An Owner’s Manual for:

MOVING WITH YOUR PETS

by the

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
ABOUT THIS SERIES

At the AKC, we know better than anyone that your dog can’t be treated like a car or an appliance, but we’ve named this series “An Owner’s Manual” because sometimes you probably wish your lovable companions came with one.

These concise guides give you the tools, tips, and direction to be a responsible and confident dog owner who brings out the best in your dog. Give them a test drive!
Whether you’re moving just across town or clear across country, all it takes is a little advance planning, the right equipment, and a sense of humor to make the transition an easier one. To say a relocation is fun might be stretching it, but with your best friend along for the ride, it won't be all bad!
THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS
Time is ticking toward moving day, and there’s so much to do! Here, find ways to prepare so that the move is as smoothless as possible for you and the four-legged members of your family.
WHAT TO PACK
Prepare a “dog box” for quick unpacking at your new home. Include food, toys, an old blanket, bowls, vitamins, and non-emergency medications such as heartworm tablets and baby aspirin. Fill several bottles with water for the first few days in your new home. Water varies from place to place, and an abrupt change could invite a bout of diarrhea.

Also pack a “doggie car-kit” for easy access on the road: Enough food and water for the duration of the trip; travel bowls; treats; paper towels and moist wipes for cleanup; a first-aid kit; and, of course, any toys or chews that will help to make the trip more enjoyable for your dog.
BEFORE YOU GO: UPDATE YOUR DOG’S ID AND CONTACT INFO.
We wouldn’t travel without identification, and of course neither should our dogs. If your four-legged friend doesn’t already have up-to-date ID on him, be sure to take care of this detail before your move. (And remember to change it to your new address once you get there.)

Fasten a new ID tag securely to your dog’s collar or harness, with your name, new address, and phone number. On your pre-move visit to your veterinarian, ask about getting a microchip—both permanent methods for providing ID should your dog become lost. Go to akc.org to learn more about the Companion Animal Recovery service, the nation’s largest database of microchipped pets.
A MONTH BEFORE MOVING DAY:
About a month before the move, familiarize your dog with a comfortable, secure crate. It will be her den throughout the transition. Furnish it with a soft pad or dog bed, a familiar blanket, and one or two favorite toys. Encourage your pup to use it as a secure retreat. The crate should have room enough for your dog to stand up, turn around, and snuggle.
TWO WEEKS BEFORE MOVING DAY:
About two weeks before the move, begin to take your traveling companion for rides in the car, always making them fun-filled outings. An enthusiastic “Who wants to go for a ride in the car?” will prompt a tail-wagging scramble for the door. Offer treats frequently.
A WEEK BEFORE MOVING DAY:
Visit your veterinarian for one last check-up. Update vaccinations, if advisable. Ask questions: Are there canine health problems, such as Lyme disease or leptospirosis, in your new locale? Can your vet recommend a colleague in your new town? Finally, get a printout of your dog’s medical records to take with you to your new veterinarian.
GETTING THERE: DRIVING
If you drive a rental truck, don’t load your furry pal into the cargo area, which could turn into an oven or freezer, depending on the weather. He should ride in the cab with the rest of the family. If there’s not enough room in the rental truck cab, arrange for someone to follow in a car with the dog.

Along the way, stop every three or four hours for stretching, snacks, water, and a walk-always on a leash. Most interstates have grassy dog-walking areas away from traffic. Remember to clean up after your dog, so other travelers and their canine companions can also enjoy this convenience.
If your new home is more than one day’s drive away, you’ll need to find a hotel or motel that allows dogs. It's much easier to do this research before you get on the road. Luckily, many hotel chains are now pet-friendly.
GETTING THERE: FLYING

If you choose to fly, you take the chance of arriving at the airport with your dog, only to learn that your flight has been delayed or cancelled. This said, if you prefer to fly, contact the airlines well ahead of time and ask about their policies concerning transportation of dogs. Ask again a day or two before departure. Write down the date and time of your conversation and the person you spoke with in case of conflicting information at check-in. If you have a dog that cannot fly in the cabin and are moving during a hot or cold time of year, do not fly with your dog—the weather in cargo spaces is not controlled, and you could be putting your pet at risk.
YOU’VE ARRIVED!
As soon as you arrive at your new home, set up the crate and security blanket in the home’s activity center, usually the kitchen or family room. After your companion settles in, move the crate to an out-of-the-way location to serve as her future den.
Throughout the transitional process, act toward your dog as you always have. Don’t make a huge fuss. Give her a little extra love, a little more reassurance than usual. But don’t overdo it. This will only confuse her further.
TROUBLESHOOTING: RUNNING AWAY, LOSS OF APPETITE, AND “ACCIDENTS”

These are all common problems after a move. Dogs are part of the family, and they deserve the same consideration we’d give any family member experiencing change. Your dog will tell you with body language and behavior when she’s upset and disoriented. Discern the needs of your faithful friend: Stop, look, and listen.

Ensure that all family members watch doors to prevent a doggie dash, and set up a crate or enclosed area where your pet can acclimate to his new surroundings safely. Also, be sure that your pet’s identification is up-to-date.
WHO AND WHAT WE ARE:
The AKC is a not-for-profit organization and the largest purebred dog registry in the world. We are the sports-governing body for over 22,000 dog events a year, including conformation (dog shows) and exciting sports like agility, obedience, rally, tracking, lure coursing, earthdog, herding trials, among others.
But the AKC is so much more! Here are just some of the ways we support and enrich the lives of dogs—purebreds and mixed-breeds alike—and their families. We:

■ Created the AKC Humane Fund, which supports breed rescue activities, assists shelters that permit domestic-abuse victims to bring their pets, and educates dog lovers about responsible dog ownership.

■ Offer the Canine Good Citizen® program: A 10-step test that certifies dogs who have good manners at home and in their community. Over 725,000 dogs across the United States have become Canine Good Citizens, and 42 states have passed resolutions recognizing the program’s merit and importance.

■ Founded AKC Reunite, which has brought more than 400,000 lost pets back together with their owners.

■ Created the AKC Canine Health Foundation, which funds research projects and clinical studies. Since 1995 the AKC has donated over $24 million to the CHF. (The AKC is the only registry that incorporates health-screening results into its permanent dog records.)

■ Conduct thousands of kennel inspections annually to monitor care and conditions at kennels across the country and ensure the integrity of the AKC registry.

■ Offer the largest, most comprehensive set of DNA programs for parentage verification and genetic identity to ensure reliable registration records.

■ Support one of the world’s largest collections of dog-related fine art and artifacts at the AKC Museum of the Dog, and we have the world’s largest dog library at AKC headquarters in New York, both of which are open to the public.
We hope this information was valuable to you in helping your puppy live a long, healthy, happy life. Below, find additional books in our Owner’s Manual series designed to strengthen the bond between you and your furry family member.