

How to quickly get your cat in a carrier

Most adopter cats will have to get into a carrier at some point, even if it's just for their annual vet visit.

To get them more comfortable with their carrier long-term you can:

- Leave the carrier out
- Lure your cat in
- Feed them in the carrier
- Repeat over time



This technique is effective but takes time. Need to get them into a carrier fast? Try the “burrito” method. It’s a good option for friendly, uninjured cats who can be safely picked up by a person (if only for a moment).

How to do the burrito method

Do this while your cat is distracted by eating, playing, or sleeping.

Leave the carrier door open. For hard plastic carriers or crates, stand it vertically on its end, with its door facing the ceiling. This lets you take advantage of gravity, especially with slippery plastic carriers.

Put a lightweight towel near the carrier. It should be big enough to wrap around your cat's legs, paws, and claws, but not so big that when wrapped around your cat you can't get them through the carrier door.

Get your cat into the bathroom with you and the carrier. Depending on your cat, you may be able to carry them in, or lure them in with food or a toy. Once they're in, quickly close the bathroom door.

Take your towel and spread it flat on the floor. Then, place your hand on your cat's chest. (FYI: We find cats tend to back away more often than they try to lunge forward.)

Burrito time! Quickly wrap one half of the towel over their back, then the other half, and pick them up. Try to do this as quickly as possible before they really have a chance to think about what is happening!

Wrap the towel around the cat with only their head sticking out. (It may take a few tries!) Make the "burrito" tight enough so your cat doesn't escape, but not so tight that they're hurt or have trouble breathing!

Put your cat in tail-first (so they don't see that they're being put into a carrier). Then quickly lower the burrito cat into the carrier and shut the door right away.

Double-check that the carrier is locked! Don't worry about unwrapping the towel. Your cat will unwrap themselves once they're inside.

