

Bringing Your Cat to the Vet:

- Have a carrier where the top can be removed.
 - Makes it less stressful if you are able to remove the top instead of reaching in or tipping carrier.
- Recommend getting the carrier out 30min prior to when you need to leave for your appointment.
 - Gives pet time to approach carrier on their own.
- Allow cat to enter carrier on their own → entice with favorite bedding, toys and treats.
- Bring items with a familiar scent → bedding, toys.
- Once at the vet's office it is best to keep carriers off the floor and away from dogs if possible.
 - Helps to reduce unnecessary stress.
- Let staff know how your cat does at the vet (If we have never seen your pet before).
 - Allows staff to write comments on behavior in patient section of record so they can be better prepared to handle your cat.
- Iimportant to be aware of your actions and the effects it may have on your cat – important to remain positive and calm.
 - If you are anxious, nervous or fearful it can reflect on your cat.
- If you have another cat at home, it is important to reduce stress upon returning home.
 - Don't force interaction between cats when returning home.
 - Leave the returning cat in carrier to see how other cat(s) react → if no hissing or signs of aggression/fear returning cat may be released from carrier after about 5-10 minutes.
- Rehearse appointments with tech/nurse appointment to introduce pet to the hospital and staff.
 - Allows the pet to have a less stressful experience.
- Rehearse exams at home with praise and positive reinforcement.
 - Handle paws, look in ears, open mouth, feel legs and body, brush teeth, groom and trim nails.
- Take cat on occasional short car rides in the carrier.
 - Reduces stress since pet will become more familiar with car rides.
- Make the carrier a safe place.
 - Leave carrier out and open in a normal part of the cat's environment.
 - Use a product, such as Feliway, to reduce stress/anxiety about carrier.
 - Train cat to the carrier → feed in carrier, have a nice blanket, give toys & treats.
- Staying calm and positive.
 - Your pet can sense your emotion, so if you can stay calm and positive it will help make the experience better for your cat.

