

## Checklist for Relocating with Pets



### 1. Start Planning Early (2-3 Months Before the Move)

- Research destination requirements: Check state-specific regulations for pet entry, such as quarantine rules or breed restrictions (e.g., some states have laws on pit bulls or exotic pets). Use resources like the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website for interstate guidelines.
- Schedule a vet visit: Get a full health checkup, update vaccinations, and obtain a health certificate if flying or crossing certain states. Discuss sedatives or anxiety meds if your pet gets stressed during travel.
- Update identification: Ensure your pet is microchipped with current contact info, and attach ID tags with your new address and phone number. Consider GPS trackers for added peace of mind.
- Choose travel method: Decide between driving (ideal for shorter moves) or flying (check airline policies like Delta or United's pet programs). For long hauls, look into professional pet transport services if needed.

### 2. Handle Health and Documentation (1 Month Before)

- Gather records: Collect vaccination proofs, medical history, and prescriptions. Transfer records to a new vet in your destination area—use sites like the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) to find one.
- Address breed-specific needs: For dogs, cats, birds, or reptiles, confirm any special requirements (e.g., rabies titers for Hawaii moves).
- Prepare for emergencies: Research 24/7 animal hospitals along your route or near your new home, and pack a pet first-aid kit with bandages, antiseptics, and any allergy meds.

### 3. Pack Pet Essentials and Organize Logistics (2-4 Weeks Before)

- Assemble a pet travel kit: Include food, water bowls, treats, litter/box for cats, waste bags, leashes, collars, favorite toys, blankets, and cleaning supplies. Pack enough for the journey plus a few extra days in case of delays.

- Acclimate to carriers: Get airline-approved crates or carriers early and let your pet get used to them through short practice sessions to reduce anxiety.
- Pet-proof packing: If we're handling your move, let our team know about fragile pet items like aquariums or birdcages. For DIY packing, secure these last to avoid damage.
- Arrange pet care for moving day: Hire a sitter or board your pet to keep them safe from the chaos of loading trucks.

#### 4. Manage Moving Day and Travel

- Keep pets contained: On the big day, confine them to a quiet room or carrier away from movers to prevent escapes or injuries.
- Travel safely: For car trips, use harnesses or crates, take frequent breaks for walks and hydration, and never leave pets in a hot vehicle. For flights, follow TSA and airline rules—book pet spots early as they're limited.
- Monitor stress: Watch for signs like excessive panting or hiding, and use calming aids like pheromone sprays or music designed for pets.
- Fuel and rest stops: Plan routes with pet-friendly hotels (e.g., via BringFido.com) and rest areas for exercise.

#### 5. Settle In and Adjust After the Move

- Unpack pet areas first: Set up their bed, food station, and litter box immediately to create familiarity in the new space.
- Pet-proof the new home: Check for hazards like loose wires, toxic plants, or escape routes, and gradually introduce them to rooms.
- Update everything: Register with a local vet, update microchip info, and get new licenses or tags as required by your new state or city.
- Reestablish routines: Stick to regular feeding, walking, and playtimes to help your pet adjust quickly. If issues persist, consult a behaviorist.

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