

PETS

SOUTHERN CROSS HOUSING FACT SHEET



CAN I HAVE A PET AT MY PROPERTY?

You are allowed to have a pet if:

- The property is suitable for the animal.
- The pet doesn't interfere with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours and you comply with the Companion Animals Act (1998).

You are not allowed to have a dog if it is:

- A restricted dog as defined by the Companion Animals Act (1998).
- Declared a dangerous dog by a Council or local Court under the Companion Animals Act (1998).

If you would like to keep a pet at your home you must first ask SCH for permission to do so. Generally, permission to keep a pet is considered prior to signing your lease with SCH. However, you can apply to keep a pet at your property at any time.

Your request to have a pet will be considered after you have agreed in writing to the requirements that are in the SCH Terms of Conditions for Permission to Allow Pets at the Property form that is available from your Housing Officer. You will need to provide evidence that all pets have been micro-chipped, vaccinated and desexed.

Tenants will only be given permission to keep either one cat or dog at the property. Additional pets of a smaller size (fish or birds) may be approved at the discretion of SCH.

Please speak to your Housing Officer on 1300 757 885 for further information.



HOW LONG WILL I HAVE TO WAIT?

When we receive your written application, your property will be assessed to determine if its suitable for the type of pet/s that you would like to have. SCH will also consider your capacity to care for the pet and maintain your tenancy.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

If you require support from an assistance animal, you will need to provide evidence of your disability and the type of assistance that is required. You will also need to provide a doctor's certificate that substantiates the need for your assistance animal. You will also need to provide the following evidence for your assistance animals:

- Accreditation (for example, an identity card, tag, pass or permit) issued by an organisation approved by Assistance Dogs International Inc.
- A Council or State government issued registration, access card, transport pass or permit.

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INSPECTIONS

Pets have to be restrained during property inspections and maintenance works. Permission to keep a pet may be withdrawn if the animal bites or menaces a staff member, contractor, another resident or a member of the community.

CAN I HAVE MY PET INSIDE THE PROPERTY?

Pets may only be kept inside if it is appropriate and does not adversely affect the property. You will be asked to pay for any damage that is caused by pets and to arrange professional cleaning and pest control if it is considered necessary by SCH staff.

NOISE AND NUISANCE

All tenants have a responsibility not to cause or permit a nuisance, and not to interfere with the peace, comfort, and privacy of their neighbours. If you have a pet that makes excessive noise, it is possible that this will result in a breach in your tenancy agreement.

Whether the noise is reasonable will depend on the circumstances, including frequency and the time of day. Other forms of nuisance may also occur, for example your dog may like chasing the neighbour or escaping from your yard. To avoid these issues please make sure that your home is appropriate for your pet, including reporting any necessary repairs to fences or gates.

REQUEST TO REMOVE A PET

SCH may request that your pet is removed from the property. Failure to remove a pet on request may result in action being taken through the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

REVIEW OF DECISIONS

Tenants may request an internal review of any decision that is made, in accordance with the SCH Complaints and Appeals policy .

DESEXING AND PET CARE

The RSPCA offers a range of services including low cost desexing, microchipping and vaccinations. Services are run in conjunction with local Councils and vets. To ensure resources are given to people who require it the most, pet owners will need to be able to provide proof of a valid Centrelink benefits card.

For more information please visit www.rspcansw.org.au/what-we-do/working-in-communities/outreach-animal-assistance-programs/

