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# 10 Top Tips

A large grey silhouette of a dog (likely a Weimaraner) standing, with a smaller black silhouette of a cat sitting in front of its legs. A red horizontal line with a heartbeat graphic on the right side passes behind the text.

**ROWAN**  
VETERINARY CENTRE

**Getting your cat to the vet.**

1. Baskets should be sturdy and escape proof. Top opening versions are ideal.
2. If you are transporting more than one cat, bring them in separate carriers to avoid defence aggression under stress. If your cats get on very well at home put the carriers together.
3. Your cat should regard the basket as part of the furniture. It can be incorporated as a bed with the lid off. This is to create a positive association between your cat and the carrier.
4. Your carrier should smell familiar to your cat. Items of your own clothing or some of your cat's bedding can be put inside. In addition, Feliway can be used 30 minutes before putting your cat in the basket.
5. Cats need to be able to hide so cover the carrier while travelling, particularly if you have a wire carrier (which offers a wider opening making it easier to put your cat in and take your cat out).
6. Ensure the carrier is secure in the foot well of the car or with a seatbelt, and is on a level surface.
7. Talk reassuringly to your cat on the journey and avoid loud music.
8. Spare bedding is advisable in case of accidents.
9. On arrival at the vets, it is beneficial to use the cat only waiting area.
10. Towels can be provided from reception to put over your cat basket and placing your cat basket on a chair may be beneficial. Hiding or being up high are coping mechanisms for some cats in an unfamiliar environment to help reduce stress.