

# Checklist for Owners Moving with Pets

## Before Moving

### Comfort and Acclimation

- Prepare suitable carriers, cages, or transport bags tailored for your pet's size and needs.
- Gather favorite toys, bedding, and blankets to comfort your pet and reduce travel stress.
- Gradually introduce your pet to its carrier several weeks prior to moving for smooth acclimation.
- Create a calm and quiet space on moving day; maintain familiar routines.
- Consider arranging professional pet-sitting or daycare services for dogs and cats during the transition.
- Consult your veterinarian about calming medications or products if necessary.
- Book pet-friendly accommodation well in advance for long-distance journeys.
- Practice with short 'test trips' to acclimate your pet to travel conditions.
- Keep a calming pheromone spray or diffuser on hand if your pet is anxious.

### Veterinarian Preparation

- Verify that all vaccinations, licenses, and documents are up to date and appropriate for travel.
- Request medical records and obtain a health certificate, especially for interstate or international moves.
- Stock up on essential medications, both prescription and regular.
- Discuss with your vet the possible need for sedatives, anti-anxiety products, or specific travel advice.
- Get recommendations or referrals for a trusted veterinarian in your new location.

### Purchases and Supplies

- Pack enough food and treats for the first few days post-move to avoid sudden diet changes.
- Bring bowls, water containers, collapsible dishes, and identification collars with updated contact info.
- Prepare absorbent pads, extra towels, pet wipes, and cleaning supplies for accidents on the road.
- Use car seat covers, vehicle hammocks, and window shades for comfortable travel.
- Include your pet's favorite toys, chew treats, and a pet-specific first aid kit.
- For cats, pack litter and necessary box supplies.
- Prepare disposable gloves for handling during emergencies.

### Documents and Legal Requirements

- Research transportation rules and animal import regulations for cars, planes, or trains in advance.
- Prepare all necessary travel documents (certificates, pet photos, proof of ownership) in case of loss or emergencies.
- Learn local animal care requirements, registration procedures, or quarantine policies at your destination.
- Reserve space for your pet in your chosen mode of transportation ahead of time.
- Check insurance options for pet transport, if available.

## Additional Tips

- Inform moving staff and helpers that pets are present—ensure doors and gates remain secure to avoid escape.
- Place identification tags on all luggage containing pet supplies.
- Prioritize settling your pet into its designated area upon arrival; recreate familiar sleeping and feeding zones.
- Keep emergency contacts for veterinary care, poison control, and local animal rescue at the ready.

## After Moving

### Comfort and Routine

- Set up a quiet, dedicated area with your pet's bed and favorite toys to create a calming, familiar environment.
- Place familiar bedding or blankets in this space to ease anxiety.
- Stick to your pet's usual feeding, walking, and play schedules to maintain stability.
- Allow your pet to gradually explore the new home room by room, monitoring their comfort level.
- Select a new sitter, kennel, or daycare as needed for future care.
- Visit local dog parks to foster socialization and introduce your pet to the neighborhood.
- Give extra attention and playtime, reinforcing trust and reassurance.

### Veterinary Care & Health

- Locate and register with the nearest veterinary clinic and emergency care facility right after your move.
- Transfer your pet's medical history and documents to the new vet.
- Schedule a preventive checkup and update vaccinations if needed.
- Monitor your pet's appetite, behavior, and energy for signs of stress or illness.
- Keep the new vet's contact details and directions handy in case of emergencies.
- Update microchip registration and identification tags with your new address and phone number.

### Safety and Adaptation

- Pet-proof your home by checking for hazardous items, poisonous plants, exposed cables, and unguarded windows or doors.
- Identify safe outdoor areas for walks and exercise—avoid unfamiliar hazards.
- Set up feeding stations, water bowls, litter boxes, and play areas in convenient, consistent locations.
- Register your pet with local municipal services if required by regulations.
- Update address and contact information on all pet-related supplies, medication packaging, and delivery services.
- Locate nearby pet supply stores and evaluate their offerings for food, toys, and care products.
- Confine your pet to a safe room or crate during heavy unpacking to prevent escapes or accidents.

## Additional Tips

- Discard old or unsafe toys and bedding; refresh with new items if needed.
- Reintroduce crate training if your pet needs additional time to adjust.

- Maintain emergency numbers for animal poison control and local shelters.
- Keep travel documents and insurance coverage accessible for follow-up needs.