

How to Wrap a Cat in a Towel



By

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Photographs by R.J. Peters

<http://www.theproblemcat.com>

From time to time, we need to administer certain things to our cats, and wrapping them in a towel might be the only way to do so.

If you have a cooperative cat, great. Just grasp the scruff of the neck, open the mouth and pop the pill in!

But generally, most cats aren't that easy to work with. So, I have developed my own methods to make life easier for both of us.

Granted, cats don't enjoy being wrapped. But it only takes a moment, is safer for the cat – and for you – and is the most effective way to accomplish many tasks that require the cat to remain still. These include giving pills, cleaning their ears, washing their eyes, and even some tasks that need to be done from the other end, such as taking their temperature or inspecting for parasites.

If you are not able to do this alone, by all means, enlist the help of an assistant.

First step: Drape a towel over the cat's back, close to the head.



Second: Grasp one side of the towel and pull it across the cat's chest.



Third: Pull the other side of the towel around, over the "flap" from the first wrap. Hold tightly, or the cat will escape.



Fourth: Place the cat on its side and hold securely. Administer the treatment or care as quickly as possible, because the cat will be struggling at this point. The wrap must be tight, secure, and you must hold firmly. Any weakness or wishy-washy holding by you will be swiftly overcome and the cat will get away. If the cat is getting loose, start over.



Good luck, and don't forget: If the treatment is needed, it must be done, and it must be done as quickly and securely as possible, even if the cat is struggling. The primary objective with this method is to prevent being bitten or scratched in the process of doing something essential for the cat. If you are not able to do this, you may prefer to take your cat to the vet. But for simple procedures like giving pills, taking temperatures, or cleaning ears for ear mites, it could become rather expensive – not to mention traumatic for the cat – to have to run to the vet every time.

You can be firm without being hurtful.... or hurt.

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