinarian's office, bring the cat's favorite treats and toy with you.
- When at home, practice regular care routines like grooming, nail trimming and teeth brushing.
- Pretend to do routine veterinary procedures with your cat.
 - You can do this by touching the cat's face, ears, feet and tail.
 - This should help your cat adjust to the veterinary hospital and any needed home care.
- Make trips to the veterinary hospital for visits involving no examinations or procedures, such as checking the cat's weight. It gives the staff a chance to interact with your cat in a non-threatening way.

www.catwellness.org

www.npwm.com

Adapted from Feline Behavior Guidelines from the American Association of Feline Practitioners