



Moving with Your Pet

A Comprehensive Guide to a Smooth Transition for Your Whole Family.

We know that a house isn't a home until every member of the family is settled, including your pet companions. Moving can be a stressful disruption to a pet's routine. This strategic guide is designed to help you manage the logistics seamlessly, keeping your pets safe, calm, and comfortable from your old front door to your new one.

1. Pre-Move Preparation (4 Weeks Out)

Step 1: Veterinary Records & Health Certificates

Visit your vet to obtain physical and digital copies of all medical history, vaccination records, and certificates. If you are moving across state lines or internationally, ask about specific entry requirements or required health document timelines.

Step 2: Microchip & ID Tag Updates

Ensure your pet's microchip is registered with your new phone number and address. Order updated collar ID tags featuring your current mobile number so you can be reached immediately during transit.

Step 3: Research Municipal Laws & HOA Rules

Local municipalities and homeowners associations frequently have specific regulations regarding pet numbers, breed restrictions, or mandatory local licensing. Check the local city or village hall website of your new neighborhood well in advance.

2. Packing & Travel Readiness (2 Weeks Out)

Step 4: Acclimate to Boxes and Carriers

Cats and dogs are highly sensitive to environmental changes. Bring packing boxes into active

living areas early so they become neutral objects. If your pet travels in a crate, leave it open in the living room with familiar blankets and treats inside to build a positive association.

Step 5: Maintain Consistent Routines

Despite the chaotic schedule of packing, keep feeding times, walks, and play sessions at exactly the same times. Consistency provides an emotional anchor of safety for your pet.

3. Moving Day Strategy


Step 6: Secure a Dedicated Quiet Zone

With open doors and moving crews lifting heavy furniture, the risk of a pet bolting out of fear is high. Designate a specific room (like an empty bathroom or bedroom) as a secure "Pet Zone" with a clear sign on the door reading: "DO NOT OPEN - PET INSIDE." Keep them safely enclosed until the trucks are fully loaded.

Step 7: Pack the "First-Night Essentials" Kit

Pack a clearly labeled, easily accessible bag or bin that travels directly in your car—never in the moving truck. It should include:

- Food and water bowls, plus a 3-day supply of their regular food and bottled water.
- All necessary daily medications.
- A favorite comfort toy and a bed or blanket smelling of your old home.
- Waste bags, a litter box with familiar litter, and paper towels/enzyme cleaner for accidental messes.

 **Pro-Tip for Transit Day:** Never feed your pet a large meal right before hitting the road, as anxiety combined with vehicle motion can easily induce carsickness. Stick to small treats or light portions, and plan for frequent stops in safe, designated pet areas.

4. Settling Into the New Home

Step 8: The "Slow Reveal" Strategy

When you arrive, do not let your pet roam the entire house immediately, which can feel overwhelming. Confine them initially to one comfortable room equipped with their familiar bedding, toys, and food. As they begin to exhibit relaxed behavior, gradually open up additional rooms over several days.

Step 9: De-scent and Supervise

Before letting your pet explore, inspect the perimeter closely. Clean up any lingering smells left

by previous owners' animals using an enzymatic cleaner to discourage territorial marking. Check that all window screens are secure and fence gates are locked tightly. Do not let your pet roam the yard unsupervised, we have heard of dogs in confusion, jumping fences and trying to run back to the previous home. Cats are escape artists too! Make sure to watch cats closely when opening exterior doors, cats can travel for many miles in search of their previous home.

*Presented as a complimentary resource by The Jungles Group.
We don't just find you a house; we help your entire family find a home.*