



Handling an Injured Cat

If your cat has a fracture or injury, you may feel apprehensive when lifting or transporting them to and from the vets.

When lifting them make sure to support the front and back of the cat keeping them on a level plane and close to your body so that they feel secure. When walking with them try to keep at a slow and steady pace to reduce any jerky movements which can occur when running or moving about too quickly.

When holding your cat try to have the fractured/injured limb away from your body as it could put pressure on the injury if held against your body. And in most instances holding or trying to support the injured leg could add more pressure on the injury causing pain, so it is best to avoid touching the injured leg completely.



If your cat does not tolerate being held like this and you need to transport them, you may need to swaddle them in a towel. This encloses them. So, they feel more secure, and it prevents them from running or swiping which could potentially cause further injury to themselves or to you as they may lash out as they are in pain or scared.

When driving to and from the vets do make sure that your cat is safely and securely in their carrier. If they are frightened and in pain they may not act as they normally would and may try to escape the car putting yourself and other road users at risk.

Crates

You may have been told that you need to crate rest your cat. This is so that there is no risk of running, jumping or miss behaviour while they are healing.

When choosing your crate, it should be large enough to fit their litter tray, a sleep/rest area and food and water bowls. Below is an example of the smallest size crate for this cat.



If your cat is of a nervous disposition or likes to hide then a towel can be placed over the top of their crate and calming sprays or plug in diffusers (e.g., feliway, pet remedy) can be used in the area and to have the crate placed in a quieter area of the house.