



CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

When you choose to have a pet you are making a lifetime commitment. A commitment to take care of all its needs for the rest of its life, just like as if you were choosing to have a child. Of course sometimes things change in our lives that are beyond our control but we still have a duty towards our pet to find a solution to that change in circumstance.

These changes could be that you wish to relocate and live in a different country, you may choose to have an additional member in the family or your working/living circumstance may change. All of these situations have a solution to enable you to honour the commitment made to your pet. Here at AAR we have a very experienced team who can help and guide you finding that solution ([link to about us](#))

Changing Circumstances that could affect your Pet

Relocation to a different country

Today because of the EU it has become quite easy to live and work in other European countries. Sometimes we might want to move to another European country or even may have already moved there and want to return to our homeland. If we already have a pet we might think this would make taking him/her with us difficult - **not at all**.

At AAR we have an experienced team of travel experts ([link to travel page](#)) who can advise you on what you will need to relocate your pet. They will need a valid Pet Passport, which is relatively inexpensive and easy to obtain. They will need

to be microchipped and fully vaccinated, including a valid Rabies vaccination and a "fit to travel" health check and worming treatment 24 hours before travel, but again our travel team can help and advise you throughout this process.

Once your pet has their Pet Passport (PPT) you will then have to decide on their mode of travel. Under the PPT scheme they can accompany you if you are travelling overland (or by aircraft), or you can arrange for them to travel with an experienced Pet Travel company. If you choose the latter there are several travel companies that AAR use and again our travel team can guide and help arrange this with you.

As you can see this is a very easy solution to your change in circumstance and would mean you would not have to go back on the lifetime commitment you made to your pet. As you can see it certainly is not necessary to consider rehoming your pet.

New addition in the family, a baby on its way

If your pet has been the only "baby" in your family you might be concerned about their future within your newly extended family. Having a new baby need not be any problem at all for your pet if you plan and properly prepare them for baby's arrival. Your pet is probably used to being the centre of attention and obviously a new baby is going to bring major changes to your household. Luckily, there are many ways that you can prepare your pet to make the disruption and change to your household minimal.

It is important that preparation plans ([see link "How to introduce your dog to a baby"](#)) are implemented as early as possible to ensure the change to your pet's lifestyle is a steady process. This helps them to cope with the changes gradually and not associate them with the new baby's arrival.

It is also best to ensure that your pet is medically sound, up to date with vaccinations, flea and worming treatments

Changes to your lifestyle or type of home

Often changes like a new job or moving to a different type of home can have a huge impact on the life your pet has been used to.

It might be that your new job means that you have to be away from home for much longer periods of time. This could mean them being alone more than normal

In this case you would need to make sure that before and after work you give them plenty of exercise and that they have lots of play items for whilst you are at work. Before, you might have been at home a lot and so you would be there on hand to see to their toilet requirements. If you are going to be absent for longer periods of time you would have to retrain them to ensure that they had relieved themselves before you left

It might also be helpful if they had a crate. Crates provide your pet with a safe haven and they will soon feel very content in their own den. The crate is not to be used as a punishment area but a place where your pet will feel safe and relaxed, his very own play room. It is very important however that your pet does not spend excessive hours in a locked crate.

If the hours spent at work mean that your pet will be alone for long periods perhaps you could look to a friend, neighbour or relative to call in and give them a cuddle, let them visit their toilet place or even take them for a walk. Perhaps it might be possible to take them to work with you

It might be that the change of circumstance is on a personal level, maybe caused by divorce or even a new relationship. It is important that whilst these changes affect you that you appreciate your pet's needs will remain the same. They will still look for you to meet their emotional and physical requirements. When you are sad your pet will pick up on that, when you are happy so are they.

A new type of home could bring with it some new challenges both for you and your pet.

You might have moved from a country home with plenty of garden space into a more urban home, perhaps no garden at all. This change in living will mean some degree of retraining will be required for your pet. Instead of being able to take exercise by running and playing in the garden you will have to set aside more planned activity time for your pet. Walks that will include new toilet training. The added danger of urban living will also have to be addressed, taking into account traffic training.

Equally if you have moved from city to country living there will be lots of different types of animals for your pet to get used to. Farm animals, horses, maybe even cats will be new and your pet will need you to teach them how to behave in the presence of these new strange animals. Remember if your dog "worries" a farm animal the farmer might want to take drastic action against your pet to protect his stock. When moving to the country from the city you will need to exercise your pet on a lead until you are sure how they will react in this different environment.

Living with your Lifelong Commitment

Remember when you decided to have your pet you made it a commitment, a commitment to love and look after it for the rest of its life. Because circum-

stance may change in your life it does not mean that you walk away from your pet. You cannot abandon them any more than you would your child. You have to find a solution to the change - **just like you would if your pet WAS your child**

AAR can assist you ([see Contact Us link](#)) in finding the necessary training and advice you will need to help you keep the **lifetime commitment** that you promised your pet

We recognise that in some extreme circumstances it is just not possible to find a solution enabling you to keep the commitment promise made to your pet. In these cases we urge you as a loving and caring pet owner to make every effort to rehome your pet responsibly. Perhaps offering them first of all to someone they already know and trust. As a last measure you could make an appeal on a local information site. AAR could advise you on how too go about this in order to place your pet in the best possible forever home