



JONESVILLE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Acclimating Your Cat To A Cat Carrier

Choosing a carrier:

- Hard-sided carriers are best for just starting out. Get one that opens from both the top and the front.
- Soft-sided carriers are lighter-weight, smaller and easier to handle. These open from both the top and the side.
- Regardless of which carrier you choose, make sure you get one that can be easily taken apart. This is imperative for cats that won't come out on their own, or for cats that are sick or in pain.

Familiarizing your cat with the carrier:

- Set the carrier in a desirable place for your cat (in the sun, or on a favorite sofa).
- Put a blanket or soft, absorbent towel in the bottom.
- Place a few of your cat's kibbles or a treat in the carrier.
- Use a pheromone spray or wipe (such as Feliway) in the carrier to help calm your cat.
- Leave the door open and let your cat get comfortable going in and out.
- When your cat intentionally chooses the carrier as a preferred hiding place, you can close the door for small periods of time – just a few seconds at first.
- Make the carrier a comfortable resting, feeding or play location. Keep the transport carrier out and accessible in the home, not just when you're taking your cat somewhere.