

House Moving Guide For Pet Lovers

Moving house can be a really exciting time in your life, but there's no denying that there is a lot to organise, and at times, it can get a little stressful. If you have a pet (or several pets) that will be moving house with you, there is even more to think about.

This is why forward planning is such an important part of any house move, particularly when you're relocating with animals.

So, if you're looking for some guidance and tips on how to make moving with your pet that bit easier, you've come to the right place.

Below, we'll guide you through how to make moving day smoother and more enjoyable for everyone involved - including your four-legged friends.

Here's what you need to do.

Before you move

There are some things you need to sort out before moving day. Get these right early on, and you'll make the big day much easier. Before you move, you should:

Check rules and regulations

This one only really applies if you're moving abroad (or perhaps to a new state), but you need to check in on local regulations and the laws for bringing a pet into the country. It's also a good idea to check out any rules or regulations for pets that might be different to your current location.

For example, your pet may need to go into quarantine before they are allowed to enter a new country. If this is the case, you and your pet need to be prepared for this to happen, and you need to make sure you're aware of all the rules.

Know how they're going to travel

Next up, you need to determine how your pet is going to travel and whether they'll go with you on moving day. Determine whether they'll be coming with you in the car, whether someone will bring them later or if you'll use a professional pet relocation service.

Again, this will depend on how far away you're moving, and if you're moving abroad, in some cases, your pet may have to fly or travel by public transport with you.

Keep their belongings together

To ensure you can help your pet settle as quickly as possible in their new home, it's a good idea to pack all of their belongings together. It's also a good idea to make sure these are accessible or that you know where they are at all times, particularly while travelling. Just in case you need to get something out quickly to help comfort them.

This might mean collecting their bedding, food bowls, food, toys, blankets, etc. and putting them in one box or bag. If you've put this all in a box, clearly label the box, so you know where it is, or put it all in a distinctive bag that you'll easily recognise.

If you do all of the above before you move, you can help to reduce the stress of moving day whilst making it easier for your pet to settle in.

Tell your neighbours you're moving

Lastly, if you're moving somewhere close to your current location, it might be worth letting your neighbours know you're moving and giving them your phone number if they don't already have it. That way, if your pet gets lost or gravitates back towards their old home, your neighbours can let you know.

Make moving day arrangements

As we said, if your pet won't be travelling with you on the day or will be coming later, make sure you've arranged who will be transporting them. Knowing that your pet is in good hands while you deal with moving all the boxes will relieve some of the stress of the day. You might even wish to leave them with a friend or relative for a day or two as you get everything sorted.

For smaller animals not used to going in the car (rabbits, hamsters, etc.), it can feel that extra bit scary, so make sure they are in a safe and secure holdall or space to reduce the amount of stress on them as they travel.

Dedicate an area to your pet

As you begin to move your belongings into your new home and get settled, it's a good idea to dedicate an area to your pet. Set out their bed, food and water so they have somewhere to escape to if they're feeling overwhelmed by the move. This can also help them to settle in quicker and means they can start to make themselves feel at home.

Don't let them wander off

This will depend on what pet you have (it's far easier to keep your pet close if they're a rabbit, hamster, lizard, etc.), but be careful they don't go too far exploring. If you have a cat, it's a good idea to keep them inside for a few days. That way, they won't wander too far away and become confused or lost.

Introduce them to the new area

Then you need to introduce your pet to their new surroundings slowly. If you have a dog, take them for walks around the local area and let them get used to it. Don't let them off the lead unless they have good recall, and you're sure they'll come back.

If you have a cat, you might wish to let them outside for shorter periods, keeping an eye on them as they explore their new garden or street. If you have other pets that live inside or in the garden, as long as they have their cage/hutch, this shouldn't be an issue.

Register your pet at the vet

If you've moved to a new area, you will need to get your pet registered with a local vet. To do this, do some research and find out which veterinary practices are in the area. That way, you can choose the one that is going to be best for your pet. Do this as soon as possible, just in case they are injured or become ill.

Update their tags

Finally, if you've got a cat or dog that has a tag on its collar, you need to make sure you update this with your new address as soon as possible. That way, if your pet does get lost or wanders off and is found, they are more likely to be returned quickly to your new address. That or taken to a vet in the area until you can collect them.