

K.C. CAT CLINIC
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CARRIERS, VETERINARY CLINICS AND YOUR CAT

There are lots of reasons to bring your cat to our office in a carrier. Our concerns are for your safety as well as your cat's. You can be seriously injured while handling your cat if it becomes upset. Cats are programmed to be uncomfortable around other strange cats. That behavior keeps them safe in their natural environment. The sights and smells found in a veterinary clinic can produce a lot of stress and there is always the potential for a cat to become agitated. When cats become stressed, they can be unpredictable and sometimes bite or scratch. One of the cornerstones of the philosophy of our clinic is to constantly work to make cats less stressed. We know that one of the very best things that you can do for cats is to bring them to the vet in a carrier that will make their visit as easy for them as possible.

We know that a kitty may not like to go into the carrier at home, but 99% of the time they see the carrier as a little piece of heaven once they're at the vet. They'll scramble right back in after they've been out and been handled. We'll try to do as much as we can in the carrier if that's what your cat wants. You can make the carrier more appealing at home by making it attractive with toys and blankets in between vet visits. Cats that are acclimated to their carrier will go in much easier than those who only see it associated with the vet visit.

A proper carrier can give your cat a safe haven during the vet visit. Cats like to hide out in a sheltered space while still being able to see what is going on around them. The hard plastic carriers with a grate door seem to work the best. We can unscrew the top of the carrier and have access to the kitty with much less stress than having to pull them through a door. Soft sided carriers may work great in the car or on an airplane, but they are some of the least desirable carriers to take to the vet. Soft carriers don't allow good access to a kitty for an examination. Most of the time a cat has to be dragged out of a soft carrier. Think about how stressful that would be for you. It would be so much more pleasant to just take a top off of a rigid carrier and do the exam while kitty stays in the bottom that smells like home. Wicker and wire carriers often have the same problem. Your cat will really appreciate you choosing the best carrier to make the visit easier for them.

Controlling your cat's exposure to other cats that are ill is another good reason to use a carrier. Many times people will bring a cat that they are holding right up to the face of another cat. Cats aren't very fond of this kind of introduction. Keeping cats away from each other and off the floor will help decrease their stress and exposure to illness.

Once your cat is in the exam room, let us take your kitty from the carrier and do the handling. Even the sweetest cat at home can become frightened and injure their owners at the vet. We expect a certain amount of anxiety and we have done a lot of study and preparation to make the best choices to create less stressful vet visits. We want to make the visit as well tolerated as possible for your cat.