

**Dogs are incredibly adaptable and often take new things in their stride but moving house is stressful for all concerned. The following pointers aim to reduce the stress on your dog which in turn should give you one less thing to worry about.**

### Top Tips:

- 🐾 Moving house requires a lot of preparation; make sure you consider your pets when making those plans.
- 🐾 Consider sending your dog away to friends, family or boarding kennels during the move.
- 🐾 Alternatively, choose a room or location where your dog can stay safe whilst the move is happening.
- 🐾 Leave the dog's bedding, toys, food and water bowl to be packed last.
- 🐾 Speak with your vet for advice on reducing stress, including, during the journey if your dog suffers from car sickness. Try using an ADAPTIL plug-in and/or collar.
- 🐾 Attach a new tag to your dog's collar with your new details, and update the microchip details.
- 🐾 Plan your journey and take breaks as required.
- 🐾 If possible identify and address any fencing issues prior to arriving at the new house. If this is not possible keep him on lead in the garden until the fencing can be made secure.
- 🐾 Revisit your housetraining even with an older dog as he may feel insecure in his new surroundings initially (see house training factsheet).
- 🐾 Read on for more advice on 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 area and strange smells in the new house. Although you'll be very busy with little time for him, 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 him to a quiet room where he can rest and be safe and where you do not have to worry about him.

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 he feels comfortable with during the move, as he may be upset by strange people coming into his house to do the removal. He will also be safer; if he stays with you in the house there is a chance he 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 him then consider booking him into a boarding kennel for the night.

Speak to your vet about obtaining an ADAPTIL (Dog Appeasing Pheromone) plug-in and/or collar to use before, during and after moving.

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 he escapes during the move or immediately after, this will increase his 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 him.

### Things to remember during the move:

If your dog is staying with you during the move then confine him to one secure room, so that escape and injury cannot occur to him whilst people are going in and out of the house. Leave him in a quiet area with his familiar unwashed bed and possessions.

Remember to put an identification tag with your new address on his collar.

Make sure that he is safely secured in the car or vehicle that he is 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 he gets 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 he can see familiar items within the unfamiliar house. If possible place furniture and items in similar places to those in the old house.
- Use an ADAPTIL plug in diffuser in your new home, particularly in the room that your dog spends most of his time in.
- If your dog is microchipped, contact Petlog on 0870 6066751 to get his records changed to your new address as soon as possible.
- 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, or punish your dog or draw his attention to them as this may make the problem worse. Quietly pick up the mess and clean the area with a non-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 him when he goes to toilet in the correct place (i.e. outside!) so that he knows 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.

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