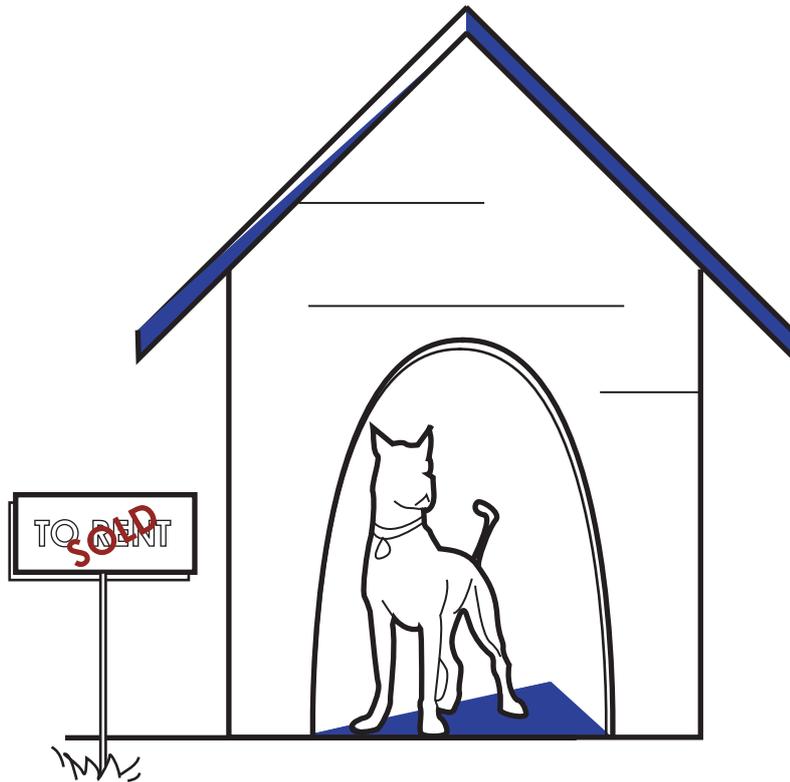


 **Battersea Dogs & Cats
Home Paw Planner**



A happier, safer move for you
and your pet.





Pets On the Move

-  Over 1,830,000 house moves took place last year in the UK and 45% of them included pet owners. Moving house is stressful enough, without the added worry of how your pet is going to respond to such a major upheaval.
-  Battersea Dogs & Cats Home has collated all the best advice on how to ensure that moving your pet goes as smoothly as possible. So whether you are a cat or a dog owner here's what you can do to ease the strain of moving house for your pet.



Section 1

If you are on the move, taking care of pets will be just as high on the priority list as transporting your favourite furniture. The secret to stress-free relocation is to plan ahead. So if you're wondering how exactly to handle your pet whilst on-the-move, simply follow the *paw planner* for advice to ensure you're not the one handling a pet on-the-run instead!

Pet Pointers Counting Down to the Move



IS YOUR CAT OR DOG MICROCHIPPED?

If the answer is yes, then remember to call PETLOG on 0870 6066751 to change the address and telephone number on the central register. If the answer is no, then it's a good idea to get your pet microchipped in advance of the move. The ID chip can be inserted by your local vet and costs between £10 and £30. The microchip is inserted under the scruff of the neck in a simple and painless procedure. The chip is permanent and can be read with a scanner if your pet is found. The number of the chip along with your name and address is kept on a central register. Simply take your pet to the vet and ask them to carry out the procedure.

UPDATE YOUR PET'S ID TAG

Collars and tags are an excellent idea for cats, but they are a legal requirement for dogs, you could be fined if your dog doesn't have one. Before you move, make sure that you have ordered new tags complete with all new contact details, name, address and telephone number. Before you leave the old house change the ID tags ready for your pet's arrival at their new home.

TRAVEL TRAUMA

Although most dogs are generally used to travelling in a car, cats may not be so familiar with it and can find it traumatic. It is important to have a good quality cat basket which will allow for plenty of movement. If you are moving a long distance, it may be worth taking your cat on some short trips in the car in the run up to the move to get them used to car travel.

VET VISIT

Before you move house, it is worth taking your pet to the vet for a check-up and to make sure that all vaccinations are up to date and that medical records are completed. It is also worth asking your local vet if they have any recommendations for vets in your new area. Register with a new vet as soon as possible.

ROUTINE

Remember no animal likes their routine disturbed so keeping them feeling secure, by creating as close to their normal environment as possible and change to a minimum, is the key to a successful move.

CAT CONFINEMENT

For cats the mere sight of packing and upheaval can create anxiety. Cats dislike change and become attached to 'homes' not just people. Confinement is the key so your feline 'roamer' stays put without making an escape attempt to right back where you all began!

NO MUNCHING

It's a good idea not to feed your pet for at least three hours before leaving on a trip or up to 12 hours before long journey – if you know your pet is prone to travel sickness maybe ask your vet about anti-sickness pills for the ride.



'Prepare a pet travel kit with food, water, treats, favourite toys and bedding'

KIT-CAT

Prepare a pet travel kit with food, water, dishes, can opener, treats, favourite toys, bedding, litter tray or scooper and plastic bags for cleaning up along the way.

LAST PICK

Leave packing pet toys, bedding and equipment right until the last moment – they will be comforted by familiar things amidst the chaos.

PICTURE 'PURFECT'

Recent pet photos with details recorded on the reverse will prove just the thing if your pet gets lost and you need to make posters.



DAPPER DOG

Ask your vet about DAP (Dog Appeasing Pheromone) – a state-of-the art doggy device that emits a scent in house which mimics the calming scent released by a mother to pups – it's the ultimate in dog relaxation.

TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

It may be worth considering putting your pet in a cattery or kennel during your move, if it is particularly sensitive to lots of noise and people.

CAT CASE

Don't forget to prepare your cats basket complete with plenty of familiar toys and a blanket inside for comfort and ease. If your cat has never been in a travel basket, it is wise to have a few trial runs so they can get used to the basket and the experience before the big day arrives. Remember to put your cat inside the basket before the removal begins – otherwise the temptation to do a runner may prove too much.



'Take your cat on some short car trips to prepare them for what's to come'

Section 2

On the Move

KEEP PETS AWAY ON MOVING DAY

It's best to either leave pets with someone who knows them, or confine them to a quiet room with bed and toys. If so a 'DO NOT ENTER' sign on door is a good idea, otherwise an open door may be an invitation to remove themselves from the removal chaos.

ID-ON

Be sure your pet is wearing new ID tags during travel as pets often try to make a return to their previous homes, and you don't want to lose them once you've moved!

KEEP IT CLEAN

To keep your car clean in case of spills, have plenty of newspaper to hand.

PET PARKING

NEVER leave your pet in a parked vehicle during warm weather. Rising temperatures and dehydration are potentially lethal. If you have no alternative but to leave them for short periods at cooler times of the year – ensure windows are opened enough to permit good air flow and doors locked.

PESTS & PETS

If your new home was previously occupied by pets, the best time to spray for flea control is just before you move everything inside, including your pets.

FOOD ON THE MOVE

Make sure both food and drink aren't given to pets whilst you are transporting them. Not only is this impractical but it can make some animals ill.

DEHYDRATION

Give your pet fresh water at every stop to avoid dehydration – maybe give dogs a short walk and toilet break so they remain as comfortable as possible.

PAW PIT STOPS

A recent introduction at MOTO Service Stations are new feeding stations for dogs offering leaflets on travel tips and food and water supplies – so lookout for them along the way.



'Make sure your dog is wearing new ID tags during travel'



Section 3

Paws for Thought - Post Move



ARRIVAL

Where possible unpack first and wait until everything is indoors before introducing pets to their new home. It's best for them to see familiar items in an unfamiliar house. Try and keep everything as normal as possible for them.

ESCAPE CLAWS

Alternatively prepare a quiet room for cats and dogs, with their basket toys, food and litter trays ready so they feel secure. This way they are spared the chaos of unpacking which will only increase the chances of them getting lost in the process.

PAW PATIENCE

Dogs adapt to their new surroundings quicker than cats but they can get over-excited, so keep them on a lead for a while in your new house. If he has an accident in the house, don't punish him for it. Clean the area thoroughly to remove odours quickly and praise the animal when he gets it right. For cats, place extra litter trays around and remove them gradually.



BAD BEHAVIOUR

It's easy to over compensate and give your pet more attention than usual – watch this! It could lead to bad behaviour problems later on.

SET TO WASH

Don't wash bedding until a couple of weeks after the move – that way there will be a familiar smell in the new house – which will set pets more at ease.

CONFINEMENT CARE

Keep cats in a 'safe room' for a few days to settle them in. Wait until all the upheaval has calmed down. Then allow them to explore on their own terms, until they make the new surroundings their own.

RURAL TO URBAN

If you have moved from country to city keeping a cat strictly indoors is recommended, for a month or so or until your cat has settled in. It depends on the logistics of your move but traffic, elevators and open windows in high-rises encountered first time can all prove hazardous.

INSIDE OUT

If you are moving from an urban to rural location, your cat may not be used to spending so much time outdoors and experiencing traffic and other animals. Some cats, if let out, may even attempt to return to their former home.

If you do want your cat to venture out wherever you have moved to wait until they're relaxed and introduce them gradually. Eventually you will have to let them go and hope for the best.

ROUTINE & RITUAL

Introduce usual routines as quickly as possible to help pets settle. Pick a place for your feeding and walk dogs at usual times.

WALKIES

Taking dogs for the occasional walk will help them settle, avoid the chaos involved with unpacking and they will get to know the area and new neighbours

TOILET TREATMENT

Remember if you're moving from a rural to urban area, it may mean a transition for dogs relieving themselves on pavements rather than grass and vice versa – so be prepared, with plenty of patience and a scooper and bags at hand.

RUN FREE

Always check boundary fencing for security before letting your pet out into the garden. Keep dogs on leads until improvements are made if necessary.

When walking with your dog in rural areas, always adhere to countryside regulations – for example, keep your dog on a lead if you are walking near livestock.



Useful Contacts:

Petlog: 0870 606 6751

Find a vet website: www.any-uk-vet.co.uk

Should you need urgent advice on pet behaviour, please call Battersea Dogs & Cats Home Behaviour Advice Line on 0905 020 0222 or email behaviour@dogshome.org. The Behaviour Advice Line deals with a range of problems such as housetraining, basic control and separation problems.