

Pet Policy

Introduction

Project Independence (PI) is committed to providing a living environment that gives all residents the opportunity to optimise their physical and mental wellbeing. We recognise that pets can enrich the lives of their owners but that this also has to be balanced against the interests of all residents at the PI homes.

This policy is framed by considerations as set out in the [ACT Residential Tenancies Act 1997](#), and the responsibilities of pet owners as set out in ACT Housing Guidelines [Animals and pets policy - Housing \(act.gov.au\)](#)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline a fair, consistent and transparent policy and the process for granting permission for residents to keep pets in their PI homes, as well as the possible removal of a pet if necessary.

Policy

Considering the diverse range of household pets and the potential for certain pets to disrupt the reasonable peace, company and privacy of other PI residents, PI will thoroughly evaluate each application to keep a pet based on its individual merits. Cats, dogs and other animals this size or larger will not be permitted due to the potential for noise interference, injury and allergies impacting both PI residents and staff members.

Other reasons for refusal of a pet may include unsuitability of the premises, potential endangerment of the applicant's or other residents' health, interference with the living arrangements of fellow residents, risk of property damage, or other legitimate objections raised by PI residents or staff at the same location.

Once accepted, a pet will be subject to an initial three-month trial period. During this period PI will assess the pet's behavior, the quality of care provided by the resident, the impact on other residents, and the adherence to established guidelines. At the conclusion of the trial period, PI will make a decision regarding the pet's continued presence on the premises.

If the pet is permitted to stay after the three-month trial period, PI reserves the right to revoke permission if, at any point, the pet's behaviors or the level of care provided by the resident deteriorates to the extent that it poses a risk to residents or the pet itself.

Furthermore, it is essential to bear in mind that this policy will be consistently applied to all residents, and due to practical considerations, having multiple pets in any single facility is not feasible.

Resident's Responsibilities:

A resident wishing to keep a pet should:

- Apply to PI to keep a pet on their premises, stating the reasons why. No pet may be kept at PI unless and until PI has approved the resident's application.
- Demonstrate that they have the adequate knowledge and skills to meet the care and welfare needs of the animal.
- Care for their pet in a humane way by not starving, physically harming, or keeping a pet in unsanitary conditions.



- Dispose of their pet's droppings appropriately by placing them in a bag and immediately disposing of them in an outside bin.
- Keep their pet in their own unit and/or courtyard and always keep it under control.
- Ensure that the pet is never taken into shared PI locations (indoor and outdoor) or into other resident's premises.
- Ensure that the pet does not disturb neighbours.
- Ensure the pet does not damage the premises on which it is kept.
- If damage does occur, then the resident is responsible for the cost of fixing this damage.

Project Independence Responsibilities:

Project Independence will:

- Consider all pet applications and refuse the application if there are reasonable grounds to do so. The CEO will be the final decision-maker in this process.
- Canvas the LIRC and residents of the house in which the pet will be located to ensure there are no objections.
- If a pet is accepted, PI will monitor its suitability during the three-month trial period and advise the resident of the decision made regarding the pet's continued presence when the trial period ends.
- If the pet is allowed to remain at the end of the trial period, PI will continue to monitor the situation, and advise the resident if there is concern about the pet's welfare or if objections or complaints about the pet are made by the LIRC or other PI residents.
- If issues of pet welfare, property damage and/or negative impact on the LIRC or other residents are unable to be resolved, then PI will reserve the right to request that the pet is removed from the PI residence.
- If a pet must be removed, PI will support the resident, to a reasonable extent, to ensure impact of this is minimised.

AUTHORISATION

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