

COMPLETE GUIDE TO CREATING A PET-FRIENDLY HOME



ABSTRACT

A pet-friendly home enhances the safety, comfort, and well-being of pets while maintaining a functional and stylish environment. This guide offers practical advice on selecting pet-safe materials, organizing spaces for pets' needs, and creating a harmonious living space for both pets and their owners.

INTRODUCTION

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I. 5 Types of Flooring That Are Ideal for Pets

Choosing the flooring for your new home or remodelling project is essential but can be a daunting task. For pet owners, it's twice the pressure because you'll have to consider maintenance and wear and tear, as well as the effect of the flooring on your pet's limbs. Here are some pet-friendly flooring options to get a head-start on your planning process:

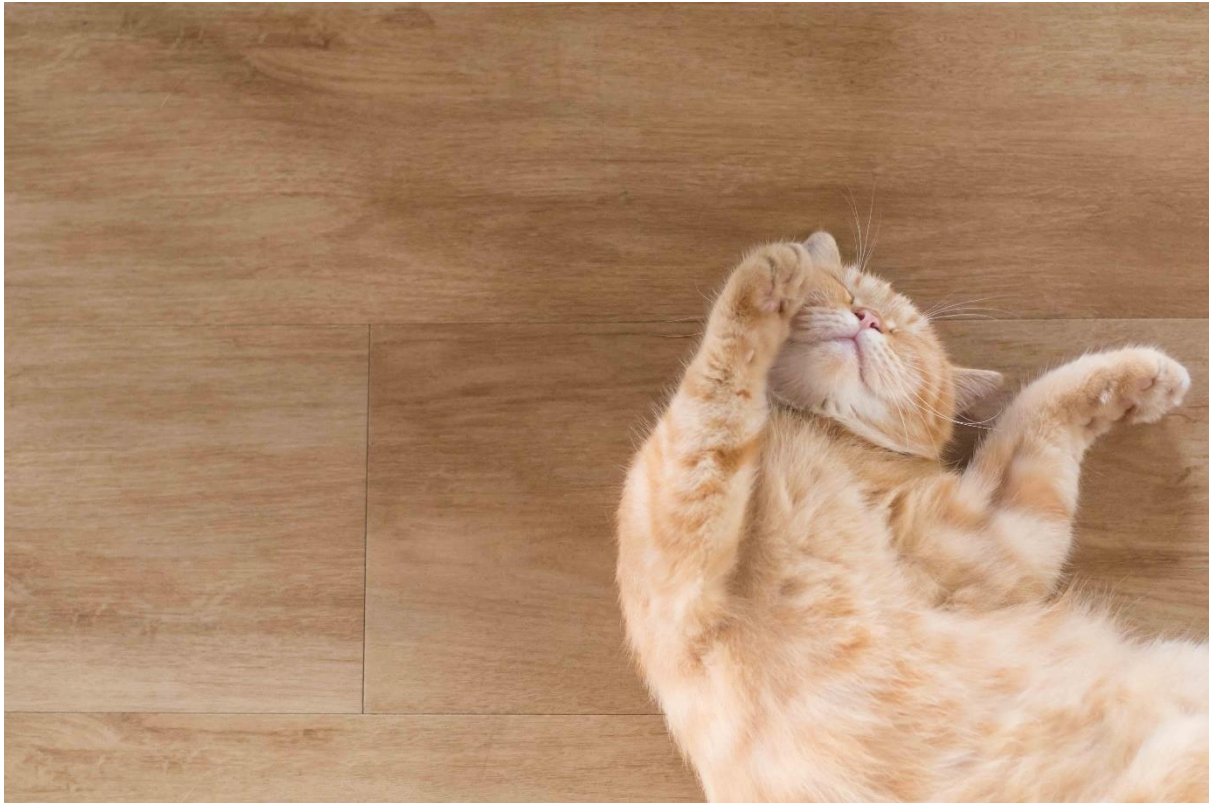
Pet-friendly Flooring #1: Hardwood



Pick the hardest of the lot

Hardwood flooring is often the flooring of choice for those after neat, plush-looking options. The rule of thumb to follow when choosing hardwood as pet-friendly flooring is to pick a variety that is the hardest of the lot— oak, mahogany and walnut. It's easy to vacuum and keep clean as well, so fur-shedding season won't be that much of a hassle. However, hardwood can sustain scratches over time and tends to stain if not cleaned immediately.

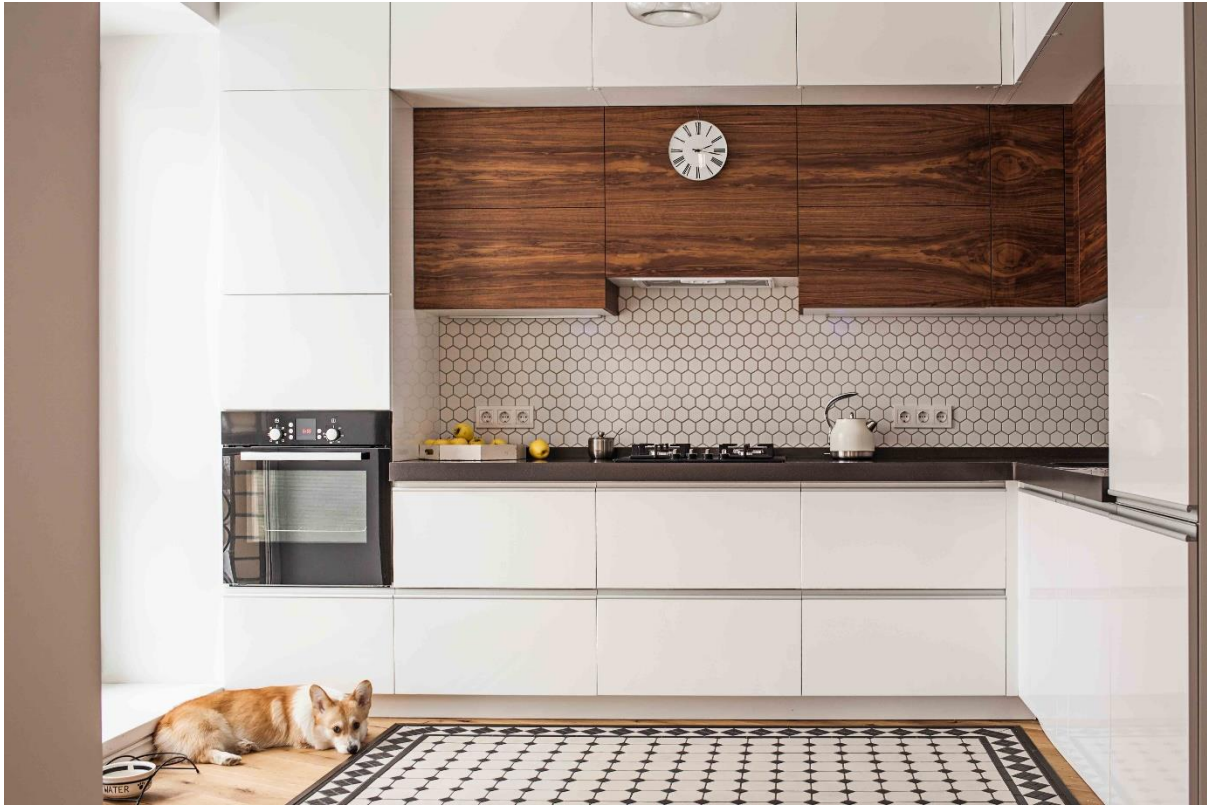
Pet-friendly Flooring #2: Laminate



It is low maintenance and water-resistant

With the looks of hardwood but easier to clean, laminate is a viable flooring option for pet owners. It is low maintenance and water-resistant, which is a boon if your pet is young and yet to be toilet-trained. However, laminate is not the ideal dog flooring option as it is slippery and could harm your dog's joints and bones over time. If your heart is set on laminate, balance out the cons by adding non-slip rugs for additional traction.

Pet-friendly Flooring #3: Stone Tile



Durable and scratch-resistant

An increasingly common sight in Indian homes, stone tile is also a practical pet-friendly flooring option. It's durable and easy to clean, which means spills and stains can be wiped off in a jiffy. They're mostly scratch-resistant unless you choose a porous variety like marble which is more high-maintenance. The only downsides to stone tile are that it's hard, making it uncomfortable for your pet to sleep on for long, and can feel frigid during the colder months. This can be remedied by using doggy beds and area rugs.

Pet-friendly Flooring #4: Vinyl



Affordable and provides good traction

Regardless of how often it's passed up for other options, vinyl makes for pet-friendly flooring. It provides great traction so your pet's joints aren't affected over time. It's an affordable option that can be used in any part of the house and is pretty sound-absorbent, too. The drawback of vinyl is its lack of resistance to water spills, which could result in lifting and mildew growth. Although natural-looking options exist, they dull very quickly.

Pet-friendly Flooring #5: Carpet Tile



Creates the illusion of having carpeted flooring

Modular carpet tiles are a practical alternative for pet owners who dream of carpeted flooring. Without having to resort to wall-to-wall carpeting, which is impractical for a variety of reasons, carpet tiles give you the same illusions but with lower maintenance involved. Carpet tiles are pet-friendly flooring because they can be pulled up or moved around if there's a stain that refuses to go. The downside is that they're expensive and, unless you find a few gems, give off a corporate office vibe.

And there you have it! These five pet-friendly flooring options are sure to inspire interior design choices that both you and your pet love.

II. 15 Pet-Friendly Interior Design Ideas Your Furry Friend Will Love

Pets eat, sleep, and relax in our homes just like we do, but most of the time, our decorating and design decisions tend to revolve around the human inhabitants of the house. Now, as more and more households welcome four-legged companions into the family, that might be starting to change. Just as you might refresh your home in anticipation of a new baby or as a child grows up, pet parents are increasingly seeking out features that put their furry friends at the forefront.



Pet-friendly interior design aims to accommodate the comings and goings of our animals, often through custom built-ins and special features designated for feeding times, baths, naps, and more. Ensure the furry members of the family feel at home with these ideas for stylishly incorporating pet-friendly features into your living spaces.

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All-in-One Pet Station

A variety of smart features turn a corner of this laundry room into an all-in-one pet zone. Nixing a cabinet in the corner created space for the dog's bed, while a low drawer pulls out to reveal the cat's food bowls. A feeding station around the corner includes a spigot for easy water-bowl refills.

Pull Out All the Stops

When it comes to creating a hardworking space, turn to hidden design features. Here, dog bowls pull out of a lower cabinet so they're not a tripping hazard when not in use. The bowls drop in and out so you can effortlessly drop them in the dishwasher when mealtime is over.

Look Under the Table

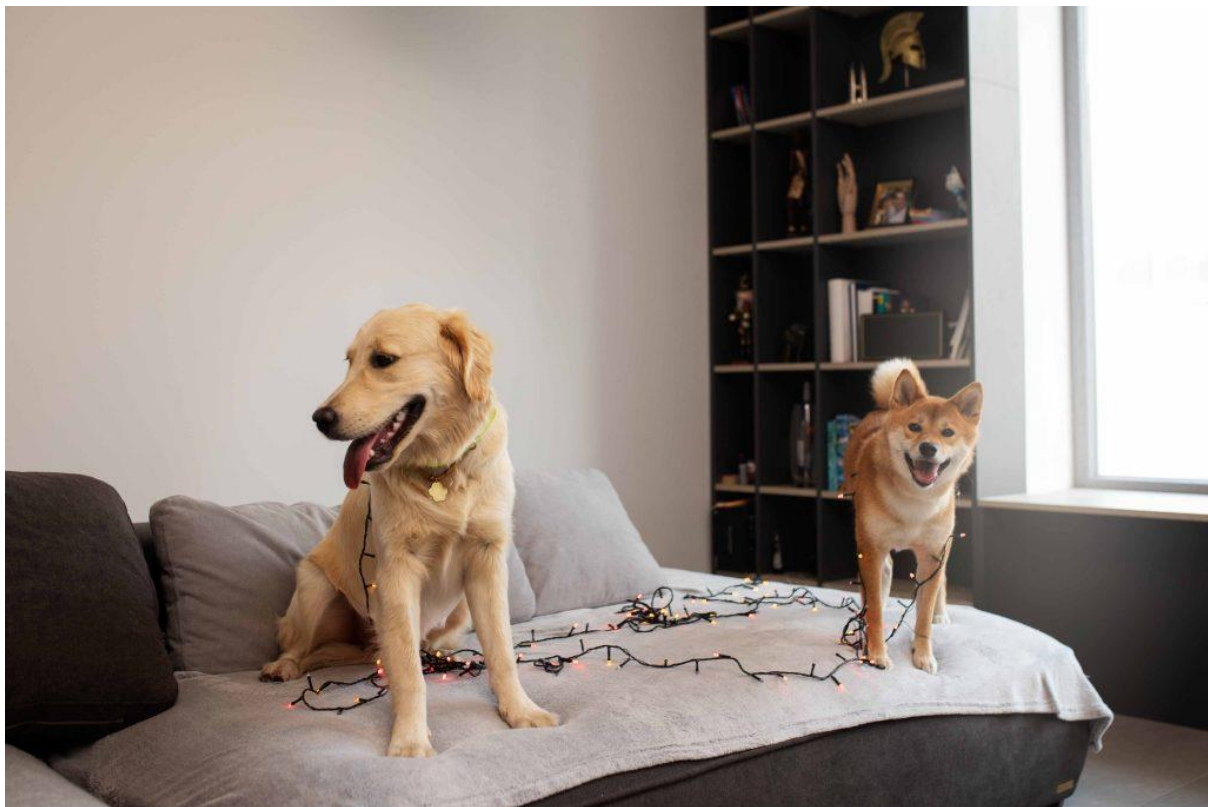
For large breeds, look under a laundry or mudroom island for the perfect spot for your big furry friend. While a custom island with a built-in kennel can provide the perfect dimensions, you can also work with what you've got by sliding a crate under your island depending on the style and size of your island and kennel.

Built-In Food Bowls

An extension of the island forms a built-in feeding station in this kitchen. Metal food and water bowls fit into custom slots, keeping them in place and out of the flow of traffic. Airtight glass canisters store pet food and treats nearby. Above, a table-height countertop provides a handy spot to drop leashes and other essentials.

Wall-Mounted Cat Bed

Skip bulky cat trees and mount a comfy perch directly to the wall. Choose a sturdy basket and screw it into the wall using extra-large washers, which help distribute the weight and limit wear on the basket's fibers. Line the interior with a soft blanket to create a snug spot for your cat to survey the room.



Find a Cozy Spot

While creating a nook for your pet's bed might be helpful for the flow of your home, it can also provide your pet with much-needed peace and security, particularly if your home is bustling. Provide a space for your pet in a less frequented part of the house that they can escape to.

Head Outside

When the weather is nice, there's nothing like sending your pet outside for fresh air. Give them their own home away from home with a backyard doghouse fit for the pick of the litter. Whether your pet stays outside all day or prefers a jaunt outside, a doghouse can provide a safe and comfortable spot for relaxation when the great outdoors beckons.

Pull-Out Cat Drawer

Try this simple solution to keep the cat's food bowls out of the way and safe from other pets. Repurpose a shallow toe-kick drawer to create a slide-out feeding station in the kitchen. Here, the cat's food and other supplies are stored in the cabinet directly above for added convenience.

Hidden Dog Bed

Not sure where to keep your pet's bed? Consider reworking a cabinet in the laundry room or kitchen into a cozy nook for afternoon naps or nighttime snoozes. Here, a corner cabinet becomes a kennel when outfitted with a plush dog bed and a wire mesh door.



Pet-Washing Station

Streamline bath time with a shower specially designed for your pet. Covered in easy-to-clean subway tile, this dog-washing station includes a raised floor, a handheld

sprayer, and a storage niche that holds pet shampoo. Framed photos of the pooches personalize the walls above.

III. Dog-friendly backyard ideas – 10 ways to create a stylish and safe space for you and your pet

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Are you a proud pet parent? If so, creating a dog-friendly backyard is all important for both you and your pooch.

We all long for a beautiful yard to gaze upon from the house and a leafy space we can unwind in with family and friends, but if you also have the needs of a canine member to accommodate achieving this can seem thwarted with problems and unattractive compromises.

Working out how to subtly divide off doggy digging areas to knowing which plants are safe and potentially harmful to dogs, are all commonly faced problems. Other headaches when choosing pet-friendly backyard ideas include finding ground cover and paving options that are dig-proof, easy to clean as well as affordable and attractive, along with whether to opt for a real or artificial lawn. Sound familiar? Well, we've spoken to our panel of trusted garden design and pet care experts, to get their advice.

Ways to create a dog-friendly backyard

Whether you're tired of trying to keep your dog off your flower beds, or simply want to give your pet a more engaging outdoor space, there are plenty of ways to make your backyard more dog-friendly so they can happily (and safely) spend time playing outdoors.

1. Get the hard landscaping right



Striking balance between providing an attractive, pet-stimulating space that is also quick and easy to maintain can at first seem impossible but there are a few simple tips to try.

‘Grass-free lawns are becoming a popular alternative, especially in areas with less rainfall, with homeowners opting for hardscapes to reduce maintenance and water usage,’ says Joe Raboine, Vice President of Design at Belgard. ‘If you choose to hardscape areas of the yard, be sure to select concrete or porcelain pavers, as they provide the most durability.’

Besides choosing these exceptionally hardwearing and virtually nonporous surfaces for your backyard landscaping, there are other precautions you can take to help cut down on maintenance and to reduce the risk of any staining occurring.

‘Just like you would clean up after your dog on a walk, make sure to clean up your hardscapes,’ adds Joe. ‘Large-format pavers are an ideal option, minimizing the need to clear between tricky joints.’

2. Avoid plants that could be toxic to dogs



To truly relax and enjoy your outdoor space you need to be confident that it is safe and secure for your pooch, so you don't have to monitor their every step outside. One aspect of their yards that homeowners often overlook is planting. Prickly beauties such as thistles, berberis, cotoneaster and ground cover roses are best avoided near paths or your pets favorite play place, but there are other less obvious issues to consider too.

Nicolas Wayne, founder of Nicolaslawn.com explains: 'Some plants are poisonous to dogs, so it's essential to select pet-friendly plants carefully. Some commonly cited plants that can be toxic to dogs include azaleas and rhododendrons, tulips and hyacinths, lilies (including Easter, Tiger, and Asiatic lilies), foxgloves and oleander.'

3. Choose dog-friendly plant varieties instead



Of, course there are plenty of gorgeous, dog-friendly plants to choose for your backyard that pose no threat if brushed or eaten out of curiosity. Cheery sunflowers along with bright and breezy petunias, snapdragons, marigolds and zinnias are all

brilliant long-lasting choices for filling your container garden, brightening borders and for planting in hanging baskets.

For the back of borders and dividing of boundaries and different sections of a yard, look for robust shrubs such as viburnum, camellia, bottle brush with its showy blooms and evergreen foliage, elegant magnolia and forsythia.

For complete peace of mind before planting anything in your yard, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) has a comprehensive list of both toxic and non-toxic plants.

4. Consider an artificial lawn



Growing grass with dogs can be tricky, but opting for an artificial lawn is definitely a hotly debated subject, on which dog owners and garden professionals are divided. 'As anyone with dogs is liable to know, dogs aren't typically compatible with a lush lawn and perfect landscaping,' says Ryan Farley, CEO of LawnStarter.com. 'For a truly dog-friendly backyard, I might recommend dedicating most of the space to mulch or synthetic turf options that won't get torn up or discolored by canine outdoor activities and play.'

There are many artificial lawn products that are specifically dog friendly. Often with an especially free draining backing that also has anti-bacterial qualities – helping to reduce smells and the dangerous build-up of mold and mildew, they are also manufactured to withstand repeated wear and tear. Easy to hose and brush down as needed, they can seem the ideal answer but there are a few potential downsides.

'Your dog will also have less enjoyment trying to sniff, dig, and discover things in a plastic mat vs real soil and grass, Eric also points out. 'Overall, nothing will replicate the feel of walking through a natural grass lawn.'

5. Choose a pooch-tolerant grass variety



If you don't like the idea of a no-grass backyard or want to avoid artificial turf, then it's worth considering the type of grass you should grow. In terms of being peed on regularly or coping with the general wear and tear four paws can cause, some grasses can cope much better than others. The type of grass you grow will, firstly, depend on your local climate.

In southern regions warm-season grasses are a must. 'Pound-for-pound Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) or a hybrid Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon* X *C. transvaalensis*) is going to be the best choice for homeowners with dogs,' explains Eric DeBoer. 'First, it has been shown, along with Zoysia grass (*Zoysia* spp.), to be most tolerant of urine. Second, it's just hard to kill and stands up to traffic really well. Third, it is a fast-growing grass seed under the correct circumstances, which can help it bounce back from any injury it incurs from traffic and urine. Zoysia will tolerate the urine but is a slow grower, so it will take a while to fill back in if any traffic or urine damage does occur.' Pennington Bermuda grass seed from Walmart would be a suitable option to try.

In the US mid zone and northern states, cool season grasses that lie dormant between fall and early spring are the better option for lawns. There are a few varieties of grass seed and sod to choose from, but some are more dog-tolerant than others.

6. Make space for a pet-safe water feature



Shallow water feature ideas are the safest option for any dog-friendly yard, but some types are safer than others. 'Avoid having any standing water in your backyard as it can be incredibly dangerous,' advises Jeremy Yamaguchi, CEO of Lawn Love. 'Standing water is the preferred egg-laying choice for mosquitoes. If your pet drinks from it, they're at risk of contracting diseases. Even if they don't, mosquitoes carry so many diseases including, most notably, Lyme disease.'

A ready supply of fresh or running water is both a safer and more entertaining option. For a small design, the XBrand round sphere water fountain from Walmart is similar to the design pictured.

For bigger backyards, there are also many play features that can be installed, ideal for keeping your pets (and friends) amused and refreshed in the hottest of weathers.

John Foraker, owner of My Splash Pad explains the types of things you can install in a residential backyard for your dog. 'There are so many fun, entertaining features to choose from. These include things like a dog bowl play feature where water bubbles up from the bottom of the bowl and spill over the sides, a dog jump hoop with water jets, and dog wading pool with recirculating pump.'

7. Provide a shady spot for dogs to relax outdoors



Overheating can be a serious issue for our furry friends, so providing some garden shade so they can escape the sun is essential. There are plenty of stylish shady solutions for every size plot, budget or design aesthetic. Simple garden parasols, sail shades and retractable awnings are perfect for patio covers or balcony shades, while more long-term solutions such as a gazebo, vine-clad pergola or even a summerhouse can provide reliable year-round respite.

Another long-term solution is to consider planting one or more trees as a way of creating a shady spot for your pet.

For small backyards, there are plenty of shade-giving trees and shrubs that will thrive in containers. Provided the planters are large enough, with ample drainage and nutritious soil, you can enjoy some leafy shade up close to the house without any worry about wandering roots. Suitable trees for small backyards include Star magnolia, Japanese maples, olive trees and the majestic banana tree.

8. Protect your vegetable patch from curious dogs



Whether you're planning to start a vegetable garden or already have one in your yard, you'll need to work out how to keep your curious canine from exploring every inch of your veg patch.

Dogs have an acute sense of smell, which can lead them right to your prize crops. Not only can this spell disappointment to you, but it can also prove dangerous for their health.

'I like to enclose any backyard vegetable gardens to protect both the plants and the dogs,' says Megan Dufresne, principal designer at MC Design. 'This helps to avoid digging in the vegetable bed or accidentally eating something they shouldn't.'

There are endless ways to protect your homegrown fruit and vegetables. A series of smart triangular cold frames are ideal if you don't wish to zone off your vegetable garden, while glass bell jars, wirework cloches and Victorian-style lanterns are good for covering vulnerable prize crops.

If your grow zone covers a larger area of your plot, then partitioning it off with robust dog-proof fencing or dense hedging plants (or both) is a practical and attractive option.

9. Utilize underused areas for play



Don't feel you have to let your pet take over your whole backyard, as dedicating a specific area for them can prove just as rewarding for them and give you peace of mind as well.

Angela Laws, community manager at Trusted Housesitters agrees: 'First, it is important to create a secure space: a secure fence is essential to keep your dog from escaping and ensure their safety. The fence should be tall enough, strong and have no gaps wide enough for your dog to get through. You should also remove any hazardous materials or objects from the play area, and make sure the area is free of any sharp edges or loose parts that could cause injury.'

10. Install dog-friendly boundaries



Keeping your pet pooch safe and secure is all important when they are outside, and your backyard walls and fences play an important role. Making sure that they are in good, solid condition without gaps and holes is obvious, but how many of us also consider the height and depth of our boundaries?

Some breeds of dog can easily jump over six-foot fences, while others can be hugely cunning using planters, storage boxes and raised garden beds as handy launch pads for their escape plans. Digging is another favorite pastime for many dogs and the lure of the outside world can be enough encouragement for them to tunnel under fences. Thwart their efforts by sinking the boundary a foot or two into the soil or paving up to the edge of the partition.

IV. Tips For Moving With Pets

Making the move to a new apartment can be an exciting change for both you and your pets. But just like the process can be a bit overwhelming and stressful for you, it can feel the same way for your furry friends. Here are a few ways to make the experience of moving with pets as smooth and simple as possible.

Introduce a Crate

Whether you're moving with dogs or cats, you'll want to be sure to gradually introduce your pet to its new crate long before the trip starts. This way, your pet will be much more comfortable when it comes time for moving day. Leave the carrier out a few weeks in advance of the move to encourage your cat or dog to crawl in and

explore. You can even leave catnip or a dog treat inside to encourage your furry friend to check it out.



Make sure the crate is well-ventilated and sturdy enough if your pup is a chewer. When moving with cats, you'll want to include a small litter tray in the crate.

Stay Safe in the Car

You should never let your cat or dog run free in the car. Your canine may jump in the car and stick its head out the window, making it susceptible to airborne debris. Cats can crawl all over the car--your feline's curiosity could take it under seats and onto dashboards, making it dangerous for the driver.

Keep Medications and Food On-hand

Instead of packing up all of your pet's essentials, you'll want to make sure to have some of its medication and food on-hand just in case. Keep at least one week's worth of food and medication with you in case of an emergency. Ask your veterinarian for an extra prescription refill before you make the move.

Prevent Motion Sickness

Just like humans, canines and felines can get motion sickness and even become dehydrated during the car ride.

It's not necessary to offer food and water to your cat for a trip that is under eight hours. Most pets won't eat or drink anything in a moving car. If your kitty has a sensitive stomach, don't feed it within four hours of traveling.

For dogs, light feedings and plenty of water should be given at regular intervals. Wet food can offer more hydration benefits than its dry counterpart, but if your dog isn't accustomed to this type of food, now is not the time to make the introduction.

Take Breaks

If you're going to be in the car for a long period of time, make sure to frequently take breaks to give your pup a moment to stretch its legs and go to the bathroom. Cats, on the other hand, should never be let out at a rest stop. Instead, wait until you've arrived at your new home to let your pet out.

Give it a Quiet Space

When all of the movers are putting everything into your new place, your pet should not be left among the chaos. Instead, seclude it in a safe and quiet area like the bathroom when moving day comes. Hang a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door to keep anyone out.

V. Can Moving House Affect Your Dog?

Relocating a house with a canine can be stressful for many pet owners. Dogs and other pets are particular about their routines and completely rely on their surroundings. A slight change in their habit, routine or introduction to a new environment can affect your dog's mental and physical health during a house move. **Therefore, caring for your pet is important to avoid anxiety and other complications.** You can hire expert removalists Brisbane for packing and moving chores so that you can focus on your beloved canine. Fortunately, here are some great tips and tricks to help keep your furry friend relaxed and overjoyed throughout the process. **Let's Get Started**



Can home relocation affect your dog?

The answer is yes. Moving house from one location to another can make your pet feel anxious because they are creatures of habit. Of course, dogs can't express their feelings through words, but they are extremely sensitive and quickly feel attached to their surroundings. This can affect their mood and overall health. Below are some important signs to check for anxiety in your dog:

- Destructive Behaviour
- Increased aggression
- Loss of Appetite
- Increased barking of a dog
- Whining
- Avoiding interactions or hiding

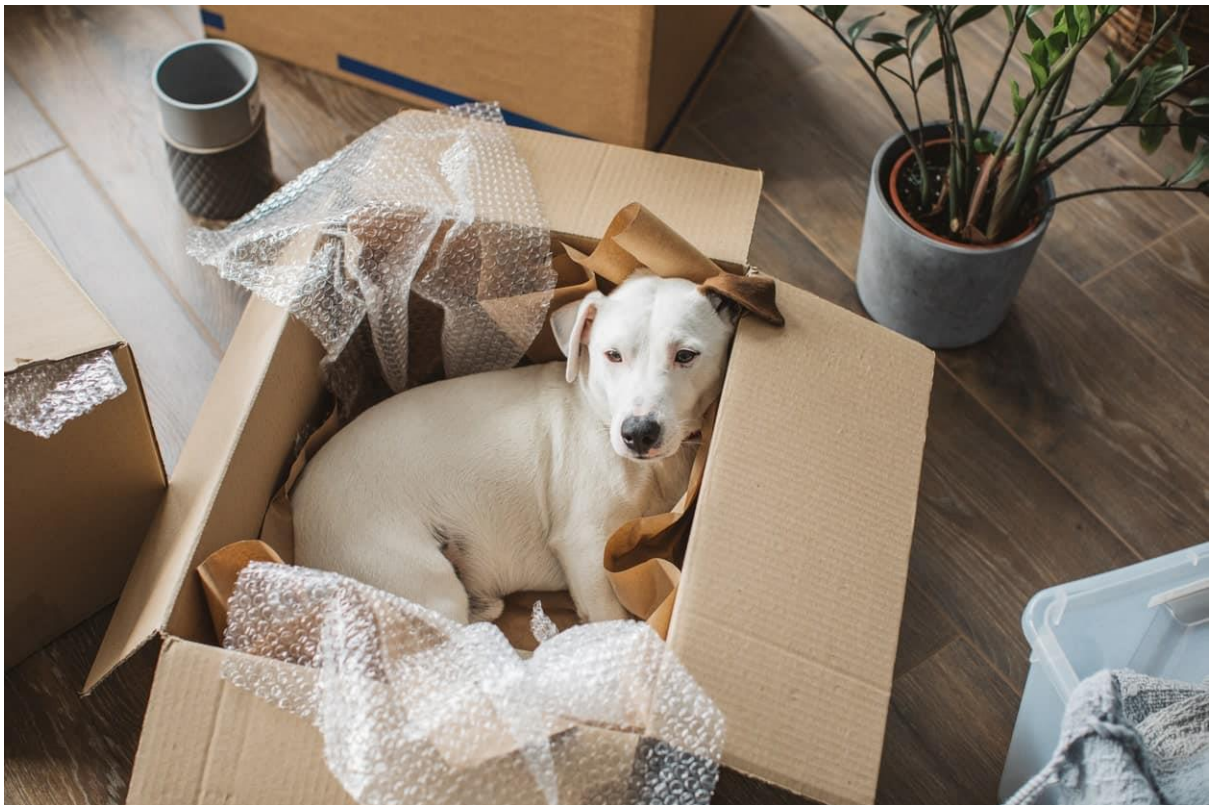
Being a responsible pet owner in Queensland, take care of your pets and keep them feel relaxed when preparing for your home relocation.

How to Keep Your Dog Calm and Relaxed During A House Move?

Consider the following tips and manage your canine's stress levels or anxiety when relocating home.

Try Pre-Move Visits With Your Dog

Saying goodbye to an old home is not only emotionally challenging for you. A dog can also feel the same but they can't express what their breakdown in words. The most difficult part is to making them feel comfortable and relaxed in a new place. It is good to visit your new home with your dog for easy adjustment to the new environment. You can plan your pre-move visit after booking trained removalists Brisbane so that you can take your dog without any stress. Spend quality time with them, visit the new yard and get them used to the sights. This will help your dog when you move in with the entire family.



Stick to the Same Routine

A slight change in the routine can make your pet anxious. So, it is important to keep your schedule the same when packing your household belongings. Dogs usually are aware of their walking, food and rest routines, and this gives them a sense of control and security. So, maintain that level of normality as much as possible for your beloved dog when preparing for your home relocation. Take them for their scheduled walk on time, and feed them on time to keep your pet calm and composed.

Get Them Familiar With Packing Supplies

Believe it or not! Dogs get anxious every time you take out your luggage. If you are packing household belongings in front of them, they can act weird or tear the packing paper and bubble wrap. Instead of hiding boxes and tape, get your furry friend used

to these items in advance. You can collect packing boxes in front of your pet and keep them calm and positive. Some dogs don't like the sound of a table, so use it at a distance and slowly move closer to your pet. Make sure you reward them for staying relaxed. You can even pack and move large furniture items with the help of professionals.

Keep Them Protected on the Moving Day

To prevent injuries or any other health-related problems, you need to ensure your pet's safety. You can create a safe zone and keep them separate in that room or area before the arrival of removalists Brisbane. This way, you can keep them protected while shifting heavy boxes and large furniture pieces.

Update Microchip Details

There is a high chance that your dog might try to escape from a new house to find their old place. Make sure your furry friend is wearing a proper ID with an updated microchip in case they get lost.



Don't Toss their Old Toys & Bedding

You may want to buy new toys, bed linens and bowls for your dog when moving into a new house. Instead of tossing old stuff, pack them at the last moment because they may feel familiar and comfortable in a new place when they sleep on the same old bed or eat in the same bowl.

Pet Proof Your New House

Don't forget to check your new house for potential hazards, such as gaps in the balcony, loose wires, sharp objects and poisonous items, to ensure your pet's utmost safety. You can renovate your new house and pet-proof all areas to give your furry friend a safe and sound environment.

Be Patient & Understanding

It is important to be patient when dealing with your dog's emotions. Understand how they feel and what they want during a house move. Some dogs may feel okay, but most of them may act weird. Plus, dogs can quickly sense your calmness, which can easily be reflected in their nature. So, adopt this change in yourself and stay relaxed and composed.

Of course, the home relocation process can affect dogs and other pets, but taking extra care of them before, during and after a house move can make a huge difference. Stick to their same routine, introduce them to a new neighbourhood, know their emotions, keep them calm and composed, etc., to reduce the impact of house relocation.

CONCLUSION

By implementing the right strategies, pet owners can create a home that supports both their lifestyle and their pet's well-being. A pet-friendly environment fosters a positive and safe space for pets to thrive and enhances the bond between owners and their furry companions.

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