

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the conditions under which Housing Trust will allow tenants to keep pets in properties managed by Housing Trust.

2. Guiding Principles

Housing Trust will consider the following factors in deciding whether to grant approval for keeping a pet:

- Whether the property is suitable for the animal, including whether there are suitable areas of open space for animals that require exercise
- Whether the animal is likely to cause disruption to neighbours (even if neighbours have not yet made a complaint)
- The number of animals that may already be approved at a property
- Whether the animal is required or has been recommended for medical or psycho-social reasons (e.g. mental health recovery)
- Tenants are responsible for the behaviour of the animal at the property

3. Approval for keeping a pet

All tenants must have written approval to keep a pet or pets at any property managed by Housing Trust and this consent will be maintained on a tenant's file. Tenants applying to keep pets should make a written request, noting the type and size of the pet(s) they wish to keep. Approval must be obtained for all new pets in the household, capital properties only.

The Housing Trust will abide by legal requirements in relation to guide dogs and 'hearing dogs' and will not discriminate in the provision of accommodation due to a person's use of such a dog.

Approval to keep a pet may be withdrawn by Housing Trust if the animal:

- causes a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours
- unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours
- causes significant and ongoing damage to the property
- Identified as restricted breed of dog.

Where approval is withdrawn, tenants will be advised that their tenancy may be at risk if the animal is not removed from the property within the time period specified.

4. Leasehold Properties

Leasehold properties are not allowed pets.

5. Restricted or dangerous dogs

Restricted breeds or declared dangerous dogs that are declared by local councils are not permitted in Housing Trust properties under any circumstances. Approval will not be granted for these dogs and any existing approval will be withdrawn if a dog is subsequently declared a restricted breed or dangerous by the relevant council authorities.