



Choosing a Cat Carrier

It's easy to become overwhelmed by the large variety of cat carriers available. Here are some guidelines on how to choose what works best for your cat. Since a cat's first experience with going to the vet involves the carrier, it's important to make this as friendly as possible.

Size

Cats actually prefer small, dark places. It makes them feel safe and secure. If you just plan to use the carrier for short trips, choose a small carrier that your cat can fit comfortably in. If you will be making longer trips make sure the carrier is large enough for a small litter box, water, and food.

Material

Choose a material that is sturdy enough to hold your cat.



Some cats prefer a cloth-like material. Keep in mind that these carriers tend to be easier to escape from since cats can figure out how to unzip the door. You also need to make sure they don't collapse when you open them making it difficult to get your cat in or out.



Hard plastic carriers offer more structure and can support larger cats. They are also easier to clean. If you choose this type, choose one that is easy to take apart. This will allow you to remove the top and let your cat stay in the bottom half. This can make your cat much more comfortable at the vet's office.

Number of carriers

You should have one carrier per cat. In case of an emergency, you can take all the cats with you and each will get their own personal space.

Accessories

The most important accessory for your cat's carrier is a towel or blanket to cover it. This helps keep your cat relaxed. You also want to make sure there is a blanket or bed in the carrier to keep your cat from sliding in the car and to keep him more comfortable. Spray some Feliway® on the blanket or toss in some catnip to make it even better.