

CANADIAN RELOCATION SYSTEMS, "MOVING TIMES" DECEMBER 2006

RELOCATION TIPS

Taking the new job in the new city or town is a choice for some and a requirement for others. Either way this change requires relocating your family.

Even under the most normal of circumstances moving is always full of stress, anxiety, worry, happiness and sadness. The roller coaster of emotions can be a wild corkscrew of a ride. There isn't a parent alive that doesn't worry about the emotional impact relocating to another town will have on their family.

However, there are proven to work strategies you can follow that will make relocating your family much easier.

Here are some strategies for relocating your family the easy way.

Relocate Your Children Before School Is Out

Moving is a significant change for children--but they do survive. It can be difficult to give up familiar places and people, meet new people, and get used to new places. Planning ahead will help minimize the stress of all this change.

Most families try to move to a new location after school is out. Surveys have shown that children transition easier if they come to the new school in the middle of the year, since teachers can have more time to deal with them as individuals and having new friends before school lets out makes the summer less lonely.

When you arrive at the new destination, help your children explore the new area. Go for bike rides to explore the neighborhood and meet new children. Sign up for soccer, softball, little league or any type of organized youth activities your child has an interest in. Arrange "play dates" with new friends to help get your child feeling part of their new circle of friends. Check with the local Chamber of Commerce website and get a feel for activities and services within the community you'll be relocating to.

Have A Plan For the Family Pet(s)

Plan for your pet just as you would any other family member. Here is a quick list of "to-dos" for the family pet:

1. Get a list of recommended veterinarians, groomers, and boarding kennels in the new location.
2. 30 days before the trip, schedule an appointment with your local veterinarian to make sure that your pet has all the required vaccinations, identification and completed paperwork.
3. Acclimate the pet to a traveling crate approximately one month prior to departure. Place an old blanket or pillow and a soft toy for the pet to call its own. Do not replace

the blanket and/or toy when it is time to leave. It is important to surround the pet with familiar things during the trip.

4. On the actual move day, feed your pet at least four to six hours prior to departure to avoid your pet becoming ill. Make sure to give water to your pet prior to departure; do not leave an unsecured bowl in the crate.

5. Once your pet is in the new location, the very first thing to do is to make sure that it gets food and water. Place the bowls several feet from each other, so that the pet doesn't gulp down the water too fast.

MY FIRST RELOCATION EXPERIENCE!

I was serving in the Royal Danish Air force and had just been posted to the Faroe Islands (A group of Islands in the North Atlantic, part of Denmark).

The Air Force paid for my move (including packing) and the rules were that you had to get at least two moving quotes and they would pay for the lowest bid.

I called two moving companies that dealt with shipping to the Faroes. The first salesman showed up from Farofreight and he was a smooth operator. There wasn't a thing they would not do for us.. including putting our then invaluable stereo in the Captains cabin for safekeeping so no damage would occur. Inexperienced as we were we liked everything we heard.

The second salesman was from Danfreight and he did not promise us anything, but was very professional in his approach and answered the questions we had about packing etc.

When we received the two quotes, the Farofreight was \$ 550.00 less than the Danfreight. We submitted both quotes to the Air Force for final approval.

Lucky for us during the two weeks it took for the Air Force to process the quotes I met a colleague who had just returned from a two year stint on the Faroes. The talk came to moving and when I mentioned Farofreight he started hinting that some things might be rotten in Denmark and one of them was Farofreight.

When we got the approval the wife and I had a long discussion about this and decided that even if we had to pay \$ 550.00 out of our own pocket we better go with Danfreight, they moved our belongings in a 20ft container without any hitches.

After having arrived on the Faroes I heard nothing but horror stories about Farofreight. The worst was that they had taken 3 families household goods, thrown them into a 20 ft container helter skelter which then took the three families two months to sort out. To ad insult to injury the damage to the household goods were substantial as the company had not braced the container properly for sea transport.

Morale of this story is not to take the low bid, to ask for references from people having been moved to the same area and not get bedazzled by slick salesmen promises.