

Pets in the Home

There are many responsibilities that come with owning a pet and you need to ensure you can fulfil these before bringing a pet into your home. You need to remember that some animals can live up to 15 years meaning you will be responsible for that pet for 15 years. In order to keep some pets such as a dog, a licence is required. You will need to ensure that you have a valid licence at all times.



Rules and obligations;

- The rules around pets in the home is different in each scheme and therefore you **MUST** discuss bringing a pet into your home with your Housing Services Co-ordinator, they can advise if pets are allowed or not in your scheme.
- You will need to check your lease agreement. Most lease agreements will have clauses within it to state that:
 - no tenant should keep any horses, poultry, pigs, large birds, reptiles or other animals (other than domestic pets which are not likely to create a nuisance or become a source of annoyance).
 - Tenant should not engage in the breeding of any animal within their home.
 - Tenant, if permitted to have a pet in the home, should ensure that the living space of the animal is sufficient.
 - Tenant should keep pets under control at all times.
- It is also worth noting, that in many lease agreements, the “restricted breed of dogs” list will be outlined. These breeds of dogs are highly dangerous and not permitted at all. This list includes:
 - American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, English Pit Bull Terrier, Bull Mastiff, Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Rottweiler, Japanese Akita, Japanese Tosa and crossbreeds.

Being a responsible pet owner

- Tuath tenants live in both houses and apartments and with each of these come with different responsibilities.
- When living in a house you will need to ensure that:
 - your garden is secure and that your pet cannot escape in any way such as jumping a fence or digging under a back gate.
 - your pet has adequate shelter within the back garden.

-you are regularly attending to the maintenance of your back garden e.g. regular clearing of fouling

- When living in an apartment complex you need to ensure that:

-you have your pet under control at all times.

-you take your pet out regularly to go to the toilet and ensure you are cleaning up after your pet.

-you ensure your pet has no means of escape from your apartment.

-you do not leave your pet on the balcony while you are not at home.

-your pet does not spend long periods of time on the balcony even if you are present.

-regular cleaning of cat litter trays to ensure that there are no foul smells within your apartment.

It is worth noting that if you have a balcony, you will need to be mindful, there are often small gaps in the flooring of a balcony and if your pet urinates while out on the balcony this will drip down onto your neighbour's balcony. This is why regular walks and visits outside are necessary and why we ask for your pet not to spend long periods of time on the balcony.

Being a good neighbour with a pet

- Please bear in mind that not everybody may have the same love or tolerance for pets as you.
- Noise can often be an issue for people with pets, you may be used to the noise however your neighbours may not be.
- Please refer to your lease as there will be hours outlined such as 11pm – 8am where any noise is prohibited that would cause any annoyance to neighbours or any occupiers within the scheme in which you are living.
- Do not leave your pet alone for long periods of time whether living in a house or an apartment, if you are not there, you do not know what disturbance your pet may be causing.
- Please speak to your neighbours, advise them that you have a pet and that if they are ever disturbed by any noise that your pet may be causing, to please come and speak to you in order for you both to resolve the issue.

If you are concerned about the welfare of any animal in any circumstances, you should contact the local dog warden.