

Pets

This fact sheet explains when you can or can't keep a pet in your Homes Tasmania home.

Can you keep a pet?

You need to ask us if you would like to keep a pet at your home. We may say yes or no. This is because some pets, such as goldfish, are easy to care for. Other pets need more care, and some are not suitable to certain properties. For example, it is not a good idea to keep a big dog in a small yard.

We will always say yes to you having an animal in your home if it is a guide dog.

In some cases, we may say no. For example:

- If your home does not have a big enough back yard.
- If your yard does not have good fencing.
- If your pet is dangerous. There is more information about this below.
- If your home is part of a group of homes where there are rules that don't allow pets. This might include blocks of units or flats.
- If the pet is aggressive and it stops people from entering your property. For example, if your dog barks loudly at the person who checks the electricity meter.
- If your pet needs a kennel licence. This would depend on the rules in your local council area. Most councils say you need a kennel licence if you have more than two animals.
- If you are breeding or racing the animals to make money. This is against the rules of your lease.
- If you have a pet that is not usually kept in a house or unit, such as a horse or a goat.
- If you have treated animals badly in the past.
- If the animals don't belong to you. Sometimes, we say it is OK to mind an animal for someone else for a short time. You need to ask us about this though.

Rules to follow if you do keep a pet

If you keep a pet in a Homes Tasmania home, there are rules you need to follow:

- Register the pet with the local council. This means that you must tell the council about your pet and pay a fee. You need to do this every year.
- Make sure that your pet has a microchip. This helps the local council to find a pet if it goes missing.
- Look after the pet well. This includes feeding it, keeping it healthy and cleaning up after it.
- Make sure that your pet is well behaved. It must not:
 - disturb the neighbours
 - be a nuisance
 - be dangerous
 - damage the home.

If you break any of these rules, we may ask you to stop keeping a pet at your home. Sometimes we ask to have pets removed from a property. In some cases, we may ask you to move out.

You cannot keep dangerous dogs

It's important for people to feel safe in our community.

In Tasmania, the law says that you can't have a dangerous dog as a pet. The law that applies is called the *Dog Control Act 2000*. Usually, local councils make sure people are obeying the rules of the *Dog Control Act 2000*.

If you are on the Housing Register

When you apply for a home with us, you need to tell us if you have a pet.

Having a pet means that you may need to wait longer for the right kind of home. This does not apply if you need a guide dog.

If we offer you a home, but it does not suit you because of your pet, you can say no to that home. This will only be reasonable if you have told us about the pet. This means that you will need to wait longer for a home.

For more information



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