

## Rampant Vet Visits

**A few preventive measures can make visits to the veterinarian more pleasant for everyone.**

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My husband was a lion trainer for many years before settling into a sedate job in academia, and I have worked on these large cats as well, so I am fond of saying that if a cat weighs less than 300 pounds, I can probably handle it! In truth, I am not afraid of cats and even if they are spitting and swiping I find that I can examine them by handling them in a calm but firm manner. I rarely have problems with cats. Still, there is the exception, and your cat just might belong in that group.

I've also tried putting a little catnip in the carrier of an upset cat, which seems to work wonders in calming my fractious patients. It may be worth a try. As a very last resort your veterinarian may feel comfortable prescribing a mild sedative to be given before the visit. Good luck!