

Our Top Moving Tips:

It's easy to forget about things when you're moving. Don't forget. Remember.



Start with a virtual move

If you are not already in the habit of backing up your data, now is the time to do so. Invest in an external hard drive or sign up for an online data storage service. Consider changing your email passwords if you haven't in some time. Cybercrime is a dominant threat, particularly during the course of real estate transactions when large sums of money are being wired.



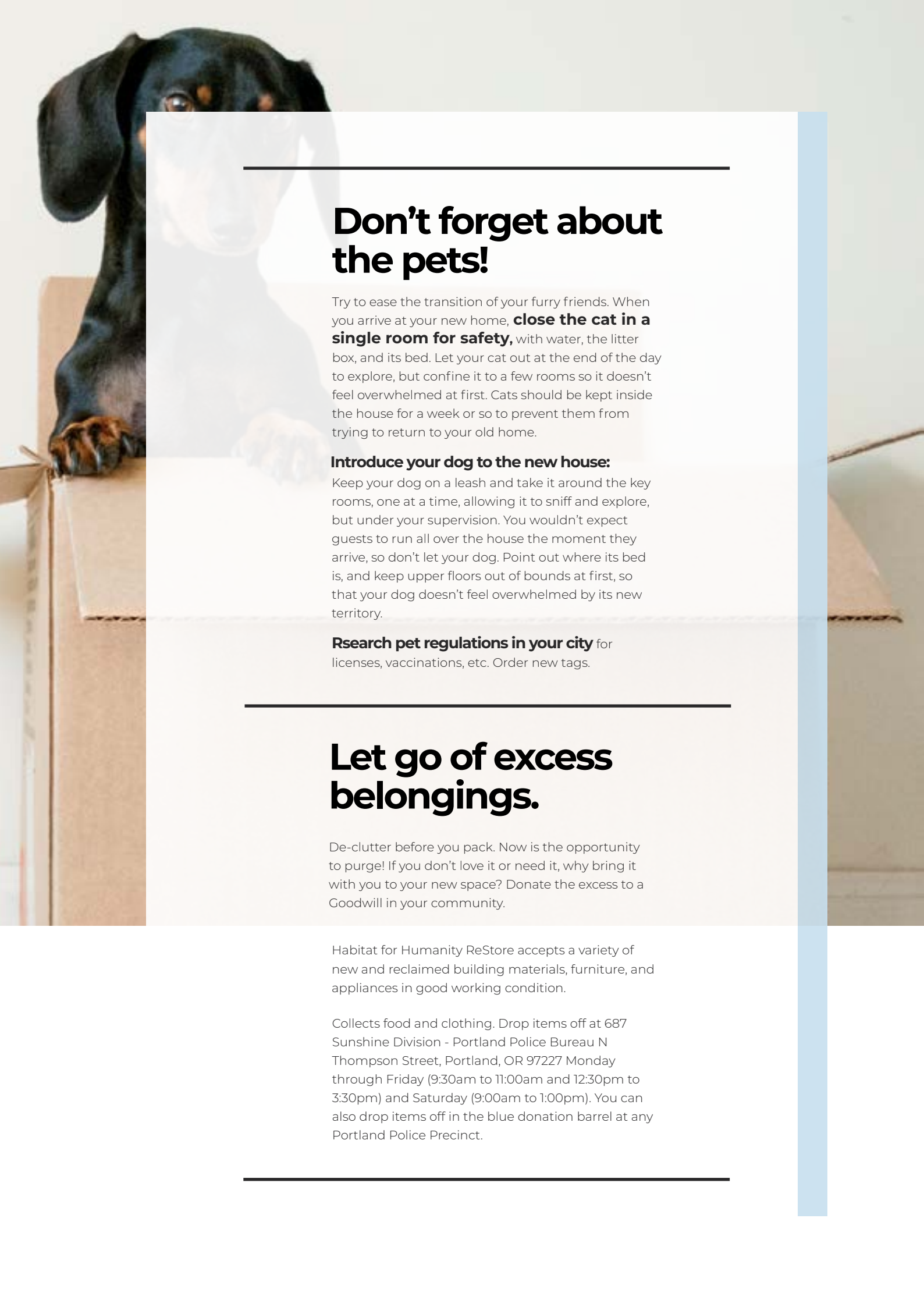
Organize your cords now

For easier setup later, label each cord with the name of the device it goes to. For devices that have multiple cords, use colored dot stickers to label each cord and the hole it plugs into on the back of the device. This will save you much frustration when you reconfigure after the move.



Figure out the “feel” of your new home

Download the Houzz App and create ideabooks for each room of your house including front and backyard landscaping/entertaining. (Example search ideas: subway tile kitchen, mid century modern, landscaping, navy blue dining room, library ladders, the possibilities are endless!)

A black and tan dachshund dog is sitting on a cardboard box, looking towards the camera. The dog's head is in the upper left corner, and its front paws are visible on the edge of the box. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Don't forget about the pets!

Try to ease the transition of your furry friends. When you arrive at your new home, **close the cat in a single room for safety**, with water, the litter box, and its bed. Let your cat out at the end of the day to explore, but confine it to a few rooms so it doesn't feel overwhelmed at first. Cats should be kept inside the house for a week or so to prevent them from trying to return to your old home.

Introduce your dog to the new house:

Keep your dog on a leash and take it around the key rooms, one at a time, allowing it to sniff and explore, but under your supervision. You wouldn't expect guests to run all over the house the moment they arrive, so don't let your dog. Point out where its bed is, and keep upper floors out of bounds at first, so that your dog doesn't feel overwhelmed by its new territory.

Research pet regulations in your city for licenses, vaccinations, etc. Order new tags.

Let go of excess belongings.

De-clutter before you pack. Now is the opportunity to purge! If you don't love it or need it, why bring it with you to your new space? Donate the excess to a Goodwill in your community.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore accepts a variety of new and reclaimed building materials, furniture, and appliances in good working condition.

Collects food and clothing. Drop items off at 687 Sunshine Division - Portland Police Bureau N Thompson Street, Portland, OR 97227 Monday through Friday (9:30am to 11:00am and 12:30pm to 3:30pm) and Saturday (9:00am to 1:00pm). You can also drop items off in the blue donation barrel at any Portland Police Precinct.



Clear the outside zones

Tackling all your outdoor gear at the very end of the packing process is exhausting, yet it's often the last area to be packed up. When your garbage bins are all full, make things easy by giving the outdoor areas of your home a walk-through *now*, throwing away anything that's junky or broken.



Soft items in trash bags

Glamorous? No. But a clever packing idea? Absolutely. Fill with duvets, pillows, stuffed animals, etc. Then use the bags as space fillers and cushioning inside the truck. To keep items clean and protected, double the bags, tie, and shut. Use a permanent marker or sticky labels to note the contents.



Create a moving binder

No reason not to go old school here with a few paper items: from your moving or truck rental company and to-do lists, to your master packing list. Closer to your move date, tuck those papers into a folder, alongside current bills, stamps, and your checkbook. (Note: a lot of small contractors doing last minute to-dos don't take cards.) Keep this binder with you at all times during the move.



Save important documents

Like backing up computer files, saving important documents in a lock box is something we all should be doing. Gather and place birth certificates, passports and other vital records and sensitive financial documents in your box. When moving day arrives, this should stay with you.



Obtain new floor plan

Plan where you'll want to place furniture. Upload your new floor plan to your househappytrax account so you have easy reference. You can also utilize this collection of data as a marketing feature should you sell down the line.

www.househappy.org/trax-landing



Professionally clean rugs

Rugs and special clothing deserve to have a good clean before being moved over to your new home. Anything wool, jackets, suits, etc. - get professionally cleaned prior to moving, you can also have them wrapped for safety during the move.

Start a stash of essentials

There is nothing worse than arriving at your new house and having to scramble to find basics. Start a collection of the items you will want to use right away:



One stack of dishes or a set of disposables	☐
A teakettle and/or French-press coffee maker	☐
Basic tools (screwdrivers, a hammer, etc.)	☐
Supplies (trash bags, scissors, lightbulbs, etc.)	☐
Toilet paper & paper towels	☐
Bath towels, shower curtain, bath mat	☐
Set of sheets for each bed	☐
Box of bandages and Neosporin	☐
Flashlight or candle	☐
Favorite snacks and your favorite movie on a laptop	☐
Wine opener, or dishtowel to pop champagne	☐



Empty and clean your freezer

Plan now to use up food. Give the freezer a good cleaning and put baking soda inside to keep it fresh.



Dispose of flammable or toxic items

Drop off old paint cans at your local refuse station. Drain gasoline and oil from gas-powered tools. Movers won't take them if they are full.

Paint before move-in

If you plan to give your space a fresh coat of paint, it makes a lot of sense to do this before moving all of your stuff in. You will be so glad you did.

Collect your receipts

Depending on the reason for your move, you may be entitled to a tax deduction.

Freshen up and get clean

Open the windows on the first day to air out the rooms and freshen up the whole house. Out with the old and in with the new. Buy houseplants! They clean the air and make you feel at home.

Pass keys off to new owners

Give a full set of house keys to the new homeowners. Don't forget the shed, garage, cabinets, screen/ security doors, etc.

Provide instructions

For landscape maintenance, HVAC filter changes, household appliances, warranty manuals, interior specifications, (and if known: paint samples and special care instructions for hardwood and stone).

Get social

Update your social media with your new location. Post picture. Tag your realtor (and any other real estate professional who helped along the way)!

Please give us a #shoutout on social!



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