



Low-Stress Carrier Training & Transport

Transforming the carrier from a terrifying monster into a comforting, safe den.

The Carrier Problem

For most cats, the carrier only appears once a year right before being trapped, shoved inside, driven in a noisy car, and handled at the vet clinic. Naturally, cats learn that the carrier predicts stress and will vanish at the first sight of it. The solution is simple: **make the carrier permanent furniture in your home.**

Step 1: Making the Carrier a Safe Haven

- **Keep it Out:** Place the carrier in a cozy living area with the door secured open. Never hide it in a dusty closet between vet visits.
- **Comfortable Bedding:** Place a soft, familiar fleece blanket inside carrying the cat's own scent or your scent.
- **Pheromones:** Spray Feliway Classic pheromone spray inside the carrier 15 minutes before introducing your cat.

Step 2: Treat & Meal Conditioning

- Feed your cat's favorite wet meals or high-value treats (like freeze-dried chicken or Churu) right beside the carrier door, gradually moving the bowl deeper inside over several days.
- Toss unexpected treats or catnip toys into the back of the carrier daily so your cat discovers surprises on their own exploration.

Step 3: Gradual Desensitization & Travel

- Once your cat comfortably naps inside, gently close the door for 10 seconds while dispensing treats through the mesh, then open it. Gradually extend the duration.
- Practice lifting the carrier gently and walking room-to-room before attempting car rides. Keep car rides short, calm, and followed by immediate treats at home.
- **Alaska Cold-Weather Travel:** Pre-warm your vehicle before transport, cover the carrier with a breathable fleece blanket to block cold wind and visual triggers, and secure the carrier with a seatbelt in the back seat.