

Wignall Animal Hospital
1837 Bridge Street
Dracut, MA 01826
(978) 454-8272



Lowell Veterinary Clinic
951 Broadway Street
Lowell, MA 01854
(978) 454-0044

GETTING YOUR CAT TO THE VET!

Our Professional Staff is available to answer all your questions and are happy to help you learn more about your cat's health. If you can help your cat to feel more comfortable about car travel and trips to the Vet, it will help you to be more relaxed too!

Some Quick Tips for Getting Your Cat to the Vet to Make It A Pleasant Experience:

- *Help your cat feel more comfortable by “pretending” to do routine veterinary procedures at home such as touching his/her feet, trimming nails, cleaning ears, and brushing his/her teeth.*
- *Stop by the clinic with your cat when you don't have an appointment, just to weigh him/her and reward with a treat afterwards.*
- *Ask us for help with these home-care activities, especially if something is not working for you. Our goal is to help you feel confident and comfortable with the transport process. With practice, you will ...and your kitty will be too!*

How should I transport my cat?

A cat carrier is the safest way to transport your cat anywhere. Because your cat can get frightened by new sounds, smells, temperature changes and other stimulating things, he/she will feel safer being in a familiar place such as the carrier.

What if my cat really hates the cat carrier?

Although your cat may protest going into the carrier, it really is the most dependable method for his/her travel to the vet AND the best option while waiting in the Waiting Room.

How can I make the cat carrier more comfortable and appealing to my cat?

Make the carrier a normal part of everyday life:

- Keep it in a place where your cat can see it all the time.
- Encourage your cat to go into the carrier just to take a nap or have a treat.
- Keep toys, a favorite pillow or blanket inside the carrier.

What should I consider when choosing a carrier?

- Convenience
- Durability
- Comfort

Carrier Convenience:

- Choose a style that is easy for you to handle.
- Carriers with top loading AND side loading are best because they offer you and your cat flexibility for loading.
- Choose a carrier that is light weight enough to be easy for you to lift when it is empty AND when your cat is inside.
- Test out the carrier at home after you buy it, before you need to use it for a trip to the vet. If it's not right for you, return it and try a different style

Carrier Durability:

- The carrier should be sturdy enough to bear the weight of your cat without straining at the seams or places where there is a handle or other hardware.
- A cleanable surface is a must. Most carriers are made of hard washable plastic or soft-sided, padded washable vinyl.

Carrier Comfort:

- Never dump your cat out of or into the carrier. This creates anxiety about the carrier.
- Consider a carrier whose top comes off and enable your cat to stay in the bottom half during his/her examination!
- Keep soft, padded bedding inside the carrier to make it an inviting place to travel.

How can I help my cat get adjusted to car rides?

- Take your cat for rides in the carrier other than just to the Vet.
- Start with short rides and gradually extend the rides to a longer distance.
- ***Never leave your cat unattended in your car! Heat and cold can place your cat in serious danger.***
- Cats travel best on an empty stomach, therefore plan your car rides for several hours after your cat has eaten.
- If your vet appointment is in the morning, refrain from feeding your cat his/her breakfast. We will want to reward him/her during the appointment by giving treats!
- End each car ride with lots of praise, petting and a healthy treat!