

# THE MAKINGS OF A HAPPIER FELINE VISIT

## **Start at home**

Leave the carrier out with the door open for several days. Cats can enjoy a carrier as much as they enjoy a bag or box.

Entice your cat to explore the carrier by putting a cozy bed or towel in the carrier along with some high-value treats and toys.

Pheromones are your friend! Spray or wipe the carrier with Feliway pheromones. This will help relax your pet and make the carrier more pleasurable.

## **Making the trip**

Play soft, soothing music in the car. The music can drown out the street noise. We do not recommend baby talk... it has been shown that cats are really not fond of it.

Cover the carrier with a pastel-colored towel or sheet (avoid white). Covering the carrier can make your cat feel more secure.

Face the carrier forward and in a level position.

## **Once at the clinic**

While in the waiting room, place your carrier on a chair rather than on the floor. Cats are typically tree dwellers and may feel vulnerable on the floor.

Pheromones are available to use once you arrive. Our front staff will have a spray bottle of Feliway that can be sprayed onto a cloth and wiped onto your carrier. These pheromones have been very helpful in

destressing our feline patients. We typically spray bedding, towels and mats that we use in the exam room.

Once you are in the exam room, place the carrier on the chair or table and open the door to allow your pet to explore the room so he or she will become more comfortable with the surroundings.

### **Ask about a Comfort Pack**

The doctors and staff have been working to make your pet's experience less stressful. We have started dispensing Comfort Packs to those patients who need help with their anxiety.

A Comfort Pack is a single dose of Gabapentin mixed with FortiFlora. The patient is given this mixture with a small amount of canned food about two hours prior to the vet visit. The Gabapentin will relax the cat and the FortiFlora reduces inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract. You typically will not see a profound sedation but a more relaxed kitty.

Comfort Packs are also very good for traveling or if you have to evacuate.

### **Finishing the visit**

On the drive home, keep the carrier covered and continue to play music until your cat is home and secure in his or her own surroundings.

**We appreciate you helping our fabulous felines  
feel better about their visits!**