



Cats in Cars

Training your cat to be comfortable traveling in a car is possible, though it requires time and patience. However, the reward is a low stress car ride (a.k.a. not filled with yowling). You and your cat will both appreciate the effort you put in.

First Step

Get your cat used to a carrier. Consult our other article on how to accomplish this. If your cat is not comfortable in the carrier, he will never be comfortable in your car.

Second Step

Address any motion sickness. If your cat drools, vomits, or has diarrhea during a car ride, he may have motion sickness. We can recommend an herbal product that works great to control nausea and can easily be hidden in a treat.

Third Step

Plan on giving treats. Make sure your cat is training on an empty stomach. Use your cat's regular food as treats or try tempting treats such as Feline Greenies®. (If you use a treat, make sure that they are only 10% of your cat's entire diet to avoid unhealthy weight gain.) Throughout the training, offer treats to reinforce the carrier is still a source of food, regardless of where it is.

Get your cat used to the car. Start by putting the cat (in its carrier) into the car for short periods of time. Buckle the carrier in so it doesn't slide around.

Initially, keep the car turned off. Give plenty of treats! As your cat becomes more comfortable, start the car. Let it run for a short period (while giving treats) while you stay parked. Then progress to backing up your car for a short distance and returning to your driveway/garage.

Take short car rides. Start with short car rides (such as around the block). End the ride with a favorable location, which for most cats is home. Again, make sure to give treats throughout the ride. As your cat becomes more comfortable, extend the length of car rides until your cat is an old pro at it!

