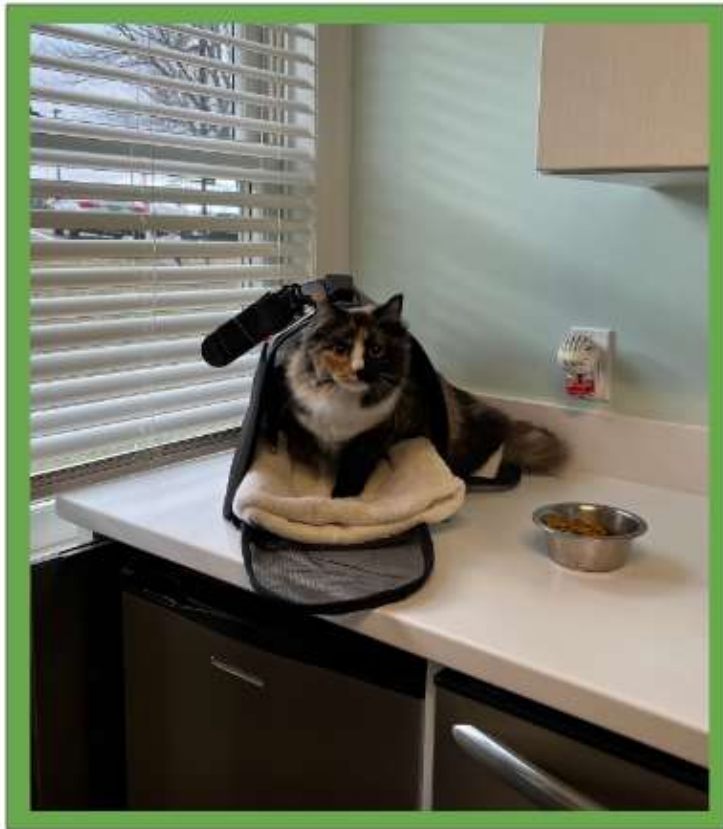


## Getting Your Cat to the Vet

Veterinary visits can be downright traumatic, especially for cats. If your pet is ill, you may have no choice but to put your cat in her carrier and drive away to your veterinarian's office. If you have time, however, a few easy preparations can help.



- Turn your cat's travel carrier into her safe space. Keep your cat carrier out and use it as a cat-cave and feeding area.
  - The best cat carriers open easily and flexibly to make the veterinary visit the least stressful. Easy-open butterfly carriers are available in our lobby.
  - Keep the carrier on a raised surface for discerning felines- cats like to look down on us ;)
  - Specifically designed cat pheromones can be sprayed or diffused into the area to help promote calm and comfortable feelings in your cat.
  - Soft bedding in the carrier will make it more welcoming.
  - Feed your cat near or in the carrier so that she associates tasty food with the carrier.
  - Start slow if you cat is already fearful of the carrier
  - Put food near the carrier, but not so close that she is worried by it

- Gradually move the carrier closer over days to weeks
- Leave the carrier out away from the food and litterbox areas at first if you have concerns that proximity of carrier will adversely affect eating or using the litterbox
- Practice giving a pill pocket type treat. Give these as treats with nothing else just before feeding time when your cat is the most hungry.
  - Once your cat is used to getting the pockets, you can slip in medications if needed.
- Fear Free medications may be prescribed for your pet. If your cat is used to getting pill pockets, slipping in the medication is more likely to be successful.

