

# Carrier Acclimation Training



## Key Points:

- **Keep the kennel Visible**
- **Use treats or other high value reward**
- **Be patient and consistent**

## Step 1

Keep the carrier out in the open, with the top off if possible. This will allow your cat to become familiar with this new contraption on their own time. Place a favorite blanket inside so it becomes a comfortable rest area.

## Step 2

To encourage your cat to start stepping inside the carrier on its own free will. Toss one treat at a time into the kennel to encourage that this is a happy place. If your cat is not food motivated then a

favorite toy on a string may work as well. Only use positive reinforcements in the form of treats, toys or praise.

## Step 3

Once we are comfortable stepping into the carrier to retrieve a treat, up the ante with a bowl of food in the carrier. Remember we are still only using the bottom half of the carrier. Once receiving meals in the carrier becomes routine and there is no stress involved it is time to put the top on.

## Step 4

While your cat is eating their meal, gently place the top of the kennel over the cat. Don't worry about the door yet. If your cat becomes upset take it immediately off, we do not want this to be stressful in any way. The carrier needs to remain a happy place. Slowly over time you will be able to keep the lid on for longer durations of time. Until eventually you can even close the door while they are eating.

## Step 5

Once everyone is at ease using the carrier for meal times, you may start to add a cue word such as "kennel". Say the same word every time you desire your cat to load into his carrier. Eventually your cat will learn to connect this word to the kennel and a meal and load himself/herself into the carrier without any difficulty!

## Video reference:

Visit:

**[www.FearFreeHappyHomes.com](http://www.FearFreeHappyHomes.com) OR [www.PacificCatClinic.com](http://www.PacificCatClinic.com)**  
for more tips and tricks on how to keep your home Fear Free.