

# The Right Cat Carrier

A visit to the vet is very stressful for most cats. If the cat carrier used for transport is unsuitable, it will add to the unease. If, on top of that, the cat has to be dragged out of an inappropriate basket in the examination room, frustration for everyone involved is inevitable. Choosing the right carrier can therefore have a positive impact on how well a vet visit is experienced by everyone involved.

## Buying the right cat carrier

- It can be opened quickly and quietly from both the front and the top (such as a flap or removable lid), allowing for stress-free removal of the cat.
- It is very sturdy and escape-proof.
- The material is easy to clean (e.g. plastic), as cats often defecate, urinate, or vomit when stressed.

## Integrating the cat carrier

- Try and integrate the carrier at home for everyday use to ensure that this is not a strange object for your cat and allow it to build up a positive relationship to it.
- A soft lined carrier which can be placed next to the scratching post in the living room, for example, might be used by your cat as a cat cave and a safe haven.
- If the cat finds a treat or an exciting toy in the box from time to time, the carrier will be accepted more easily and will not be associated with bad experiences.

## Preparing for your visit to the vet

- Line the box with a terry towel and/or absorbent disposable pads. These can be changed and disposed of quickly if necessary. Always take a few spare pads with you as a reserve.
- If your cat gets cold quickly or is older, pad the box with an additional soft, washable blanket.
- Always cover the box with a cloth during the journey and later in the waiting room. Covering the box will give your cat a sense of security.
- You can apply a few drops of feel-good pheromones (e.g. Feliway, Pet Remedy) to the cover. These also help the cat to feel less anxious.

## In the waiting room at the vet

- Whenever possible, do not place the box on the floor. Keep it on your lap or place it on a raised surface. This is especially important if it is a mixed waiting room and dog patients are also waiting there. Height gives your cat a little more security in the presence of its 'enemy'.

## Tip!

Please ensure you check again and again whether the box is actually securely shut: at home, in the car and at the vet. Cats can display immense strength when frightened. A loose cage door can then be pushed open quickly. If this happens, it can have fatal consequences in the car, outside or at the vet, so it's better to be a little 'paranoid' than suffer the consequences.



**Because every life matters!**