

# CARING FOR PETS: WHEN YOU MOVE

Moving to a new home can be just as stressful on your pet as it is on you. Following are some tips to help you help your pet through this change of address.

- Talk to your veterinarian at least three weeks before the move to determine if your pet will need medication for nervousness or carsickness.
- Gather the supplies your pet will need during the move – food, water, medications, medical records, bedding and toys. It also helps to bring along some of your dirty laundry because the familiar scent of these belongings is comforting to your pet.
- Keep your pet away from the moving day activity by confining him to a room where he feels safe. Your pet could easily become frightened and slip out of an open door unnoticed. It's difficult to pack, move furniture, and keep an eye on your pet at the same time. Perhaps you have a friendly place where your pet can stay during the packing and moving (such as a neighbor's house or boarding kennel). As much as possible, try not to disrupt your pet's daily routine..
- Be sure your dog or cat has a tag with your new phone number or the number of a friend. This will ensure that there is someone to contact should your pet get lost during the move.
- Move small animals, like birds and hamsters, in their cages. Be sure to cover the cage with a lightweight fabric. Remove water and any other objects that might loosen and injure them. You must keep the temperature constant for these small friends to survive.
- Unpack and settle in a bit before turning your pet loose in the house. Keep the doors to your extra rooms closed and slowly give your pet access to them as he becomes accustomed to his new home.
- Orient your dog or cat to the new surroundings. If possible, try to place their favorite resting spot (dog bed, chair or cushion) in the same position or area as it was in your old home. Put their food and water bowls and toys in familiar places as well.
- If you have a dog, walk him around the house, yard and neighborhood. If you have a cat, sit quietly and pet her, preferably while sitting in a familiar chair. Provide a "safe place" for your cat to hide. Make sure she's eating, drinking and using her litterbox.
- Be patient, loving and reassuring with your pet, and they'll adjust quickly to their new home.

For more information, please visit [azhumane.org](http://azhumane.org).

