

Catawba Animal Clinic

2241 India Hook Rd. Rock Hill, SC 29732

Ways to make your cat's visit less stressful:

Just like us, cats can become quite apprehensive about travel, especially travel to the vet!

Catawba Animal Clinic is glad to be part of the Fear Free initiative which helps minimize fear, anxiety and stress for our patients when they come to our office. We know that even for us, going to the doctor is not always our favorite activity, but there are many steps we can take together to make our pets' visits more fun and less stressful. We are proud that our professional staff is certified in Fear Free techniques, and we are happy to provide information that can really make a difference in helping our patients and their families have a more positive experience at the vets!

Here are a few tips:

1. We'll offer your cat some tasty treats while it's here, so bringing your cat in with an empty stomach can help it enjoy the treats as well as avoid car sickness. We recommend no food for a few hours prior to the appointment.
2. We do recommend using a pet carrier for safe transport. Please keep the carrier securely fastened in the car so that it doesn't shift around as you drive.
3. Keep the carrier in the house so that the cat can become accustomed to it; even feeding your cat in the carrier can help. (Some cats tend to disappear when the carrier is brought out for the visit!)
4. Cat-specific calming scents can be sprayed on their bedding 30 to 45 minutes before transport; it can really make a big difference.
5. Loud noises make most cats more apprehensive, so keep the noise level in the car down when possible.
6. Hold the carrier securely; preferably in front of you with two hands...don't swing the carrier with one hand as you walk.
7. We'll escort you to a private feline exam room as soon as possible after you arrive. If you do have to wait in the reception area place the carrier on your lap, not on the floor; cats prefer to be up high when they are in new places.
8. Please let us know if your cat has been particularly anxious during past veterinary visits or if you feel that any particular techniques have made those visits more pleasant; we'll do anything that we can to make the visit as pleasant as possible.

During your cat's visit we will use gentle techniques to reduce stress and anxiety and to make the experience as positive as possible. We have designed our feline exam areas to meet their instinctive needs allowing us to provide proper medical care for them in a safe, gentle, and effective manner.