



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 6, ISSUE 5 • MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

REDUCING STRESS WHEN TRAVELING

It's not uncommon for a kitty to become extremely stressed when traveling by automobile, plane, or train. With some advance planning and preparation, you can help ease your kitty's stress level (and your own too).

To help your kitty get used to the idea of traveling in a carrier, leave the carrier out, with its door open and in an easily-accessible location, for several days prior to a trip. Put your kitty's favorite bed or a comfy blanket in the carrier, along with treats or toys, to encourage your kitty to explore the carrier and get comfortable in it. Once your kitty is used to the carrier, consider taking him or her on a quick ride to the bank or post office, or for a simple weight check with your veterinarian, so your kitty will associate the carrier and the car ride with minimally-alarming situations.

If you're going to travel longer distances, a large carrier that can accommodate your kitty's basic necessities (including food, water, and a disposable potty box) will help make travel more enjoyable. Stopping periodically to let your kitty stretch on a leash/harness can be beneficial. If you'll be staying at a hotel during your trip, be sure to call ahead to confirm that the hotel is pet-friendly.

If you're planning to travel by air, you can request and pay for a pet carry-on when booking the flight. Be sure to ask about size restrictions for a carry-on pet carrier; this can vary from airline to airline. If a pet carry-on is not allowed by the airline, or if the flight is at its maximum capacity for carry-on pets, your kitty may have to ride in cargo below. This requires a different type of carrier, so be sure to discuss requirements with the airline.

For some kitties, sedation prior to travel may make the journey easier for them; consult with your veterinarian to determine which medications are most appropriate. Other products are also available to help ease travel. Feliway, a natural product designed to help cats (and dogs) with stress-related problems, comes in both spray and diffuser forms. Supplements such as Composure, which can help alleviate anxiety, are typically available in both chewable or liquid form.

If long-distance travel is extremely distressing to your kitty, a great alternative is boarding. We'd like to invite your feline family member to be our guest the next time you travel. We offer boarding accommodations in a loving feline-only environment. Beds, toys, and fresh potty boxes are provided—along with lots of daily petting and attention from our kitty-loving doctors and team members! All of our feline guests receive daily weight monitoring, monitoring of food and water intake, and twice-daily exercise sessions. We can administer any medication or special foods that your kitty requires. (To stay with us, your kitty must have received a wellness exam at the Sacramento Cat Hospital within the past 12 months.)

Please see our May special offer below for discounted boarding rates through May 31.



KEEP MOTHER'S DAY SAFE FOR YOUR KITTIES

Mother's Day, May 11, is a special day to celebrate moms everywhere with gifts that can include flowers or candy. But some of these gifts can pose a serious danger to your pets.

If you receive a beautiful floral bouquet from your children or husband, please check it carefully for lilies. If your kitty ingests even the tiniest bit of lily (or has even a slight exposure to its pollen, leaves, or petals), it can cause significant changes in your kitty's kidneys, which may lead to kidney disease or complete kidney failure. It's important to seek immediate veterinary care if you believe your kitty has had any contact with lilies.

A number of other flowers and plants are toxic to your pet. For a list, please visit the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center at:

www.aspc.org/Pet-care/poison-control/Plants

And that delicious box of chocolates? Be sure to keep all sweets safely out of reach of your pet, as large amounts of sugar can be extremely toxic to your furry family member.

MAY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Board your kitty at the Sacramento Cat Hospital through May 31 and every 6th night is free! That's 6 nights of boarding for the price of 5. (Please note that additional charges will apply for dispensation of medications or other treatments while your kitty is our guest.) Please stop by our front desk for more information or to make your boarding reservation.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

Sacramento Cat Hospital • 4115 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael • (916) 488-4161 • info@sacramentocathospital.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SacramentoCatHospital