



# Pet Policy

## Introduction

Stroud District Council recognises the health and wellbeing benefits that owning a pet can bring to its owners and accepts that pets should be welcomed in our properties and are happy to support our tenants in pet ownership. However, we also accept that rules have to be adhered to ensuring that irresponsible pet owners are prevented from causing a nuisance to other tenants living in our served properties.

## Guidance

Tenant Services will give clear guidance on pet ownership, including:

- What type of pets are acceptable in our properties
- How many pets are considered reasonable
- Actions which will be taken against irresponsible pet owners
- Appropriate training for staff dealing with pets in our properties

## Legislation

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that anyone who owns a pet must care for their animal in a proper manner.

## In the Event of Emergency

- There should be a named responsible person who will take responsibility for the pet in an emergency or should the tenant become incapacitated in any way
- In the event of an emergency, if the named responsible person is not able to take responsibility for the pet then Stroud District Council will arrange accommodation at a kennel or cattery and the cost will be charged to the tenant
- In the event of the tenant becoming incapacitated and there is no responsible person to take responsibility for the pet then Stroud District Council will arrange for the pet to be taken care of in an appropriate manner

**The keeping of a pet is at the sole discretion of Tenant Services. Appeals against any decision may be made to the Head of Housing Services whose decision will be final**

## Type of Pets contin....

- Domestic cats and dogs
- Fish (not Koi Carp)
- Budgies and canaries (not larger birds such as parrots)
- Small animals such as rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs



## Best Practice

We expect our tenants to ensure:

- Cats/dogs are neutered/spayed
- Cats/dogs should be micro-chipped
- Pets should be vaccinated and treated appropriately to prevent flea infestation
- Faeces must be picked up and disposed of correctly in an appropriate bin suitable for animal faeces (ideally doubled bagged)
- Litter trays and cages (as appropriate) should be cleaned out regularly and disposed of in an appropriate manner
- Where possible, tenants should always take out insurance for their pets

It is a legal requirement to ensure that all pets have:

- Adequate access to food and water
- Protection from suffering and disease
- A suitable environment to live in
- Able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns

## Nuisance Pets

Tenants will have a responsibility to ensure that their pets do not cause a nuisance to others. This includes the following rules:

- Dogs must be walked away from the property
- Dogs must be kept on a lead when outside of the tenants' home or in communal areas
- Dogs must have a collar and ID tag worn when outside of the property
- Excessive noise (such as dog barking constantly) will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Animal Welfare Officer and action taken in terms of a breach of tenancy
- Pets should not be allowed to roam in either communal facilities or across the grounds.

## Nuisance Pets contin...

- For the consideration of other tenants, pets must not be left on their own for an excessive amount of time as this can cause excessive behaviour problems
- Pets must not be allowed to damage property. If damage is caused tenants will be subject to a financial recharge
- Food must not be left outside the property as this could attract vermin
- Pets must be controlled and staff, contractors and visitors must not be at risk when attending your home
- If the pet policy is not adhered to then enforcement action will be taken.

## Caged Animals

Should you wish to keep pets that need caging, such as rabbits, guinea pigs etc. then permission must be asked if you wish to house the pet in a cage or hut in the grounds of the property and this should include a plan of the proposed structure with details of the species that will be housed within it.

## Dangerous Animals

Tenant Services will not grant permission for residents to keep dangerous animals, such as dangerous dogs, poisonous insects, spiders or snakes.

## Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

the dangerous dogs Act 1991 states it is an offence to keep specific breeds of dogs.

- Pit Bulls
- Japanese Tosas
- Dogos Argentinos
- Filas Brasileiros

Therefore, these breeds will not be acceptable.

## Wild Animals

Wild animals are not allowed to be kept as pets. The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 prohibits individuals from keeping wild animals as pets, such as:

- Monkeys
- Venimous Snakes
- Crocodiles

## Type of Pets

Tenant Services consider that the following pets are reasonable to live in our properties, however, permission must be agreed by the appropriate Neighbourhood Management Officer.