

# Acclimating my Pet to the Travel Carrier

It is critical for your pet's well-being, comfort and safety to travel in the most appropriate travel carrier for their trip. If your pet will be home for the next few weeks, we always recommend getting your pet acclimated to the travel carrier to help reduce anxiety on the day of travel.

## **Keep the Carrier in a Common Area of Your Home:**

By making sure the carrier is in a place where your pet will see it every day, your pet will become more comfortable with the look and smell of it. This will make the carrier more familiar to your pet.

## **Create a Daily Routine Using the Carrier:**

Start feeding your pet each day inside the carrier. This will help your pet associate a happy routine with the carrier. If your pet is afraid of the carrier at first, remove the door and top half. You can put those pieces back on later as your pet gets more comfortable.

## **Keep Toys/Bedding in the Carrier:**

By putting your pet's favorite toys or treats in the carrier, your pet will be more inclined to start going into the carrier on his/her own to play. If you put his/her favorite blanket or bed in the carrier, your pet will also get used to the idea of sleeping inside the carrier.

## **Practice Makes Perfect:**

Assemble the carrier and allow your pet to spend at least 5-10 minutes a day there. Reward your pet with attention and treats when it comes out of the carrier. Take your pet on car rides with the carrier to help them acclimate to the sounds of travel.

**Note: No toys, bones, large bedding or leashes can travel with your pet inside the travel carrier, both for the pet's safety and to meet airline safety requirements. Additionally, please do not include any irreplaceable items of sentimental value as the airlines can dispose of them.**