

HUMANE SOCIETY OF INDIANAPOLIS

“I’m moving and have an animal.....What do I do?”

Moving is one of the most common reasons people surrender their pets to shelters. Here are some tips on how to move to a place that will allow pets:

- Don’t give up. Many people give up too quickly in their search for dog or cat-friendly apartments.
- Widen your search. The classified ads are not the only place that has rental listings. Some landlords list their rental properties through real estate agents or rental associations. Ask friends, family, and acquaintances to keep their eyes open...many apartments are rented before they’re even listed.
- Keep in mind that a home that allows pets may be in a different neighborhood than you’d prefer, may be a few more miles from work, or may cost a few dollars more. Are you willing to compromise on some issues if it means staying with your pet?
- “No pets” doesn’t always mean **no** pets, period. Many landlords say that because they want to avoid the hassle of determining which pets are allowed. Go see the property, and ask the question if pets are absolutely out of the question. Do this face to face. If the landlord doesn’t automatically answer “yes”, you may have a chance. Explain the qualities of your pet that would cause them to accept him/her:
 - Is your dog a CGC? Do you have paperwork for obedience classes he has taken?
 - Offer an additional security deposit or pet rent to be allowed to keep your pet.
 - Bring references from previous landlords and obedience trainers.
 - If you crate your dog when you’re not home, be sure to express that—landlords often like that idea.
- Don’t think you’re being unfair to your pet by moving into a smaller place than they are used to. Pets are very adaptable and would rather be in a small area with their owners than in a shelter without them.