



## Carrier Training Your Cat

Most cats tend to have an obvious fear and dislike of being confined in a carrier. Yet, at some point in their life, every cat will have to be transported by one. Using some simple techniques, we can help our feline companions associate their carrier with positive experiences. The goal here is for your cat to routinely enter the carrier voluntarily.

Remember that a cat is more likely to voluntarily enter a larger carrier. Hard-sided carriers are less likely to have collapsing sides, and can therefore be more appealing.

- Always leave the carrier out and make it accessible to your cat. There is no need to remove the top. Simply leave the door open.
- Put in a blanket, towel, or bed.
- Occasionally, toss in your cat's favourite toys or treats to encourage them to go inside the carrier.
- Occasionally feed your cat inside the carrier.
- If your cat is familiar with a clicker, you can begin to train your cat to enter the carrier using a word or click.

If your cat has not had the opportunity to become comfortable with the carrier and you need to get your cat into a carrier on short notice, you can still take steps to make it a less stressful experience.

- Put the carrier into a small room that does not offer anywhere to hide but inside the carrier.
- Place a towel over the carrier.
- Put a blanket, towel, or bed inside that already has your cat's scent on it.
- Spritz the bedding with a pheromone or calming spray.
- Put a treat or two inside.

The goal is to get your cat to voluntarily enter the carrier and keep their stress to a minimum. When your cat is inside, give your cat a treat and close the door.

Whatever you do, do not chase the cat to get it into the carrier. If needed, remove the top of the carrier while encouraging the cat to go into the bottom tray, then calmly



replace the top.

If you find you need further support with making the carrier positive for your cat you can always call our behaviour outreach line at 403-723-6019 or book a consultation via our website <https://www.calgaryhumane.ca/what-we-do/animal-training/private-consultations/>