 **Eagle Fern Veterinary Hospital, PC**

585 NW Zobrist Street, Estacada, OR 97023

www.eaglefernvet.com

**TIPS ON TAKING YOUR CAT TO THE VET**

**We are glad that you are bringing your cat to our hospital for a visit!** Getting your cat to the veterinary hospital is challenging sometimes, but it’s worth it. Veterinary care including annual exams, lab screens and vaccinations is the best way to keep your cat healthy and happy. Cats are also masters at hiding illness. Be aware of any changes in your cat’s drinking, eating, grooming or litter box habits, problems with jumping or other movements, weight loss or gain, bad breath and if your cat is withdrawn or sleeping more. Be sure to mention any changes to your healthcare team during your exam.

**TRAVEL TIPS**

**AT HOME**

**Love the carrier.** Use a carrier that is easy to take your cat in and out of (top-loading carriers work best). At home, keep the cat carrier out of the closet and easily accessible. Create a positive association with the carrier by making it a comfortable resting, feeding, play and sleeping location. Keep toys and food around and in the carrier.

**Get smelly.** To make the carrier more inviting, place in it a piece of clothing from a favorite person or a piece of cloth dampened with Feliway, a calming synthetic pheromone available at EFVH.

**Go for rides.** Every so often, put your cat in the carrier and take it for a ride in the car. You could bring your cat to the hospital for a weight check and a treat. This allows your cat to have a less stressful interaction with our veterinary healthcare team. At the end of each ride, give your cat some fun: a treat, play time or time to explore outside on a harness or leash.

**Keep it cozy.** Place a blanket or cover over the carrier during transport.

**Handle your cat.** Pretend to do routine veterinary procedures with your cat, like touching the cat’s face, ears, feet and tail.

**ON THE DAY OF YOUR VISIT**

**Do not snack.** Do not feed your cat just before you get in the car to visit the veterinarian. This can prevent messy motion sickness. It will also make you cat easier to coax and reward during the exam. Additionally, a 12 hour fast can be beneficial if blood is being drawn during an exam.

**Take a towel.** Your veterinary team will use a towel to handle your cat. It helps if the towel smells like home.

**Bring your cat’s favorite treats or toys.**

**BACK AT HOME**

**In the house.** The trip is not over until it is over. Keep the cover or blanket on the carrier until you are in the house.

**Take your time.** Place the carrier in a quiet place, open the door and let your cat come out whenever it is ready.

**Be sneaky.** If you are changing your cat’s food, offer the new and old food at the same time.

**Treats!** If you are giving your cat a new medication, consider Pill Pockets to help administer the medicine or offer a treat after medicating.

**Ask and ask.** A technician may contact you soon after the appointment to see how your cat is and to be sure you understand and can follow the veterinarian’s recommendations. If you have questions or need some help, ask. Feel free to call us any time.