

Pets Policy

Approved by SMT in June 2015

Purpose

This Policy outlines how Cairn will respond to requests from tenants to keep domestic pets in our properties.

Any request will be considered taking into consideration (as it applies to Domestic Pets):

- The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001.
- The Equality Act 2010.
- The Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.
- The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.
- The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

Scope

This policy concerns Customer Services staff and our tenants. This policy should be managed in conjunction with the Pets Procedure.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, domestic pets are defined as a dog, cat, bird, fish, rodent (such as gerbil, hamster or mouse), small non-poisonous reptile (such as an iguana, terrapin or tortoise) or non-poisonous amphibian (such as a newt). No other animal will be considered to be a domestic pet.

Policy

It is Cairn's policy to allow tenants to keep domestic pets subject to certain conditions. All tenants must apply in writing to their local office for permission to keep a domestic pet.

Conditions where permission will be refused:

(Unless after consultation residents of amenity or sheltered housing decide they wish to allow pets).

- (i) To keep a dog or a cat in any property unless it has individual access (that is, directly on to the street not shared with another dwelling) and a private garden.

- (ii) To keep a dog or cat in any amenity or sheltered housing unless other arrangements have been agreed by full consultation with all affected residents.

Condition where permission will be withdrawn:

- (iii) Where the pet is causing a nuisance or disturbance to other's action will be taken in accordance with our Antisocial Behaviour Policy & Procedures.
- (iv) We reserve the right to implement immediate refusal/withdrawal of permission if a pet causes injury to a visitor to the property (including staff and representatives of Cairn). However, depending on individual circumstances and the severity of the injury consideration can be given to implementing a first and final warning arrangement where the behaviour of the pet can be monitored.

Registered Assistance Dogs

Tenants or applicants for housing who are in need of a Registered Assistance Dog due to visual or aural impairment or any other physical disability or mental health problem will be classed as exceptions to part (i) and (ii) of this policy.

A Registered Assistance Dog is one supplied by a registered charity affiliated to Assistance Dogs UK.

Staff Visiting Properties

When staff or our representative visit a property and they deem a pet to be a nuisance or a danger to them they are at liberty to ask that the pet be removed to another room or if this is refused they can terminate the visit.

Repairs to Cairn Property

Where damage to our property can be attributed to a tenants pet the tenant will be recharged in accordance with our Recharge Repairs Policy & Procedures.

Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years.