

Background

This policy has been written to establish clear rules around pet ownership in QLCHT homes, ensuring that the wellbeing of QLCHT households through having pets, is balanced with responsible pet ownership, property upkeep and maintaining a harmonious community.

This policy applies to all QLCHT households, regardless of housing programme. Any home which is part of a Body Corporate that has more stringent rules around pet ownership, the Body Corporate rules will override this policy.

Making an application to keep a pet

Any household wishing to have pet at their property must first seek permission from QLCHT. A Pet Application Form must be completed and returned to QLCHT for review, prior to obtaining a pet. A new application must be submitted for each new pet.

QLCHT reserves the right to decline an application, or at any time withdraw permission to have a pet on the property.

Pets that will be considered

Any domesticated animal that is kept for companionship and enjoyment, and permitted under local bylaws will be considered. This does not include livestock such as sheep, cows, horses, goats and pigs. Factors such as the size of the home, size of the garden and fencing, number of pets already in the home and the risk associated with any pet will be considered when reviewing any application.

Pet ownership responsibilities

Approved pet owners must always:

- a. Obtain permission from QLCHT for any pet on the premises.
- b. Advise QLCHT if a pet is no longer living at the premises.
- c. Follow any legislation and local bylaws in relation to owning a pet.
- d. Ensure pets are fully vaccinated, desexed and regularly wormed.
- e. Adequately care for the health and wellbeing of their pet including safety, containment, nutrition, water, access to outdoors and exercise, access to sufficient stimulus, and veterinarian care.
- f. Ensure the pets living and eating spaces are kept clean and hygienic.

- g. Ensure there is adequate care in place should the owners be absent.
- h. Supply QLCHT with a photo of their pet.
- i. Minimise pet damage to the property and put right any damage that has occurred (full cost for this to be borne by the pet owner).

The following applies specifically to dogs:

- a. Must be adequately contained on the property and unable to roam.
- b. Must be registered and wear a collar with a tag containing the owners contact details.
- c. Must be non-aggressive, socialised and pose no threat to the safety of people or other animals.
- d. Must not cause nuisance to neighbours through continuous barking, howling or other disruptive noise.
- e. Owners must pick up and adequately dispose of dog excrement frequently, on and off the property.

Complaints and failure to comply

All concerns regarding pets should be reported to QLCHT. QLCHT will investigate all complaints and concerns about pets. Any violation of this policy may result in QLCHT withdrawing permission for the occupant to bring or keep the pet at the property.

If a QLCHT tenant has brought a pet into the property without QLCHT's written permission, a 14-day notice to remedy will be issued. If the matter is not resolved within 14 days, QLCHT will make an application with the Tenancy Tribunal.