

## TIPS & TRICKS TO A SUCCESSFUL MOVE WITH PETS



Moving is stressful – not just for humans but for our pets, too. AWA would like to help ease that stress with some helpful resources compiled for those in the planning stages of moving and/or in search of pet friendly housing.

### FINDING PET FRIENDLY RENTALS:

**Plan, Plan, Plan** – The better prepared you are for your move, the more likely you are to find a place for you and your four-legged friend.

**Give Yourself Time** – It's best to allow at least 60 days or more for your pet friendly

property search.

**Prepare a Backup Plan** – Unfortunately, we can't plan for every situation life throws our way. Have a plan for your pets in case you find yourself between rentals for any length of time (friends, family members, boarding facilities)

**Utilize Social Media** – Reach out to friends, family and co-workers. They may know of rental opportunities you haven't explored yet

**Be Open and Honest about Your Pet** – Hiding your pet from a landlord could put you in a sticky situation. Be honest about size, breed, number of pets and any other information. A landlord does not want to find out after you have moved in that you failed to mention Fluffy and her 6 furry friends.

**Search Online for Pet Friendly Housing** – [AWA has compiled a list of pet friendly housing in Camden, Burlington, Mercer and Gloucester counties.](#)

**Search Smaller Complexes** – Smaller apartment complexes typically tend to have fewer restrictions on pet ownership.

**Always Ask Questions** – When inquiring about an apartment that is listed as pet friendly, ask if there are restrictions on size, breed and species as not all types of pets may be accepted.

**Provide your Potential Landlord with Documentation** – For example, a reference letter from previous landlord, a reference letter from your veterinarian, spay or neuter certificate, municipal pet license, training certification from a class your

pet may have completed or any other documents that represent responsible pet ownership.

**Create a Pet Resume** – Show off your pet's best qualities by creating a resume and giving it to your potential landlord. [See a sample here!](#)

**Host a Meet and Greet** – Ask your potential landlord if they would like to meet your pet to see how well behaved he/she is.

**Offer to Pay a Pet Deposit** – This will show your landlord you are willing to take responsibility for your pet.

**Get Your Landlord's Permission in Writing** – Do not sign a "no pets" lease even if the landlord gives his/her verbal permission for you to have one. Get it in writing!

**Co-op or Condo Associated Property** – If the property you are visiting is a condo or co-op associated property, make sure the association has a pet friendly policy as well as the landlord you are signing the lease with.

## **PREPARING YOUR PET FOR THE MOVE:**

Have you found the perfect new home for both you and your fur babies? Now it's time to prepare your pet for the move. Follow these tips to ensure both you and your pet have a stress free move:

**Update your Pet's Identification** – Before the big day, ensure your pets have collars and id tags with a current phone number.

**Keep Your Pet in a Closed Room** – People will be in and out of your home while packing and loading boxes, keeping your pet in a secured room will keep them from sneaking out through an open door.

**Prepare for Transport** – Ensure that you have carriers or crates to safely transport your pet to their new home.

**Update Identification** – Update your pet's ID tags and microchip with your new address.

**Keep Your Pet's Records Handy** – Your new landlord may want to make sure your pet is licensed, up to date on vaccines, etc...

**Ask Someone to Pet sit the Day of the Move** – Having a friend or family member spend time with your four-legged friend on moving day will ease their stress.

## **HELPING YOUR PET ADJUST TO THE NEW HOME:**

Congrats! You have found a new, pet-friendly home and you've survived the dreaded moving day. Now it's time to get comfortable and make your new place feel like home. Here are a few ways to

**Keep Your Pet in a Secure Room** – Once at the new property, keep your pet in a closed off/ stress free area away from the boxes and moving furniture.

**Stick to a Routine** – Keep your pet to the same routine he/she has been accustomed to prior to your move. Arrange bed, crate, toys, food/water bowls as close to your old set up as possible. Stick to same feeding schedule.

**Introduce them to Their New Boundaries** – Keep your dog on a leash both inside and outside. It will take him time to learn where he can and cannot be inside and outside of your new home.

**Take Walks** – Get to know the new neighborhood together. Take a walk with your dog to explore.

**Cats will need more Time to Adjust than their Canine Counterparts** – Place your cat in a quiet room with its food/water, litterbox and bed. Leave them in the carrier with the door open. Leave treats around the room to encourage them to explore. Keep your cat in this quiet room for the several days after moving in. This will allow time to acclimate to the sights, smells and sounds of the new home. After a few days, leave the door to the room open for the cat to feel free to investigate further on its own.

**BE PATIENT** – Your pet may feel anxious and uneasy about your big move. Your pet feels stress much like you do and may need a little time and extra attention to adjust to their new environment.