**BEFORE THE MOVE**

**ID your dog**
Get a new ID tag and have it attached to your pet’s collar. And have your pet microchipped!

**Co-explore your new home**
Walk the perimeter and interior of your new home with your dog on leash and allow them to explore with all their senses, especially their nose. If they seem nervous, bring tasty treats and make it fun! Work their brain by practicing behaviors they already know, such as sit, down, etc. If your dog is uncomfortable performing these behaviors in their new environment, stop. Slow it down and give them lots of praise and encouragement for investigating.

**Create a safe place**
Consider desensitizing your dog to a crate, if they are not already. Or, have their sleeping area(s) and bed(s) prepared with an x-pen or doggy gate before bringing your dog to the new house. Dogs value their own space and do better with a familiar routine.

**Keep things familiar**
Avoid buying new toys, beds, or other objects for them and also avoid washing these things. Instead, bring these familiar scents to your new home for your dog.

**Meet your dog neighbors**
Get familiar with your new neighborhood’s veterinarians, pet stores, doggie daycares and other pet professionals dedicated to your pet’s well-being.

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**ON MOVING DAY**

**Get a petsitter**
Consider having someone watch your pet. All the commotion including loud sounds and movement can be very stressful for your pet and cause them to panic and potentially escape. Think about how stressful a move is for you! Your pet will likely feel the same and even higher levels of stress.

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**AFTER THE MOVE**

**Maintain the routine**
Try to keep to your dog’s routine. If there will be changes to your dog’s previously established schedule, begin these changes prior to the move.

**Keep the calm**
Encourage and reinforce calm, relaxed behavior by gently tossing your dog a treat when they are laying down, especially in their designated doggy area.

**Create comfort**
Leave treats and stuffed Kongs when you depart. It is important to first practice this while you are home, so your dog does not associate these reinforcements with your leaving. Dogs who have never shown signs of discomfort when you leave may do so in their new environment. If they are showing signs of discomfort, consider having a friend or family member watch them for the first few days to help with the transition. You may also turn to companies like Trailblazing Tails to help minimize the amount of time your dog is left alone.

**Play more games**
Make their new space fun and exciting. Play games like “find it” with them. Have their favorite toys accessible. Play with them on the floor where lots of familiar smells hang out, like on their bed and toys.

**Be patient and compassionate**
Dogs generally adjust with time. Some dogs adjust within hours while some take months. The process goes much more smoothly and quickly when you proceed with compassion and do your best to be patient. You may also consider hiring a qualified, positive reinforcement dog trainer like Trailblazing Tails to help with the transition.