

# A cat makes a house a home, but what if 'home' is about to change?



Local vet and cat lover Jo Lewis has set up a very different sort of veterinary practice. After seeing so many cats (and owners) stressed by the ordeal of visiting traditional vet practices, she decided there had to be an easier, calmer way. Approaching it from a cat's point of view, Jo created the purrfect solution and now brings her unique style of veterinary care to the place where cats feel most at ease... their home!



Jo Lewis MRCVS, The Cat Vet

Jo says, "Moving home can be a stressful time for everyone concerned, especially pets. Cats in particular are creatures of habit so don't react well to change. The key is to make them feel secure at every stage of the move by thinking ahead and being prepared."



“The key is to make them feel secure at every stage of the move by thinking ahead and being prepared.”

Jo Lewis MRCVS



## The Cat Vet's Top Five Tips for Home Movers

### Talk to your vet a few months before the move

Stock up on calming plug-in diffusers and supplements – these are more effective if started a few weeks before any stressful events. Cats should ideally be neutered, microchipped and vaccinated well in advance of moving home. Remember to change your address details with your vet, pet insurer and microchip database.

### Provide a variety of dark, comfy spots for your cat both before and after the move

Scared cats like secure spots to take refuge and ride out the changes. A cheap, simple option is to place an empty packing box on its side and line it with familiar bedding.

### Contain your cats in one quiet room for at least 48 hours while you move items in and out of your house

This avoids escapees and keeps the commotion out of sight. Make sure food, water, bedding and a litter tray are available at all times as well as reassuring favourite toys and scratching posts.

### Keep cats indoors for at least 14 days after the move

Keep windows, outside doors and cat flaps locked. Make gradual outdoor excursions when your cat is hungry. Feed a meal or treats and supervise visits outside initially.

### Be on the lookout for illness or injury after the move.

Curious cats exploring their new surroundings may not be welcomed by established neighbourhood pets, so check your cat for wounds daily. If your cat is overly subdued or unwell in any way, seek veterinary advice.

More information about Jo's practice is available at [thecatvet.co.uk](http://thecatvet.co.uk). For a free copy of *The Cat Vet's Step by Step Guide to Moving House With Cats* email [jo@thecatvet.co.uk](mailto:jo@thecatvet.co.uk)