

Getting Your Cat to the Vets

Providing good preventative health care can allow your cat to live a more comfortable life, which cannot happen unless they see a vet for needed care. You are an important member of your cat's healthcare team and you can assist your cat to have a more relaxed veterinary visit and improved health care.

Cats are most comfortable in familiar surroundings; a visit to the vets is often difficult because the carrier, car and the veterinary surgery are usually unfamiliar surroundings, which may cause them to become fearful or anxious.

Stay calm as they will pick up on your anxiety or frustration if you try to force them into the carrier. Instead reward your cat with a treat for sitting calmly in or near the carrier. A treat is whatever is most desirable to your cat, it maybe in the form of food, play or affection. The goal is for your cat to associate the carrier with positive experiences and routinely enter voluntarily. Make the carrier a familiar place at home by leaving it open in a room your cat spends a lot of time in. Place familiar soft bedding in the carrier or an article of clothing with your scent on - this can make them feel more secure. Place treats, catnip or toys inside the carrier to encourage them to explore the carrier. It may take days or weeks before the cat enters the carrier willingly. Remain calm, patient and reward desired behaviour.

Consider using a synthetic feline facial pheromone inside the carrier – ask our customer care staff in reception if you would like to purchase the product.

Getting Your Unwilling Cat into the carrier

If your cat requires urgent veterinary attention and there is not enough time to familiarise them with the carrier. Place the cat and carrier into a small room with few hiding places. The best carriers are inexpensive hard sided carriers that open at the front and the top. Open the top of your carrier, place the familiar bedding inside, and apply the feline facial pheromone to the inside of the carrier. Then, without chasing the cat, gently cradle her in your arms and lower her into the carrier. Secure the top and door of the carrier and place in the car using the seatbelt to keep your cat safe during the journey and to reduce the bumpiness of the car ride. Some cats prefer to look out of the carrier; others like to have a blanket over the top and not witness the unfamiliar.

When you arrive at the Practice, let reception know you are ready for the consultation. You may prefer to wait in the car with your cat and a member of the team will come out and collect you when the vet is ready to see your cat.

If you have a carrier with a removable top it may be possible for the cat to stay in the carrier base once the top has been removed to facilitate a stress free clinical examination.

We can arrange a home visit for vaccinations and routine health assessment if attending the Practice is far too difficult for your cat. Please contact the customer care team to arrange a convenient day and time.