

# Traveling With Your Cat

## Should I use a cat carrier?

Yes, cat carriers are extremely useful for traveling with your cat. They keep your cat safe in the car and during transport. Select a cat carrier that is comfortable for your cat and easy to use. There are many different types of carriers; soft sided, small to large hard sided, carriers with multiple openings. You will want your carrier to be easy to use and easy to disassemble if necessary.



## How do I get my cat comfortable with the carrier?

Remember that it takes time for cats to adjust to the unfamiliar. Be sure to keep the carrier in an area of the house where your cat spends a lot of time or bring the carrier into the house several days before use and make it comfortable with familiar bedding, toys, treats, and catnip.

## What if my cat is still unwilling to get into the carrier?

- Place the carrier in a small room with little/no hiding places and calmly open the carrier and try coaxing your cat with treats and/or toys. You may also try placing your cat in, with the rear feet first.
- In a small room, try removing the top of the carrier and calmly setting your cat in the bottom half, then quickly placing the top back onto the carrier.
- If your cat is significantly stressed about his/her carrier you may consider a synthetic pheromone (Feliway®) to help reduce stress. Place your cat in a small room with the carrier and spray Feliway® in and around the carrier about 30 minutes prior to attempting to place your cat into the carrier. This synthetic pheromone can be very helpful to calm anxious cats. Feliway® is available through your veterinarian.

## Additional tips:

- Cats do not learn from punishment or force but rather from rewards. Be sure to provide positive rewards (treats, toys, catnip) for the desired behavior. Keep the carrier familiar and be consistent.