

House-Hunting With A Dog: How To Make The Move Go Smoothly



Photo via Pixabay by [Fran F](#)

For many people, the love of a pet is just the same--if not better than--the love of another human. Many pet owners consider their dog to be just another member of the family, which means they take their pet's safety and happiness seriously. Since making a move can be traumatic or anxiety-inducing for a dog, it's important to most pet lovers to find the right home and neighborhood for everyone's needs, not just their own.

If you're ready to look for a new home and your dog is a major consideration, there are some simple ways you can help the process go smoothly while finding the [perfect place](#) for your family. It helps to sit down with your loved ones or just your spouse or partner and make lists of all the things that need to be taken care of, as well as what you're looking for in a home. This will help you narrow down what you absolutely have to have and what you can live without.

Some of the things you'll want to consider include:

Space

If you're downsizing due to adult children moving out, or because of concerns you have as a senior, you'll want to ensure the new home still has [enough space](#) for your pet to live comfortably. Is there a yard for him to run around in? Even if he's not a very big dog, he'll need some room to get a little exercise without fear of getting hurt.

Neighborhood

You might not think the location of your home is very important to your pet, but it's a good idea to make sure the neighborhood is [dog-friendly](#). This means looking for parks, restaurants and pubs that allow dogs, and neighbors who don't have a problem with a pooch moving in next door. It might also be helpful to think about finding a home that's close to your dog's veterinarian. For more on the location of your new home, read on [here](#).

Packing

Change and a flurry of activity can have a negative effect on a dog, especially if he's already prone to anxiety. Packing up your home is a big job that may take several days or even weeks, so get started early and go slowly. Packing gradually will help ease your pet into the change, and it will also keep you from stressing--another factor in a pet's anxiety. Be sure to leave all of your pet's things out until the last minute, and hang onto his favorite toys and bedding so that he's not overwhelmed with new *everything*. For some great tips on how to keep your pet calm right before the move, check out this article over at [Redfin.com](#).

Safety

Your dog's safety is one of the most important factors in a move. Think ahead by having collar tags made with your new address on them, and ask a trusted friend or family member to take care of him on moving day. This way, he won't be underfoot and won't have the opportunity to get lost during all the activity.

Acclimation

It can be hard for a dog to get used to a new home, especially if they're older or have lived in the same place for most of their life. If possible, take him to your new home before moving day and let him run around and explore. Once you're moved in, place his things--toys, bedding, food and water dishes--in areas similar to where they were in the old house. For example, if his dishes were in the kitchen before, that's where you should keep them now.

Moving comes with a lot to think about, and it can get pretty overwhelming at times if you aren't prepared. Get organized and communicate with your family members so that everyone is on the same page; this will help you tackle the job with as little stress as possible.