



Transporting your cat

Travelling for cats can be a highly anxious period for both cats and their owners. Here are some tips to help.

The carrier:

Providing a safe, comfortable and secure carrier is number 1.

- The best carriers are made of hard plastic, they don't collapse and are easier to clean than soft or woven carriers.
- They should be well ventilated but also provide cover for the cat, slats on the side and a cage door.
- Carriers with a removable top are excellent, both for use at home (can be used as a bed) and for removal or examination at the vet.
- Carriers should be big enough for your cat to stand up, lay down and turn around in.
- Carriers should ideally be carried in both arms or wheeled on 4 wheels, backpack carriers and 2 wheeled carriers have too much motion and have limited size due to their orientation.

We have shared the international cat care infographic at the end of this article which helps show the ideal carrier.

At Home:

We have all had the situation, the carrier comes out, the cat disappears. We want to avoid the negative association of the carrier and transport.

Ideally using the carrier, either intact or with its lid off as a bed, will make it part of the regular environment and routine.

Alternatively bringing the carrier out at random intervals and use it to provide treats and rewards can help (cat carriers can make excellent toy boxes for spare cat toys!)

Bringing the carrier out 1-3 days before travel is expected can also help.

In Transport:

Provide soft absorbent bedding, even the most fastidious of cats can have accidents en route, having spare clean bedding for the return journey “just in case” is also useful.

Depending on your cat, and what they are being transported for, providing some treats or toys can help distract them

Providing additional cover in transport to help your cat feel hidden is great, a towel or bedding over the cage can help your cat feel secure.

Using these tips we hope to provide a less anxious trip for your loved ones and less stress for you.

Wishing you all good health

Dr Tony

Cat friendly resources to support TRAVEL

