



Our goal is that your kitten will have a positive experience with us and we'll be happy to continue to come to visit. We look forward to many happy healthy years with your new friend. Many of these tips are useful for your adult cat as well.

Choosing a carrier

- ❖ **Hard sided plastic**
 - ❖ Most durable
 - ❖ Supportive
 - ❖ Easily cleaned
 - ❖ May be bulky
 - ❖ Multi-purposed
 - ❖ Multi openings
 - ❖ Carriers that open from the top and the front are useful for gently removing the cat from the carrier
- ❖ **Soft Sided**
 - ❖ Not as durable
 - ❖ Can be torn by nails
 - ❖ Some cats can push through the zippers
 - ❖ Not as supportive
 - ❖ Hard to clean
 - ❖ Hard to remove cat from the carrier due to floppiness of the sides
- ❖ **Rolling suitcase style**
 - ❖ Roomy
 - ❖ Most visible option for the cat
 - ❖ This may cause anxiety with some cats
 - ❖ Best for heavier cats or for people that have a hard time carrying objects
 - ❖ Hard to clean
 - ❖ Some cats may not like the sound or feeling of being rolled around in the carrier

Adjusting to the carrier

- ❖ Helping your kitten feel safe and comfortable with the carrier
 - ❖ Leave the carrier out at all times with the door off
 - ❖ Place a blanket & toy for comfort
 - ❖ Feed your kitten in the carrier
 - ❖ Take the carrier out and leave door open a few days before an appointment

Travel time

- ❖ Place a blanket & toy for comfort
- ❖ Cover the carrier with a towel or blanket
 - ❖ This will reduce stress and stimulation
- ❖ Use a separate carrier for each cat
 - ❖ This will prevent any stress related aggression
 - ❖ This can be present even with close relationships between the cats
- ❖ Use Feliway
 - ❖ When comfortable and happy, cats mark their territory by rubbing their face against corners, furniture, people, or other cats at home.
 - ❖ These “happy messages” that are release upon facial rubbing provides calming and comfort message to cats
 - ❖ Feliway mimics the natural feline “happy messages” helping cats adjust to
 - ❖ Pace of family life
 - ❖ New changes in the environment
 - ❖ Restores calm
 - ❖ May help decrease urine spraying, scratching and hiding

At the Veterinarian office

- ❖ Try to keep the carrier off the floor
 - ❖ Place the carrier on an empty chair
 - ❖ Place the carrier on your lap
 - ❖ Place cat carrier under the chair with your legs in front of the carrier to avoid unwanted attention from other pets, if no other option

- ❖ Avoid setting the carrier
 - ❖ Near the door
 - ❖ Next to a dog
 - ❖ Another cat

- ❖ To distract your kitten during the exam and vaccinations bring
 - ❖ A hungry kitten
 - ❖ Special treats/a small amount of food

- ❖ Once in the exam room leave the kitten in the carrier until the doctor arrives

- ❖ During the exam we may
 - ❖ Try to distract your kitten with treats or play time
 - ❖ Use a towel with handling
 - ❖ This helps to distract and minimizes stress