

## **Country Dog → City Dog: Moving from a House to a Condo**

There are many reasons a dog and their family may need to “downsize” from a home into a condo, from a suburb into an urban area or from the country to a city. Lives change, needs change.

While many would be making lists of the things they will sell, the things they will need and what to pack, their pets are often at the bottom of the list when thinking about anything other than how to transport them to the new place.

Unfortunately, this can set up the dog and their people for some very stressful times. Separation anxiety from being in a new place. Reactivity to noises in the hall. Elevators. Traffic noise. Reactivity to dogs they don't know because they are not accustomed to being leashed.

There are, of course, things you can start before you leave your old place - like teach a solid mat behaviour, work on crate training and conditioning to noise and leash, but again, most people will instead be dealing with the post-move things, so here are some tips.

Get a noise machine (brown noise is apparently very soothing) to play in your new home to help minimize noise from the hallways or other apartments/condos.

Put the dog's crate or pen as far from the front door of the unit as possible and or away from shared walls, to reduce noise. If necessary, create a bunker with blankets or crate covers.

If your dog has a history of separation anxiety, you will likely have to get some medications on board and possibly do some more work, before the dog will settle into the new place and feel safe. You should also introduce yourself to your immediate neighbours with a note saying you have a dog, their name, that it may take some time for them to settle in the new place and to contact you if they have any concerns.

Look into dog-walking or daycare companies before your move. Check references.

Set some time aside when you first move to explore your area with your dog, taking plenty of high value treats and avoiding other dog areas, just to give him the lay of the land and get him used to the neighbourhood.

If you can, don't overwhelm him with high traffic areas etc. to start.

If you experience any truly problematic issues, like severe separation anxiety or reactivity and fear, contact a reputable and experienced positive trainer in your area as soon as you can.

Taking these tips to heart, both you and your dog should have a relatively smooth transition and enjoy your new digs!

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