

CAT CARRIER ISSUES

We have noticed that your new kitty does not enjoy being placed in their carrier. This may mean you'll have difficulty getting them into their carrier for vet visits, but following the steps below will help them feel more comfortable going into their crate.

When you are shopping for a carrier, you'll want to look for one that opens from both the top and the front- this will make it easier to get your cat in and out. There are hard and soft carrier options that will fit your needs, but a hard sided carrier is best when you are just starting out.

Cats are wary of new and unfamiliar things, so you will want to get use your cat used to their crate BEFORE they need to go to the vet or transported. To familiarize them with their new carrier, you can follow these easy steps:



- **Place the carrier in a favorite area with a soft bed or towel inside.**
- **Feed kitty in the carrier,** or toss treats in the carrier several times a day so they will associate it with good things (food).
- **Leave the door open at first when they are eating or going after the treats.** When they intentionally start entering the carrier on their own, you can shut the carrier door for short periods of time and gradually increase the time that the door is closed- start with a few seconds at first.
- **You can also play with chaser toys inside and around the carrier if the cat is interested in play** (chasing laser pointer or wand toy inside the crate then back out)
- **Keep the carrier out and in plain view,** you don't want to bring it out only when your cat is going to be transported.

If your cat still is not adjusting you can follow these steps to get them safely into the carrier.

- **Place the carrier upright so the door is facing the ceiling,** or open the top of the carrier.
- **Pick them up under their front legs,** with your other hand supporting their bottom
- **Lower your cat rear-end first into the carrier.** Doing it this way will make him feel like he isn't being forced in.
- **Cover the carrier with a towel when transporting to keep him calm**