

Our practice has made the commitment to you and your cat by becoming a Cat Friendly Practice



Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian

Providing quality health care for your cat is very important which means yearly veterinary visits for you and your cat. It is difficult sometimes to identify when your cat's not feeling well because cats are very good at hiding their illnesses. Unfortunately many cats do not enjoy going to the veterinarian. It can be a stressful event on both you and your cat. The following tips will hopefully make veterinary visits easier starting with a sturdy, secure carrier:



Step One: Getting Your Cat Familiar with the Carrier

Get your cat comfortable with the carrier by placing it in a familiar area of your home and allow your cat access at all times by leaving the door open. Place blankets and treats inside so your cat will associate the carrier with a positive experience. Cats are very scent driven animals and can become easily stressed if their carriers have unfamiliar scents from being stored in the garage or basement. Be patient as it may take time for your cat to be comfortable with their carrier. Once the carrier is part of their environment they will hopefully feel more at ease when placed inside.

Step Two: Car Rides

Start with taking your cat on short trips around the block to get them used to riding in the car. You can gradually increase the length of trips and get them used to the idea that car rides do not always equal the veterinarian. Covering their carrier during transport can also decrease stress. Also avoid feeding them prior to travel especially if your cat vomits or soils themselves in the carrier. Pheromone based products such as Feliway brand can be used by spraying or wiping the inside of the carrier approximately 30 minutes before travel. The pheromones have a calming affect and decrease stress.



Step Three: The Veterinary Office

Once inside the veterinary office avoid placing your carrier near potential threats such as a barking dog or loud noises. It is also better to place the carrier on a secure, elevated surface away from the floor. Again covering the carrier will help decrease visual threats and make them more comfortable. If your cat is highly stressed at the veterinarian you can temporarily leave them in the car while you check in with the front desk. Ask if you can be placed directly into a room so your cat can avoid the waiting room and most likely have a better veterinary experience.

Step Four: The Trip Home

Returning home can be problematic because cats are very sensitive to smells. The other cats in your home may not recognize the returning cat and react negatively. Upon returning home leave your cat in their carrier for a few minutes to see how the other cats will react to them. If tension is sensed it is best to put the returning cat into a closed room with a food, water and litter box for several hours so they will pick up the scent of your home again. Feliway brand plug-ins or sprays work well in these types of situations.



We use Feliway plug-ins through out our clinic to help ease our cat patients stress. For more information on Feliway brand products visit their website at www.feliway.us.

For more information on getting your cat to the veterinarian please call our office to speak to our feline advocate at 315-478-3161 or email us at felinefriendly@stackvethospital.com