



MOVING HOUSE WITH YOUR DOG



Moving house is a stressful time for everyone. Your dog may also feel the stress. The following points are aimed at reducing the stress for you and your dog.

Top Tips

When planning a house move remember to give some thought to your dog. It is probably better if he could be elsewhere on the day of the move. He may be better with other family or friends or in boarding kennels.

If you have no alternative but to keep your dog with you on move day put him in a room where he will be safe. Make sure he has bedding, food, water and toys. These should be among the last things being packed.

Prior to your move, if possible, check and rectify and fencing/boundary issues. If this isn't possible you will need to keep your dog on his lead until the boundaries are secured.

Make sure travel arrangements are suited to your dog. Will you need a dog guard for your car? Will you need a crate to transport your dog?

Make sure you plan sufficient breaks for the length of your journey.

Your dog should have a new identification tag fitted on his collar on the day of the move. You must also get his microchip details updated.

If you know your dog suffers from travel sickness or stress you should seek advice from your vet.

Be prepared to repeat any previous training you have done with your dog to assist him settling into his new surroundings.

Moving House with your Dog

A dog can become highly stressed when moving house. It can take a long time for him to get used to his new house and surroundings. There will be different smells in the new house that he will pick up on. There may be smells that belonged to another animal. He may feel anxious and unsettled. You will be very busy yourself with the move but remember your dog, he will need some of your time and reassurance.

Things to do before the move

Dogs are very observant and he will notice things changing. He may become very anxious when he sees you packing boxes. You could try putting him in another room while packing or perhaps another family member could take him for a walk.

Your dog is comforted by familiar things and smells so don't wash his bedding prior to moving or for the first couple of weeks after the move. The familiarity of his bedding will help him settle. Also leave packing his bedding and toys until last.

During the course of the day there will be lots of coming and going, different people in and out and doors will be open. Your dog will be stressed and may try to escape. If possible arrange for your dog to stay with a friend or relative for the day. If this is not possible you may wish to put him in boarding kennels.

Have a new identity tag ready for the move day with updated contact details, landline and mobile numbers. Should your dog escape this will increase your chances of getting him back.

Have you got a travel crate for your dog or fitted a dog guard to your car?

If your move is going to be a long journey pre-plan suitable places to stop for your dog to take exercise and have toilet breaks.

If your dog doesn't travel well, suffers from travel sickness and/or anxiety you should contact your vet for advice.

Upon Arrival at your New Home



Before you allow your dog to go out in your garden, check it is completely secure and check for any dangers, broken glass etc.

If your dog didn't travel with you, unpack some of your belongings prior to him arriving. He will be happier in his new surroundings with things and smells he recognises. Also try to place things in similar places as they were in your old house. If his bed was in a corner in your last house it may be best in a corner in your new one.

Your dog's microchip details should be updated as soon as possible.

Your dog may have "accidents" in your new house. Do not punish him and don't make a fuss. He may be picking up on other animal odours. Thoroughly clean the area to remove smells. Once your dog has settled into his new surroundings any "accidents" should stop. Make sure you get him back into his normal routine and praise him when he goes to the toilet outside. He will soon settle and you can all enjoy life in your new home.

