



THE BARRACKS VET SURGERY MOSMAN

DOES YOUR CAT HATE THE CAR?

We all know most cats hate the cat carrier, the car, leaving their home territory and the change and stress that often accompanies boarding, travel or a trip to the Vet.

Make the cat carrier a refuge, not a threat

- Scrub the cage to remove the smells associated with previous trips, especially if the cat has ever soiled it. (Use detergent then "Bio-Zet" or "Urine Off" to break down uric acid which they can smell but we can't).
- Place the cage in sunlight in a room the cat likes. Put in a clean soft blanket and play games by throwing treats near to, then into, the cage for the cat to chase and eat. Do this when the cat is hungry.
- Spray feliway into the cage every week, or leave catnip in it.
- After the cat has become used to entering in the cage, close the door and carry it to another pleasant room, then open the door so the cat can leave if desired.
- Once this is accepted, you may even practice placing the cat in its carrier in the car, then later starting the car, then finally driving a short trip. When you return home, the cat will learn that the experience is not always associated with the Vet or boarding.
- If you have a choice, select a cat carrier with a removable top half. This way the cat can be examined without being dragged out of its safe place.

Reduce transport stress

- Cover the cage with a light towel to provide privacy and reduce visual stimulation. Many cats become hyperstimulated from all the new sounds, smells and sights.
- Instead of "swinging" the cage by its handle, hold it tightly against your body.
- Secure the cage in the car with a seat belt, drive and corner smoothly, and play familiar music.

At the Vet

- Choose a Vet Surgery which is accredited as "Cat Friendly".
- The Barracks Vet will steer you and your cat straight into a private "cat only" examination room, where he or she will be weighed on "cat only" scales.
- A pheromone which relaxes and reassures cats will be diffusing throughout the room.
- Your cat will be given a critical five minutes to process where it is and to calm down before the Vet enters to gently examine him or her.
- Your cat can remain quietly in the cat room while you deal with the receptionist, before you both return to the car.