

Information for residents - Pets

At Uniting, we know that a pet is an important part of a resident's life, and that it is important that pet owners understand the responsibilities to those pets and others in the community.

A pet means any animal except an assistance dog (a dog that is trained to perform tasks to support a person with a disability).

Can I have a pet?

We will consider applications to keep a pet in Uniting Housing. When we assess applications to keep a pet, we consider:

- any rule, like strata rules, that control pet ownership
- the type and number of animals. In most situations, Uniting will not permit more than two pets per household.
- the suitability and welfare of the animal
- the potential or history of the animal interfering with the reasonable peace, comfort, and privacy of neighbours
- professional advice, as appropriate

How do I apply to keep a pet?

Complete the [Pet request form](#) for each animal and follow the instructions on the form. Attach pictures of the animal and information that will help us make a decision.

If you keep a pet without permission, we may apply to VCAT for an order to exclude the pet from the premises.

What are my responsibilities if I keep a pet?

You must keep an animal as permitted by legislation. For example, Local Laws require you to register a dog or cat with the Local Authority (Council). You must comply with your Council's Local Laws about keeping pets.

You must not make alterations to your residence (e.g., a dog door) without permission from Uniting.

You must not allow your pet to damage property. You will have to pay for repairing damage your pet causes.

You must not allow your pet to annoy others – for example, by its noise, or by having the dog off lead outside your residence. Your pet must not become a health risk, for example, from fleas or attracting vermin, or by leaving poo.

We may withdraw permission to keep an animal if you break the rules.

