

# Moving with pets



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# Moving with dogs

## Step 1 Schedule an appointment with the veterinary:

- Inquire whether your dog is capable of travelling. If this is not the case, you might have to change your plans.
- Give your dog all the necessary short-term vaccinations. This will give you sufficient time to find a new veterinary at your new home area.
- Depending on your dog and his journey, ask your veterinary if a sleeping drug might be useful.
- Tell your current veterinary you are moving and ask if he can recommend another veterinary in your new neighbourhood.
- Ask if you can receive the passport with medical details of your dog. This could be necessary for the new veterinary and customs.

## Step 2 Find a dog friendly home:

- You have probably already done this, but pay extra attention to the house: is it dog friendly? Does the house have a large garden or is there a (small) park in the area? Buy your dog some extra toys to keep him distracted and less stressed in your new home.

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*Ask if you can receive the passport with medical details of your dog. This could be necessary for the new veterinary and customs.*



**Step 3** Arrange the journey of your dog:

If you are flying, please meet all the requirements of the airline and check the following in time:

- If your dog is rather small, then he might be transported in a crate in the passenger cabin. However, usually if your dog is more than 10 kilo, he would need to be transported in the luggage compartment. Please take a careful note of this situation and ask the airline what your option is.
- Transporting dogs often involve extra costs. Inquire in time the extra charges for your dog.
- Check whether you need to send certain medical data of your dog and keep a copy in your hand luggage.
- Inquire about the maximum dimensions of the crate and make sure that you have an appropriate one.

If you are driving, whether it is by car or by truck, you need to take into account the following items:

- Acquire more details about your route. It might be handy to stop occasionally at a park as the dog still needs to be walked.
- If necessary, choose a hotel where dogs are allowed and make a reservation in advance, preferably by phone.
- If possible, use the “do not disturb” sign at the hotel door. Otherwise the personnel can cause an accidental escape of your dog.



#### Step 4 Moving day:

- Your dog will probably get in your way and might even escape. This could happen because of the stress.
- It is useful to bring your dog to a dog kennel or to acquaintances for at least the moving day. You can also leave your dog in an unused room, but do not forget to check on him from time to time. You might need the items before you are completely settled.

#### Step 5 Arrival in your new home:

- Check whether your dog can go inside, there might be some wet paint for example. The dog then needs to wait a little while longer.
- Already place his favourite items, such as his basket, food, drinks, and some toys, in the new house.
- Give your dog some attention. There is a good chance that this did not happen during the moving period.
- Take care of a new animal-collar, or something similar, which includes your new contact details. It could happen that your dog runs away and gets lost.
- Hold on to the old daily routine (such as to walking the dog, giving food, playtime, etc.) so your dog will get used to the new neighbourhood and house soon.

*More information:* → [Website of Wikihow about the moving of dogs](#)



# Moving with cats

## Step 1 Preparation:

- Let your cat get used to his moving cage. Place a blanket in advance of the move and put in some candy from time to time in the cage. By doing this, the cat will get used to the cage and will not experience this as stressful.
- Already put a few moving boxes in the room. This gives the cat some time to get used to the actual movement.
- Try to stick to the regular rhythm of your cat. Most cats get fed on particular times.
- For some cats, it is better to already keep them inside a week before the moving day. It can happen that they want to escape the hustle and go into hiding for a while.
- Give your cat a collar which includes your new contact details. Cats can run away quickly and for a long time. This needs to be taken care of well in advance of the moving day.
- Check whether you can buy the same cat food in your new environment. If this is not the case, it is actually better that the cat gets used to the new food in his current, familiar house.



### Step 2 Moving day:

- Even cats who are used to people can do strange things if they notice the moving stress. It can therefore be handy to let the cat reside in, for instance, the bathroom with some food, drinks, toys and his moving cage. By doing this, the cat is not getting in the way and absorbs less stress.
- Make clear, with for instance a sign, that the cat is in the room and that the door may not be opened. Check on your cat from time to time: a familiar face reassures him.

### Step 3 Settling into your new home:

- Upon arrival in your new house, you should bring your cat to a quiet room where all his items are present. Let him investigate the room by himself. Keep him here for a while, maybe a day or two. In this way, he gets used to the sounds and scents. Take a regular look at the cat and put, if necessary, a tv in the room.
- Make sure the house is ready for the cat's arrival: no sharp items should lay around, windows should be closed, etc.
- After this, the cat should investigate the house at his own pace once you have removed most moving boxes. Keep the cat inside the house for a few weeks. It can take a while before the cat is used to the new house.
- If the cat is ready to explore the garden, it might be useful to pursue this on a leash. If you are nearby, the cat will feel familiar and he cannot do odd things.

More information: → [Website of Pets Webmd](#) → [Website of Vetbabbble.com](#)



# Moving with rodents

## Step 1 Preparation:

- Guinea-pigs and rabbits are less stress-sensitive than dogs and cats, but they experience stress too. The best thing to do is to move them in their own cage with their own food. If this is not possible, then it is better to buy a smaller cage or different food for the journey. The guinea-pigs or rabbits need some weeks in advance to get used to this.

## Step 2 During the journey:

- Give them attention from time to time during the journey, and make sure they have sufficient things in their cage, such as a feed box, drinking bottle, toys, and a carrot maybe. Because you are driving, a few items can move and injure the guinea-pigs or rabbits. Make sure to remove these items from the cage.
- Do not try to accelerate too quickly, as the rodents can move to all sides. Additionally, the temperature should stay moderately as guinea-pigs and rabbits are very sensitive to this.

## Step 3 Settling into your new home:

- Try to simulate the previous environment and give them some time. In the beginning, rodents can react differently, but this will change in time.

*More information:* → [Website of Wikihow about the moving of rodents](#)



# Moving with birds

## Step 1 Preparations:

- First check with your veterinary if there are any health issues with your bird that could (negatively) influence your move. Also inquire what other steps are necessary with regards to the move, such as vaccinations and certificates. This is especially necessary when the move is international.

## Step 2 During the journey:

- If possible, the bird prefers to be moved in his own cage. Please do remove all toys and buckets which could topple over during the journey.
- Bird see themselves as preys and therefore they closely watch their surroundings. Thus, a move could be very stressful. A towel covering the cage will only result to more stress as they are only able to hear, not see.

## Step 3 Settling into your new home:

- Make sure that the old cage is ready for use in the new house. Try to place the cage at a similar or quiet spot. Doors are a constant source of stress, please avoid them.
- The bird senses your stress, so try to remain calm in the proximity of your bird. If the bird regularly sits on your shoulder, do wait with this in your new house. Due to the stress and unrest the bird could suddenly fly away.
- The bird should investigate the house at his own pace. You could, for example, open the cage after a week, but let him decide whether he wants to get out or not.





# Moving with fish

## Step 1 Preparations:

- Replace 20% of the aquarium's water every day starting five days before the move. Stop feeding the fish 24-48 hours in advance of the move.
- Do not worry, healthy fish can actually survive without food for at least a week.
- If the move takes longer than one week, get in touch with a pet shop which can take care of the fish and eventually move them too. Make sure to set up a contract with the shop about the shop's particular responsibilities when they are taking care of the fish and during the transportation.

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### Step 2 During the move:

- Try to contain 80% water in the aquarium. Depending on the duration of the journey, you can make use of plastic bags filled with water from the aquarium to transport the fish.
- Remove the plants from the aquarium and put them in the plastic bags filled with water from the aquarium. By doing this the good bacteria will be preserved.
- Remove the leftover water and decorations from the aquarium to prevent damage.
- During a short move, put the uncleaned filter in a secured tank. During a long move, you can choose to either clean the filter or replace it.
- Wrap the pumps, heating elements and other accessories the same as you would wrap breakable items.

### Step 3 Settling into your new home:

- Carefully put all the accessories down on the same spot in the aquarium. Additionally, fill the aquarium with the water you have saved for the move.
- Install the pumps and heating elements and place all the living plants back.
- The plastic bags filled with the fish should float on the water in order to reach the same temperature. After this, you can release the fish in the aquarium.



#### About De Haan relocation

De Haan was founded in 1777. The organisation takes care of relocation services all over the world. In the past years De Haan has helped over 500.000 customers get to their desired location. De Haan is part of FIDI and has a worldwide network of over 1.300 partners. The organization is certified in accordance to the highest quality certificates, such as ISO 9001, ISO 27001, ISO 14001, AEO and FAIM. Currently, De Haan has around 80 employees.



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