

# # Pet Relocation Checklist & Guide

## ## International and Domestic Moves with Your Pets

\*\*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

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## ## 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

### ### 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)

### ### 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

### ### 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)

### ### 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

### ### 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

### ### Crate training

- [ ] Start 4-6 weeks before travel

- [ ] 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.

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\*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.\*