

Keeping Pets & People Together



The human-animal bond is special and essential to the health and well-being of both you and your pet. It's an important bond to maintain during and after your move.

Canada Moving has partnered with Humane Canada, the federation of SPCA's & Humane Societies, to encourage responsible pet ownership. Together we are keeping animals out of shelter to stay with their families, where they belong.

Moving with a Pet? Here are some tips to make it a PAWsome experience for everyone:

- Find care for your pet on moving day rather than having them present. This may be another family member or friend, or a well recommended boarding facility. Moving can be a scary time for a pet, it is noisy, and their items are being handled. Having them in another location can help ease this stress.
- If you do not have a place for your pet to go on moving days, it is best to keep them in a closed room, as doors are often left open with people coming and going, increasing the chance of your pet getting out or lost.
- Moving is a stressful time for an animal, especially if they have a history of anxiety. If you know the move may be extra hard on your companion, talk to your vet ahead of time. They may recommend an over-the-counter calming room scent or spray, or a prescribed medication to help ease their anxiety.
- Be sure to update your pet's identification tag to any new phone numbers or address. If you have permanent identification on your pet, like a microchip, contact the company to update your information. If you do not have your pet microchipped, we recommend doing so, it is proven to increase the likelihood of your pet being returned if they become lost.
- If you are moving into a home with a backyard, ensure that it is safely secured and fenced so your pets cannot get out. We recommend keeping your cat indoors, as this greatly reduces their chance of becoming lost, injured, or worse, and some bylaws require cats be kept indoors. If you want your cat to experience the outdoors, there are many safe and secure alternatives to letting them free roam.
- Check the local pet licensing requirements for the area you are moving to. Pet bylaws may change from city to city, but most require your pet to be licensed.



- When introducing your pet to their new home, have their favorite items readily available, like their favorite bed, blanket, or toy. The smell and comfort of these items and familiar furnishings can help reduce their stress.
- If you are driving long distance with a pet for your move, allow time for rest stops, bathroom breaks and walks (if required), and book pet friendly hotels ahead of time. If using a portable kennel, allow your pet to check it out ahead of time and bring favorite items like a blanket or toy which may help put them at ease. Talk to your vet about calming or motion sickness medication if needed.
- Some provinces require that property owners accept pets as part of their rental agreement, and some do not. If you are moving to a rental property, check the provincial regulations and with the rental company, prior to signing any contracts. Try to give enough time prior to a move deadline to find accommodation that allows pets. This way you will not have any surprises prior to moving day and ensure that your pet is safe and welcome in your new home.
- Keeping pets & people together is priority, but we understand that sometimes circumstances arise where you may be in a last-resort position to rehome your pet for their best interest. If you do not have a trusted family member or friend to properly care for your animal, find a SPCA or Humane Society in your community that will rehome your pet. It is important to find a reputable shelter or rescue and allow enough time to surrender your pet, as there are often waitlists. Humane Canada has caring member societies across Canada, please see the attached list or visit our website to find one near you.
- If you are fleeing domestic violence or are facing other difficult circumstances where you cannot take your pet, there are animal shelters that have pet safekeeping and emergency boarding programs. We recommend you contact your local community support, shelter or see the attached list of our member societies to find one near you.

Humane Canada is the federation of SPCAs and humane societies, advancing the welfare of animals with a strong national voice, promoting animal welfare concerns to government, policy makers, industry and the public. Together we're promoting respect and humane treatment toward all animals. You can find more information on Humane Canada and our member SPCA's & Humane Societies at www.humanecanada.ca

Support Humane Canada's work to improve animal welfare in Canada:

humanecanada.ca/how-to-help/donate/