

Quick guide to the pet policy

Permission to keep a pet

You must have written permission from your [housing officer](#) to keep any pet and every one of your pets must be registered. Your housing officer will give you an application form to complete, or you can download a copy from our website.

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/housing/counciltenantsleaseholders/tenantsrights/keepingpets.aspx>

You are allowed to keep the following pets in your property:

Homes for Independent Living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small caged birds • Fish in an aquarium • Care dogs
Bedsit / 1 bedroom flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small caged birds/small mammals (excluding rabbits and guinea pigs unless the tenant is subject to the sole use of a garden) • Fish in an aquarium • Caged reptiles (not venomous) • Caged insects/spiders (not venomous) • Dogs - max 1 subject to sole use of garden • Cats - max 1
2/3 bed flats/ maisonettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small caged birds/ small mammals (excluding rabbits and guinea pigs unless the tenant is subject to the sole use of a garden) • Fish in an aquarium • Caged reptiles (not venomous) • Caged insects/spiders (not venomous) • Dogs - max 2 subject to sole use of garden • Cats - max 2 subject to sole use of garden or max 1 if no use of a garden
Houses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small caged birds/ small mammals (excluding rabbits and guinea pigs unless the tenant is subject to the sole use of a garden) • Fish in an aquarium • Caged reptiles (not venomous) • Caged insects/spiders (not venomous) • Dogs - max 2 subject to sole use of garden • Cats - max 2 subject to sole use of garden or max 1 if no use of a garden • Pigeons and birds of prey subject to conditions

Guide/Care dogs

Permission will be given for a care dog, a guide dog for the sight impaired or a hearing dog, but you must register them with housing services.

Why might we refuse permission?

We can refuse permission in some circumstances including:

- If you want to keep a dog that is outlawed under the Dangerous Dogs Act
- If your pet is dangerous in another way
- If you want to keep an exotic pet, livestock, poultry or horses
- If you have a history of animal cruelty, neglect or abandonment
- If your property is not suitable or does not have sole use of a garden
- If you want to keep more pets than your property type allows
- If you want to keep an unreasonable number of smaller animals

If we refuse permission this applies to you, your visitors and anybody staying at the property. You must not keep a pet or we may take enforcement action against you and your tenancy could be at risk.

You should speak to your housing officer if you need more advice on the pet's policy or rehoming a pet. You can phone your housing officer on the duty line **01634 333 344**

Your responsibilities

If you are granted permission this is conditional.

You must not allow your pet to:

- foul in public or communal areas
- stray or roam
- damage your own or anybody else's property
- annoy, frighten anyone or cause a nuisance
- be used for commercial breeding

You are responsible for:

- keeping your pet under control at all times
- looking after your pet and taking good care of them
- making arrangements for your pet's care if you go away overnight
- disposing of all waste, e.g. excrement, litter, bedding etc.

When keeping dogs you are also responsible for:

- making sure they are kept on a lead in communal areas and not letting them enter children's play areas
- making sure gardens are properly fenced to prevent dogs from escaping; this must be in place before a dog is allowed in a property
- not letting dogs outside the boundaries of your property on their own; this includes communal balconies and stairwells
- making sure all dogs wear a collar and tag with the owner's name and address – this is now the law

- making sure all dogs over the age of eight weeks are chipped – this is now the law and you may face criminal prosecution and a £500 fine if they do not comply with the notice

Complaints and concerns about pets

Pets can cause problems on estates and between neighbours. The main problems concern:

- Pets being kept without permission (this is in breach of the Tenancy Agreement)
- Pets causing a nuisance e.g. barking incessantly
- Owners not taking responsibility for their pets, i.e. not clearing up and hygienically disposing of excrement
- Dogs showing aggression

It is your responsibility to make sure your pet is not causing a problem. If you do not your tenancy may be at risk.

If you experience nuisance from a neighbours pet, or consider that a neighbours pet is not being adequately cared for please report your concerns to your housing officer. We take these complaints seriously.

You can also call the **RSPCA** on **08705 55 59 99** if you suspect an animal is being mistreated.

If you have been or are afraid of being bitten by a dog, or for a suspected stolen dog, phone the police on **101**.

The full pets policy can be found on our website

<http://www.medway.gov.uk/housing/housingpublications/housingpolicies.aspx>