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## Moving Tips

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It is time to relocate to a new location and this may be your first moving experience or you may have moved before. AlohaMoving.com's moving tips help you make your moving experience a pleasant one...

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### General Tips

Whether this is your first time moving or you are an old pro you will benefit greatly from the advice and tips in Aloha Moving's extensive moving guide. The information has been gathered from professionals who have been in the business for many years. Read on.

- The moving industry has "peak" and "off peak" seasons. The "peak" season for movers is during the summer. Also, the beginning and the end of the month and the end of year holidays are extra busy for movers. During that period of time the demand for moving equipment, vans, and personnel is heavy.
- Your move should occur at a time that is convenient for you and your family. If you have children you will most likely want to move when the school term is up. Unfortunately this may fall in to the peak season and your costs will probably be higher. If your move can be rescheduled for a time when Aloha Moving will be less busy you may be able to reduce your moving costs. For younger children moving to a new school in the middle of the school term will probably not create any problems. Older children and teenagers will be in the middle of academic courses and this may not be a good time to uproot them. Older children will also have developed stronger ties to their friends and may be very upset if moved mid term.
- Contact Aloha Moving to set up appointments for estimates. A relocation consultant will come to your home and do a visual inventory of the contents of your home that you are planning to move. He will then prepare a written estimate for your review. It is important for you to know that there is more than one type of estimate. The two most common types of estimates are binding and non-binding estimates. See more detailed information in the estimates section of this guide.
- Decide what items you want to ship and what will be discarded. Inspect your home from top to bottom or from attic to basement before the relocation consultant will arrive. Show the consultant everything that you will be moving.

- Be certain that the mover has marked all items that are “going” and “not going” on the survey sheet. The mover will prepare an estimate that will include transportation charges and the charges of additional services that you requested. Keep in mind that if you decide to take more items or take fewer items the total cost of your move will change. Inform the mover of any changes with your shipment. Effective communication is a key factor for a successful move.
- If you decide to do your own packing or partial packing, remember that Aloha Moving is not liable for damage to boxes packed by the customer. However, if there is obvious exterior damage on packing up your goods, make a note on the inventory sheet of your shipment. The driver has the right to refuse to accept any carton that may be improperly packed. If the driver has to re-pack cartons that the customer has packed, additional charges will apply.
- If you decide to do your own packing, get packing supplies and start collecting strong boxes suitable for moving. Complete all packing by moving day. You will be busy enough on moving day to have to worry about packing.
- If your company is relocating you, find out what portion of your moving expenses will be paid by your company.
- Obtain a written appraisal of antiques to verify their value. Do not retouch, wax or oil wood furniture before moving. Some products may soften the wood, making it vulnerable to imprinting from furniture pads.
- Notify the post office that you will be moving. Provide them with a new address (permanent or temporary). Use the attached link to change your address online <https://moversguide.usps.com/?referral=USPS>

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## Insurance & Liability

### •Insurance

Moving companies are required to assume liability for the value of the goods that they move. The level of liability can vary. You need to be aware of the amount of protection and the charges for each option. Insurance is often the area in moving that people know very little about. As a result of this it is often the area in which people make poor choices. Movers are required to provide you with information on what it will cost you to place a value on your shipment. You should be provided with a brochure, “Here’s What You Need to Know About Placing a Value on Your Household Goods Shipment Before You Move” or this information may be included in “Your Rights and Responsibilities when you move” brochure. Be sure you actually read these brochures so you can accurately put a value on your shipment. Check with the local Better Business Bureau to get information on how the mover has handled claims in the past. In the unlikely event you have loss or damage as a result of your move you have nine months to make a claim however you are still responsible for paying for the move in a timely fashion. This is generally COD, or cash on delivery, on the day of unloading. The mover is required to respond to your claim within 30 days and the issue must be resolved within 120 days. In the event that arbitration is chosen to resolve the issue and you are not satisfied with the outcome of the arbitration process, you may sue for damages.

### •Basic Carrier Liability-Released Value

This is the often called limited liability and is the minimum coverage required by law. This insurance is covered in the base price and does not cost you any extra money. It is the most economical option available however your goods are covered to no more than 60 cents per pound per article. This is the level of coverage for an interstate move. This minimal amount of liability that must be provided to any consumer when transporting goods is called “released value.” The coverage for local moves is commonly 30 cents per pound; however, this can vary from state to state. Loss or damage claims are settled based on the pound weight of the article

multiplied by 60 cents. If you have a 10-pound TV and it is destroyed in transit, you would be entitled to a total of \$6.00 for the replacement of the TV. Obviously this will not replace the TV with this amount of money so think carefully before agreeing to it. If you agree to this option for insurance coverage you will be asked to sign a specific statement in agreement on the bill of lading.

- Declared Value Protection

This coverage is based on depreciated value of an item regardless of current replacement cost. The whole shipment is covered at a value not to exceed the dollar amount that you, the customer, declare. With this option the mover assumes liability for the entire shipment at an amount equal to \$1.25 times the weight of your shipment. For example, if your shipment weights 8,000 pounds, the mover will be liable for loss or damage up to \$10,000. Though you have made no specific arrangements for this plan you automatically default to it if you have not chosen another option and the mover is entitled to charge you \$ 7.00 for each \$ 1,000 of liability assumed. A charge of \$70 will be added to your bill for additional liability if the declared value of the shipment is \$10,000. Under this arrangement if a 10-pound item valued at \$1,000 is damaged, the mover is liable for up to \$1,000, based on the depreciated value of the item. Your valuables are somewhat protected, under this plan, but you pay for it. To obtain this coverage please consult your mover for additional charges and rules.

- Full (Replacement) Value Protection

This option is often referred to as full replacement value protection. With this plan, any goods lost, damaged or destroyed during the move will be either repaired, replaced or a cash settlement will be made at the movers discretion. This is the most comprehensive insurance plan available for the protection of your goods while in transit. Costs vary depending on the mover however by choosing a higher deductible you may be able to reduce the cost. Remember that coverage with deductible reduces the premium however you will be responsible for the first \$100.00, \$250.00 or \$500.00 of loss or repairs depending on the deductible amount. The mover can protect himself from loss or damage to high value items; i.e. value of over \$100 per pound unless you list these goods on the shipping document. Jewelry and furs are examples of high or extraordinary value items. Talk with your mover so you can get a clear understanding of your options and make more informed choices.

- Extraordinary Value Items

All items in your shipment, which are considered to be of extraordinary value, must be identified. You must advise Aloha Moving in writing that they are in your shipment. These items are defined as items having a value greater than \$100.00 per pound per article. For example:

- Antiques
- Crystal
- Precious Stones or Gems
- Art Collections
- Currency
- Silver and Silverware
- Cameras
- Figurines
- Video Cameras
- Computer Software
- Furs
- Coin Collection
- Oriental Rugs

If you include items of extraordinary value in your shipment, a High Value Inventory sheet must be completed and signed by you prior to your move. In the event of a claim, any settlement is limited to the valuation you declare for the entire shipment. If you fail to list all extraordinary value items and/or fail to sign the High Value Inventory sheet, Aloha Moving's liability for loss of or damage to those items will be limited to no more than \$100.00 per pound per article, based upon the actual weight of the article (does not apply to shipments

under the “basic carrier liability” option).

You must declare the total amount of the released value that you declare for your goods. This total should include the value of items, including all items of extraordinary value. Record the total value on the bill of lading. Please note that the protection for items of extraordinary value is not available for shipments, which are released to the value of 60 cents per pound per article (basic carrier liability option).

- Homeowners Insurance

Some homeowner’s insurance policies cover household goods while in transit. Check with your homeowner’s insurance company to find out what coverage you may have and be sure to check out when this ends. If the policy is void once you close on your old home it may be of little use to you as this is most likely when you will be moving. If you are fortunate enough to have coverage make sure you contact the insurance company and ask them to explain the level of coverage and what exactly is covered. In the event you need to file a claim with the insurance company you will need to prove that the loss or breakage is due to mover’s negligence. No money will be paid out due to any items damaged due to poor packing by you.

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## How to pick movers

- Firstly, even before talking with a mover, decide what household goods will be shipped and what will be sold or given away.
- Consider whether or not you would like the mover to pack and what other types of additional services you may require.
- Call or email the movers you are considering for the job and ask for an estimate. Get involved in the estimating process and try to meet with the relocation consultant to survey your home and prepare a written estimate. Ask each prospective mover how long his or her estimate is valid for and question whether the estimate is a binding or a non-binding. For the difference between binding and non-binding estimates see Aloha Moving’s guide on estimates. Never accept an estimate over the phone and do not consider using a company that offers you this service.
- Inform the mover of any possible unusual situations on either end so your estimate can be more accurate. Make the mover aware of any problems that he may encounter at the delivery such as parking problems, road access, street accessibility, delivery time restrictions or if there are any stairs or elevators involved. The cost of your move can increase for such occurrences. Try to reserve a parking space for the moving van if your new home is on a congested street. If the moving crew has to carry your load more than 75 feet from the moving van to your door you may be charged for excessive distance. Some neighborhoods may prohibit trucks over a certain weight. The driver will offload your possessions into a smaller vehicle and the charge for that can be quite high. Advise the relocation consultant if you anticipate this situation arising. In addition, advise the consultant if you are moving to a high-rise building where an elevator reservation is required. This can cause problems for the delivery schedule if the mover does not know about this in advance and additional charges will likely apply.
- To check the reliability of any moving company we recommend that you contact the local Better Business Bureau (BBB) to inquire about the company’s complaint record and how these complaints were resolved. Ask your friends, family and neighbors for recommendations and advice on movers.
- Check for the DOT license number. All movers are required to be licensed; however, interstate movers are required to meet two additional criteria:
  1. Publish their tariffs or price list and make it available to anybody who request a copy
  2. Participate in a dispute settlement program and to offer neutral arbitration in the event a dispute arises. A dispute may arise in the event loss or damage happens to a shipment while in the hands of the mover.

- Ask all movers for references.
- Be sure to understand the coverage for loss or damage of your shipment. All licensed movers must provide liability for the value of goods they transport. There are different levels of liability that you need to be aware of. You need to understand the amount of protection provided and the additional charges that may apply. See Aloha Moving's guide to moving insurance to understand the different options.
- Ask the mover questions! Use the following as a guide on what to ask:
  1. Are there extra charges if the movers have to go up an extra flight of stairs even if I did not know about it when booking? Many times you may not have enough information at the time of the estimate to be completely accurate.
  2. What is the estimated delivery time and will the driver notify me?
  3. If I pack myself, what type of packing material such as boxes are acceptable?
  4. How do I pay? Cash, credit card, check (personal or certified)?
  5. When do I pay? Cash on delivery?
  6. Will the movers disassemble everything and will they reassemble all items at the destination?
  7. Following the initial weigh in, will there be an additional weigh in to determine actual cost?
  8. If I have purchased liability insurance and I need to make a claim, what is the process?

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## **Move with family**

### **General**

In general moving can be very challenging however moving with a family brings a whole new meaning to the word challenge. Adults can be emotional however we tend to have more control over our emotions whereas children's emotions can be like a roller coaster ride on a good day.

### **Keep everybody involved**

As the move gets nearer be sure that the entire family is included in progress reports so nobody feels left out. Keep everyone informed on plans and tasks and any activities associated with the move. Keep everybody involved. It is good to allow the children to be involved in some of the decision making. You could consider taking them with you on house hunting trips at your new location if finances permit. Ask the what they would like in new home, what specific feature would appeal to them and if you are unable to take them with you on house hunting trips you can always take picture so everybody feels as if they have some say in the purchase of the new home and can begin to get to know it.

If your move is to another city get as much information about the new city as you can so you can share with the kids. If the city is not too far away perhaps you can take a family trip to begin to get to know your new home. Visit the local parks and museums or any other local attractions. Take a ride by your new workplace to show the kids so they will begin to feel more comfortable about moving.

### **Trip to your new town**

Take a trip to your new town. It may be helpful to visit the new church or synagogue and introduce your family to the priest or rabbi and inquire about youth related activities the church operates. The mall is a very important place for young people especially teenagers, they meet with their friends and shop and begin to feel independent for the first time so it may be useful to drive by or visit any malls in the new area in which you will be living. Seeing and knowing what they can expect can reduce the level of anxiety and lessen the stress level they are most likely experiencing.

### **Now, check out the new neighborhood**

Next, visit places especially geared toward children such as sports clubs like the YMCA or Boys or Girls Clubs. Find out if there is a local swimming pool, basketball court or track. There may be an ice rink or baseball field near your new home also so try to find out these things before you move if possible, your kids will thank you.

Once you move try to reestablish their routines as quickly as possible on arrival at your destination especially their recreation and sport routines. It will take them time to adjust, probably longer than you have anticipated so getting routines established as soon as possible is key to beginning the process of getting settled in. Keep a close eye on how your children are settling in when you move. It may take up to a year before your children feel really settled in and if it is taking longer talk to them and consider getting professional help if needed.

### **Best time to move**

What's the best time to move, during the school year or during the holidays?

This has been a hotly debated topic with people very divided on their opinions. Here are a few things to consider as you work on making a decision. If you are one of those fortunate people who has a choice on when to move you can consider moving during the school term or you can decide to move during the holidays.

Moving during holidays has the advantage that the children are out of school anyway and their studies will not be interrupted. Your child will also start the new term with other new kids and will not be considered the new kid on the block. The advantage of moving during school term is that your children will be in school and can make new friends quickly and they may not have as much opportunity to make new friends if you move during the holidays. The other major advantage of moving during the school year is that your children will have a routine established quickly and this has been known to be helpful to children in adapting to a new location.

### **Children's problems**

The tell-tale signs that your children may be having problems settling in can be:

- Loss of appetite
- Loss of interest in hobbies
- Being argumentative or having mood swings
- Not making new friends
- Change in sleep patterns
- If you are moving because of a death or divorce your family could benefit from counseling even before you move.
- Never wanting to leave the house

### **Teenagers**

Teenagers have the most difficult time when moving. They will have made strong friendships and probably spend most of their free time with their friends and will be very hesitant to move away from this sense of security. Teenagers are going through a difficult time anyway with their bodies physically changing and their emotions in constant turmoil. Teenagers focus on the emotion of moving which to them is basically losing their friends so be gentle with them however hard that might seem at the time.

Here are some useful tips to help teens cope:

- Explain to them why you are moving and what the benefits are to the family.

- Keep them involved in the move. Ask them to do some research about your new city and report their findings back to you. This will help them feel involved and also make help them look forward to seeing the new city and all the things they have found out about it during the research.
- Never be too busy for your teen. No matter how stressful the move is for you make time for them. Empathize with them so they feel you understand the inner turmoil they are going through.
- Difficult as it may be, encourage your children to say goodbye to their friends. Believe it or not many teens relocate without saying goodbye to friends as they think it will make things worse when in fact this is a very healthy exercise.
- If you have a choice on when to move, work with your teen on when is the best time to move. Some people try to move during the holidays so their children can begin the new term in the new school and not be the new kid on the block, others prefer to move mid term so their children can begin a school routine immediately after the move.
- Encourage them to find out about clubs or groups that share the same hobbies or interests as they do such as a running club or a stamp collector's club.
- Encourage your teen to get phone numbers and email addresses of friends and be sure to encourage them to keep in contact with their old friends after you move.
- After you have moved and are somewhat settled in, plan a trip back to your old city or bring some of your teenagers old friends to stay with you for a vacation.

### **Advice for parents whose teens do not want to move**

Although most teenagers will go through the normal pattern of complaining when they hear of the impending move very few will flat out refuse to move. Unfortunately you may be one of those people whose teen does not wish to move or even flatly refuses to move. It is very important that you talk with your teen to understand why he does not want to move. Teens can have valid reasons why they do not want to move, so listen. He may wish to finish out the school year and graduate with his class or he may wish to stay on an athletic team. There may be a special class he is attending that he wishes to finish. Your teen may just want to remain with friends or to gain more freedom. If possible try to work with your teenager to understand all the options. These could include staying with trusted friends until the school year is over and joining the family at that time or completing high school before moving back with the family. If you are willing to work with your teen he will also need to understand that he will need to work with you. Ask him where he would live if not with friends or relatives and who would pay the food and utility bills. Do not be at all surprised if he changes his mind after trying to answer these questions; however, no matter what the decision he will have taken part in making a major decision.

### **Age makes a difference**

Does age make a difference?

Absolutely, yes is the answer. In general the younger the children the easier the move is on them.

For very young children the home is their entire world. This is really the family and household belongings in the house rather than the actual physical structure of the house. The change in routine may be the most stressful thing with little ones and you will need to reassure them that they are moving with you. Very young children often get upset as they believe they may be left behind so constant reassurance may be needed. Their focus will be on loss of routine and familiar items rather than on loss of friends.

Bring them with you to the new home in advance of actually moving in so they can get used to the new house and allow them to pick out their rooms if possible.

Here are some useful things you can do to help them become accustomed to the idea of the upcoming move:

- Allow them to pack a box of their own even if you need to repack it later for safety reasons.
- Ask them to pick the colors for their new room
- Play act the move with them so they can get an idea of what is about to happen. Toys can be used to help with this activity to make it a little clearer to them.
- Reassure them that they will be moving with you. Little children can be very insecure, and this can be seen in times of stress like moving.

For young school going children moving can be difficult. They will have made their friends at school and in the neighborhood and will find it tough to start all over again at a new location. There are some things you can do to help the situation. Check out the new neighborhood for children of their ages. Find out if the school has after-school activities and if there is any orientation available to new students. You can also find out if there is a house of worship in your neighborhood, and this is a good place for the entire family to meet like-minded people.

Here are some useful tips to help young school children cope:

- Keep them involved by assigning some specific duty to them related to the move. It could be to mind the family pet or water the lawn before you leave.
- Get them to pack a bag of their own even if you need to repack for safety reasons at a later stage.
- Reassure them that everything will work out well and keep up with that positive attitude. Remember, it's contagious!

### **My spouse doesn't want to move**

You may be in a situation where your spouse may not wish to move. Again, open and honest communication is the key to help you and your partner decide if this is the right decision for your family. Draw up a list of the pros and cons and discuss each and every last one in detail and this may help draw out the reason for the hesitation in moving. When you have discovered the reason you can discuss with each other what can be done to help resolve the issue. It is critical to a successful partnership and marriage that you and your partner have this discussion.

### **Hesitating about moving**

Last but certainly not least, you may be hesitating about the move yourself. This is very common as we second guess our decision to move. Take control of the situation by writing down the different emotions you are feeling and understanding what is behind each emotion. Get to know as much as possible about your new home town as early as possible and this can help to alleviate the fear of moving somewhere you do not know anything about. Find out about clubs or groups you could join before you even move. The internet has a wealth of information and you should tap in to this resource. This will help you feel more in control of the move and you will be better able to cope with your changing emotions and moods.

### **Breaking the news**

We're moving! How to break the news.

It is probably a good idea to have a family meeting to discuss the move. If your family never has family meetings, a family meal either at home or in a local restaurant is another good way to break the news. Don't expect everyone to be pleased about the move. You will need to provide them with as much information as possible and focus on the benefits and advantages of the move. Tell them if you are moving because of a job promotion or for a new job. Break it to



them gently and kindly. Tailor your explanations to the age of the children. Generally speaking the older the child the more difficult they will find the move and have more trouble coping with the move. Young children may just need reassurance that they will be moving with Mommy and Daddy. Older children will be concerned about leaving their old school and friends and having to adjust to a new school and make new friends. Teens will be the most upset by the move as they will have developed very strong relationships with their friends.

The youngest children only need to know that you are moving to a new town because your office will be in the new town. You may be moving to be closer to relatives and your youngest children will be very pleased if you tell them this is the reason for the move.

Older children will want to know more and you should be prepared to tell more. They may not want to move; however, if you explain to them that you are moving to be closer to relatives or to a better job they will most likely understand the reason for the move.

### **Useful tips**

Here are some useful tips to use as you tell your family about the move:

- Tell them about the move as early as possible. They will need to get used to the idea of moving also.
- Discuss the advantages of moving with them; e.g. better schools, bigger and better shopping malls, new entertainment facilities and so on.
- Maintain a positive attitude but do not over do it as they will hold you accountable for whatever you say. Your positive attitude will also rub off on your kids so be enthusiastic about the new adventure ahead.
- Be prepared for negative comments and reactions and do not lose your cool when these opinions are voiced.
- Listen and be patient, and reassure them you will be there to help them through the transition.
- Let them know they can help with the move and that this is a family event. They may be able to help with some planning or packing.
- Answer any questions as best as you can with examples if possible. It's okay if you cannot answer all the questions right away as long as they see you are completely open to any questions. This will make them feel more comfortable with the move.

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### **Move with pets**

#### **General guidelines**

Pets are generally creatures of habit so keep your pet's routines as regular as possible in the days coming up to your move date. Continue to carry out normal activities and try not to break your pets routine too much. For example if you walk your dog each morning, continue to do so.

It is a good idea to ask a family member to assume responsibility for your pet during the days of the move. If this is not possible you might consider hiring a professional pet service for the day or couple of days you will be packing and moving. These pet services have cropped up all over the U.S. and are available in many cities and towns. Some of these companies even offer door to door service. Your pet can be picked up at your home and will be delivered to your new home on a predetermined date. Many pets become very scared and may bolt and run away during all of this irregular activity. Be careful with leaving doors open as it only takes one door to be left open to the outside unintentionally and your pet could be gone forever. If your pet bolts on moving day, you may not be able to give the necessary attention and time to the search as you should and you may have travel plans which limits the time you can search.

Another option that may be helpful is to organize for your pet to be boarded until you have moved in to your new home and arranged things.

### **Pet travel warning**

- Never move a sick pet – the move may aggravate the symptoms and this may be dangerous to your pet's health.
- Puppies and kittens less than eight weeks old whether accompanied or unaccompanied cannot be transported by air as per the Animal Welfare Act.
- Pets cannot be moved on a moving van with your household belongings.
- Pets are generally not allowed on trains or buses except seeing-eye dogs accompanying blind persons.
- Book a direct flight if you are traveling by plane. If your pet is traveling in freight he may be sitting outside with the freight for a long period of time between flights and as the freight is being moved from plane to plane. If the weather is either too hot or too cold your pet may suffer. An insulated crate will certainly help this situation if it cannot be avoided.

In short you may not have too many options available to you to transport your pet other than by air and motor vehicle.

### **Air Transport**

You may transport your pet by air either accompanying you or as air freight. Some airlines provide counter-to-counter service so your pet will be carried on and off the plane by an airline employee. Remember not all airlines accept pets for transportation so be sure to inquire when you are making your travel arrangements. Also be sure to check about charges and insurance charges for transporting your pet.

It is of the utmost importance that you book your air travel as early as possible. Airlines that accept pets for transportation will have specific regulations and guidelines you will need to follow irrespective of whether the pets are accompanied or unaccompanied. For example you may be required to be at the airport a couple of hours in advance of the flight to check your pet in and your pet may need a special crate. The airline may be able to provide to you a crate for your use or you may have to purchase one from the airline.

Generally the airline will have guidelines on the crate types allowed and your local pet supply company will be able to sell you the required crate. Your pet should be able to stand, turn around with ease, and there should be adequate ventilation. The bottom of the crate should be padded with newspaper or other absorbent material. Add a favorite toy on move day to give a sense of security. Try to slowly get your pet accustomed to the crate at home before the big day.

On move day, feed and water your pet at least 5 hours before the flight departure time and water again at least 2 hours before departure. Remember to administer any medication and if your vet has recommended a tranquilizer before departure be sure not to forget. When you arrive at the airport exercise your pet and check you have all the necessary information provided to the airline staff regarding your name, correct new address and alternate name in case of emergency.

Some airlines allow pets to be accompanied by their owners in the cabin with the passengers if they fall within a specific size range. These pets will need to be kept in a carrier for the duration of the flight.

### **By road – In a motor vehicle**

Unless you are planning a very short road trip do not feed or water your pet for a couple of hours prior to leaving. You may decide to put your pet in a cage during the road trip however

be sure your pet is able to stand and turn around with ease, and there should be adequate ventilation. The bottom of the crate should be padded with newspaper or other absorbent material. Add a favorite toy on move day to give a sense of security. Exercise your pet regularly during the road trip and feed only once per day. Whilst exercising always use a leash. Remember this is strange territory to your furry friend and it can easily become lost if it wanders off.

Do not let your pet hang its head out the window while the vehicle is in motion. He may get sore eyes, ears or a sore throat and never let the windows down so much so your pet can jump out.

### Warning

Never leave a pet in a hot car during the summer time or in a cold car in the winter. If you absolutely have to and the day is hot, park in the shade, lock the car doors and crack the windows open for cross-ventilation. If the day is very hot, it is best not to leave pet in the car at all. Check on your pet regularly if you must leave it alone for very long.

### **Pets travel bag**

When doing all that packing do not forget to pack your pets travel bag. The following is a list of things to include.

- Pet's regular food and can opener
- Pet's food and water dishes
- Treats
- Favorite toys
- Leash
- Grooming brush
- Bags to "curb your pet"
- Newspapers
- Cleaner and paper towel in case your little friend has a little accident in the car
- Any medication your pets needs

Whatever mode of transport you decide on for your pet you will need to ensure you have looked in to the following prior to departure.

- Pet's ID tags
- Pet's health records
- State and Local regulation of destination city

### **Pets ID tags**

The state you are moving to may have different laws regarding animals and indeed may have special regulations around the entry of pets to the state. It is important that you understand the requirements so that you can comply with them. It is recommended you contact the state veterinarian of your new home state to find out what the laws and regulations are in that state. It is not uncommon for pets to need an entry permit in order to enter the state. Remember, in many towns and cities the number of pets per household may be limited. You

may also be limited by the amount of time you have in order to obtain a local license.

You will most likely have to have a health cert for your pet available for inspection. This health cert needs to come from a licensed veterinarian. The Department of Agriculture is the body who may conduct any inspections and may be at airports or even on highways although this is not as common.

## **Health**

You may need to obtain a health cert for your pet and this can be used in the event it is required for entry to your new home state. The Department of Agriculture may request to see the health cert at your destination airport or may even be patrolling the highways if you are driving. A health cert is generally valid for 10 days so be sure to have the inspection scheduled for just before you move. A complete physical examination is conducted on your pet and the vet check that all inoculations have been administered especially the rabies vaccination.

## **Dogs**

Whether traveling by air or car moving can be even more stressful for a dog than a human. Some dogs however take it more in their stride than others. Leave packing his/her toys, bedding and other equipment to the last moment so that he/she is comforted by the presence of familiar things. If traveling a long way prevent travel sickness by not feeding them for 12 hours before the journey. If you know your pet suffers from travel sickness, ask your veterinary surgeon about anti-sickness pills.

If you plan on flying to your new home, try and book a direct flight. If your dog has to be transported by freight and the flight is not direct he may have to sit out in the hot or cold weather as the freight is boarded to the new flight. Check with the airlines for details. If your dog is small enough he may be able to travel in the passenger cabin with you. He will need a special carrier which you can purchase at a local pet store. The airlines will be able to provide you with details of the cage specification that you will need.

If you are traveling by car remember to have your dogs nails cut prior to the road trip otherwise the upholstery may be damaged by scraping and scratching. Carry an adequate supply of plastic bags and use these to clean up after your pet at any rest stops you use. Never let your dog hang its head out the window of a car as he may get sore eyes, ears or a sore throat.

Never leave your pet alone in a car especially in hot weather as the temperature can quickly rise to an unbearable level.

When you arrive at your destination be sure to get your dog back in to his routine of eating and exercise. If you have moved to an apartment building and your pet dog was used to having a yard to play in and relieve in, you need to be extra considerate. Bring your dog out more at least until he gets used to his new living situation. Make allowances for 'accidents' on the carpet if they should happen. Don't make a fuss or punish your pooch as this may make the problem worse. Pick up the mess and clean the area properly to remove the soil and smell. Once your dog has settled in they should stop. Always praise him when he goes to toilet in the correct place so that he knows where to go.

Make sure you make up a comfortable sleeping area for your pet pooch so he settles in quicker. If you have a new home with a yard make sure you check your boundary fencing to make sure that it is secure, of sufficient height and 'hole-free' before letting your dog run free in the garden. If your dog is able to escape then take him out on a lead until you are able to do the necessary improvements.

## **Cats**

Cats are well known for being mischievous and can be even more troublesome during moving. Cats like routine and their environment to remain the same and they also like to be in control. When their routine or their environment changes they can feel very out of control and become very upset. In the days coming up to your move try to keep their routine as normal as possible.

It may be of help to ask a friend or family member to keep an eye on your cat or to be solely responsible for your cat during these disruptive times. This can ensure your cats routine can be kept relatively normal. When you move to your new location do not allow your cat out immediately as the environment is new. Some supervised outings are advised at first until such time as he gets used to the new surroundings. You can also use a long leash on your cat and connect it to a stake in the ground and allow your cat to wander the length of the leash for the first few days. Allow your cat to explore the rooms of the house and be sure to check that outside doors and windows are closed before you begin.

If you are traveling by air you may need to purchase an airline approved carrier for you cat. Your airline should be able to provide you with all the details. If you are traveling by car you may also want to use a carrier so as your cat cannot roam about the car.

## **Birds and small pets**

Birds are probably the most sensitive to changes in temperature of all pets. Your pet bird can be moved in the cage in which it lives in. When you are moving with your pet bird a cover for the cage is recommended. This can keep the bird calm and can help keep drafts out however be sure to place the cage in a location in the car that has adequate ventilation. Be sure to remove any containers of food and water before moving the cage so as to avoid any spills en route. Do feed and water your bird at its regular times as all small animals can birds can get dehydrated very quickly in warm weather.

Some states require a health cert for birds entering the state. The USDA may inspect this cert either at the airport or during routine roadway inspections. Have your pet bird inspected by your veterinarian prior to traveling. Some health certificates are valid for a period of time only, 10 days is common and you must travel with you pet within this period of time.

## **Horses**

There are several ways to transport horses. Your horse can be transported by air freight, by towing or by a specialized horse transporting company. The horse transport company can use either air or road to transport horses.

### **By Air**

Many airlines accept horses as air freight. Generally they will only transport horses on direct flights only however check with the airline. You will be required to have a stall constructed to the airline specification requirements. You will need to ensure your horse has the necessary health checks completed prior to moving to your new home state. Remember states differ in requirements and the airlines will request to see the health certificates. The USDA may also be at the destination airport conducting inspections and may request to see the health certificates.

### **By Road**

Depending on the distance you need to travel, towing your horse in a trailer behind your motor vehicle may be an option. If you do not have a trailer you can consider renting one. You can also pack up tack and feed in the trailer. If you are not experienced in driving with a trailer this may not be advisable. If your trip requires you to have overnight stays you will need to book stables for your horse. These stables will require a health certificates appropriate to horses only and if they do not it is suggested you do not board your horse there. Your veterinarian may know the applicable laws of the different states and will be able to provide you with the necessary health certificates. Contact information regarding states entry requirements is at the end of this guide. If you are unable to find a stable or lodgings for your horse in close proximity to your hotel, the hotel may allow you to keep the trailer in the parking lot overnight. In inclement weather this is not advisable. Feed and water your horse per the normal routine and clean out the stall when you have an overnight stop.

If you decide to use a horse transporting company be sure they are registered with the Interstate Commerce. You should also take out extra insurance as insurance is generally covered

only to a minimum. This can be a very stress free way of moving your horse from state to state however it comes at a price.

## **Reptiles**

There are strict government regulations regarding the entry of reptiles in to most states. See the states regulatory contact list at the end of this guide to find out what you need to do before moving your reptile from state to state.

As a general rule of thumb the carrier that a reptile is transported in needs to be kept moist. Place the reptile in a cloth bag and tie the top of the bag giving the reptile enough room to move about, place the bag in the shipping container. Use foam peanuts as cushioning and support and dampen some paper and place in the shipper to keep environment moist. Make sure there are air holes in the shipper for ventilation. If you are traveling overnight with your reptile you may need to place him in the tub of your hotel room at night for a nice long soak. Check if the hotel allows pets first.

Do not ship reptiles in hot or cold weather as they may be left outside for periods of time in the shipping container in the inclement weather.

Snakes must be handled with extra care especially if they are venomous. It is required by most airlines to have the snakes double crated. This means putting the snake in a crate and then placing this crate in another larger crate. Be sure there is adequate ventilation. The airline may provide you with stickers to put on all sides of the crate and you will need to write the type of snake on this label. You should also write on the sticker whether the snake is venomous or not on this.

### **Warning**

Remember to keep the surroundings of all reptiles moist but not wet. Use a damp cloth and place inside the container is one of the best ways to do this.

## **Fish**

Fish are notoriously difficult to move from one location to another however it can be done effectively and efficiently with some planning. It is advisable to sell as many of the fish as you can before you move to help ease the burden however if this is not an option this guide will help you understand what you need to do.

Depending on the size of your aquarium and the number and type of fish you have it may be easier to break them down to a couple of tanks. If the aquarium is 5 gallons or less it may be just as easy to move the entire aquarium. Place some cellophane over the top of the aquarium and remove heaters and aerators. Place this container in a cooler box or Styrofoam container to regulate the temperature. This should keep the temperature constant for up to 48 hours. Ensure every 4- 5 hours to open up the cellophane to change the air. This option may be the best for tropical fish that may not do well in smaller containers with overcrowding or indeed sudden changes in water and temperature. Never leave this container in the car overnight as the temperature changes may be too drastic for the fish. If you plan to be traveling to your destination for a couple of days with your fish it is advisable to purchase a portable aerator to keep the water well oxygenated. Always pack your aquarium last in the moving truck so you can set it up quickly when you arrive at your destination.

Depending on the size of your aquarium you may need to break down the fish in to a number of smaller containers or fish bags. If you can you should use the water from the aquarium if you choose this method. In the event you do not have enough water for all the smaller use fresh or saltwater depending to the type of fish you have. It is advisable to fill the container with appropriate water and allow the water to settle for a few hours and empty and refill. Do this a couple of times and to leach any impurities out of the container material. If you have only a small number of fish and are moving only a short driving distance, you can move the fish to their new location by using plastic bags half filled with water and the other half with air. As a general guideline each fish should have at least 1-2 gallons of water. To maintain the

temperature place the bags in an insulated container or Styrofoam container.

Most fish can go without food for a couple of days with no bad reaction. It is important to put healing agents in to the water

As the fish may become bruised en route .This is not uncommon and you can purchase healing agents at your local pet supply store.

When you arrive at your destination set up the aquarium as quickly as possible. You may need to add water neutralizers to the water to neutralize any chemicals. Your local pet store can advise you of any treatments the water may need.

Turn the aerator on for a while before adding the fish one at a time. Slowly and gently add the fish to the filled tank. Wait until the water settles and feed as usual.

### **Small Creatures**

Most small animals and mammals can be moved in their cages. These include guinea pigs, gerbils and mice. Do not place in a draughty location in the car however as adequate ventilation is necessary. Remove any water bottles so they do not spill and line the bottom of the cage with newspapers. At rest stops you may can feed and water your pet as usual. Do not park in direct sunlight and do not let the car become too hot or cold. Generally small critters like the same temperatures as humans so what is hot or cold for you is hot or cold for your pet.

### **New community**

PLEASE, PLEASE be responsible when you move and check beforehand with your new community to find out if pets are allowed. Some apartment and condominium complexes may not allow pets and if they do not then do not move there.

Some of the most common reasons people leave their pets with shelters are "we are moving" and "my landlord will not allow pets." Your pet is part of your family and they can become very anxious and stressed if they are being left behind in a shelter. Pets do not know why their owners are leaving them behind so do your homework beforehand to save all that heartbreak.

### **State and local regulations**

You need to ensure your pet has some sort of easily read ID attached to its body. For dogs and cats this can be a collar and for birds a tag around the leg is appropriate. At the very least the ID tags should have your pet's name, destination address, your name and telephone number. It is also a good idea to have an alternates name and number on the tags in the event somebody finds your lost pet and is unable to get in contact with you. You should also have rabies tags for your pet and depending on the state you live in this will most likely be a requirement. For travel your pet may be required to wear special travel tags which the airline will provide.

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## **Move with plants**

### **House plants**

In the weeks or even months coming up to the move take good care of your plants to ensure they are strong enough for the move. Of course you can decide to give the plants away before you move or even throw them away if you feel you cannot take them with you to your new home. If you must leave your plant, consider taking some cuttings which are small clippings of your favorite plants. Pack these in damp paper or moss and place in jiffy bags unsealed and try to include some of the original soil in the bag also. These clippings can remain like this for several days until you arrive at your new destination. You can then replant these in peat or vermiculite with plenty of water. Moving companies will generally carry plants if the distance is below 200 miles or within one days travel from destination i.e. 24 hours. Be careful if you ask the moving company to move plants in the winter of hot summer days as it can be very damaging to plants at temperatures below 35 and above 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

Several weeks before moving you should begin getting your plants ready for the journey by pruning them to help ease of packing and remove any straggly bits. Do not prune ferns or succulents. Different plants need to be pruned differently and it is recommended that you consult a gardening book for the correct method for pruning your plants. If necessary, re-pot plants into non-breakable plastic containers. Be sure to clean the new pots thoroughly as they may contain thriving pest communities of their own depending on what was last planted in the pot. There is nothing worse than seeing your favorite plant destroyed due to a pot breaking en route. Terra cotta pots are notoriously easy to break so treat them gently. Next, treat your plants for pests about a week before the move. You can treat them for pests by placing the plants in a large plastic bag and applying a bug strip or bug powder. Seal the bag and leave overnight to ensure a complete kill.

On the day of the move place the potted plants in a large box separated by newspaper. Beforehand line the box with plants in case of a spill. Make sure you have drained off any excess water before placing the plants in the box. Tie cane to support larger plants to minimize damage and the likelihood of breaking. Regardless of your method of transportation; however, the most important thing to do is keep your plants moist throughout their journey. You could place moistened newspapers around the soil and wrap this around the stalk of the plant. If you need to box your plants make sure to put some air holes in the boxes. When you are ready to remove the plants from the boxes it is recommended you do this gradually as too much sunlight too quickly may do more damage than good. House plants can survive without much light for up to one week without a negative impact if other conditions are favorable such as temperature and moisture level in the soil.

### **Garden plants**

Garden plants are a little more difficult to move simply because you have to dig them up, move them and then replant them in your new location. Some garden plants cannot be dug up and replanted so before going to all that trouble contact your local horticulture store to get advice. It is also important to consider if the plants will even survive in their new habitat as the climate and soil may be very different to the plants preferred living conditions. There are many things that can go wrong so follow our useful advice and you should be well on your way to a glorious garden in your new home.

On the day of the move dig up the garden plants being careful to dig around the roots in a circle. The root ball can be placed in a plastic bag with a pest strip. Seal the bag for up to 6 hours to kill off any remaining pests. Make sure the soil is moist around the ball. When you arrive at your destination replant as soon as possible. Check the soil PH level for acidity or alkalinity. PH test kits can be purchased in any plant store. Add fertilizer and water to the soil around the plant regularly and allow the plants some time before it gets use to its new home.

### **Garden tools and furniture**

Clean any tools you are planning to move with you and cover with a thin coat of oil to protect. Hose down any garden furniture you are planning to move and use bleach if necessary to remove any stubborn stains. Allow to dry completely before loading on to the moving van.