

Pets and Tenancies

Churches of Christ Housing Services understands the important role of pets in providing companionship and contributing to health and happiness.

What should I consider before applying for a pet?

When deciding whether to apply for a pet, it is important that you consider the responsibilities that go with owning a pet.

- Ongoing costs e.g. de-sexing, microchipping, registration, vet fees, pest control
- Suitability of the pet to your environment – is the type of pet appropriate, is there enough space at your property, can it be exercised easily, will it mix well with family visitors and neighbours
- Your ability to look after a pet – i.e. do you have any financial or health factors that may hinder your ability to properly care for your pet.



Approval **will not** be granted for dogs described as 'dangerous' or any animal regulated under the Animal Management Act 2008.

How do I apply for a pet?

1. Complete a Pet Application and return it to our office. The application must be completed in full and include the following information:
 - Pet type, breed and description
 - Reason for application
 - Registration, Certificate of De-sexing and/or any other licences or permits applicable.
2. We will then assess your application in consideration of the:
 - Suitability of the property for the type of pet requested
 - Impact on the property and any impact it may have on the neighbours
 - Number and size of pets permitted to be kept on the property in accordance with local council regulations
 - Capacity to keep a pet in some Housing programs

- Response from the owner of the property (if not Churches of Christ Housing Services).
- 3. An outcome will be provided in writing once all required documentation has been received and your application has been assessed. Tenants are not permitted to own a pet without written approval and doing so is considered a breach of the tenancy agreement.
- 4. If your application is declined, you have the right to lodge an appeal, as detailed in our 'Feedback, Complaints and Appeals Brochure' provided in your Tenant Start up Pack.
- 5. If your application is approved, the conditions outlined in the application will form part of your tenancy agreement a copy of the application and conditions will be included with your approval letter.

What if I require an assistance animal or have special circumstances?

If you have special circumstances or a medical need to keep a pet, attach supporting evidence outlining your needs – e.g. a letter from a medical practitioner, psychologist, support worker or other suitably qualified person explaining why you need to keep a pet.

We will work with tenants who have a disability or medical condition and require a Guide Dog, Hearing Dog or an Assistance Animal to ensure the suitability and adaptation of your property meets your needs for day-to-day living.

Contact your Housing Officer to discuss your needs.

What else should I know about having a pet?

As a responsible pet owner, you have an obligation to care for the health and wellbeing of your pet, as well as a duty to ensure your animal's activities don't interfere with your neighbours or the environment.

All animal owners have a duty to provide proper fencing and enclosures to prevent animals (including cats) from wandering.

Keeping of pets increases the risk of vermin and pests such as fleas, lice and cockroaches, attracted to pet food, bird seed etc. If your application is approved, you will be responsible for regular pest control.

Animal waste must not be left in communal gardens, paths or driveways. It is your responsibility to clean up and dispose of your animal's waste in a sanitary way.

Pets must also be suitably identifiable at all times – e.g. identification tag, microchipping, tattoos.

Churches of Christ Housing Services will work with other organisations including the RSPCA and local council to ensure the welfare of animals in our properties, and may contact them without your permission if we feel there is cause for concern.