



# Moving with Pets

Everyone agrees that moving is stressful. So why should we put our pets through all that?

- ❖ Its common knowledge that pets relieve stress. Your pet(s) will help you feel at home in your new place.
- ❖ There are never enough good homes, especially for more mature pets. Pets that are left behind don't always live to tell the tail.
- ❖ Bringing your pet with you teaches your children good values and the importance of love and commitment.
- ❖ And of course, if pets could talk they would tell us that they don't want to be left behind by the people they love and trust.

## Getting Ready

A well-planned move is much less stressful for everyone involved.

- ❖ Plan your route first. Be realistic and include time for breaks for walking dogs.
- ❖ Most hotels and motels have a limited number of pet friendly rooms. Make reservations. Knowing you will have a room waiting at the end of the day will take a lot of the stress out of the trip.
- ❖ Buy a pet carrier for every cat that you are bringing with you.
- ❖ If you don't already have one, buy a doggy seatbelt for every dog that will be traveling with you.
- ❖ Pick up a small cooler for lunches so that you can stop at picnic spots.
- ❖ Call your vet and ask for your pet's records. Either microchip all your pets or make sure that everyone has ID on their collar. Include your new address.

## On the Road

### Safety First

- ❖ Never take your cat out of the carrier until you are in your motel and the door is closed. Cats are usually more comfortable traveling

in their carrier and can get carsick outside of it.

- ❖ Clip the walking leash to the seatbelt harness instead of the collar. It's harder for a dog that may be frightened to wriggle out of the harness. Keep cars doors closed until the dog is leashed.
- ❖ Never leave pets unattended in a car.
- ❖ Have water available during the day.

### Convenience

- ❖ Disposable cat litter boxes come pre-filled and enable simply cleanup.
- ❖ Plan on take-out food you can enjoy in your room.
- ❖ Bring a favourite dog bed or blanket. Every one will sleep better when they are more secure.
- ❖ Bring extra treats and a long piece of string in case you need to "find" the cat.
- ❖ Bring disposable wet wipes and paper towel.

## When You Don't Have a New Place to Live Yet

- ❖ Find a trusted friend or family member to "foster" your pet(s) until you have your new place arranged.
- ❖ It will be easier to find a foster if you pay for the food and vet care needed while gone.
- ❖ If its close enough to drive, then just go back, pick up your pets and bring them home.
- ❖ If it's too far to drive, pets can be shipped by air. If your caretaker can't get to the airport, phone around for a boarding kennel that offers shuttle service to the airport. Check with your airline to make sure the pet carrier you plan on using is acceptable to them.
- ❖ Pets can often fly with someone who is already booked on the flight for a much lower fee than the straight shipping cost. Check with the available airlines to see who is offering this service.
- ❖ Make getting licenses a priority in your new place.