

142 Pets Policy

1. Policy

A tenant who wants to have a pet, either permanently or temporarily, must request written permission from Link Housing, and have a pet agreement signed between Link Housing and the tenant.

2. Considerations

Written approval for keeping of a pet is subject to the following considerations:

- Whether the property is suitable for the pet;
- Whether the pet is an assistance animal under the Companion Animals Act 1998, as amended by the Companion Animals Amendment Act 2013;
- The likelihood of interference with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours;
- The likelihood of damage to the property by the pet;
- Property program (see below);
- Current property care issues;
- The pet is registered with Council and is de-sexed;
- The pet complies with council requirements and the Companion Animals Act 1998, as amended by the Companion Animals Amendment Act 2013.

3. Special Property Program Requirements

Leasehold Properties

Tenants living in a property that is not owned by Link Housing will have to refer to, and abide by, the strata by-laws, and rules set by the owners of the property.

Supported Housing

A tenant living in supported housing will require permission from both Link Housing and the support provider.

Transitional Housing

Generally a tenant in transitional housing will not be permitted to have an animal.

4. Written Request and Pet Agreement

The tenant must submit a written request to Link Housing and receive approval prior to the acquisition of a pet, and must note and provide the following in the written request:

- The type and breed of the pet; and
- The size of the pet; and
- Proof of registration (if applicable); and
- Any licence requirements (if applicable); and
- For supported housing, a written approval from the support provider.

The tenant must also sign a pet agreement outlining special conditions before approval is granted by Link Housing.

New tenants of Link Housing who own pets will only be offered properties where pets are allowed.

5. Removal of Pet

Link Housing may request tenants to remove the animal if the tenant is found to be in breach of the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 and/or the signed pet agreement.

Failure to remove the pet when requested by Link Housing may result in action being taken through the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).

Link Housing may also contact the relevant authorities such as RSPCA for removal of the pet if the animal is suspected of being subject to animal cruelty in accordance with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979.

6. Legislative and Regulatory Framework

- Companion Animals Act 1998, as amended
- Residential Tenancies Act 2010, as amended
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979, as amended.

7. Complaints and appeals

A tenant who is not happy with a decision made by Link Housing or who believes that Link Housing has not followed this policy can complain or appeal using the complaints and appeals policies.