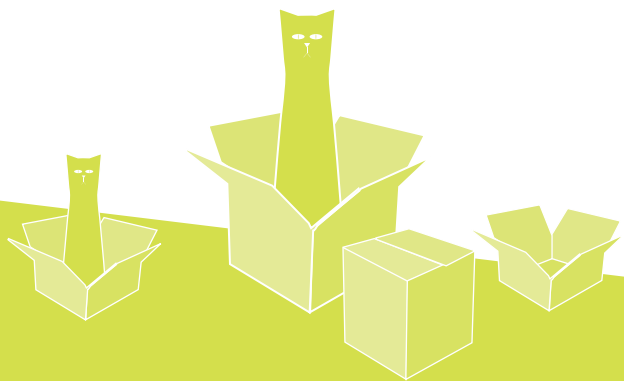


# Moving home



**CATS PROTECTION**  
**ESSENTIAL GUIDES**



*Moving house can be a big deal for cats – much of their feeling of security and ability to relax comes from being surrounded by the familiar sights, sounds and scents of their own territory. It is also very stressful for humans too, so some thought and careful planning will ensure it is a smooth move for everyone.*

## **Planning ahead**

There are two options for moving day. Booking your cat into a cattery or taking him with you as you move. Which one you choose depends on your own personal preference and your cat's character.

### **Booking your cat into a boarding cattery**

If you book your cat into a boarding cattery for a few days, you will not have worry about him while you move. This may be the easiest solution for both of you, but you will need to organise it well in advance and make sure your cat's vaccinations are up to date prior to moving.

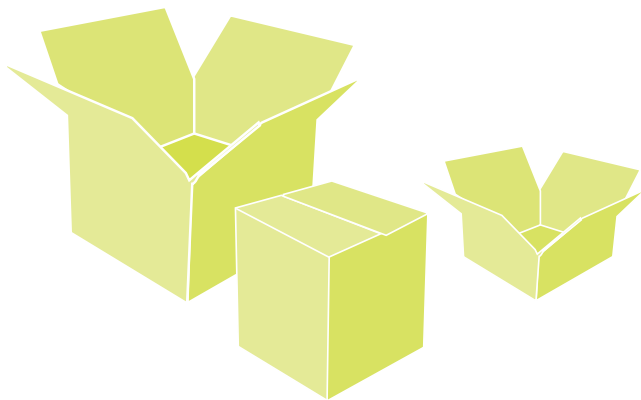


## Keeping your cat with you

This option requires a bit more planning. What follows is just a guide and, as everyone's circumstances are different, you may need to alter parts of it to fit your own situation and your cat's character.

First, allocate a small room in your house that can be cleared of furniture and items a week or two before the move. At the same time, pick a room in the new house to put your cat in when you get there. Ideally, both rooms should be out of the way so your cat can be left undisturbed for as much of the move as possible.

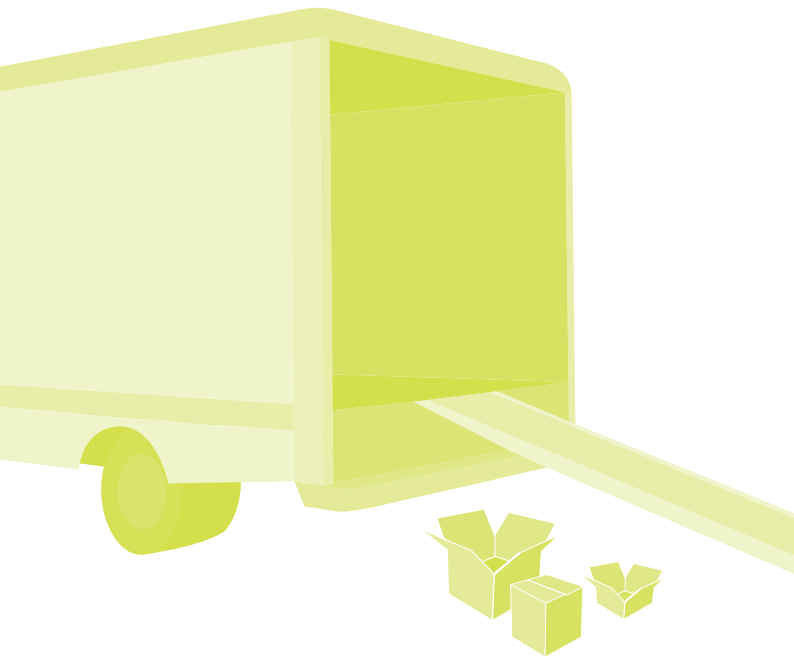
About a week before the big day, start getting your cat used to 'his' room. Pop his bed, scratching post, litter tray, toys, cat carrier and favourite blanket in there. You could begin feeding him there as well, so he becomes really familiar with his 'safe place'. On the evening before the move, make sure your cat is in his room – you do not want him going missing.



## Moving day

If you are taking your cat to a cattery, do this first thing so he is away from all the commotion. Feed him as usual, but do not let him out – he might sense something is going on and will not want to come back in.

If he is staying at home, keep him in his room, feed him a small meal, clean the litter tray and shut the door. Once you are ready to leave you can pop him into his carrier and load him into the car along with all of his belongings. If he is prone to travel sickness it is worth withholding food for three to four hours before the journey.



Once you have arrived at your new house, take your cat to his secure room with all his familiar bits and pieces. You might also like to give him something that smells of you, like an unwashed item of clothing, to help him settle. Give him something to eat and make sure he has a litter tray. Then close the door and leave your cat alone for a while. Tell the removal men which room your cat is in so they do not disturb him. You may also want to put a note on the door.

## A helping hand

If your cat is particularly sensitive, or you just want a helping hand, you could talk to your vet about artificial pheromone products. When cats rub their faces around furniture, corners or doorways they are making themselves feel secure by marking their home territory. Artificial pheromone sprays and diffusers are available that mimic the scent from a cat's facial glands, helping cats to feel more secure. You can get these artificial pheromones from the vet and use them in your cat's new room to help him settle in. Alternatively, you can take a clean, unused cloth and wipe it around your cat's face to pick up his own scents and then wipe this around the furniture at cat height.

## Settling in

It might be a good idea to keep your cat in his new room for a few days as it can be overwhelming to have access to the whole of the house straight away. Most cats will let you know when they are ready to venture further and it very much depends on your cat's individual character. However, when you let him see the rest of the house, make sure that all doors, windows and cat flaps are closed – he is not ready for the outside world yet!



## Going outside

It is important that your cat feels relaxed and secure in his new house before exploring the great outdoors. Some cats go missing shortly after moving house because impatient owners let them go outside too soon. More often than not these cats find their way back to their old houses. Most cats will need to be kept indoors for at least three weeks.

When you do let him out:

- do it just before a mealtime when he is hungry so you can call him back with his favourite food
- open the door and step outside encouraging your cat to go with you
- do not pick him up – let him make the decision to go outside himself
- leave the door open so he can run back into the house if he feels insecure
- only let him out for short periods at first – you can gradually build up the time he is out until you are confident he can come and go as he pleases

Before letting your cat out, make sure he is microchipped so if he wanders off he can be traced easily. If he is already microchipped, do not forget to change your address details on the central database when you move.

This leaflet is one of a range provided by  
Cats Protection on issues surrounding cat care.

Cats Protection is the UK's leading feline welfare  
charity and helps more than 193,000 cats and kittens  
each year. We rely entirely on public generosity to  
finance this vital welfare work.

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visit **[www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk)**



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