

Let's Get
MOVING

Moving *with* Pets



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INTRO

Moving with animals, whether pets or part of a small farm, requires thoughtful planning and considerations to ensure their safety, well-being, and comfort throughout the transition.

This ebook is a comprehensive guide to help you navigate the complexities of moving with different types of animals, from household pets like cats and dogs to small farm animals such as chickens, rabbits, and horses.

In these pages, you will find a wealth of information and practical advice tailored to the specific needs of various animals during the moving process.

From understanding the importance of proper transport containers and climate control to managing feeding schedules, handling, and ensuring legal compliance, this ebook comprehensively covers every aspect of moving with animals.

We tapped into real-life experiences and best practices shared by vets, animal owners and animal behaviour professionals who shared knowledge and flagged potential obstacles.

Whether you're relocating to a new home, moving your animals to a new farm, or embarking on a long-distance journey, this ebook can help you make informed decisions about providing a safe and comfortable environment for your furry, feathered, or scaled companions.

We hope this guide is a valuable resource and helps you navigate the challenges of moving with animals effectively, ensuring a positive experience for you and your cherished animal companions. Happy reading, and safe travels!





HOW TO MOVE WITH A DOG

START WITH A VET CHECK!

6 PRE-MOVE PREPARATIONS

1. Get a copy of your pet's medical records to have on hand while travelling during your move.
2. Update your dog's collar with a new pet ID tag and your new address and contact details and attach the same info to your pet's carrier.
3. Have your dog microchipped if they aren't already.
4. Familiarize your dog with any new carriers well in advance by incorporating it into daily life.
5. Pack your home gradually and over a long period to lessen their anxiety as they sense the environment changing.
6. Pack their toys, blankets, and food dishes at the end for increased access to these necessities throughout the moving day.





KEEP CALM AND MOVE ON

Many of us are familiar with the benefits of Reiki to help us ease anxiety and heal. Reiki is also helpful in soothing our dog's anxiety, so consider a dog Reiki session immediately before or after your move.

Thundershirts for dogs are a very cool invention. Scientists discovered that by being wrapped and held tightly, autistic children feel comforted and safer. So, someone took the concept and made a doggie thundershirt.

Or try a calming dog collar. It fits around your dog's neck like a regular collar. As the dog's body temperature warms the rubber, it releases feel-good, calming pheromones.

Download a dog training app for on-the-spot training, dog comfort, and aftercare solutions.

On the morning of the move, take your dog for an extra-long walk and follow your usual routine until the movers arrive. Then it's time to pop them into their crates or give them to a friend or family member for the day so they can be kept safe and calm.

Other routines to maintain are their feeding schedule, regular walks, commands and training, playtime, and tons of love.



WHAT ARE THE BEST TOYS TO GIVE A DOG WHILE MOVING?

Give your dog a mental challenge with a Kong, a LickiMat, or a snuffle mat. Chewing is a stress-buster that engages your dog's logical thinking brain instead of his emotional brain. By helping him change his thinking, you can alleviate your dog's anxiety and stress.

CAN SCENTS CALM A HYPER DOG?

Dogs feel more secure when surrounded by familiar scents, like a t-shirt you've slept in or a calming aromatherapy scent. One study of dogs found lavender to have the most calming effect on stressed out dogs.

NOISE-SENSITIVE DOG?

Studies show that dogs can react positively and calmly to dog-specific music. Try playing this for them before the move to gauge whether it's useful for noisy times.

MOVING WITH AMPHIBIANS

BEST PRACTICES

Transporting amphibians requires careful attention to temperature control, container setup, and bedding to ensure their well-being and reduce stress during travel. Follow these guidelines to keep your amphibians safe and comfortable during transportation.

TEMPERATURE CONSIDERATIONS

Colder temperatures are generally better than being too hot for amphibians during transport. For most species, aim for a temperature range of 16-20°C (60-68°F), with cooler temperatures preferred for some.

CONTAINER DESIGN

Use rounded containers without sharp corners to prevent animals from obsessing or getting stuck. Provide enough space for amphibians to turn around comfortably but not jump excessively. Keep transport containers dark to help amphibians settle down and reduce stress during the journey.

BEDDING CHOICES FOR COMFORT

Opt for bedding like a thin layer of soil topped with boiled and dried leaf litter for cushioning and shelter. This bedding setup also helps maintain stable humidity levels and provides a surface for collecting water if needed.

AMPHIBIAN TRANSPORT TIPS

Place the transport container inside a polystyrene box with added ventilation to stabilize temperatures and reduce temperature fluctuations. Avoid sphagnum moss as bedding, as it can become too wet and lead to bacterial infections if animals are exposed for extended periods.



MOVING WITH BIRDS



Birds are sensitive creatures that require careful handling and transport to ensure their well-being and safety during relocation. Here are some expert tips on moving a parrot or a parakeet.

BIRDCAGE TRANSPORT

Transport birds in their cages whenever possible to provide a familiar and secure environment. For larger birds like peacocks or those not typically caged, ensure the transport container has ample ventilation and space for comfort.

PREPARATION BEFORE TRAVEL

Do not feed birds before travel to minimize waste production and empty their digestive tract. Ensure birds are well-hydrated leading up to the move, adjusting bathing or water content in their diet. Keep all equipment off the day before and the day of capture to reduce stress during transition.

TEMPERATURE CONSIDERATIONS

Maintaining appropriate ambient temperatures during transport ensures birds are not exposed to extreme cold or heat. Avoid panicking about temperature changes immediately upon arrival at the new location; allow time for adjustment.





MOVING WITH CATS

Most of the tips we have written for dogs also apply to cats, including a vet visit, tagging and microchipping, and providing familiar items in their carrier. Here are some more specific tips for moving with a cat.

TIPS FOR “THE CALL OF NATURE”

Bring a portable litter box. Bringing a familiar litterbox and litter from home is helpful when going on a road trip. Cats are susceptible to scents, and not having access to the familiar litter box may lead to accidents on the road. Be prepared with cleaning supplies in case that happens.

TIPS FOR CAT ANXIETY

Enhancing the cat’s environment with interactive toys, puzzle feeders, and vertical spaces can alleviate boredom and anxiety during the move. Owners can provide mental stimulation and distraction, helping cats adjust to their new surroundings more easily.

WATER AND NUTRITION

Provide your cat with a balanced diet rich in high-quality proteins, essential fatty acids, and vitamins to support their overall health and resilience during times of change. Omega-3 fatty acids and probiotics support immune function and gut health during stressful situations.

MOVING WITH CHICKENS

BEST PRACTICES



Transporting small poultry flocks requires researching local and federal laws and ensuring the birds' safety and well-being.

TIPS FOR HEAT STRESS PREVENTION

1. Birds should ideally be moved in their cages to provide familiarity, ventilation, adequate space, and security.
2. Avoid removing your chickens' feed and water before transport, as this can lead to stress.
3. Never leave chickens in the transport vehicle overnight; always protect them from extreme weather conditions such as heat or cold.

TIPS FOR CHICKEN MOVING CONTAINER SAFETY

1. Use appropriate transport modules or crates sized correctly and in good repair to prevent injuries and escapes.
2. Follow guidelines for the number of birds per container, ensuring they have enough space to rest comfortably.
3. Never put your chickens in vehicle trunks or unsecured areas where they can potentially suffer injuries.
4. Secure their crates properly and provide adequate ventilation during transport to maintain bird health and well-being.
5. For the United States, The USA's National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) website provides the most current codes of practice regarding chicken welfare during state-side transport.



MOVING WITH EXOTIC PETS

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS IS A MUST!

TIPS FOR MOVING AN EXOTIC PET COMPLIANTLY

1. The American Veterinary Medical Association states that some exotic pets may require a permit to own and transport. Make sure you possess such a permit if your creature needs one.
2. Check with your state wildlife management agency in the United States to determine if your exotic pet species requires a permit.
3. No matter how your exotic pet travels, it's important to note that each mode of transportation has different rules and regulations regarding pets and ticket purchases.
4. Get together your exotic pet's vet file, including vaccines, and have this information on hand during travel days.
5. Contact your new city, county, or homeowners' association to ask about restrictions on exotic pets. If you are moving to a rented home, your new landlord should be aware of your animal before you sign your lease. They can help guide you toward local exotic animal laws if you move to a new country with unfamiliar rules.



MOVING WITH FISH



PREPARATION FOR TRANSPORT

Drain some water from the tank into a bucket. You will use this to fill the vessels to transport the fish. Keep the rest of the water in the tank and use battery-operated air pumps to maintain stable oxygen levels during transport.

AQUARIUM ACCESSORIES

Place the aquarium's filter media, decorations, and plants into buckets with old tank water to maintain biological balance.

STOP FEEDING

Stop feeding your fish 2-3 days before the trip to reduce waste.

TRANSPORTATION VESSELS

Catch fish and place them in large, sturdy bags filled with old tank water, secured in insulated coolers. If the move lasts longer than a few hours, prepare to open the top occasionally to exchange the air in the bags.

Alternatively, 5-gallon buckets can be used for smaller fish and larger containers for bigger ones, filled with fresh conditioned water powered by an air stone.

MAINTAIN THE ECOSYSTEM

Keep canister filters half-full with water during transport to preserve bacteria.

WHAT TO DO DURING OVERNIGHTS

Bring fish indoors every night during stops, run air pumps, and perform water changes as needed.



MOVING WITH HORSES

Moving with horses requires careful planning and adherence to transportation protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of your steed.

PRE-MOVE ASSESSMENT AND CONTINGENCY PLAN

Horses must be carefully assessed for fitness before transport, considering trip duration and weather conditions.

Unfit horses cannot travel except for veterinary care, and pregnant mares cannot travel in the last 10% of their gestation period.

TIPS FOR TRANSPORTING HORSES SAFETY

1. Horses can only travel in containers of appropriate size with adequate ventilation, protection from weather, and bedding material.
2. Horses must be handled and loaded by knowledgeable individuals using humane methods.
3. Never force them into their trailer, and ensure loading areas are well-lit, non-slip, and have appropriate ramps and chutes.
4. Throughout the journey, someone should continuously monitor each horse to ensure they remain healthy and receive the necessary care and attention.
5. Stop for water, food and movement every 6-8 hours.
6. Check that the unloading area is safe with suitable ramps and chutes and that each horse receives attention on arrival.
7. Upon reaching the facility, provide them with water immediately.

MOVING WITH RABBITS, FERRETS, & RODENTS

PREPARATION FOR TRANSPORT

Use a cage dressed with familiar elements (bedding/toys) that is large enough to allow free movement but resists the animal chewing. Ensure the carrier is well-ventilated to avoid overheating and provide ample water for hydration. Also, provide familiar bedding or items from their cage to comfort them during travel.



ABSORBENT MATERIAL

Line the bottom of the cage with absorbent material to manage waste and spilled water, reducing messes during the journey.

NOCTURNAL CREATURES

Keep nocturnal pets like chinchillas, pythons, rats, and hamsters on their sleeping schedule as much as possible. Stock up on extra treats to offer comfort during the move, and cover their cage to keep light out if they need to rest.

TEMPERATURE CONTROL

Be mindful of temperature fluctuations during transportation, as small mammals are sensitive to heat and cold. Avoid exposing them to direct sunlight or extreme temperatures to prevent stress and discomfort.

PREPARATION AND PLANNING

Plan the route to minimize travel time and areas of rough roads, as travelling by road can be hard on small, sensitive animals. Pack extra food, water, bedding, and medications for the journey.





MOVING WITH REPTILES

ALL ABOUT TEMP CONTROL!

1. Prepare travel containers with battery-operated climate control to maintain a consistent temperature similar to your reptile's natural habitat.
2. Use only well-ventilated travel containers.
3. Choose a dark box with adequate space for movement but not too tight to cause stress or discomfort.
4. Use snake bags or pillowcases in addition to boxes for certain species, which can provide a sense of security during travel.
5. Whatever you choose, travel containers should be well-ventilated and secure to prevent escapes and provide a comfortable environment.
6. We recommend travelling by car and taking the smoothest route to avoid jostling your reptile pet.
7. Ensure reptiles are not exposed to direct sunlight during travel and maintain a comfortable temperature inside the vehicle.
8. Secure containers tightly with locking covers or duct tape to prevent escapes.
9. Check legal requirements for transporting reptiles to your destination and obtain necessary permits.
10. Pack smaller reptiles in foam-lined boxes and larger ones in cat or dog-style carriers for safety.
11. Avoid leaving pets inside terrariums during travel and pack enrichment items separately for long-distance moves.

It's crucial to start planning and preparing for your pet's relocation as early as possible. This early preparation is key to ensuring a smooth transition for your furry friends.

Doing so gives you a better chance of providing safety and comfort for your little friends as they transition with you.

We hope this ebook has made you feel more prepared for your move and less worried about how you will keep your pets calm and comforted throughout.

Don't hesitate to ask your pet's veterinarian any further questions you may have. They should be happy to help and can give advice specific to your unique creature.

That's all for now, but before you go, we want to thank you for reading and wish you happy and safe travels!

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Let's Get Moving is the North American expert for one-stop moving experiences, served with exceptional customer service.

We pride ourselves on offering all the moving services needed to make moves as hands-off (meaning you do nothing) or budget-friendly as a person needs.

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Maybe we can't redirect mail to your new address or plan your housewarming party, but we can pack you up, move you out, store your stuff, haul your junk, and unpack you at your new location.

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HOW TO MOVE A PLANT

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CREATED BY

Fahim Ludin (Coordinator)

Alana Armstrong (Content)

Malieka Muzaffar (Design)