



Transporting Your Cat

Proper Planning Can Make the Experience Better and Less Stressful for Both You and Your Cat.

- *You will want to be sure that your cat is comfortable, but safe. Keep your cat restrained in the car to avoid accidents.*
- *Choose a sturdy carrier that your cat can stand up in, stretch, and turn around easily. The carrier should have two openings, open quietly, and have an easily removable top. Cover the bottom of the carrier with padding that will not slide around, but will cover the floor of the carrier.*

Sleepypod Mobile Bed



Sportpet Travel Master



- *Staff favorites!*
- *Make the carrier a favorite place for your cat. When cats see their carriers as safe, enjoyable places, they're happy to go into them and feel safe even in unfamiliar environments. Try these tips to help you help your cat love his or her carrier:*
 1. *Leave the carrier out in your house so your cat can access it at any time.*
 2. *Make the carrier inviting by putting your cat's favorite bed, favorite blanket or toy in it.*
 3. *Every now and then, lay a few treats inside the carrier.*
- *You might consider acclimating your cat to a harness. When your cat is out of the carrier, a harness (not a collar) and leash will help keep them safe.*
- *Accustom your cat to spending time in the car. First, allow your cat to explore the car with the engine off. Then practice driving short distances to help your cat become comfortable in the car.*
- *If your carrier is not designed to be buckled in, the safest place for the carrier is behind the passenger seat on the floor. To learn more about carrier safety, visit the [Center for Pet Safety's Carrier Study Results here](#).*

Get Ready to Go

- *Spray the inside of the carrier and car with Feliway 20 minutes before you're ready to go. This mimics the pheromones that cats leave when they're comfortable and relaxed in their territory.*
- *Secure the carrier with a seatbelt. If you are in a car accident, you want your cat to be as safe as possible.*

On the Road

- *Save the errands for later. Never leave your cat alone in the car. The interior of a car will become too hot, very quickly, even when it doesn't seem hot outside.*

Consider Pre-medication or Other Calming Techniques.

- *Many cats become anxious in the car or while at the vet. Some cats also lose their patience quickly. To help us provide your cat with the best care, keeping them as calm as possible is key.*
- *Anti-anxiety medications given 2 hours prior to transport can make a big difference.*
- *Alternatives such as applying essential oil of lavender to a bandana or bedding, or calming pheromones such as Feliway spray, can also help decrease anxiety and can be useful for anxiety during car rides and vet visits.*
- *For more information see: [AAFP's Guideline publications on Feline Friendly Handling & Getting Your Cat to the Veterinarian](#).*
- *If your cat is prone to motion sickness, ask your vet to prescribe medication. The signs of a cat with motion sickness include:*
 1. *Crying or vocalizing that doesn't quit after a few minutes into the car ride.*
 2. *Excessive drooling and/or immobility.*
 3. *Acting afraid to move or excess activity or pacing.*
 4. *Vomiting, urinating or defecating in the car.*

Medicating Your Cat

- *If you have never given your cat medication for car travel or a vet visit before, give a test dose prior. Pick a day when you will be home with your pet for most of the day so you can best evaluate the effects.*
- *With some medications, your kitty may be a bit wobbly and slow but should not be overtly sedate. The sedative effect will slowly dissipate over 4-12 hours. After returning home, it might be best to confine your cat to a single room until fully recovered.*

Once Home

When you arrive home, your cat will be tired and happy to be home. Let him or her relax in a favorite spot and regroup.