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# Pet Relocation Checklist & Guide
## International and Domestic Moves with Your Pets
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AHOM-RMC

Safe, Coordinated Relocations for Families and Their Pets

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1. Before You Move (3-6 Months Ahead)

Decision: How will your pet travel?

- [] Research air vs. ground options
- [] Check airline and route restrictions for your pet's size/breed
- [] Review quarantine rules at destination (if international)
- [] Budget for professional transport, crates, documents

Timing checklist

- [] Confirm move date with family and employer
- [] Book housing that accepts pets (temporary and permanent)
- [] Begin vet appointment scheduling (book NOW for international moves)
- [] Identify 2-3 backup dates in case first choice is unavailable

2. Health and Documents

Microchip and ID

- [] Ensure pet has a registered microchip (required before rabies vaccination in most countries)
- [] Update microchip registry with current contact information
- [] Have ID tag on collar with phone number and new address (once confirmed)

Vaccinations and tests

- [] Schedule rabies vaccination (if needed) - must be given 21+ days before travel
- [] Ensure all core vaccines are current (check destination requirements)
- [] If international: schedule rabies titre test (3+ months before travel in some cases)
- [] Book parasite treatment if required by destination

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### Veterinary health certificate
- [ ] Schedule appointment 1-2 weeks before travel (certificate usually valid 10 days)
- [ ] Request official health certificate form (airline or destination-specific)
- [ ] Ask vet to sign and date; request multiple copies
- [ ] For international: confirm if certificate needs government endorsement (CFIA, APHIS)
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### Documentation pack
- [ ] Collect microchip registration proof
- [ ] Get copy of rabies certificate with lot number and expiry date
- [ ] Request complete medical history (diagnoses, medications, allergies)
- [ ] Prepare pet passport or ownership certificate if required
- [ ] Get import permit (if required by destination country)
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3. Travel Logistics

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### Airline and route selection
- [ ] Contact airline(s) to confirm pet policies (cabin vs. cargo/checked baggage)
- [ ] Verify pet weight and carrier size limits
- [ ] Ask about temperature restrictions and seasonal embargoes
- [ ] Confirm maximum number of pets per flight
- [ ] Book pet reservation as early as possible (often 48 hours before flight)
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### Crate and carrier requirements
- [ ] Confirm IATA-compliant crate size for your pet
- [ ] Order or purchase crate at least 6-8 weeks before travel
- [ ] Test crate fit: pet can stand, turn around, and lie down comfortably
- [ ] Label crate clearly with: pet name, your name, phone number, and "LIVE ANIMAL"
- [ ] Attach water and food bowls (if allowed by airline) or plan for hydration stops
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### Ground transport option (if applicable)
- [ ] Research pet transport companies with good safety records
- [ ] Request quotes and customer references
- [ ] Confirm pickup/drop-off times and location
- [ ] Discuss comfort breaks, feeding schedules, and communication during travel
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4. Preparing Your Pet

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### Crate training
- [ ] Start 4-6 weeks before travel
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- [] Leave crate door open; let pet explore at own pace
 - [] Place treats and toys inside; make it a positive space
 - [] Gradually close door for short periods (5-10 minutes initially)
 - [] Extend duration over weeks until pet is comfortable for several hours
 - [] Practice with crate in car for 15-20 minute drives
- ### Exercise and routine
- [] Maintain consistent feeding times (lighter meal on travel day)
 - [] Ensure daily exercise and outdoor time
 - [] Keep play and walk times predictable leading up to move
 - [] Avoid major changes to routine 2 weeks before travel
- ### Visit to the vet (final check-up)
- [] Book 1 week before travel
 - [] Confirm pet is healthy and fit to fly
 - [] Discuss any anxiety or health concerns
 - [] Ask vet's advice on comfort strategies (calming pheromones, etc.)
 - [] Get written care instructions and emergency contact info for destination
- ### Grooming and comfort
- [] Bathe/groom pet a few days before travel (clean and calm)
 - [] Trim nails to avoid accidental scratching in crate
 - [] Ensure collar and tags are secure
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5. Travel Day Essentials

- ### What to pack for your pet
- [] Portable food and water bowls
 - [] Enough regular food for travel + 3-5 days (in sealed containers)
 - [] Current medications and written dosing schedule
 - [] Medical records and vaccination certificates (copies, in waterproof bag)
 - [] Recent photo of pet (in case of loss)
 - [] Familiar blanket or toy with home scent
 - [] Absorbent pads or puppy pads for crate
 - [] Waste bags and small scoops
 - [] Pet wipes and paper towels
 - [] Collar, leash, and ID tags
- ### The night before
- [] Light meal (avoid large dinner)
 - [] Plenty of water and bathroom time
 - [] Quiet, calm evening
 - [] Get pet's carrier/crate ready and place in travel vehicle
- ### Travel day (24-48 hours before flight/transport)
- [] Light meal and water 2-3 hours before check-in
 - [] Exercise: walk, play, or outdoor bathroom time
 - [] Place familiar blanket in crate
 - [] Ensure collar and ID are secure

- [] Have documents easily accessible (not packed away)
 - [] Arrive at airport/pickup point early
 - [] Stay calm and positive around pet
- ### At airport or transport depot
- [] Confirm all documents with check-in agent
 - [] Verify crate is properly labeled and inspected
 - [] Take photos of sealed crate for your records
 - [] Get receipt and tracking information
 - [] Confirm contact details for arrival
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- ## 6. Arrival and Settling In
- ### First 24 hours
- [] Set up quiet room with bed, food, water, litter box (for cats)
 - [] Keep environment calm; limit visitors
 - [] Offer light meal and fresh water
 - [] Take pet outside/to litter box frequently
 - [] Stay close by; reassure and monitor for signs of stress
- ### First week
- [] Maintain feeding schedule from before the move
 - [] Keep play and walk routines as consistent as possible
 - [] Introduce new space gradually (one room at a time if possible)
 - [] Watch for signs of illness or extreme stress (not eating, excessive panting, hiding)
 - [] Keep vet's contact info readily available
- ### First month
- [] Register with local veterinarian (bring medical records)
 - [] Schedule a "welcome" check-up with new vet
 - [] Update microchip registry with new address
 - [] Get new ID tags and collar
 - [] Gradually expand pet's access to full new home
 - [] Establish new routines and introduce local parks/walking routes
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- ## 7. Finding a Vet at Your Destination
- ### Before you move
- [] Ask your current vet for recommendations
 - [] Request full copy of pet's medical records
 - [] Get names and numbers of 2-3 recommended clinics in new city
- ### Research local options
- [] Search "veterinarian near me" or "animal hospital in [city]"
 - [] Read online reviews and ask neighbors/community groups
 - [] Check clinic hours and emergency options
 - [] Confirm they have experience with your pet's species and any special needs

- ### Register early
 - [] Call clinic as soon as you confirm your address
 - [] Provide pet's records and vaccination history
 - [] Ask about appointment availability for a first check-up
 - [] Book routine "welcome" appointment within 1-2 weeks of arrival
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8. Quick Reference: Key Contacts & Reminders

- ### Important documents location
- [] Microchip number: _____
- [] Microchip registry: www. _____
- [] Current vet: _____ Phone: _____
- [] New vet (at destination): _____ Phone: _____
- [] Airline/transport company: _____ Booking ref: _____
- [] Emergency contact at destination: _____ Phone: _____

Red flags - when to contact a vet immediately

- [] Not eating for more than 24 hours
- [] Excessive panting or difficulty breathing
- [] Vomiting or diarrhea lasting more than a few hours
- [] Inability to urinate or defecate
- [] Extreme lethargy or collapse
- [] Signs of pain or injury

Need help with your relocation?

AHOM-RMC coordinates moves where people, pets, and belongings all arrive safely. We help with:

- Planning timelines and checklists tailored to your situation
- Guiding pet travel options (air, ground, or combined)
- Connecting you with trusted transport partners
- Supporting housing searches and settling-in

Contact us for a customized relocation consultation.

This checklist is provided by AHOM-RMC as a guide for families relocating with pets. Always consult with your veterinarian and airline for the most current, destination-specific requirements.