



If a cat displays fear associated with handling, learn to give the cat attention in other ways, pet the cat for very short periods, or both.

Other ways to give a fearful cat attention include engaging with treats, play or wand toys, or interacting when the cat is in a comfortable and safe place.

When a cat exhibits freezing:

- Provide a comfortable and safe hiding place. Hiding is an important coping strategy when a cat feels threatened, such as in an unfamiliar environment
- Hiding does not mean the person or worker cannot see the cat, but that the cat cannot see the person
- Recommend carrier training to the guardian
- Try using Feliway pheromone spray
- Have the guardian bring favoured treats or items from home to help prevent fear at subsequent visits



What if...



The cat is hiding, and you can't see them for a welfare check

- Avoid grabbing the cat to pull them out of their cage or carrier
- Do not tip the carrier up on its end to shake the cat out or for the cat to fall out
- Avoid the use of cat bags, nets, and gloves
- Reach in and support the cat's back end, abdomen, and back legs to encourage the cat to move forward
- If the cat shows fear, gently slide a towel around the cat to remove them
- Avoid escalating fear in the cat



The cat has escaped their enclosure and is loose in the room

- Never chase a fleeing cat. This will only exacerbate their fear, and the cat is more likely to become aggressive in an attempt to protect themselves
- Try to calmly entice the cat into a carrier by leaving the cat in a safe room with an open carrier
- Try using treats or toys to encourage the cat into the carrier
- Gently use a towel to provide a safe wrap around the cat, if needed