

Animal Land

»»» *Pet Movers*



Your Pets. Our People. Moving!

What to Expect

➤ About Animal Land

➤ Our Services

What to Expect



➤ Welcome to Animal Land Pet Movers!

Thank you for considering us for this very important move. Every client of ours is immediately assigned a Personal Move Counselor who will contact you within 24 hours of your account being created.

➤ What You Can Expect?

You will receive expert advice on every aspect of your relocation from preparing your pets before travel, to working with your schedule to arrange a suitable travel date, to tracking your pets throughout their journey on the day of travel. You will receive timely answers to your questions as well as a direct phone number where you will be able to reach your Personal Move Counselor.

Below please find some information regarding your pet's relocation. We will go over all of the information with you, but we wanted to provide you a hard copy as well in preparation of our call.

➤ Tranquilizing Your Pet

Please don't do it. The most popular drug used is acepromazine. It is a perfectly fine tranquilizer for clinical use. However, at altitude it can depress the animal's respiration, lower blood pressure and alter the temperature control mechanism. It also prevents them from effectively stabilizing themselves during the flight.

The [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) recommends that you NOT sedate pets during flight. Many airlines will not transport your pet if they know they are sedated. Similarly, Animal Land Pet Movers can not transport your pet if we know he is sedated. So, for the safety of your pet, please don't do it.

If you would like to try a calming agent, we have had good success with an herbal supplement called [Rescue Remedy](#). It is an all natural product and has no known adverse side effects. [Happy Traveler](#) is also a good solution.



➤ Acclimate Your Pet To His Crate

99.9% of the pets we have moved have had zero problems acclimating themselves to their crate. However it is always a good idea to help them get used to the idea of being in a travel kennel for an extended period of time.

Rather than sedatives, the best thing you can do to help ensure a smooth flight is to get your pet acclimated to his crate.



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What to Expect



We recommend that when you first obtain the kennel, you place it in a prominent spot in your home with the door open and put your pet's favorite toy or blanket inside. Show them that this new object is "OK" with you and a safe place to be. Praise them when they go in the kennel.

Next, while you are at home, start closing the kennel door for 15 to 30 minutes at a time. When you open the kennel, again praise them and play with them a bit. Next, leave them in the kennel while you step out to run errands or go to dinner for an hour or two. Again as soon as you get home, let them out and show them that it is ok to be in the kennel. We find that many dogs will often willingly go into their kennels and even spend the night there with the door open.



► What Kennels Are And Are Not Acceptable

To be an acceptable flight kennel, it must have the hard plastic sides and a door with a clasp in front. It is preferable that you get the ones that screw shut. We have never had a problem with the other kinds, however if you use them, we always add some zip ties around the edges just to make sure.

These are our favorite kennels: They come in a variety of sizes, are ventilated on all four sides and screw shut. You can view the various sizes [HERE](#). If you have the type of kennel with latches that twist closed, we recommend putting zip ties on each side of the kennel to secure it. We have never had a problem with ALL of the latches coming loose, but it is always better to be safe.

The wire kennels are not acceptable for flight. Neither are the Nylabone collapsible kennels or anything with wheels on it. The kennels which have the doors that open from the top are also not acceptable.

As USDA rules require that anyone be able to open the door of the kennel without use of any special tools, in case of emergency, it is not permitted to put a regular zip tie on the kennel door. However, they do manufacture zip ties which have a release mechanism and you can use these. It is very helpful in case the kennel is accidentally jostled as it will prevent the door from popping open.

► Is My Kennel Big Enough For My Pet?

The USDA and FAA require that your pet be able to stand up, lie down and turn around. Common sense should be the guiding force here. If your pet can't do the above, the kennel is certainly too small. Even if your pet can technically do all of the above, but looks uncomfortable or cramped in the kennel, we run the risk of the airline refusing your pet because of size.

Some airlines require that there be 3" of space above the pet's head to the top of the kennel. We have not found this rule to be followed strictly. Especially with large dogs, even if the tip of their ears are touching the top of the kennel, they will generally be accepted as long as the other rules above are followed. If the top of their head is touching the top of the kennel, then it is almost assuredly too small.

If you believe it is close, a good way to decide which size kennel is good for you is to take your pet into Pet Smart or PetCO and let them walk in and out of the different sizes and see. If the size of the airline permits, you should probably err on the side of having a kennel a little too big than a little too small.

What to Expect



► What Can I Put In The Kennel?

The rules require that you have “soft, absorbent material” in the kennel. We have found shredded newspaper works the best. Lots of it is preferable. It makes a nice “nest” and if there are any accidents, it is easy to dispose of upon arrival. We also recommend you put something in which has your scent on it. The night before your pet travels, sleep in an old t-shirt and then put it in the kennel the day of travel. Having your scent around will have a calming effect on your pet.

The rules also require that you have two water/food bowls attached to the door. We recommend filling both bowls with water the night before the move and putting them in your freezer. We will attach the frozen bowls to the door right before you head to the airport. Freezing them the night before will keep the water from spilling and your pet will have better access to hydration. If you have a large dog and would like to provide him with more water than these bowls offer, we often will drill holes in a larger plastic Tupperware bowl and attach it to the door with zip ties.



We do not recommend putting food in the kennels during flight. Moreover, we suggest feeding your pet no less than 5 hours before his flight. We have found you will have a cleaner kennel when your pet arrives. The less he has to eat before he goes, the less there is to “eliminate” en route.



If your pet has a toy he likes to play with, you should be able to include it. We recommend it be a soft toy or a tennis ball and not a hard bone. Because of heightened security concerns, please be aware we may be forced to remove the toy, so please do not send one of significant sentimental value.

Also, we recommend you thread your pet’s collar through the slots in the front door. This allows the collar to stay with your pet and offers yet another form of identification.

We can not put other things such as loose water bowls or other leashes and accessories in the kennel. Again this is for safety concerns. The airlines usually let us tape a small plastic bag on the top of the kennel which may contain food. We are rarely allowed to tape anything else to the top unless it is medicine and then it is best to have it in the bottle it was prescribed in or an envelope from the Vet clinic.

Thank you again for considering Animal Land for this very important move. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jan Irving
Customer Service Manager
Animal Land, Inc.



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