

Pets Policy - Policy Number 107

Edited May 2020

1. Purpose

This policy outlines what pets are and are not allowed in properties owned by Pacific Community Housing.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Pacific Community Housing assets and its tenants.

3. Principles

Pacific Community Housing residents live as part of a wider community. Therefore, this policy aims to maintain a safe, peaceful and harmonious environment among all its residents.

4. Pets

With very few exceptions, Pacific Community Housing permanently maintains a 'no pets' policy.

5. Exceptions

Tenants may apply to keep a pet if:

- They require a companion animal for documented medical reasons. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- The animals are small fish in an aquarium or small caged birds, such as budgerigars.
- If the specific property has a site specific pets policy.

6. Before Getting a Pet

Pets require a certain amount of attention and care. Pacific Community Housing will therefore ask the tenant to consider if they have the time and finances to care for a pet with the kind of time and attention it needs to live a happy and healthy life. The RSPCA provides lots of excellent information about how to care for a pet. Information can be found on the RSPCA with their article titled [What do I need to know before I get a new pet?](#)

7. Written Requests

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

- The type and breed of pet.
- The size of the pet.
- How many pets they want (for example - 10 fish).
- How the tenant will care for the pet.

Pacific Community Housing will assess applications within 14 days. If approval is given, the tenant will need to sign a pet agreement before getting a pet.

8. Consequences

Should a tenant be found to be housing a pet that is not allowed under this policy or if the tenant has not formally applied to keep the pet living with them, then:

- Pacific Community Housing will use the Breaking or Terminating a Lease policy to reasonably assess the situation.

- Pacific Community Housing has the right to ask the tenant to find another suitable home for the pet.

9. Legislative Framework and Related Policies

- Breaking or Terminating a Lease – Policy 108
- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Residential Tenancies Act 2010
- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979