

Carrier confidence, one step at a time.

Use across separate practices. Mark observations, not deadlines. Comfort at one step does not mean your cat is ready for the next.

Cat _____

Starting date _____

Set up: a stable carrier in a familiar quiet place, with familiar bedding and a secure door held open during voluntary practice. Prepare a suitable reward.

OBSERVE AT YOUR CAT'S PACE

- ☐ Comfortable near the carrier, with room to move away.
- ☐ Willing to investigate or approach the entrance.
- ☐ Voluntary steps onto the base or into the open carrier.
- ☐ Comfortable resting inside while the exit stays available.
- ☐ Ready for a separate, tiny roof or door step; return to easier practice if needed.
- ☐ Comfortable with a brief, secure closure before any separate lifting practice.

The easiest comfortable step today

What I saw (posture, approach, retreat, willingness to eat)

Next small invitation / change to the setup

Pause if your cat retreats, freezes, struggles or stops taking a normally wanted reward. Do not lure your cat inside and then surprise them with a difficult step.

For travel, securely close the carrier and support its base. Keep it closed throughout the journey. If a visit is urgent or travel remains distressing, ask your veterinary team for a plan; do not delay necessary care to finish this checklist.

Original Pounce planning aid informed by International Cat Care, "Taking your cat to the veterinary clinic" (linked in the guide), and our carrier curriculum. Educational; not a veterinary assessment.