

How to help cats love their carriers

Follow our steps for an easier vet visit, it will be well worth the effort.

Mild sedative medications help so much, please ask for advice.

Green Pastures

24/7 VETERINARY CENTRE

greenpasturesvets.co.uk

Step One

Choosing the right carrier

- One that comes apart – with the top half of the carrier removable from the bottom half.
- The right size – with enough space for your cat to turn around inside but not so big that they can fall about in it.
- Easy to clean – after each journey, clean with a biological solution, rinse and air dry to remove unfamiliar smells.



Step Two

Getting your cat used to the carrier

- If possible, start when your cat is young – don't worry if you can't, it just might take a little longer.
- Make your cat's carrier part of the home by leaving it out all of the time.
- Place the carrier with the lid off where your cat already likes to spend their time.
- Spray with a pheromone spray like Feliway.
- Make sure it is comfortable and cosy by putting a soft, familiar blanket that smells of them into the base.
- Place treats and toys in the carrier.
- Once your cat is comfortable being in the carrier, place the top of the carrier on – leaving the door off.
- When your cat is happy having the lid on, you can try shutting the door for a few seconds, gradually increasing this to a few minutes.
- Next, you can try gently carrying the carrier with your cat in it around the room, returning it to its original place.
- Finally, once your cat is completely comfortable with the carrier, you can try taking them outside in it, building up to placing them in the car with you before returning to the house.

Step Three

Putting your cat into the carrier when visiting the vet

Placing in from the top

- Pick your cat up and hold them with their legs held gently but firmly together in each hand.
- Lower your cat through the top opening into the carrier.
- Put the lid on and secure it.
- Check the front entrance is secure and the door locked.

Placing in from the front

Head first

- Have one hand on your cat's chest, behind their front legs and the other hand supporting their bottom.
- Gently lift their front legs, place their head in and gently but firmly guide them forward into the carrier.
- Close and lock the door.

Bottom first

- Pick your cat up and hold them with their legs held gently but firmly together in each hand.
- Gently but firmly guide them backwards into the carrier.
- Close and lock the door.

Step Four

Travelling to the vet

- Make sure the door of the carrier is securely locked and place a blanket that has been sprayed with a pheromone spray like Feliway over the carrier.
- Take a spare blanket for the base in case your cat has an ‘accident’.
- Place the carrier securely in your car so that it doesn’t move around and will be safe if you have to brake suddenly.
- Drive carefully and gently, avoid loud music and loud noises, speak calmly and reassuringly to your cat throughout the journey.
- Never travel with your cat loose in the car.
- Avoid walking to the vet with your cat in its carrier as it exposes your cat to many unfamiliar sounds, smells and noises on the way.
- Securely hold your carrier underneath to avoid any mishaps and use your elbow to access our Cat Friendly Clinic Waiting Room.



Opening Times:

Monday:	**8.30am – 7.30pm**
Tuesday:	**8.30am – 7.30pm**
Wednesday:	**8.30am – 7.30pm**
Thursday:	**8.30am – 7.30pm**
Friday:	**8.30am – 7.00pm**
Saturday:	**8.30am – 5.00pm**
Sunday:	**9.00am – 1.00pm**

Consulations by appointment only.

Emergency Consulations avaliable 24/7

AWARDS

RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE

OUTSTANDING -CLIENT SERVICE- RCVS

OUTSTANDING -IN-PATIENT SERVICE- RCVS

ISFM Gold Cat Friendly Clinic 2020 catfriendlyclinic.org

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