Moving with pets: 10 ways to keep dogs and cats calm and safe

Pets don't understand moving; they understand open doors, strangers and missing furniture. Ten steps that cover the paperwork, the crate, moving day and the first week in the new place.

- [ ] **Microchip phone number and emergency contact updated; new address on move-in day**
- [ ] **ID tag with a phone number that will ring on moving day; travel tag with cell and destination**
- [ ] **Vet records, rabies certificate and prescription refills collected; new vet chosen**
- [ ] **Destination state's pet entry rules checked if moving interstate**
- [ ] **Boxes out early; crate or carrier practice started weeks ahead**
- [ ] **Feeding, walks and bedtime kept on schedule through packing week**
- [ ] **Pet box packed: food, bowls, meds, leash, litter, bed, favorite toy**
- [ ] **Moving day: pet in a closed, signed room or at a friend's house**
- [ ] **Crate secured in the car; water, travel kit; never left in a parked car**
- [ ] **New home walked: cords, screens, gaps, toxic plants checked**
- [ ] **One home-base room set up first; litter box moved gradually**
- [ ] **Leashed walks around the new neighborhood for the first weeks**