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Expert Tips and Resources for Planning a Stress-Free Move With Your Pets

If you're in the market for a new home, you've probably already got your own list of must-haves in mind as you search. As a pet parent, it's also important to think about how your new home will suit your companion. Taking your pet's needs into consideration when you choose a house will make for a smoother transition. However, you also have to think about your pet's stress and safety once the move actually takes place. Here, we provide tips for house hunting and moving with your pet in mind, as well as a list of resources to help you manage the move during COVID-19.

Finding a Pet-Friendly Home

The features that make a home pet-friendly can vary depending on the breed and size of pet you have. If you have indoor cats, big windows might be a selling point, since windows provide a nice sunny sleeping spot and lots of entertainment watching birds. It's also important to find a home that offers enough room if you have more than one cat. According to Senior Cat Wellness, you'll want to provide about 18 square feet of space for [each cat](#) to live comfortably.

With just about any type of pet, it's usually preferable to have a home without carpeting. Carpet collects allergens from fur and dander, but it also traps pet [stains and odors](#) that are hard to remove. Depending on how much free range your pets get in the house, you might want to look at homes with hard floors throughout, or broaden your search to include homes that have only a few carpeted rooms.

If you've got your eye set on homes with hard floors, keep in mind that not all flooring materials are created equally. The Floor Critics say that [tile floors](#) are generally regarded as the best for pet owners, with luxury vinyl and bamboo floors being other good choices. Unfortunately, real hardwood floors are usually a bad idea, as pets' nails can scratch the surface and urine or water can warp the wood, leading to costly maintenance.

For certain types of pets, finding a home with good outdoor features is just as important as finding the features you want inside. If you've got a dog, coming across a home with a [large backyard](#) is a big selling point. You'll also want to have a fence installed to keep your pet safe in the yard.

Planning for Moving Day With Pets

Once you've found the perfect home for you and your pets, it's time to start prepping for moving day. First, you'll want to consider how far you need to travel. For long-distance moves, you'll want to map out your travel route with your pets in mind. If you have a dog, make sure there are plenty of [rest stops](#) or parks along the way where you can let your pup stretch his legs. You may also need to plan on overnight stays in a [pet-friendly hotel](#).

As moving day approaches, your pets will start noticing that something's different. You may see increased anxiety and bad behaviors that are associated with [stress](#). However, you can help your pet cope by maintaining a routine as much as possible and making sure your pet has somewhere quiet to be during the chaos.

On moving day, it's important to think about your pets' [safety](#) as well as his stress. Always make sure your pet has somewhere safe to be so he doesn't get stepped on or escape outside during the upheaval. Another option is to hire a local pet sitter to watch your pup during the move (sitters usually charge between [\\$14 and \\$19](#) an hour).

Once you or your movers have finished unloading all of your belongings, and once you're ready to take a break. Leash up your pup, and either hop in the car or walk to the [nearest dog park](#) so you can play and unwind after a long day. If you have a cat, find a quiet spot to hang out and chill together for a bit.

Moving can be an extremely traumatic time for pets, no matter the breed. Pets can become even more anxious if you're planning the move during the pandemic, since they can sense humans' feelings of stress and anxiety. That's why it's important to plan ahead well and pick a pet-friendly home in order to make it a much smoother transition for everyone.

Additional Guidance for Managing a Move During COVID-19

[Advice on Home Buying During Coronavirus](#)

[Keeping Your Pets Safe During the COVID-19 Crisis](#)

[Moving? You'll Need This Ultimate Housecleaning Checklist](#)

[Here's How to Keep Your Dog or Cat Happy](#)

[How Moving and Storage Companies Are Responding to the Coronavirus](#)