

cat to freely come into the new house, close the doors to the rooms with beds and keep them closed during this transition period. This will prevent the cat from immediately hiding under a bed and will enable you to continue praising, giving treats and petting the cat. All these "good" things will help make the association with the new home a favorable one. Leave the door to the isolation room open in the event the cat needs to retreat to a now familiar room.

### **Patience pays off**

Depending on the temperament of the cat, it will take from a week to two months for the cat to call the place its own. But with time and lots of love, the family feline will eventually come to realize there's no place like home, wherever it may be.

Source: The San Francisco SPCA



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**Escondido Humane Society**

## **Moving with your cat**

**Pack away your cat's  
moving-day troubles  
with these tips and tricks**



Visit us online at  
[www.escondidohumanesociety.org](http://www.escondidohumanesociety.org)  
for more cat resources

**The Escondido Humane Society  
Adoption Center is open from  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week.**

## Preparation

Household pets thrive on routine, as do most of us, but cats are especially attached to their territory and a move can be most traumatic. For the well-being of your pet, take some precautions before, during and after the move to minimize the shock.

Most cats are frightened and stressed by changes to their environment. Preparation for moving day is essential to decreasing the eventual stress from the day's events. In the days of packing prior to the actual day of moving, watch for signs of stress including hiding, crouching, pupil dilation and panting. You may need to isolate your cat to reduce stress earlier than the day of moving.

### Moving day

Isolate your cat in your present house before any of the actual moving of boxes and furniture occurs. Choose a bathroom so

the cat will be undisturbed. Put the cat's litter box, water, food, cat carrier and a familiar bed in the isolation room. A sign on the door stating that the cat is inside and should not be disturbed will be helpful. If you are able to move the furniture and boxes out of a small bedroom first, then you can transfer the cat to that room thus freeing up the bathroom if you don't have a second bathroom. A bathroom or empty bedroom is a good choice since the cat will not be able to hide under a bed making it difficult for you to reach it. You may leave the closet in the bedroom open so the cat will have a safe hiding place that you will have access to. Be sure to transfer the cat's food, water, litter box, cat carrier and bedding to the empty room. Keeping the cat's carrier with the cat will help you each time you need to transfer or move the cat.

### The new home

As before in the old house, isolate the cat with its food, water,

litter box, carrier and bedding. It should arrive at the new home preferably when the move is complete. Once again, choose a bathroom or a room that does not have a bed in it. Most cats will hide under a bed in times of fear, and you want your cat to have access to it for comfort. Following the move, spend as much time as possible with your cat while it is isolated. This isolation may be for days or even a week, so plan accordingly. Your cat will be frightened following the move, but it knows you and will be reassured by your kind words of praise. Use treats. You can pass treats and toys under the door into the cat's isolation room. This will interest the cat in coming into the new house. It may take a week or more, but when the cat seems comfortable in its isolation room, you may carry it in your arms or in its carrier into the rooms of the new house. Make several of these trips out into the house until you are sure the cat is reasonably calm. Before you open the isolation room door for the