



Moving Friends



Moving with pets can be stressful for you as well as your pets. When it comes to moving with pets, you must to plan ahead. Pets, like everyone, are very sensitive to changes. Moving companies will not move your pets so they will be entirely your responsibility. The following pet moving tips will make your move less stressful, and more importantly, safer:

Moving with your pets:

- Make travel arrangements. If your move involves air travel, contact airline carriers one month in advance. Ask about their pet regulations, and make reservations. Choose a nonstop flight to avoid extra handling, climate and air-pressure changes.
- Schedule a visit with your veterinarian. Prior to moving, request a copy of veterinary records, a rabies vaccination certificate, and a health certificate. Be sure your pets are up to date with their shots and if your pet is a senior or has health problems, ask whether a mild sedative would be advisable before travel. Also, if your vet can recommend another vet in your new location that would be great!
- Don't change your pet's routines; such as feedings and walks. Keep these routine's as normal as possible in the weeks before moving. It is normal for your pet to exhibit behavioral changes or even become ill when stressed. Try to treat them with the same level of attention you would ordinarily give them to make things less stressful for them.
- Making a pet room is a great way to keep pets safe during moving. A few days before moving, choose a small room to be the "pet room." Make a large, colorful sign that says "Pets: Do Not Open." Tape it to the door so friends or movers can see easily it. Move food and water bowls, as well as toys, into this room. Provide dogs and cats with sturdy carriers equipped with a litter box (for cats), chew toys, or favorite objects that have a familiar smell. Leave carrier doors open so pets can adapt to them before travel day. On moving day, keep animals in their carriers. As an alternative, consider boarding dogs and cats, or ask a friend to care take your dogs during the last few days.
- Get updated tags. If you have a dog or an indoor/outdoor cat, buy or create identification tags with your new address and phone number. Be sure your pets are wearing them during travel. While you're at it, pick up a cat leash, you'll need it if you're taking a long road trip or an airplane as well as for the first few days that you cat goes outdoors in her new neighborhood.

On the Road

- The carrier that your cat or dog will be riding in should be large enough to accommodate food and water bowls plus a small litter box. Your pet should be able to stand, turn and lie down.
- Stop about every two hours to give larger pets some fresh air. Be sure to use a leash if you let your cat out.

- It is important to maintain a comfortable car temperature for all pets and remember - Don't ever leave animals alone in a car on a hot day! Even with the windows cracked, this can be fatal. Birds and other small pets (hamsters, guinea pigs, etc.) are especially susceptible to drafts and heat. Cover cages to keep animals calm and well protected, and remove water bottles except during rest-stop water breaks.

Travel checklist:

- ✓ Veterinary records, certificates, and recent photos
- ✓ Medications
- ✓ Your pets' usual foods and plenty of water, either bottled water or water from the home you're leaving (changing their water source can be disorienting and upset their stomachs)
- ✓ Food and water bowls, a can opener, and resealable lids
- ✓ Toys, chew bones, and treats
- ✓ Leashes for cats and dogs
- ✓ Beds (pillows, towels, or other crate liners)
- ✓ Plastic bags and scoops for dogs
- ✓ Litter box for cats
- ✓ Cage covers for birds and rodents
- ✓ Paper towels for messes
- ✓ Provisions for the first day at the new home

Special Notes about Moving your Pets:

For Dogs:

Unlike cats who prefer the routine, dogs may welcome a change in the environment. Since dogs become more attached to their owners than their environment, moving with a dog is much easier than moving with a cat.

While dogs are more accustomed to riding in a car and being on a leash than a cat, it is still recommended that you further condition your dog for longer car rides.

Dogs may become a bit upset on moving day when they see all of the unusual activity; you should confine the dog in its favorite room along with its favorite blanket and toys during final loading.

After the move, take your dog for a walk immediately.

Let your dog sniff around and mark its territory in order to help them become familiar with the new neighborhood. Since dogs develop strong relationships with their owners, they're less likely to run away.

Teach your dog their limits as far as streets and traffic are concerned. If you are moving from suburbs to the city, be prepared for a transition in housebreaking, your dog will have to get used to relieving itself on the pavement and near fire hydrants and poles.

For Cats:

Since cats tend to become more attached to their environment rather than to people, moving with cats will be harder on them. When relocating with a cat, you must prepare in advance:

Show your cat plenty of attention and constantly reassure it with familiar items and scents so the move does not come as a shock.

Cats are not as familiar with traveling in cars as dogs, so try to take your cat on short trips around the neighborhood and then slowly increase the distance.

If your cat is present during the move, confine it in its favorite room along with its favorite bed and toys. This reduces the chance of your cat running away or getting lost in one of the boxes.

At the new home:

- Provide your cat with a comfortable living space.
- Limit the cats' explorations to just the new house and then gradually accompany it on tours outside.
- Confining the cat may seem a bit cruel, but cats are more likely to run back to the old house, no matter the distance.
- It might take a month till the cat feels comfortable in the new home and becomes familiar with its scents and noises.

For Smaller Animals:

Hamsters, birds and other small animals can easily be transported in your car. To help keep the animals calm and quiet, cover cages with a cloth. Also, make sure they have food and water available.

Moving Fish:

Moving your fish can be very impractical and risky. For recommendations on moving your specific type of fish, check with your local pet store.