

## GETTING YOUR PET TO THE VETS

Cats are territorial, scent sensitive and self-reliant so taking them to the vets can be very stressful and scary. Cats become very attached to their own area and unfamiliar scents can be very scary. Here are some tips to help reduce this.

### Getting them used to the basket

- Leaving the basket out so that they can get used to it and don't associate it with going to the vets and negative experience.
- Feed them treat in the carrier so it becomes a fun and inviting place to be.
- The link from isfm:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Ube2tn-qpc>

### The Journey



### Best kind of carrier



- A carrier should be front and top opening so that cats can enter on their own accord and if they won't go in by themselves, we can pop them in from the top.
  - The top part of the carrier should come away from the bottom part so that the patient can be examined in the carrier if needed. This can make them feel more secure as it has a familiar smell of home.
  - The carrier should be sturdy plastic so the patient is not able to escape but the carrier is easily cleaned.
  - Blankets from home should be placed in the carrier so that it smells familiar, this will help the patient feel safe. Remember to leave room for your cat!
  - Remember 1 cat to each carrier.
- Make sure that the carrier is held in place by the seat belt. This will help them to feel more secure and safe for the journey. It will prevent the carrier from moving about too much.
  - Drive carefully, leave in plenty time so there is less motion. As the cat is not in control of the motions this can be very stressful experience.
  - A cat that feels in control is a less scared and anxious.

### Blankets



- We recommend covering the carrier with a familiar blanket or towel so that the cat can feel hidden and safe. It means when they arrive at the surgery, they don't have to see any dogs or other cats.
- It would be good to take a spare towel/blanket that smells of home and it could also have been sprayed with Feliway in case they soil the carrier.

### Feliway



- Feliway is a pheromone spray that helps reduce stress in cats.
- We would recommend that you spray the carrier at least 15 minutes before leaving. The reason we leave it 15 minutes is because the pheromones delivered in alcohol and this is not a pleasant smell for the patient.
- It lasts up to 4 hours.

**Once you arrive at the surgery please register with reception and take a seat in the cat waiting area on the left. Place your cat on the shelf away from other cats until called to your appointment. If you feel that it is too noisy you are more than welcome to wait in the car and a member of staff will come and get you when it's your appointment.**