



Pets in social housing

The Department of Communities (Housing and Homelessness Services) recognises that pets contribute to the health and wellbeing of tenants. You can keep a pet in a departmental property if:

- approval is obtained from us first, and
- the type of housing you live in is suitable for that type of pet, and
- keeping the pet is allowed under local government laws, and
- the pet does not interfere with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours.

When must you obtain approval to keep a pet?

You must apply to keep a pet if you live in the following types of housing:

- cluster housing (a separate home within a multiple housing development)
- town houses
- attached housing
- apartments, flats and units including seniors units.

One desexed cat or one small desexed dog no heavier than 10 kilograms when fully grown may be approved. You must also comply with your local government laws. Different local governments place different restrictions on the number and type of pets allowed. You are responsible for checking your local government laws regarding these requirements as well as seeking approval under our pet policy guidelines.

When do you not need approval to keep a pet?

You do not need to apply to us for approval to keep a pet in the following situations:

- Detached housing and duplexes - dog/s or cat/s are allowed as per local government laws.
- All housing types - two small birds in a portable cage and fish in an aquarium are allowed.

You must still check your local government laws about what pets you can keep. You should also advise your nearest Housing Services office that you have a pet (particularly dogs) for our records and in case of emergencies.

Special circumstances to keep a pet

If you have special circumstances or a medical need to keep a pet, complete a Pet Application form and attach supporting evidence outlining your needs, for example, a letter from a medical practitioner, psychologist, support worker or other suitably qualified person explaining why you need to keep a pet.

Applying for approval to keep a pet

1. Check your local government laws about keeping a pet in your type of housing and the area where you live.
2. Complete a Pet Application form available from the Housing Services website www.housing.qld.gov.au or your nearest Housing Services office.

3. Attach a veterinarian's certificate confirming your pet has been desexed. If your pet is too young to be desexed, approval may be given subject to your pet being desexed when it is older. Please note that:

- dogs must be desexed by seven months of age, and
- cats must be desexed by three months of age.

When completed, send the Pet Application form and any other documentation required to your nearest Housing Services office. We will advise you in writing of the outcome of your application.

Withdrawing approval to keep a pet

As a tenant, you must ensure that you keep your pet according to:

- the State Tenancy Agreement, and
- local government laws.

If complaints are received that your pet is interfering with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours, we will investigate. If you are in breach of your State Tenancy Agreement or of local government laws, we may withdraw our approval to keep a pet. We may also take action under the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* or refer the matter to the local government authority.

Applying to keep a pet while you wait for housing

You can apply to keep a pet while waiting for housing. However, approval to keep a pet can only be given when a property becomes available that is suitable for keeping a pet and complies with our pet policy guidelines and local government laws.

We will make every effort to offer you a suitable property, but cannot guarantee approval to keep your pet in the property.

Further information

Please contact your nearest Housing Services office. Also refer to the fact sheets:

- *Housing entitlements*
- *Being offered housing assistance*
- *Neighbours.*