

# How to help **YOUR CAT** have pleasant **Veterinary Visits**

Does your cat face veterinary visits with fear and dread?

“Scaredy cats” are welcome here...but our goal is to turn “scaredy cats” into “cool cats” when visiting our office. This enables them to receive the veterinary care they need without the anxiety, fear, and dread.

**Fear** is the primary cause of negative behaviors cats may express during veterinary visits. Just knowing this can help prevent problematic veterinary visits.

## Helpful hints for **CATS AND CARRIERS**

Carriers that have both a top and a front opening are best. Top-loading carriers allow for stress-free placement and removal of the cat. A removable carrier top enables cats to be examined while remaining in the bottom half of the carrier.

- Keep the carrier out in the home. Put treats inside.
- Train cats to view the carrier as a safe haven and “home away from home.”
- Do not “dump” a cat out of the carrier.

## Helpful hints for **ADJUSTING TO CAR RIDES**

- Always put the cat in a carrier or other safe container.
- Take the cat for regular car rides.
- To prevent car sickness, do not feed before traveling.
- Reward verbally, with positive attention, and with treats.



## Helpful hints for **PLEASANT VETERINARY VISITS**

- Bring along the cat’s favorite treats, toys, and blanket.
- Perform regular home maintenance procedures, including grooming, nail trimming, and teeth brushing.
- “Play vet” procedures that mimic temperature taking, ear cleaning, and pilling can help cats better adjust to the veterinary hospital and to future home care when necessary.
- Regular trips to the veterinary hospital for “fun” visits involving no examinations or procedures provide owners and staff with the opportunity to reward the cat with praise and food treats.

Please visit “The Scratching Post”, our feline only waiting area. This area was designed to enhance your pet’s visit to our clinic. We especially encourage cats who are fearful of dogs to use the side entrance labeled “Feline Entrance” and enjoy the waiting/play area. If you have additional suggestions for how we can make your cat’s visit more comfortable, please let us know.