

The Ideal Cat Carrier



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1. **Material:** Select sturdy materials that provide protection, resist collapse, repel water, and can be cleaned easily.
2. **Handle:** Pick a carrier with a well-anchored, comfortable handle for easy carrying. Heavier cats may require you to carry from the bottom.
3. **Top-loading capability:** Generally, carriers with top-access are the easiest and least-stressful options for loading up your friend.
4. **Side ventilation:** The ideal carrier has at least two sides that are relatively solid with multiple small holes: this provides some security from limiting visual input, while simultaneously allowing sufficient ventilation.
5. **Removable top secured by clips (not screws):** In the hospital, it is virtually essential to use a carrier that can be quietly and quickly taken apart. When here for examination, many patients feel more secure and experience less anxiety if the top of the carrier can be removed and they can remain in the bottom half with minimal manipulation. The value of this convenience should not be underestimated, nor can its simplicity. Ease of clips cannot be replicated with other fasteners such as screws or zip ties!
6. **Rigid bottom:** Again, attempt to find materials that protect, resist water, provide security, and are easy to clean. Pad it with familiar-smelling towels, blankets or fleece pads.
7. **Front gate:** While top access is easiest to load an unwilling patient, the front gate is the best at allowing your companion to enter and exit on her own.
8. **Correct size:** Your cat should be able to stand up, lie down and turn around easily inside the carrier. Your carrier is too small if it restricts any of these activities.