



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5 • MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER

REDUCING STRESS WHEN TRAVELING

Some kitties can become extremely stressed when traveling by automobile, plane, or train, whether being transported across the country or just locally. You can help ease your kitty's stress level (and your own) with some advance planning and preparation.

To help your kitty become used to the idea of traveling in a carrier, leave the carrier out (with its door open) for several days prior to a trip, in an easily-accessible location. You may want to place 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 become comfortable in it. Once your kitty is used to the carrier, you may choose to take him or her on a quick ride to the bank or post office, or even 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 are 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 also be beneficial. If you'll be staying at a hotel during your trip, be sure to call ahead and confirm that your hotel is pet-friendly.

If you're going to travel by air, you may request and pay for a pet carry-on when booking your flight. A comfortable carrier that is suitable for your airline can make it a more pleasant trip for your kitty. (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 a journey easier for them; consult with your veterinarian to discuss which medications are most appropriate for your feline companion. 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 traveling a long distance is extremely distressing to your kitty, an excellent alternative is boarding at a veterinary hospital or facility. 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 had a wellness exam with us within the past 12 months.)

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

THE IMPORTANCE OF MICROCHIPPING YOUR KITTY

No matter how careful you may be, it's a fact of life that pets get lost. Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost during their lifetime, and only 2 out of 100 lost, unidentified cats will find their way back home again.

Microchips are an invaluable tool that could reunite you with your feline family member; they are a safe, effective way to identify your cat in the event he or she becomes lost.

Please ask us for more information about microchipping; a microchip discount may be available with a scheduled exam or surgery.

MAY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through May 31, board your kitty at the Sacramento Cat Hospital, where **our regular boarding fee of \$25 a night will be just \$19.50 a night, and includes a free nail trim!** (Please note that additional charges will apply for dispensation of medications or other treatments while your kitty is our guest.)

Please speak with one of our team members 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.

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