

Hints and Tips When Moving House with Your Pet

Humans aren't the only ones who get stressed during a house move. With all the rushing around and packing boxes dogs and cats can get a little bewildered and confused. Not to mention our stress levels can have an effect on our pets as well.

A bit of preparation can help reduce the stress & potential for accidents or pets running off.

Let's start with dogs; before the move make sure the new yard is secure, with adequate fencing and secure gates.

Check sheds chook yards and rubbish heaps for any hazards such as rodent poison or hazardous plants or chemicals.

Where possible take your dog to the new house before the move, leave one of their beds or towels and a few toys at the premises so they become familiarised. A few visits before the move will really help. After the move; try to be there for your dog as much as possible. Don't go straight back to work if you can avoid it. Take your dog for regular short walks and return to the house and spend time with them; both indoors and outdoors. Give the dog times so it can come in & out freely but also get them used to having doors closed. The best time to do this is when you give toys and treats and leave them for short periods of time without physical contact. The more they can see you the better so try to set yourself up in areas where they can see you but not be with you physically all the time.

Minor problems may arise if the dog is anxious. This can include attention seeking, barking, digging or trying to escape. If the dog is very anxious or has a history of separation anxiety see your vet or animal behaviourist. Room and bedding sprays using aromatherapy such as Aroma-Calm spray may help calm mild anxiety as could flowers essences such as Bach flower rescue remedy or Australian bush flowers emergency essence (We stock Aroma Calm spray, Herbal Nerve Tonic for dogs and flower essences). Extra exercise can also help with stress (humans and animals!)

Moving house with your cat

The greatest risk with cats is escaping so the move needs to be more organized or the cat may need to be boarded until you have settled the new furniture into your new house. The cat will feel more settled if the house smells the same and has familiar furniture & bedding. Pheromone sprays or room diffusers can help too; ask your vet about this before the move. These products often need to be ordered in and may take some weeks to arrive.

Make sure the cat has familiar items such as bedding, food bowls, scratching post and litter tray.

Keep the cat locked inside for the first few weeks. Some cats are ok after 1 week but if you have any doubts keep them in longer or build a run or enclosure for them. Cats can also benefit from flower essences as mentioned for dogs. Aromatherapy must be used with care for cats as they are more sensitive; in most cases room sprays are ok to use just make sure they are suitable for cats.

AND DON'T FORGET TO UPDATE YOUR PETS COLLAR AND TAGS AND MAKE SURE THEY ARE WEARING THEM AT ALL TIMES!