

Bringing your cat to the vets



Here is some information and tips to help you and your cat have a positive experience at the vets.

Choosing a cat carrier. We recommend choosing a cat carrier that your cat can turn around in and fit in comfortably. It should also be strong, sturdy and easy to clean. A cat carrier that opens from both the top and the front makes for much easier handling. It means that cats may enter and exit of their own accord as well as be placed in and taken out of the carrier more easily if necessary. If your cat panics when being placed in the carrier wrap him/her in a thick blanket and put both in the carrier.

Your journey to the practice. Covering your cat's carrier with a blanket will help keep them calm during the journey. It is also important for safety to secure your carrier on a car journey. You can do this by threading the seatbelt through the handle of your cat's carrier. When carrying your cat try to keep the carrier as steady as possible, avoid swinging the carrier and banging it against objects.

When you arrive in the practice please make use of our 'cat friendly' waiting area, as you arrive you will see this area clearly labelled. There is also a 'cat tree' available for use, where you can place your cat within its carrier. It is positioned so that cats are off of the floor in an elevated position; this makes them feel more secure. When placed in the cat tree they also do not have to look at dogs or other cats while they wait. If you have a particularly nervous cat please use one of our blankets to cover the carrier completely. Cat's senses are much more acute than ours and when they are stressed they will be in a heightened state of alert. By covering your cat's basket you can keep sights, sounds and smells to a minimum. It is important that we keep your cat as calm as possible in the waiting room so that handling them during their appointment is as easy as possible, this will make the experience much more positive for everybody.

What else can you do to help?

- Put something in the carrier with a familiar scent, for example a blanket, bedding or towel. As well as line the carrier with newspaper or a puppy pads to soak up any accidents.
- Feliway spray can be sprayed into the carrier 30 minutes before the journey.
- Stay calm- cats can pick up on your anxiety, try to stay as calm as possible.
- If you are bringing more than one cat use separate carriers unless they are kittens or very well bonded.
- Use the carrier at home – encourage your cat to sleep or be fed in the carrier, so it does not only appear when there is a vet visit!
- When in the consult room follow your vet's advice.

If you require any further advice or guidance please do not hesitate to contact us.