



PET MOVING TIPS

The act of moving from one place to another can be both exciting and scary for most people. However, a pet, whether a dog, cat, or bird may feel only fear when moving to a different place. Moving means getting used to an entirely different place often filled with strange smells and unusual sounds. The very process of moving can often mean long hours in an unfamiliar environment surrounded by strangers. This can be very traumatic for an animal. Help minimize this sense of terror in your beloved pet with a few advance precautions.



CREATING A PET PACK

If you're moving your pet by car, there are several things you should plan on taking with you on moving day:

- An old bed sheet or blanket to protect your car upholstery.
- A favorite toy or two, and an old T-shirt or rag with your scent on it.
- Two plastic containers - one should have fresh water, the other should have food and treats.
- Medications that your pet may need.
- A leash for when you make rest stops with your pet.
- Even if your pet doesn't typically get car sick, it is better to be safe than sorry...bring paper towels, a sponge, and plenty of plastic bags.



MOVING PETS BY CAR

- Dogs and cats may find car travel extremely distressing. Some may even get car sick. You should be prepared to make many stops along the way.
- If traveling to your new home by car, make sure to get your pet comfortable to auto travel by taking it on short trips around the neighborhood.
- Several small pets (such as birds, guinea pigs, etc.) can be easily transported via automobile. A good, simple way of keeping them calm and quiet is to cover their cage with a cloth.
- Don't feed your pet for seven hours prior to your trip. Pack a container of fresh, cool water, and stop frequently for walks.
- Long distance moves may require an overnight stay. Remember to call hotels in advance to make sure that they will allow your pet to stay in the hotel.



MOVING PETS BY AIR

If you're moving your pet by air, contact the airline well in advance to check regulations and services:

- Consider direct flights to minimize the amount of time your pet will be confined.
- Select a portable air-transport kennel that's large enough for your pet to stand and move around a bit. Let your pet get accustomed to the kennel well in advance of the trip. Don't forget to mark the kennel with "Live Animal," your pet's name, your new address and phone number and any special handling instructions.
- After boarding your plane, ask the flight attendant to confirm your pet has been loaded on the plane.
- For more details, please review the FAA website https://www.faa.gov/passengers/fly_pets/





BEFORE THE MOVE

There are a few things to accomplish before you begin moving with pets. Before leaving, schedule a veterinary examination to check your pet's health, obtain copies of vaccination records and a health certificate (if required), update identification tags and discuss a tranquilizer or precautionary measures for the trip.



MOVING DAY

Pets often become nervous and uncertain on moving day and may exhibit strange behavior as they communicate their uncertainty. In addition, nothing is more saddening or frustrating than closing the back doors of a moving van only to discover that a loved pet is missing. Before the big day arrives, try to arrange for your pets to be left at a friend's or relative's house while everything is loaded; this not only keeps them out of the way where they won't be harmed, but will help them stay a bit more relaxed while their familiar toys and furniture are packed and loaded.



ARRIVING AT THE NEW HOME

When pets arrive at their new home, they may remain nervous or agitated for a time as they adjust to their new climate and surroundings. Moving is an experience that pets aren't used to, and sometimes they act strangely as a result. If your pets are escape artists or extra noisemakers, be sure that their living areas are secure and that there are a number of familiar items around to help imprint the idea that the new home is there to stay. If your pets make too much noise at night---as lonely pets are apt to do---talk with your local veterinary specialist for some dieting and animal prescription tips that will help the pet adjust to the new environment.

*This information is not intended to replace the advice of your veterinarian. Please seek the advice of your veterinarian concerning the health and well-being of your pet.

