

Choosing the Perfect Carrier

Feline Edition

Every cat should have a carrier not just to travel safely but to also feel safe.

A few things to keep in mind:



Carrier Structure

- ❖ Sturdy & impact-resistant (though soft sided is also acceptable).
- ❖ Solid sides to provide a visual shield to give your cat some privacy.
- ❖ Easily and safely able to secure the carrier in the vehicle.
- ❖ Has a solid floor.
- ❖ Easy to clean.
- ❖ Able to open from the top or the front to make it easier to remove the cat and put him back. Front opening also allows the cat to walk in and out with ease.

Must have carrier add-ons

- ❖ A clean blanket or towel inside for comfort and urine absorption if an accident happens.
- ❖ Feli-way spray
 - This calming pheromone will make your cat feel more at ease.

Do's and Don'ts

- ❖ **DON'T** force your cat to go in the box by scruffing, shoving or dropping – causing fear or pain will make the experience much more traumatic and cause fear-aversion of the carrier.
- ❖ **DO** allow your cat to willingly go into the carrier, keep it out at all times with the door open at home to allow your cat to explore it in his own time.
- ❖ **DO** gently scoop your cat up or wrap him in a towel to place in the carrier, bum first.
- ❖ **DO** place catnip, toys or treats in the carrier to ease your cat into liking his carrier and claiming it as his safe space.
- ❖ **DO** cover the carrier with a towel if your cat is afraid of the car or the outdoors.

Disclaimer:

Not all carriers are safe in case of a car accident. The Center for Pet Safety has done numerous tests to determine which carriers could withstand an impact, very few did. Even those that had been labeled with a "Crash Test Certified" had failed.

You may view these tests at <http://www.centerforpetsafety.org>