



# SAFEGUARDING YOUR PET'S WELFARE DURING RELOCATION



We know that this time of travel and change may bring some levels of uncertainty and anxiety with it, both for our pets as well as their owners. This is why we recommend our proven methods of pre-travel preparation as well as in-travel support to make relocating your pets as easy and stress-free as possible whilst ensuring that their welfare is always a priority.



## 1. Preparation is Key!

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Your pet may be spending quite a few hours in its travel crate. Therefore, prior familiarisation with the crate and creating the perception that this is a “safe place” rather than an object of fear, is essential. This may take a few weeks, which is why early preparation is important.

Leave your pet’s crate out in your living area from about 8 weeks prior to travel and put a snuggly blanket and favourite toy in the crate.

You can feed treats, snacks or entire meals in the crate and encourage your pet to sleep or rest in it if possible.

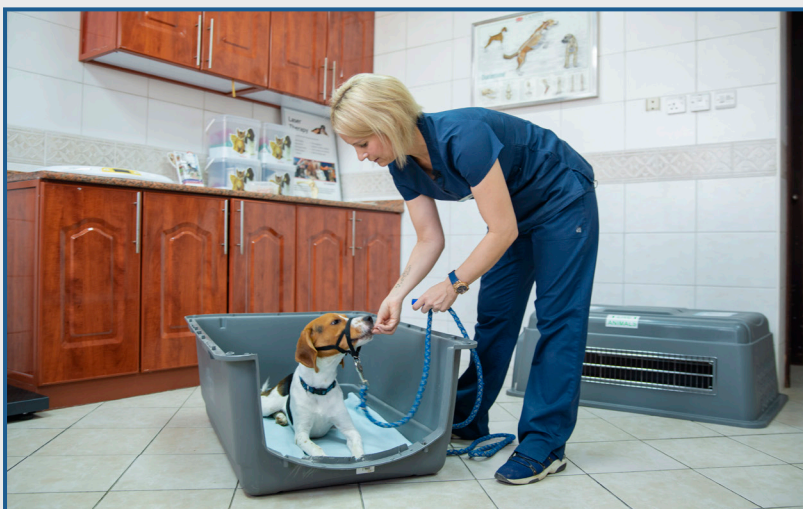
If your cat likes catnip, then have a daily ritual of catnip sprinkles in the crate.

For dogs, you can give an exciting stuffed Kong toy or similar in the crate in order to make this an absolutely wonderful place for them to be.



## Practical Help

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We know that this is a busy time in your lives, so if you would like help with this, our GVC behaviourist can provide a crate-familiarisation training package for your pet (both dogs and cats) prior to travel.

Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in!

## 2. In-Travel Support

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Relocation will be an unfamiliar experience for most of our pets and separation from their owners and familiar surroundings as well as the sights, sounds, smells and motion that they experience during travel may cause them to become a little scared and anxious.

We therefore have a number of products on hand that can help with this whilst being fully airline- and authority compliant and legal.

### Zylkene

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Zylkene is a nutritional supplement derived from milk protein, which acts on neurotransmitter receptors in the brain to reduce fear and anxiety in our pets. It is given in convenient sprinkle capsules, which can be administered whole or opened and sprinkled into wet or dry food. We usually recommend giving Zylkene for some days prior to, during and for some days after travel whilst they are settling into their new environments.



### Royal Canin Calm Food

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This product is a complete dry food, which can be fed regularly at mealtimes. It contains similar proteins to Zylkene and acts in a very similar way, reducing fear and anxiety.

# Pheromones

## Feliway

Cats are chemical communicators and therefore smells and pheromones are very important in order to give them information about their surroundings.

Feliway is a synthetic version of the pheromone which cats emit from the corners of their mouths and chins, you may have seen them rubbing their faces on objects or even you in order to convey very positive signals. This pheromone communicates comfort and happiness, exactly how we want them to feel in their crates.

Feliway comes in a small spray bottle which can be used to spray the inside of the travel crate prior to departure. Feliway will last for about 5 hours, which is why we recommend to use it in conjunction with Zylkene or Calm Food in order to get the best results!



## Adaptil

Mother dogs communicate with their puppies through specific comforting pheromones which provide a strong signal of security and comfort to dogs of all ages.

These pheromones are also known as “Dog Appeasing Pheromones” which are present in the DAP / Adaptil products. Adaptil is available as a spray or collar which can be used during travel and relocation.

The spray lasts for about 5 hours, which is why we recommend using it in combination with Zylkene. The collar lasts for up to 4 weeks.







Please get in touch with our experienced team at German Veterinary Clinic if you have any questions regarding any of the information given above or if you would like help with any aspect of your pet's relocation.

