## CATS Mail



## **TRANSPORTING YOUR CAT**

Cats are the least likely to receive veterinary care when compared to other pets. Why? Because it is often difficult and stressful to transport them to a new place like a veterinary hospital. But it doesn't have to be! By following the steps below, we will associate the carrier with something positive like your cat's favorite food so they like going into their carrier.

- 1. Fill their transport carrier with a fuzzy blanket and place it at your cat's favorite spot with the crate door propped open.
- 2. Feed them their favorite treats, wet food, or small amounts of cooked, unseasoned chicken near the carrier. Gradually decrease the distance you're placing the treats from the carrier until eventually placing them in the carrier.
  - a. How long this takes will depend on your cat's fear of the carrier. It could only take a few days or it could take several weeks to work up to getting them in the carrier.
    Don't force them to go in unless it's an emergency, as that will undo any progress you have made.
- 3. Once they walk in and out of the carrier with no problem and a relaxed body posture, you can use a treat to get them into the carrier and then close the door and feed them treats through the door. Start with only keeping them closed for a few seconds and then gradually increase the time they are in the carrier until they can stay in there for 15 minutes while delivering the treats intermittently.
- 4. Next cover the crate with a towel and bring the cat into a parked car and feed treats.
- 5. Once they are doing well with that, use the next training session to drive around the block.
- 6. Once they are comfortable doing all the steps above you will want to make sure you continue to do these steps every once and a while to keep the positive association.

## **GIVING MORE THAN SHELTER**

## SACRAMENTO SPCA BEHAVIOR DEPARTMENT

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