



## Moving with cats - the hotel room issue

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By

I've moved cross town and now cross country with my cats. Anyone who has moved with pets will agree it is much simpler to move from Lake Oswego to Milwaukie than from Portland to DC.

With both our moves (from here to there and back), if we could have slept in the trucks, it would have been easier. When you are trying to get as many miles under your wheels each day as humanly possible, setting a stopping point is not always high priority.

However, when traveling with animals, it is a necessity. Each day when we'd pull over for lunch, my husband would start calling to find a suitable place for that evening, for all of us. Thank goodness for 411.



kcoveyMy cats' 'moving condo' in the back seat of my Dakota.

Clio and Mack were always grateful to have room to roam at night, even if they decided to stay under the bed all night long. As you can see, while the dog crate we used was quite spacious for a cat, it was still a crate in the back seat.

This is not the first time I've moved cross country with a cat. I remember driving from Jacksonville, North Carolina, to Beaverton with our cat, Kitty (extremely original, don't you think).

She was allowed to roam around the car free of restraints, lounge on the driver's side headrest, wedge herself under the foot pedals when an 18-wheeler passed us (making my father's job of driving that much more interesting), and somehow was allowed at all the places we stopped, even the old Yellowstone lodge. Now that I think about it, I don't know if my dad even asked if Kitty were allowed. 'Pet' and 'friendly' weren't in hotel vernacular back then.

That was 1976; believe me, times have changed. There so many 'Nos' on the signs at a hotel registration desk. No pets, no smoking, no checks, no AMEX, no long distance, no early check in, no internet, and the list goes on.

Planning and flexibility are a must when traveling with pets. If you are a planner, check out **[www.tripswithpets.com](http://www.tripswithpets.com)**. This site has all the pet-friendly hotel chains listed as well as contact information.

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