



Image via [Unsplash](#)

## Moving to a Smaller Home With Pets in Tow

More isn't always better. Sometimes, having too much house simply means having too much to care for. Moving to a smaller home may be financially beneficial, reducing or eliminating your mortgage payments and saving you money on utility bills. No matter your reason for downsizing, make sure you keep your pets in mind when going through this process.

### Staging Your Home

While it's possible to simply list your home as-is with no preparation, it's not the best way to do it. [Home staging](#) allows the buyer to get a view of what their new life in the home may look like. Start by removing items that are extremely personal, such as large family photos, materials for specialized hobbies, and pet items. Freshen your home's look by giving the walls a coat of paint in neutral colors. This doesn't cost much but can significantly increase your asking price. Finally, make sure any messes your pet may have made in the home are thoroughly cleaned and don't leave a lingering odor. If you don't want to do staging yourself, you can hire a [professional home staging company](#) to do much of the work for you.

## Finding a New Home

When looking for your new home, it's easy to become overwhelmed. One trick is to make three lists. One is a list of qualities you definitely want in your home, the second outlines features you definitely don't want, and the third lists things you'd like to have but aren't necessities. These lists help you be more objective when searching for your new home. Don't forget to consider amenities for your pet, such as a [large backyard](#) for Spot or picture windows for Fluffy.

Consider [getting preapproved](#) for a mortgage before you begin searching for a smaller home. This fairly simple process helps you understand how much you can afford to spend on a new home. In addition, once you've found the perfect place, having a preapproval on file makes the purchasing process proceed more quickly.

## Pet Safety While Moving

Going through a large change such as moving can be difficult for pets. It's important to keep their [safety](#) in mind. Consider boarding your pet for a day or two during the actual moving process to make sure they don't escape through an open door or wind up underfoot and get themselves or someone else injured. Several pet-sitting and pet-boarding options are available in Claremont, as well as in other areas. If you haven't boarded your pet before, ask your veterinarian for suggestions. Before letting your pet loose in the new home, inspect electrical cords, nooks and crannies, and windows and doors to be sure [everything is safe](#) for your furry loved one.

## Enjoy Your New Home

Moving to a new home can be stressful for humans and [pets](#). Carefully consider everyone's needs and safety during this time, and enjoy the new life you're beginning.

Once you've settled in, try finding ways to make a difference in your new community. For instance, you can check out the [Sullivan County Humane Society](#) for more information on how you can make an impact by volunteering!