



Moving House With Your Dog

Moving house can be stressful for everyone involved, including your dog. As well as coping with all of the upheaval during the move, it'll take weeks for him to get used to a new territory and strange smells in the new house. Although you'll be very busy with little time, please bear in mind the following to help make it easier and safer for him.

Things to do before the move:

- Some dogs may become distressed or anxious during the upheaval of packing, so confine them to a quiet room with some of their familiar belongings, where they can rest and be safe and where you do not have to worry about them.
- Leave packing his toys, bedding and other equipment to the last moment so that he is comforted by the presence of his familiar things. Do not wash his bedding until a couple of weeks after the move, so that he will have something familiar smelling in the new house.
- Make arrangements for your dog to stay with a friend or relative that they feel comfortable with during the move, as they may be upset by strange people coming into their house to do the removal. They will also be safer; if they stay with you in the house there is a chance they may be able to escape as doors are likely to be left open. You will also be able to concentrate on the stressful business of moving house without the added worry of looking after your dog. If you do not have any friends or family that can look after them then consider booking them into a boarding kennel for the night.
- Have a tag made with your name, new phone number (and mobile phone number if possible) and your new address so that it is ready to put onto his collar for the day of the move. If they escape during the move or immediately after, this will increase their chances of getting back to you.
- If you are planning to move a long distance away and your dog suffers from travel sickness or severe anxiety in the car, talk to your vet about ways to make the journey less stressful for them.

Things to remember on the day of the move:

- If your dog is staying with you during the move then confine them to one secure room, so that escape and injury cannot occur to them whilst people are going in and out of the house. Leave them in a quiet area with their familiar unwashed bed and possessions.
- Put their new tag on.
- Make sure that they are safely secured in the car or vehicle that they are to be transported in to the new house with a dog guard, travel crate or car harness on the back seat. If it is a long journey, make sure that they get regular toilet and water breaks.

In the new home:

- Check your boundary fencing to make sure that it is secure, of sufficient height and 'hole-free' before letting your dog run free in the garden. If your dog is able to escape then take him out on a lead until you are able to do the necessary improvements.



- ✿ Try to unpack the essentials before introducing your dog to the new house so that they can see familiar items within the unfamiliar house. If possible place furniture and items in similar places to those in the old house.

- ✿ Be patient with your dog in the new home and make allowances for 'accidents' on the carpet if they should happen. Don't make a fuss, don't punish your dog or draw his attention to accidents, as this may make the problem worse. Quietly pick up the mess and clean the area with a biological solution, or special cleaner from the vets or pet shop to properly remove the smell. Once your dog has settled in they should stop. Always praise them when they go to toilet in the correct place (i.e. outside!) so that they know where to go.

- ✿ Make sure that you stick to your usual routines, as this will help him to settle - feed and walk him at the usual times. Don't give him more or less attention than he is used to having from you; this may cause him to become anxious or over dependent on you and lead to behaviour problems.

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The advice contained in this handout is of a general nature and is no substitute for specific behavioural or veterinary advice.

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