



Putting The “PURR” in Trans-purr-tation



The Cat Carrier

- ❖ Always transport your cat in a carrier or safe container. Covering the carrier with a towel will help calm a particularly nervous cat.
- ❖ Train cats to view the carrier as a safe haven and “home away from home” by keeping the carrier out in the home. Place treats, favorite toys or blankets inside to entice the cat into the carrier.
- ❖ Bring cats in separate carriers- even well bonded cats may become aggressive toward each other if stressed.
- ❖ Spray Feliway onto the towel or blanket in the carrier to create a reassuring environment at least 30 minutes before using the carrier.
- ❖ Carriers with both top and front openings are recommended. Top loading carriers allow for stress-free placement and removal of the cat and enable them to be examined while remaining in the bottom half of the carrier.
- ❖ Bring your cats favorite treats, toys and blanket. If your cat likes to be groomed bring its favorite grooming equipment.
- ❖ If a cat has previously had negative experiences at a veterinary hospital, the veterinarian may prescribe a short duration anti-anxiety medication that should be given one hour prior to the visit.

The Car Ride

- ❖ Take your cat for regular rides in the carrier, starting with very short ones, to places other than the veterinary hospital.
- ❖ Because cats may get carsick, do not feed your cat for at least an hour prior to travel.

At The Hospital

- ❖ Reward desired behaviors, even small ones with treats, verbal praise and other things your cat likes (e.g., brushing, massaging, playing).
- ❖ Remain calm and speak in a soft voice to help your cat remain calm. If a situation is upsetting to you, your cat may do better if you leave the room.
- ❖ Always allow a trained veterinary team member to handle your cat. Even the sweetest and most laid back cats can become aroused and fearful in a strange environment. Anxiety may cause your cat to act out of character and bite or scratch.
- ❖ Cats prefer to be up high and not at floor level. A cats carrier should ideally be placed 4 ft above the ground.

The Return Home

The cat returning home will inevitably smell of the hospital environment. This “scent challenge” can be stimulus for aggression in previously well-bonded cats. If the affected individual experiences pain, particularly if being greeted by another cat or dog that is fit and exuberant, negative associations can be established that can lead to a deterioration in their relationship. Here are some tips to prevent this:

- ❖ Scents acquired by worn clothing can be put into the cat carrier on the way home to start the process of making it “smell like home” again.
- ❖ It may be wise, on returning home, to keep cats separate initially for 12 to 24 hours. Owners can groom and stroke them both so that the scents are exchanged and the smell of the clinic is less overwhelming, before they meet again.
- ❖ Clients should always supervise reunions, making sure they are kept low key and appropriate to the needs of the cat that is coming home.
- ❖ Feliway used in the home environment before a cat is brought back is a useful means of reducing tension in a multi-pet household and the stress of another change in location for the affected individual.