



## **FieldHaven Feline Center**

"For Every Cat in Need, a Solution"

### **Joy's tips for moving with your cat by car**

Sometimes people will think they need to rehome their kitty because they are moving to another state. Not the case at all. Last time I checked every state in the US allows kitties!

It may seem challenging to move your kitty along with your family several days' drive away. It actually isn't that difficult if you follow a few simple tips that I've compiled from my experience transporting kitties all over the country, including some cross-country treks. This is a compilation of my best tips; some learned the hard way.

Before traveling:

- Make sure vaccines are up to date, especially rabies.
- Confirm kitty's microchip is intact and readable. If not chipped get that done.
- Update your microchip registration.

Supplies to have (see resources at the end)

- A "tent" carrier
- Small top-loading carrier or soft-sided airline type carrier
- Harness and leash
- Tile tracker
- Small litter box

Set the tent up with a small litter box. If kitty is nervous, you can cover the tent with a sheet or blanket.

Always keep the harness on kitty. I leave the leash on as well for extra security. Attach the Tile to the harness or a (breakaway) collar. Be sure the harness is snug enough that kitty cannot slip out of it.

When in the car keep kitty in the tent at all times. It will be tempting to let her out to sit on your lap but please resist the temptation. She is much safer in the crate.

When stopping at hotels carry the tent into the room. Do not let kitty out of the tent until you are sure the room is completely free of escape routes or obscure hiding spaces. Common ones are:

- Window screens – do not open windows and be sure they are latched.
- Under the bed. If not a platform bed consider keeping kitty in the tent unless you are walking her around the room. Kitties love to climb up into the undersides of beds.
- Any other things they can crawl into, under or on top of that are not in your direct view.

If you need to move kitty anywhere not being in the tent, use the small carrier/bag.

Once you reach your destination put kitty in a quiet, small room (after inspecting for escape routes!). Leave the tent in the room with kitty since she is now used to that, and it has her smell on it. Acclimating kitty to a new home may take a few days to several weeks. Be patient and cautious.

## Supply Sources



Portable folding soft dog crate, AKA "tent". 30" size is best. Here is one on Amazon:

<https://tinyurl.com/ydrp99w2>

## Cat carriers



Soft sided airline type. Here is one on Chewy.  
<https://tinyurl.com/xt8k7up6>



Hard sided top load. Amazon:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2wjk6frw>



Harness and leash. Chewy:  
<https://tinyurl.com/esnsejw3>



Tile tracker on Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/3adx6rmr>