

142 Pets Policy

1. Policy

Whilst Link Housing is generally supportive of residents in Link Housing properties having a pet, residents will be required to meet some conditions for approval to be given. Link Housing balances the needs of all tenants and the requirements of property owners when considering applications for a pet. This policy sets out the requirements for a pet to be kept by a tenant with approval from Link Housing.

This policy does not apply if the animal is an assistance animal under the Companion Animals Act 2013.

2. Types of Properties

Link Housing has a wide range of properties and not all properties are suitable for a pet. A large number of Link Housing properties are leased from private owners and are in complexes where there can be strata by-laws which do not allow pets. Some properties, such as a small studio apartment may not be suitable for some pets, such as a dog, but would be suitable for a smaller pet such as a cat or a fish.

3. Considerations

To make sure that having a pet is sustainable, the following will be considered before approval is given:

- Whether pets are allowed in the property,
- Whether the property is suitable for the pet,
- The likelihood of interference with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours,
- Whether the pet will be well-cared for,
- The likelihood of damage to the property by the pet,
- Whether there are any current property care issues,
- Whether the pet is registered with Council and is de-sexed,
- Whether the pet complies with Council requirements and the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 2008.

4. Written Request and Pet Agreement

A tenant wanting to have a pet needs to send in a written request to Link Housing and receive approval before getting a pet. The following information needs to be provided:

- The type and breed of the pet,
- The size of the pet,
- Proof of registration (if applicable),
- How the tenant will care for the pet and meet its needs,
- Any licence requirements (if applicable),
- For supported housing, a written approval from the support provider.

Link Housing will assess applications within ten days. If approval is given, the tenant will need to sign a pet agreement.

Tenants are not allowed to breed pets in their home.

5. Removal of Pet

Link Housing may request tenants to remove a pet 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 neglected or subjected to animal cruelty.

6. Privacy and Confidentiality

Link Housing will keep applicants', tenants' and residents' information and feedback confidential, in line with privacy laws and standards.

7. 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.

8. 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 that are available on the Link Housing website www.linkhousing.org.au or by phoning Link Housing on 9412 5111.

9. Useful Information for Tenants Interested in Getting a Pet

The RSPCA provides lots of excellent information about how to care for a pet. You can find this information [here](#) or by going to https://kb.rspca.org.au/what-do-i-need-to-know-before-i-get-a-new-pet_19.html