



# TEN TRAVEL TIPS

## WHEN TAKING YOUR CAT TO THE VET

**1 Never travel with your cat loose in the car**

**2 Choose a robust carrier**

that opens from the top and the front, and can also be taken apart in the middle (an easily removable top allows an anxious cat to be examined, while remaining in the bottom half). Focus on the practical and functional features and avoid fancy and often expensive carriers.

**3 It's good practice to leave the carrier out at home**

allowing it to become a familiar place for your cat.

**4 Make the carrier as comfortable and familiar as possible**

by putting in some clothing with your scent or your cat's scent (you can gently wipe a soft cloth on your cat's face to pick up her scent). Spray some synthetic feline pheromone on the clothing at least 30 minutes prior to departure. Your cat may be sick or may soil the carrier during the journey, so it is a good idea to take some spare bedding for the drive back home.

**5 To get your cat into the carrier, if she doesn't enter spontaneously, you should calmly take your cat and lower her into the carrier through the top opening**

Alternatively you could remove the top half of your carrier and replace it after your cat gets into the bottom half. If your cat is really unwilling to get in the carrier, you can wrap her in a thick towel (containing her scent or sprayed pheromone), then lower the cat and the towel into the carrier.

*Good to know*



*During transportation, it is important to safely place the cat carrier in your car so that it does not move around and your cat does not get stressed.*

**6 Once in the car, prevent the carrier from being shaken**

during the ride either by securing it in the foot well behind the front seat or with the seat belt. Drive carefully; avoid loud and aggressive music; talk quietly to your cat to reassure her. **The quieter the owner, the calmer the cat.** Some cats like to see out, but most of them will appreciate it if you keep the carrier covered with a towel during the journey.

**7 When you walk from your car into the clinic, try to avoid shaking the carrier or bumping it against your legs**

**8 Upon arriving at the clinic, ask the receptionist where to sit and place the carrier**

We recommend a high surface with the front end of the carrier toward you (rather than towards other cats!) and to keep the carrier covered with a towel when in the reception area.

**9 You should follow the same protocol on the journey home**

**10 If you own several cats you should take a few extra precautions when bringing one of them back home**

Leave your returning cat in the carrier for a few minutes and see how the other cats react. If all cats remain calm, you can open the carrier and let your cat join her roommates. If you sense tension between your cats, it is probably because the returning cat bears odors from the practice. If this happens, keep your returning cat in a separate room (of course, with a litter box, food and fresh water) for a minimum of 24 hours to regain a more familiar smell.

*Good to know*



*It is important to choose a carrier with a upper half that can be removed.*