



Teach your cat to love the carrier

A cat carrier is a safe way to transport your cat, yet most cats perceive it as a fearful experience. When stressed, some cats become more vocal and hyperactive, while others may freeze, depending on their personality and coping strategy. Learning to recognise a cat's fear body language can help you to be a more prepared pet owner. With the correct setup, handling and teaching methods, cats can actually learn to enjoy their experience in the crate and during travelling.

Find an ideal carrier

- Has 2 exit points: at the front and on top
- Contains a perch that clips to the base and the perch is removable. Some crates use screws to secure the perch, make sure they are free of rust and removable.



Comfortable bedding

Place it in the crate, such as a towel, a fluffy mat, or bedding your cat already loves

Keep the crate out

in a private and safe (even surface that does not create noise, or is not easily fall off) location all the time and take the door off. The purpose is to make it a "safe haven" and accessible for your cat all the time. This allows your cat to interact with the carrier voluntarily. This learning method is called desensitisation.

Lure your cat inside

the crate by using food (meals) and treats. You can begin with scattering food around and in the crate. This allows your cat to learn that whenever they interact with the carrier, good things happen. For fearful cats or cats who had previous negative experiences with the carrier, place food outside, but near the crate and bring it closer to encourage them to peacefully eat near, and eventually inside, the crate. This learning method is called operant conditioning.

Practice daily

to make this a new habit or daily routine. This will reduce fear of the carrier significantly.

Take your time

Never force your cat. Spend weeks or even months creating this safe haven for your cat.





Bonus tips!



- Use a calming pheromone**
Feliway spray that soothes anxious cats. Spray 8-10 sprays on the bedding 10-15 minutes before the cat goes in. The effects last about 2 hours after spraying.
- Use a cue**
to ask your cat to walk into the carrier such as “in your crate” or “inside”. Reward your cat for walking in the carrier. This will become a fun game for the cat!
- Increase duration**
When your cat is not hesitant or fearful of the crate, shut the door for short periods of time (3 seconds to begin with) and make your cat aware of it. Reward them with treats just being calm in there. For duration training, place a long-lasting stuffed food puzzle inside the carrier for them to focus on.
- Place the carrier in a higher location**
on furniture or on top of a shelf, as most cats like being up high rather than on the ground.
- When you move the carrier**
hold it with both hands and lift the weight evenly and carefully without jostling or bumping in the way you could carry a fragile present.
- Mock car travel practice**
Place your cat and the carrier in the car without starting the car. This allows your cat to learn that the crate is still a safe haven in a different context.
- When travelling**
cover the carrier with a towel on the outside to keep them from spotting unusual movement (scary things) happening around them.

