

## **How to get you cat to like or at least not fight the cat carrier?**

If you have owned or own a cat, you know how difficult it can be to coerce our best friend into a carrier. The vet appointment is next week, and you are already dreading the carrier “battle”. How can we make this less stressful for all parties involved? Now is the perfect time to revisit some things that can help make the pet carrier a happy place to spend some time while in transit.

### **Important things to consider when purchasing a carrier.**

- When selecting a new carrier, there are lots of shapes, frame types, and materials to choose from.
- Make sure the all the handles and straps are securely attached.
- Also make sure the carrier is comfortable for you to carry and is sturdy with strong bottoms and sides.
- Put a bag of cat food in the carrier and walk around the store see how the carrier feels with weight inside. (Is it comfortable to carry)
- The size of the carrier you purchase is important. Keep in mind your cat wants to feel safe. There should be enough room for your cat to sit or lay down comfortably.
- Depending upon the pet, is a soft- or hard-shell carrier more appropriate
- While some cats do not travel well, your cat may become ill. You may opt for a plastic shell carrier. These can be washed or wiped out easier than a fabric carrier.
- If your cat does get motion sickness often the smaller the “windows” of the carrier the less likely motion sickness will affect your cat
- Some cats do not like to see out others love to have all the windows and screens possible.
- Look for a carrier with two “doors”. One opening on the top and an opening on the side. This makes it easier to place your cat in the carrier and makes the veterinarians visits easier.

Now your new kitten or cat is home with the best carrier choice.

- Each cat needs their own carrier. I had 3 cats and 8 carriers, they seemed to pick their own favorites.
- Leave the carrier out all the time in view of your cat.
- Let the carrier be his bed, a place to hide when things get crazy around the house.
- Incorporate toys and play in and around the carrier. Keep some toys in the carrier.
- Make sure the carrier is comfortable, with a blanket inside. Keep an extra blanket near the carrier to use as a cover when you travel. Cats are not real crazy about being carried into the vets and the first thing they see is a DOG!! An extra blanket will come in very handy in more than one way.
- Provide treats in the carrier.
- Create non-stressful happy memories are in the carrier not just the veterinarians or the groomers memories.

You have done all the above and you still are having the carrier battles. Now what?

In worse case wrap you cat in a blanket and place him in the carrier from the top door. It may help to temporarily cover his face.

For more complete information about your cat check out the Catalyst Council.  
<http://catalystcouncil.org/resources>

