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THE 2026 PET RELOCATION STARTER KIT

Plan Your Pet's Move with Confidence

Get the Checklists, Timelines,
and Planning Tools You Need to
Move Your Dog or Cat to the
United States.



UPDATED FOR CURRENT
CDC & USDA REQUIREMENTS



**BORDERLESS
MOVES**

[BorderlessMoves.com](https://borderlessmoves.com)

How to Use This Starter Kit

Planning an international move for your pet can feel overwhelming. Between paperwork, veterinary appointments, airline requirements, and coordinating logistics, it's easy to wonder if you're forgetting something important.

This Starter Kit is designed to help you organize the process, stay on top of important tasks, and move forward with confidence.

Use the worksheets and checklists to track your progress and keep all the important information in one place.



As you work through this kit:



Complete the worksheets.



Use the checklists to track your progress.



Record important dates and contact information.



Verify current requirements using the official resources provided.



Remember: regulations and airline policies can change. This Starter Kit is a planning tool, not a replacement for official guidance. Whenever you make travel decisions, verify current requirements directly with the appropriate authorities.

By the time you finish this workbook, you'll have a clearer understanding of what needs to be done, when it needs to be done, and what information you'll need to keep your pet's move on track.

Let's start by gathering the information you'll use throughout the planning process.



Gather Your Most Important Information

Before You Start

Before researching requirements, contacting movers, scheduling veterinary appointments, or booking travel, take a few minutes to gather the information below.



PET INFORMATION

Pet Name: _____

Dog / Cat: _____

Breed: _____

Age: _____

Weight: _____



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Country of Origin: _____

Destination State: _____

Target Move Date: _____



VETERINARY INFORMATION

Veterinarian Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Clinic Email (if available): _____



PLANNING NOTES

Estimated Budget: \$ _____

Questions I Need Answered:

WHY THIS MATTERS

Keeping key information in one place can save time, reduce stress, and make the planning process easier.



Research Pet Travel Requirements

Every country—and sometimes every airline—has different rules for pet entry. Requirements can include health certificates, vaccinations, microchips, blood tests, quarantine, and more.

Take time to research the requirements for your destination country and your airline.

Use the checklist below to track what you learn and where you found the information.



RESEARCH CHECKLIST



DESTINATION COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Pet import regulations
- ☐ Required vaccinations
- ☐ Health certificate requirements
- ☐ Microchip requirements
- ☐ Blood tests (if required)
- ☐ Quarantine requirements
- ☐ Other requirements: _____



AIRLINE REQUIREMENTS

- ☐ Pet travel policy
- ☐ Carrier size and type
- ☐ In-cabin or cargo options
- ☐ Booking deadlines
- ☐ Health certificate timing
- ☐ Fees
- ☐ Other requirements: _____

RECORD YOUR SOURCES

List the websites, phone numbers, and documents you used to find this information.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____



TIP: Requirements can change.

Always confirm information close to your target move date.



5 Common Challenges (and How to Avoid Them)

Pet relocation involves many moving parts, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed. Knowing the most common challenges can help you plan ahead and avoid costly mistakes.

Use this list to spot potential roadblocks early and take steps to stay on track.



1. NOT ENOUGH TIME

Many requirements take weeks or even months to complete. Start early to avoid rushing and costly expedited services.



2. INCOMPLETE DOCUMENTS

Missing signatures, wrong dates, or incorrect forms can cause delays or denial of travel.



3. AIRLINE POLICY SURPRISES

Policies vary widely and can change. Always confirm details before booking.



4. UNEXPECTED COSTS

Fees for certificates, tests, quarantine, and pet transport can add up. Budget ahead.



5. STRESS FOR YOU AND YOUR PET

Change is hard for pets. A calm plan, proper preparation, and familiar items can make a big difference.



TIP: The best way to avoid these challenges is preparation. Use this workbook to stay organized and give your pet the smoothest move possible.



A little planning today leads to peace of mind tomorrow.

Prepare Your Documents

Having the right documents—complete, accurate, and up to date—is essential for a smooth and stress-free journey for your pet.

Use this checklist to gather and organize the documents you'll need for both your destination country and your airline.

Keep digital copies backed up and store originals in a safe, easy-to-access folder when you travel.



DOCUMENTS CHECKLIST



REQUIRED FOR DESTINATION COUNTRY

- ☐ Pet import permit (if required)
- ☐ Health certificate (official USDA-accredited)
- ☐ Vaccination records
- ☐ Rabies titer test results (if required)
- ☐ Microchip certification
- ☐ Blood test results (if required)
- ☐ Quarantine reservation/confirmation (if required)
- ☐ Other: _____



REQUIRED FOR AIRLINE TRAVEL

- ☐ Airline booking confirmation
- ☐ Pet travel policy confirmation
- ☐ Health certificate (airline timing requirements)
- ☐ Crate/Pet carrier approval (if required)
- ☐ Cargo or in-cabin documentation (if required)
- ☐ Routing/connection approvals (if applicable)
- ☐ Other: _____



TIP: Most documents have specific timing requirements. Check how many days before travel each document must be issued.



Create a dedicated folder (physical or digital) to keep everything organized.



DOCUMENTS AT A GLANCE

List the key documents you'll be traveling with and where they are located.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Create Your Timeline

A timeline helps you stay organized, meet deadlines, and reduce last-minute stress. Every pet move is different, but starting early gives you the best chance for a smooth journey.

Use this planning guide to build your custom timeline based on your target move date.

Check off tasks as you complete them and adjust as needed.



PLANNING TIMELINE GUIDE



3+ MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Research destination country and airline requirements
- ☐ Schedule initial vet visit and discuss your travel plans
- ☐ Begin any required vaccinations or tests
- ☐ Create a folder for important documents and information



2-3 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Complete vaccinations and tests as required
- ☐ Microchip your pet (if not already done)
- ☐ Check progress on health certificate requirements
- ☐ Estimate costs and set your budget



1-2 MONTHS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Apply for pet import permits (if required)
- ☐ Book your pet's travel (flights, crate, or transport)
- ☐ Confirm airline reservations and policies
- ☐ Gather and organize all required documents



2-4 WEEKS BEFORE YOUR MOVE

- ☐ Confirm appointments for final vet exam and health certificate
- ☐ Review all documents for accuracy
- ☐ Reconfirm travel arrangements and connections
- ☐ Prepare your pet's travel crate and supplies



FINAL WEEK

- ☐ Get health certificate issued (within required timeframe)
- ☐ Double-check travel details and document requirements
- ☐ Pack a travel bag for your pet
- ☐ Stay calm and give your pet extra love!



TIP: Requirements and processing times can vary. Build in extra time whenever possible.



A good timeline today leads to a smoother journey tomorrow.

Prepare Your Pet for Travel

A little preparation goes a long way in helping your pet feel safe, comfortable, and ready for the journey ahead.

Focus on your pet's health, comfort, and familiarity with their travel setup to reduce stress and make the experience smoother for everyone.

Use this checklist to prepare your pet physically, mentally, and emotionally for travel.



PET PREPARATION CHECKLIST



HEALTH & WELLNESS

- ☐ Schedule a pre-travel vet visit
- ☐ Ensure vaccinations and tests are up to date
- ☐ Discuss any health concerns or medications
- ☐ Get any required health certificates
- ☐ Pack enough medications for the entire trip
- ☐ Include copies of medical records



COMFORT & FAMILIARITY

- ☐ Choose an airline-approved crate or carrier
- ☐ Introduce your pet to the crate early
- ☐ Practice short trips in the crate (if possible)
- ☐ Add familiar bedding or a favorite toy
- ☐ Avoid feeding a large meal right before travel
- ☐ Bring comfort items that smell like home



MENTAL & EMOTIONAL PREPARATION

- ☐ Maintain a consistent routine leading up to travel
- ☐ Provide extra exercise and mental stimulation
- ☐ Use positive reinforcement and calm encouragement
- ☐ Consider calming aids (if recommended by your vet)
- ☐ Stay calm—pets pick up on your energy!



TIP: Every pet is different. Start preparation early and adjust based on your pet's personality, needs, and how they respond to change.



A prepared pet is a more relaxed pet—and that makes for a better journey for everyone.



NOTES & IDEAS

Use this space to list anything specific to your pet's needs or preparation plan.

9 Travel Day: What to Expect and How to Stay Prepared

Travel day can be exciting—and a little nerve-wracking. Knowing what to expect and having a plan will help you and your pet stay calm and confident.

Every journey is different, but these tips will help you navigate the day smoothly from start to finish.

Stay flexible, patient, and focused on your pet's comfort and safety.



TRAVEL DAY CHECKLIST



BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- ☐ Give a light meal 3–4 hours before travel
- ☐ Take your pet for a potty break
- ☐ Check your documents and confirm all details
- ☐ Arrive early to avoid stress



AT THE AIRPORT

- ☐ Check in with the airline and confirm pet acceptance
- ☐ Follow pet relief area instructions
- ☐ Keep your pet hydrated
- ☐ Stay calm and reassuring



DURING THE FLIGHT

- ☐ Your pet should remain in their approved crate or carrier
- ☐ Do not sedate your pet unless prescribed by your vet
- ☐ Avoid opening the crate unless instructed
- ☐ Trust the process and stay positive



DURING LAYOVERS

- ☐ Confirm connection details
- ☐ Give your pet water and a potty break if possible
- ☐ Keep your pet in a safe, quiet space
- ☐ Recheck flight and gate info



ARRIVAL AT DESTINATION

- ☐ Follow customs and quarantine instructions
- ☐ Have documents ready for inspection
- ☐ Be patient—process times can vary
- ☐ Ensure your pet is comfortable and hydrated



AFTER YOU ARRIVE

- ☐ Give your pet time to rest and adjust
- ☐ Offer water and a familiar comfort item
- ☐ Follow any post-travel health instructions
- ☐ Celebrate—your adventure continues!



TIP: Keep a copy of all important documents, your vet's contact information, and your airline's pet policy handy throughout your journey.



Your calm confidence helps your pet feel safe.
You've got this!

Arrival & Settling In: Helping Your Pet Adjust

Arriving in a new country is a big adjustment for both you and your pet. Patience, consistency, and a calm routine will help your pet feel safe and secure in their new environment.

Use this checklist to help your pet settle in and thrive in their new home.

Remember: It may take days, weeks, or even months for your pet to fully adjust. That's okay!



ARRIVAL & SETTLING IN CHECKLIST



1. CREATE A SAFE SPACE

- ☐ Set up a quiet, comfortable area with their bed, toys, water, and familiar items. Let them explore at their own pace.



2. STICK TO A ROUTINE

- ☐ Keep feeding, walk, playtime, and bedtime consistent as much as possible.



3. MONITOR HEALTH

- ☐ Keep an eye on their appetite, energy, and bathroom habits. Contact your vet if you notice anything unusual.



4. GO SLOW WITH NEW EXPERIENCES

- ☐ Introduce new people, places, and pets gradually. Avoid overwhelming them.



5. OFFER REASSURANCE AND POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

- ☐ Use gentle praise, treats, and affection to build confidence and reinforce good behavior.



6. LEARN LOCAL PET RESOURCES

- ☐ Find a local vet, pet store, and emergency clinic. Connect with local pet communities for support.



TIP: Every pet adjusts differently. Celebrate small wins and give them the time and love they need to feel at home.



A little patience today creates a lifetime of happy memories together.

Ongoing Care & Support for a Happy, Healthy Pet

Your pet's journey doesn't end when you arrive. Ongoing care, attention, and love are key to their long-term health and happiness in their new home.

Use this guide to build healthy habits, stay prepared, and create a fulfilling life together—no matter where you are in the world.

You've got this—and so does your pet!



ONGOING CARE CHECKLIST



1. HEALTH & WELLNESS

- ☐ Schedule regular vet check-ups
- ☐ Keep vaccinations and preventatives up to date
- ☐ Maintain a healthy diet and exercise routine
- ☐ Monitor for any changes in behavior or health



2. ROUTINE & CONSISTENCY

- ☐ Stick to consistent feeding, walks, and playtime
- ☐ Maintain a regular potty break schedule
- ☐ Keep bedtime and rest routines steady
- ☐ Consistency builds confidence and reduces stress



3. BEHAVIOR & TRAINING

- ☐ Reinforce positive behaviors and training
- ☐ Address any behavioral concerns early
- ☐ Provide socialization and new experiences
- ☐ Use patience, praise, and positive reinforcement



4. HOME & ENVIRONMENT

- ☐ Keep a safe, pet-friendly home
- ☐ Provide mental stimulation and enrichment
- ☐ Maintain a comfortable environment
- ☐ Secure hazardous items and substances



5. TRAVEL & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- ☐ Keep pet documents and records updated
- ☐ Know the location of local vet and emergency clinics
- ☐ Have a pet emergency kit ready
- ☐ Review travel requirements for future trips



6. LOVE & BONDING

- ☐ Spend quality time together every day
- ☐ Show affection, speak kindly, and be present
- ☐ Celebrate milestones and small victories
- ☐ A strong bond creates a happy life together



TIP: Stay informed, stay prepared, and never hesitate to ask for help. You're not alone—there are pet lovers and resources everywhere!



Your pet depends on you.
Your love makes all the difference in their world.



NOTES



You've taken important steps to prepare for your pet's big move. Remember, you're not alone—there are people, organizations, and tools ready to support you every step of the way.

Use these trusted resources to stay informed, get help when you need it, and make your pet's journey as smooth as possible.

Your adventure is just beginning—
together, you can make it amazing!



USEFUL RESOURCES



GOVERNMENT & OFFICIAL RESOURCES

- USDA APHIS Pet Travel (Official Pet Travel Site)
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel>
- CDC – Bringing Animals into the U.S.
<https://www.cdc.gov/importation/dogs>
- U.S. Department of State – Embassies & Consulates
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel.html>
- Local U.S. Customs & Border Protection
<https://www.cbp.gov/contact/ports>



PET RELOCATION RESOURCES

- IPATA (International Pet & Animal Transportation Association)
<https://www.ipata.org>
- PetRelocation (Global Pet Relocation Network)
<https://www.petrelocation.com>
- Move Your Pet (Country Information & Services)
<https://www.moveyourpet.com>



VETERINARY RESOURCES

- USDA Accredited Veterinarians (VSPPS)
<https://vsps.accredia.usda.gov>
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)
<https://www.avma.org>
- Fear Free (Low-Stress Pet Handling & Travel)
<https://fearfreepets.com>



PET CARE IN YOUR NEW HOME

- American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)
<https://www.aaha.org/pet-owner>
- Find a Vet (AAHA Directory)
<https://www.aaha.org/find-a-veterinarian>
- Pet Sitters International (PSI)
<https://www.petsit.com>



TRAVEL TOOLS & INFORMATION

- IATA – Live Animals Regulations (LAR)
<https://www.iata.org/en/programs/cargo/live-animals>
- Airline Pet Policies (Search All Airlines)
<https://www.iata.org/en/you-and-your-pet>
- Sherpa – Pet Travel Checklist & Guidance
<https://www.sherpapets.com>
- Pet Travel Document Checklist (USDA)
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/pet-travel/traveling-with-pets>



HELP & SUPPORT

- Pet Travel Forum (Community Support)
<https://www.pettravel.com/forums>
- Relocation Support Groups (Facebook)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/petrelocation>
- Professional Pet Behaviorists (IAABC Directory)
<https://iaabc.org/certs/members>



TIP: Bookmark these resources and keep this guide handy. Revisit it anytime you need a reminder or have questions.



Every step you take is an act of love. Your pet is lucky to have you by their side.

Scan to visit our resources page!



NOTES & NEXT STEPS

Use this space to write down important contact information, tasks, or action steps.

