



**Utrecht
University**

**University
Animal Hospital**

Travel Tips for the cat on the road

You will soon be coming to our clinic with your cat. Transporting in a carrier from your home to our clinic can be stressful for your cat. With the tips in this leaflet - for at home, on the road and when you arrive at the clinic - we want to help you limit your cat's stress.

TIPS FOR AT HOME

You can get your cat used to a carrier at an early age, for example, by doing the following:

Put a favorite blanket in the carrier

A good start is to put a favorite blanket in the travel basket. Your cat recognizes the fine material, the shape and of course its own scent. This way, the travel basket will soon be attractive to explore further and may become a new favorite hole to lie in.

Practice closing the door

During the day, put kibble or toys in the basket to entice your cat to go in. Is the cat in the basket every now and then? Practice closing the door. Both older and younger cats can be used to a carrier. Take your time and don't rush it!

Leave the carrier in the house

Make the travel basket one of the regular lying spots, next to other baskets or shelves in the house. So leave the carrier when you are back home. It may happen that you have to go to the clinic urgently.

TIPS FOR THE ROAD

Our advice is not to take out the basket alone when you have to take the cat to an appointment. As a result, cats may link the carrier to an unpleasant experience (examination in the clinic) and see it as something to avoid. Therefore, leave the bed in the house with a nice rug that has the scent of your cat. And further:

Transport your cat with a rug or pad

In any case, never transport your cat in an empty bed without any covering. In case of pee/diarrhea problems, you can put a pad over the rug.

Try using a towel over the carrier

For an extra safe 'hole' feeling, you can put a blanket or towel over the carrier (provided your cat is not short of breath).

Try with a spray

There are sprays that mimic the natural pheromones that are released when your cat heads or scratches a pole, for example. This scent indicates that the object or space is safe.

'Lubricate' the carrier

However, you can also stroke a few cotton balls or a piece of fabric along your cat's cheek or jawline and use it to 'rub' the carrier. Or put it in the rug, provided the cat can't eat it.

What music does your cat like?

Avoid loud music and/or noise in the car. Animals respond well to classical music, but music with l

TIPS FOR THE CLINIC

Place the carrier on the counter

Are you alone? Then you can put the carrier on the counter upon arrival, so that your cat does not have to stand on the floor between dogs in the waiting room. After registering, you can go to the special cat waiting room. They will point this out to you at the reception.

Are you with several people? Then one person can report to the desk and the other(s) can already take a seat with the cat in the cat waiting room.

Use the special shelf for the 'cat parking'

In the cat waiting room, you can place the carrier on one of the special shelves of the 'cat parking'. Instead of placing the bed on the floor, place it on this shelf, with the opening facing the window so that your cat can look out. Or cover the basket with a rug or towel.

If necessary, ask for the special trolley against shaking

When your cat is picked up for the examination, this is usually done with the special trolley to prevent shaking back and forth as much as possible. You can also ask about this.

Making the whole experience completely stress-free is unlikely to work, but together we can ensure that your cat's stress is kept to a minimum. We hope to welcome you and your cat to our clinic.

CONTACT

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday 08.00 – 16.30

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For the most up-to-date information and directions:
www.diergeneeskunde.nl