



**Utrecht
University**

**University
Animal Hospital**

Travel Tips for the cat on the road

Soon you and your cat will be coming to our clinic. 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

Get your cat used to a carrier early on, for example, by doing the following:

Put a favorite blanket in the carrier

Start with putting a favorite blanket in the travel basket. Your cat recognizes the material, the shape and of course its own scent. This way, the carrier will soon be attractive to explore further and may even become your cat's new favourite den.

Practice closing the door

During the day, put kibble or toys in the basket to entice your cat to go in. Does your cat lie in the carrier for longer periods of time? Practice closing the door. Both older and younger cats can be trained to get used to a carrier. Take your time and don't rush it!

Leave the carrier in the house

Turn the carrier into one of the regular lying spots in the house, next to other carriers or shelves in the house. So leave the carrier open for your cat(s) to use it when you get 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 carrier only 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 carrier in the house with a nice blanket that has absorbed the scent of your cat. And further:

Transport your cat with a blanket or pad

Never transport your cat in a carrier without any bedding. In case of incontinence/diarrhea problems, you can put a special pad on top of the blanket.

Cover the carrier

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

Use a special spray

There are sprays that mimic the natural pheromones that are released when your cat rubs/strokes its head against you or an object. This scent indicates that the object or space is safe. You can buy these at your veterinary clinic or pet shop.

However, you can also rub a few cotton balls or a piece of fabric along your cat's cheek or jawline and use it to 'rub' the scent on the carrier. Or put under the blanket, 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 loud bass or high pitched guitars can cause stress.

TIPS FOR AT 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 wait on the floor among dogs present 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 '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 carrier on the floor, place it on this shelf, with the opening facing the window so that your cat can look out. Or cover the carrier with a rug or towel.

If necessary, ask for the special trolley

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 may not be possible, 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