

CANADIAN RELOCATION SYSTEMS, "MOVING TIMES" OCTOBER 2006

TIPS FOR RELOCATION

If you are in the planning stages of relocating, one very important tool for you to use in the determination of relocation is the statistic material available for you to compare your current city with your new one.

Most material is free of charge but if you are looking for Cost of Living Reports, be prepared to invest some money in them (one for the city your leaving and the one that you are moving to). This will give you a very good idea about the differences in living there and gives you a tool when negotiating with your company (who is relocating you). If you are doing your own relocation at least you can compare the two cities and then make a decision on whether the move is financially worth it.

Here are some places to look for all the information that will help you make your decision on relocating easier.

<http://relocatecanada.com/statisticshelper.html>

<http://relocatecanada.com/crseri.html>

<http://relocatecanada.com/>

Five tips on what to look for in a neighbourhood:

You've selected the city you're moving to, but which neighborhood is right for you? Here are a few things to look for when shopping for the right area for you and your family:

1. Municipal services - Be sure to check if there are local police and fire stations relatively close to your new home. Taxes - Property and school taxes need to be taken into consideration when selecting a neighborhood.
2. Public transportation - In these days of rising gas prices, it's important to note if public transportation, such as buses, trains and/or subways, are close to your neighborhood. The cost of commuting may offset your potential fuel costs.
3. Schools - Checking out the proximity of neighborhood schools to your home is important, especially if you are sharing carpools or need to seek out after school care for your child.
4. Shopping - Are there enough grocery stores, dry cleaners, convenience stores and service stations in the area?
5. Remember, when you are new to an area, you don't know your way around so the less you have to travel, the better off you'll be.

THE INTELLIGENT CATS GUIDE TO RELOCATION

Cats are free spirits. Even when compressed into a small cat carrier, they are in charge. We can learn from them.

If you sense your owner plans to move, be on your best behaviour.

Revive those terminally cute poses you used to get yourself adopted. Let your owner sleep past 5 AM. Keep your paws out of your owner's hair.

Use the litter box religiously. If you must throw up, head for the bathroom and skip the windowsills.

You do not want your owner to entertain thoughts like, "I don't want to ruin the beautiful floors in our new home," or, "You know, it's really hard to rent an apartment when you have a cat."

Here's a great game. Jump into an empty box, stick your head out and hold the pose while your owner runs around looking for a camera. As soon as she appears, finger on snap button, turn around and point your tail at the camera.

You'll learn some new cuss words, guaranteed.

The arrival of the moving van is your cue to hide. You can have lots of fun with this one.

Your owner will run around frantically, cursing the movers: "You idiots! You left the door open! Now little Furball is gone forever!"

After they've wasted an hour running around the neighborhood, appear out of nowhere and begin to wash. When they shriek, "Oh there she is!" and try to hug you, summon an aloof glare and wash your face again.

Bonus tip: If you really want to freak them out, hide in your cat carrier.

As you begin your twelve-hour drive, remember that your owners would rather listen to your yowling than to the latest tapes or the local weather and news. Keep it up!

Demand a sandbox break as soon as your owner begins driving on a road where it is absolutely impossible to pull over. A narrow bridge with bumper-to-bumper traffic is a good choice.

Motel etiquette calls for you to sit in the window, looking absolutely adorable. Encourage passers-by to tap on the glass at all hours, especially if your owner has forgotten to draw the curtains.

If you suspect your owners have snuck you into the room without checking, begin yowling as soon as they try to move you to a more secluded spot.

When it's time to hit the road at 6 AM, you don't want to be found. If you can position yourself under the queen size bed, out of reach of your owner's arms, you can delay everyone's travel plans for a good half hour. The award for the most creative hiding place goes to the feline who wedged herself between mattress cover and springs.

Caution: This only works if your owner really adores you. If you can't be found in twenty minutes, you might be looking for a new home.

Insist on being present when boxes are unpacked. Jump into each box to make sure the contents arrived safely. If your owners lock you into the bathroom "so kitty can't escape," use the opportunity to practice your singing. The movers need entertainment, too.

Demand to test each windowsill of the new home. If you still have claws, test the curtains to see if they'll hold your weight. Fifteen pounds? Should be no problem.

Regardless, those mini blinds offer limitless opportunities for new versions of torture-the-owner. How many can you bend? How about breaking off a little hole for your head to peek through? Cute.

Encourage your owner to get a dog. You may never have to move again. "Honey, we can't move. We could never afford another place where Spot could have a yard."

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