

MOVING HOUSE WITH PETS

Moving house can be stressful for the whole family, **including your pets**. With some planning, you can keep your pets safe and help them settle into their new home.



1 REDUCE STRESS

- Pets are very aware of changes around them.
- Watching you pack, lots of movement, loud noises and unfamiliar people coming and going can make them feel worried.
- Pets can also feel your stress, so staying calm will help them feel calmer too.

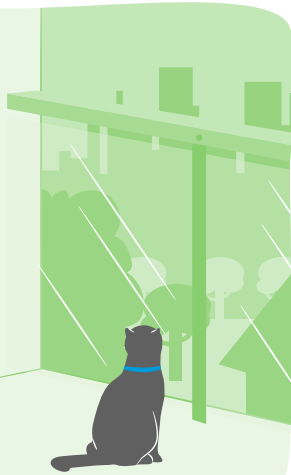


2 CHECK YOUR NEW HOME IS SAFE

Take extra care around moving time to keep your pet safe. Before your pet arrives, make sure your new home is secure.

Check that your pet cannot escape or get hurt because of:

- Broken or low fences (check they can't jump over or dig under).
- Gates that do not close properly.
- Balconies, including furniture your pet could climb on and jump from.



Other common risks during a move include:

- Doors or gates being left open by mistake.
- Pets escaping because they are afraid in a new environment.
- Dangerous items left where pets can reach them.
- Pets eating packing materials.
- Lots of new visitors, which can be stressful.



3 MOVING DAY

Many people find it easiest to leave their dog with a trusted friend or at a boarding facility. For cats, set up a room at your new property (one that removalists do not need to enter) with all their essentials from your old home. They can stay safe and hidden while the movers come and go.



If your cat currently goes outdoors, think about moving them to an at home lifestyle with safe outdoor access. For help with this, see [Home - Safe and Happy Cats](#).

4 TRANSPORTING YOUR PET

- Never leave a pet alone in your car.
- Dogs should travel safely in the car, using a crate, harness, or barrier.
- Make sure cats are in a secure carrier for travel. For tips on getting your cat used to its carrier, see [Helping your cat feel safe in their carrier](#).
- Place your cat's carrier in the footwell behind the front seats or on the back seat with a seatbelt securely around it. To help your cat stay calm, consider covering the carrier partially with a blanket.
- Keep voices and music low and ensure there is good ventilation (without being overwhelming).



5 HELPING PETS SETTLE INTO YOUR NEW HOME

Pets need time to get used to a new place. Let them explore slowly and calmly. Try to keep to your pet's normal routine as much as possible with feeding, walking and play at the usual times. This helps them cope.

For cats:

- Set up a "safe room" and let them stay there until they feel comfortable. Make sure the safe room has:
 - Their favourite bed and hiding places.
 - Food and water.
 - Familiar toys and blankets.
 - Scratching posts.
 - Litter trays.
- If your cat seems frustrated in the safe room, let them out to explore the rest of your home on their own terms.



Spend time with them. Let them explore more rooms when they seem relaxed.



For dogs:

- Watch them as they explore.
- Make sure they cannot escape.
- Consider keeping them indoors when you are not home for the first few weeks rather than tying your dog up.
- Make sure they have easy access to all their essential resources, including a safe space.



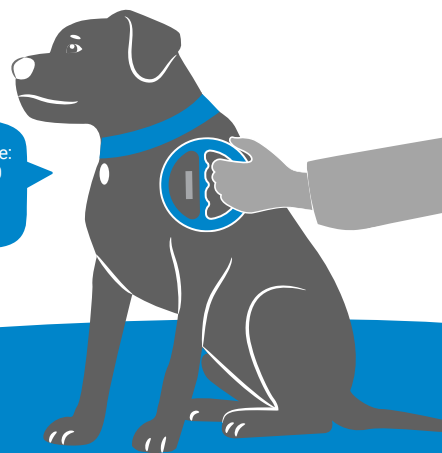
Tying dogs up:

- Can be very stressful.
- Puts your dog at risk of injury (including getting tangled up, choking or hanging).
- Exposes them to the weather, as they are unable to move themselves to more comfortable areas.



6 UPDATE MICROCHIP DETAILS

- Update your pet's microchip and ID tag with your new address on the [NSW Pet Registry - Home](#).
- This helps your pet get home safely if they go missing.
- You can even update the microchip details online on the day you move.



By planning ahead, you can help reduce stress and make the transition smoother for everyone.

For more information about caring for your pets, visit [Living with Pets - RSPCA New South Wales](#)

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