

Reducing our feline patient's stress: The right way to set up a cage

1. **Select a top cage** - cats feel safer when they are close to our level. Top cages also help you avoid leaning over the patient, which can be threatening to cats.
2. **Cover the bottom of the cage completely.** Bare metal is cold, loud and uncomfortable. Use cage pads to completely cover the bottom of the cage.
3. **A hiding box (or the cat's carrier)** gives patients both a place to hide in and a place to rest on.
4. **Bowls.** Put food and water bowls close to the opening of the hiding box, and as far away from the litter box as possible without interfering with access to the hiding box.
5. **Litter box.** Put the litter box in front of the hiding box and away from bowls. Use a generous amount of litter, enough for the cat to paw without "hitting bottom".
6. **Cover the cage door.** Place a cage pad over the cage door when your patient arrives in the ward to reduce stressful stimulation. Apply 10 sprays of Feliway* onto the pad, wait ~30 seconds for the alcohol to dissipate, then place the pad over the lower 2/3 of the cage to block their view, and so you can still observe them. Binder clips are available if the pad slips.
7. **Enrichment** - feel free to add personal items from home, toys and catnip as you see fit so our patients can enjoy their stay as much as possible!



***NEVER SPRAY FELIWAY
SPRAY DIRECTLY ONTO THE
CAT OR INTO THE CAGE
WHILE THE CAT IS IN IT.**