



Guidelines for Renovating with Pets

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Renovating a house can be a rewarding experience but it is important to remember that your pet is likely to feel the stress of a renovation as much as you do. The following tips can help you reduce stress for you and your pets.

- If your renovations are substantial and you can't provide safe and secure surroundings for your pets, it may be best to temporarily move your pets to other accommodation. Cats, in particular, can become quite stressed by change and may benefit from staying in a cattery.
- Make any changes to your pet's sleeping or eating areas prior to the start of the renovations. Changes in environment or routine can be very stressful for a pet so it is best to establish new habits before any major changes begin.
- There will be people coming and going from your house during a renovation and they can't be expected to keep an eye out for your pets. Make sure that your pet is in a secure area at all times and is wearing a collar and identity tag with your telephone number at all times (even if it is micro-chipped).
- Make time for your pet throughout the renovation. Walking with your dog can give both of you a much-needed break and your cat will appreciate a quiet, high spot where he or she can watch the proceedings without being interrupted.
- Construction materials and tools are potentially dangerous to animals so it is essential that you keep an eye out for possible hazards such as vehicles driving in unexpected areas, sharp tools or toxic materials.
- Power tools and other electrical equipment can be left around during renovations and puppies, in particular, can find electrical cords tempting. For the safety of both people and pets, all electrical equipment should be turned off at the wall when it is not in use.
- Areas such as the garden shed that your pet would not normally be able to access can contain potentially lethal materials such as snail pellets, so make sure your pooch is kept well away from garden sheds or areas containing gardening equipment.
- Information on creating a pet-friendly home is available in "the great outdoors ... or not" section of www.petsinthecity.net.au or in Four Legs Four Walls which is available on www.petnet.com.au