

Moving to a New Home

Moving homes can be a stressful experience for both humans and pets. The following tips are intended to offer suggestions to help make this transition as smooth and as safe as possible for all involved. Please exercise great caution and take very careful care of your cat during this stressful time so s/he does not escape in unfamiliar surroundings and become lost, possibly forever.

Before the Move

- Give your cat lots of love and care during the packing period. Try to keep your routine and the routine of your cat (feeding times, playtime, etc.) as normal as possible despite the chaos of boxes and packing.
- Try to leave all your cat's belongings (food bowls, litter box and scratching posts) in their normal locations until the last possible minute.
- Consider getting your cat microchipped for permanent identification, especially if moving out of province or country.
- If you are moving out of the country, make sure you plan well ahead to collect necessary documentation for your cat to cross international borders.

Moving Day

- Keep your cat in a safe and secure environment. This may mean a day at your veterinary clinic, a boarding kennel or confined in a secure room at the home of a friend or family member.
- If possible, move your cat with its own litter box, bowls and post to your new home ahead of your actual moving day. Make sure that the cat has a Starter or Sanctuary Room with a secure door (a locked door is ideal), which will not be opened by anyone until the move is complete.

After the Move

- It is best to continue to use a Starter or Sanctuary Room for the first few days or longer if your cat is very stressed. A starter room allows your cat to calmly and quietly adjust to its new surroundings as well as new sights and smells.
- It may take a few weeks for your cat to fully settle into the new home.
- Remember to continually remind everyone in the family to be very careful about open doors and windows during these first few weeks of settling in. If possible, have everyone in the family choose and use one door that is the least likely to offer an escape route to a nervous cat.
- If after several weeks of settling in you wish to take your cat outside, provide constant supervision while using a secure body harness and leash or build a secure cat run.
- Lastly, remember to update your tattoo information at the veterinary clinic that did the tattoo and/or update microchip information with the microchip company. This could save your pet's life.

