

HOUSING TASMANIA FACT SHEET

Pets

Many people who live in Housing Tasmania homes enjoy having a pet. You need to ask us if you would like to keep a pet at your home. If you ask us if you can keep a pet, we may say yes or no. This is because some pets, like goldfish, are easy to care for. Other pets need more care. For example, it's not a good idea to keep a big dog in a small yard.

Whether or not you can have a pet will depend on:

- The type of pet you want to keep
- The type of home you live in.



When will Housing Tasmania say no to keeping pets?

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 to keeping pets. Some examples of when we will say no include:

- 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 on page 3
- 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.
For example, most councils say you need a kennel licence if you have more than two dogs.
- If you are breeding or racing the animals to make money. This is against the rules of your Residential Tenancy Agreement (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.

There are rules if you do keep a pet

If you keep a pet in a Housing Tasmania home, there are rules you need to follow.

- Register the pet with the local council. This means that you have to tell the council about your pet, and pay a fee. You need to do this every year.
- Make sure that your pet has a micro-chip. This helps the local council to find a pet if it goes missing.
- Make sure your pet is desexed. This helps reduce any stray animal population
- Look after the pet well. This includes:
 - Feeding it
 - Keeping it healthy
 - 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 can ask to have pets removed from your 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. Housing Tasmania does not allow people to keep dangerous dogs.

Sometimes, neighbours complain to us about pets. We ask them to contact the local council who make sure people are obeying the rules of the *Dog Control Act 2000*. We will also check to see if you have permission to keep the pet. If you don't have permission, we may ask you to remove the animal. We may also contact the local council.

Chris's story

Chris recently moved into a Housing Tasmania home. He is the owner of a big dog called Charlie. Chris did not tell Housing Tasmania about Charlie.

There are lots of families living in Chris's neighbourhood. His next door neighbour has three children. They are all scared of Charlie.

The neighbour called Housing Tasmania and complained about Charlie.

We asked the local council to find out whether Charlie was a dangerous dog. We looked at Chris's paperwork. We found out that he has never asked us if it was ok to keep a dog at the home.

Unfortunately, the local council won't allow Charlie to live in that neighbourhood. He is a type of dangerous dog. If Chris wants to stay in his Housing Tasmania home, he will need to move Charlie somewhere else.



What if you are waiting for a Housing Tasmania home?

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

If we offer you a home, we will consider the pet/s you have told us about when you applied for a home.

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.



More information

Other fact sheets that might be useful:

- Applying for a home
- Pests and vermin

Our contact details



Housing Tasmania – 1300 665 663



TTY users phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 13 55 13

Speak and Listen users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 1300 13 55 13

Internet relay users connect to the NRS then ask for 1300 13 55 13



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