



Harrow Churches Housing Association

PET POLICY

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| Date Last Revised | March 2019 |
| Policy revised by | Interim Head of Operations |
| Next Revision Date | March 2021 |
| Related Documents | Policies this policy interacts with Tenancy Agreements Anti - Social Behaviour Policy Guest room procedure |

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 HCHA accepts that a pet can be a great source of companionship and that residents may want to keep pets at home for company, wellbeing and enjoyment.
- 1.2 HCHA actively support the keeping of pets and will always consider giving permission and will also support requests for an assistance animal such as a guide or hearing dog.

2.0 PURPOSE/STANDARD REQUIRED

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to set out our approach to residents keeping pets in their homes and will have the following objectives;
 - To enable the keeping of pets wherever possible.
 - To recognise the comfort and joy the keeping of pets can give.

- To understand that in some circumstances keeping a pet may not be appropriate

2.2 HCHA care for all our residents and as we have a variety of accommodation types it may be necessary to consider the impact that the keeping of a pet might have upon the property and other residents.

2.3 HCHA will ensure that it manages its Pet Policy in accordance with this policy, best practice and legislation, including the following:

- Control of Dogs Order 1992
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Animal Welfare Act 2006
- Dangerous Dogs Act 1989 and 1991
- Abandonment of Animals Act 1960
- Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
- Protection of Animals Act
- HCHAs Antisocial Behaviour policy

3.0 SCOPE

3.1 This Policy applies to all employees, volunteers and Board and Committee members. It also applies to those employed by agencies under agreements with HCHA. All of these will be referred to as 'Workers' in this policy

3.2 Failure by any Worker to comply with this Policy may lead to disciplinary action being taken against them. Any disciplinary action will be dealt with in accordance with the Disciplinary Policy

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 It is the responsibility of the Head of Operations to ensure the implementation of the Pet Policy and that:

- All relevant staff are aware of the Policy and associated procedures.
- All relevant staff are trained on the Policy's associated procedures.
- Residents are aware of the Policy.

5.0 POLICY

5.1 HCHA will manage its neighbourhoods appropriately and effectively to ensure that resident's experience a high quality pet friendly environment. This policy sets out our approach to keeping of pets in HCHA homes.

5.2 The resident's obligations

HCHA will always look to give permission where it can but it must not be assumed that permission will automatically be given. When it is granted permission it will be in writing. It is the resident's responsibility to care for their pet and understand that in the event of continued damage, nuisance or annoyance the pet may have to be rehomed. Agreement should also be sought when replacing a pet.

5.3 Keeping a pet

HCHA is in favour of residents keeping a pet. Any resident wishing to keep a pet should get permission from the scheme manager.

5.4 Why we might say no

- We may decline a request if, in our opinion, the home is not suitable for a pet of the type requested or if we think it is likely that the animal will cause a nuisance because of the lack of space and the likelihood of problems being caused to neighbours.
- We would also want to be satisfied that the resident can look after a pet, it is important that residents have considered what it will mean to own a pet
- Every request to keep a pet will be considered on an individual basis and will take account of the residents' needs and housing circumstances.
- Where permission is granted the resident will be asked to sign an agreement which sets out in more detail their responsibilities for keeping a pet.

5.5 New residents

New residents will be expected to let staff know when applying for housing if they wish to keep a pet or plan for one in the future.

5.6 Problems than can arise in keeping pets

5.6.1 HCHA will always care for and support residents but cannot become involved in circumstances where personal injury is caused by a pet to a person or other pet; the matter must be reported to the police.

5.6.2 Pets can sometimes create a noise which is a nuisance to other residents; it's the owner's responsibility to ensure that this is not the case.

5.7 Animals that will not be approved as pets

5.7.1 HCHA accepts that The Dangerous Dog Act 1991 has made it an offence to allow any breed of dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place. A dog is regarded as "dangerously out of control" under the Act if there are good grounds for suspecting that it will injure a person, whether or not it actually does so. HCHA will not permit the keeping of any dogs covered by the Dangerous Dogs Act.

5.7.2 HCHA will not permit wild animals, primates, exotic species or those that can have an adverse effect on human health.

5.8 Keeping pets without permission

Where it becomes apparent that a resident is keeping an animal without permission HCHA will ascertain whether in the circumstances the animal is appropriate to have as a pet and whether to allow the animal to remain.

5.9 Visitor's pets

5.9.1 Where someone visiting a resident brings a pet with them, the pet is welcome to enter and accompany them providing it is kept under control and supervised at all times.

5.9.2 The conditions that apply to residents in the keeping of pets will be expected of visitors with pets.