



GETTING YOUR CAT TO THE VET

- Try to bring your cat to the vet in a carrier. Not only does this facilitate transportation, it may also make your cat feel more comfortable about travel. Cats that are nervous or scared are more likely to try to escape than cats that feel safe in an enclosed space.
- Leave the carrier out in an open area in your house for a day or two before your appointment. Sometimes allowing your cat to familiarize him/herself with the carrier reduces fear or anxiety. Always put in a comfortable blanket or towel from home so your cat is surrounded by familiar smells. You may consider leaving some of your cat's favorite toys or treats in the carrier to encourage entry.
- Carriers with an open top or sides that can be easily removed are best as they can quickly be taken apart in-clinic to get your cat out for examination. Many cats don't like to be put in carriers at home but won't come out of them once they are in unfamiliar surroundings. Having a carrier with a removable top or sides allows veterinary staff to access your cat without needing to tip the carrier or pull your cat out through the door.
- Try to remain calm as cats are able to sense worry and frustration. Your behaviour may reflect on how your cat reacts to the veterinarian and travel.
- Don't chase your cat to get him/her into the carrier. Try to get your cat to come to you in a familiar environment and then gently put him/her in the carrier through the top or door. Make sure your cat is not overly cramped in the carrier as this will make for uncomfortable transportation and increase your cat's anxiety.
- At home after your visit to the veterinarian, leave the carrier in an open room for a few hours especially if you have other cats in the household. Cats tend to be sensitive to new items and smells so they may want to check out the carrier. If your other cats are acting aggressively or hostile towards the cat that just returned from the veterinarian, separate them for the day in an enclosed area with water, food, a litter box, a bed, and toys or treats.