

## *Integrative Veterinary Care*

Moving with your cats

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Prior to moving be sure to confine your cats to the house, preferably a single bedroom, for at least one week while packing. This will assure they don't get lost and will help to minimize their stress which is often associated with inappropriate soiling and litter box aversion. Also, make sure you have your cat implanted with a microchip. This way if kitty does get away they have permanent ID which Animal Control can use if your cat is turned in.

Finally, you've moved in and your rooms are filled with boxes waiting to be unpacked. You have a few things set up and decide to introduce your cat to the new house. You open the kennel and barely have time to see the streak of fur shoot under a bed or worst; out the back door someone forgot to close. Now what?

Hopefully, this will never happen to you. When you introduce your cat to a new environment, keep them contained for at least two weeks, preferably in a single bedroom if possible. Gradually, allow them greater freedom as time passes. If you plan on allowing them to be indoor/outdoor cats make sure you are present when they are introduced to their new outside environment. (We often keep ours on a harness for the first few times) While they are bonded to you, cats are also territorial and when we move them we need to be sure they understand the new house and yard is their territory. Otherwise they may try to return to their old territory. If they do disappear call the animal shelters and also animal control. Send flyers to Veterinarians in your area. If your cat has been micro-chipped they will be easier to find.