



home of The Cat's Den

News Release

Relocating Pets Minimize moving stress

Toronto, ON—Aug. 1, 2007—Pets hate moving house just as much as you do! How can you minimize their stress—and yours—while you're in upheaval?

These nine steps can help you through the transition:

1. **Deal with the red tape early.** If you're moving country or state, make sure you look into the rules governing importing animals to your new locale well ahead. Some places may require an extended quarantine period, an import permit, tests or additional vaccinations, or documentation guaranteeing your pet did not come from an area under quarantine.
2. **Designate a no-chaos zone.** Try to set aside one room that you can pack up first and then keep as a quiet space; or pack up last as you exit. This could be a guest bedroom, a master bathroom, a basement cubby, a balcony in good weather, or a pet enclosure from Habitat Haven that gives your pet room to roam without intruding into the indoor environment.
3. **Build positive associations.** Put your pet's carrier or crate in the zone days before you pack up the rest of your home. Add a couple of favourite toys. Spend some time there with them each day giving them a favourite treat, playing a favourite game, or taking a coffee break yourself from the bustle.
4. **Confine in protective custody.** On move-day and the last couple of days beforehand, move your pet's food, water and litter box into the zone with a few clothes you've worn so they'll have the comfort of your scent. Keep them confined there while you're busy with the final packing. Put a sign on the door to that space warning movers not to enter.
5. **Keep healthy.** Stress can affect the immune system. Just as you need to keep up your own vitamins, make sure your pets eat regularly. If they're showing stress reactions—like depressed mood, loss of appetite, a dull coat, or they're over-grooming, ask your veterinarian what you can do.
6. **Pack a first-week box for your pet.** Put enough food, medication if required, medical and identification records, blankets and/or favourite toys into one box that goes with you, *not with the movers*, to the new home. That way, if anything unforeseen happens to the moving van, you can still settle your pet until you resolve the issues.

7. **Make a safe space in the new home.** Set aside one space in the new home that you can settle ahead of time or day of the move before you bring in your pet. Move in the furniture first, then add their carrier, food, water, litter box, toys, and again something you've worn—shoes, clothes—that gives them your scent. Before you shut the door, you may want to put on some soothing music to mask the din of the move.
8. **Spend some time there with them.** Take a couple of breaks from the move to reassure your pet that you are indeed there and that this is their home.
9. **Show them around.** Animals are territorial. When you've got most of the furniture in place and are able to function in your new home, let your pet out to explore the new space. You may want to walk them once around the exterior so that, in the event they slip outside, they can find their way back.

If you already have a pet enclosure from Habitat Haven, you know it gives your pet a more wholesome active lifestyle safe from predators, falls or traffic. Remember, whether you've moved to a house, condo, apartment, or cottage, these attractive modular pet habitats are available in a number of do-it-yourself configurations which you can easily take with you and adapt to your new home or have custom-installed.

Habitat Haven is home of The Cat's Den, founded in 2003 by president Kris Kischer. It provides pet owners across North America with solutions for a wholesome pet lifestyle: innovative pet enclosure systems and accessories. For product information or to order, call 1-866-484-0644, fax 1-416-466-0087, or visit us online at www.habitathaven.com.

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