



# TOP TEN TRAVEL TIPS

## WHEN BRINGING YOUR CAT TO YOUR VETERINARY PRACTICE



From the Focus Special Edition written by Philippe Baralon,  
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**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, whilst remaining in the bottom half). Focus on the practical and functional features and avoid fancy and often expensive carriers. Feel free to ask our receptionist to show you one of our recommended carriers and to demonstrate how to use it.



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.*

**3** Leave the carrier at home in a place where it may be regarded by your cat as “part of furniture”

→ allowing it to become a familiar place.

**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 facial pheromone (Feliway™) – available at the clinic – on the clothing at least 30 minutes prior to departure. Don't forget 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 they will not enter themselves, calmly take your cat and lower them 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 them in a thick towel (containing their scent or sprayed pheromone), then lower the cat and the towel into the carrier.

**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 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 to the practice's reception area, try to avoid shaking the carrier or bumping it against your legs

**8** Once in the reception area, ask our receptionist to show you where to sit and how to rest the carrier

→ we have a dedicated reception area for cat owners with specific places where you can put the carrier next to you. **We strongly recommend having 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, of course, 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 their roommates. If you sense tension between your cats, it is probably because the returning cat bears odours from the practice. Should this happen, 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 an upper half that can be removed.*