



# Centacare Evolve Housing Fact Sheet

## Pets

At Centacare Evolve Housing we realise that pets are an important part of many people's lives. If you wish to keep a pet, you need to get permission first. We will only give permission if we believe that the type of home you live in is suitable for the type of pet you want. Some pets are suitable in most homes (like goldfish) while other pets have particular needs, such as a large dog needs a larger, fenced yard.

### **When might permission not be given?**

Permission may not be given if:

- Your home does not have an enclosed rear yard large enough for the type of animal
- The type or height of fencing is unsuitable for that pet
- The individual animal is considered to be dangerous by the local council
- The breeder of animal is listed as dangerous by local council
- Your home has body corporate rules that limit or prohibit the keeping of animals
- The animal prevents access to the services for the property (meter box)
- The keeping of the animal requires a kennel license. This varies from council to council but would normally apply to two or more animals.
- The animal/s are used for business, racing or breeding purposes of commercial nature. This may be a breach of the lease and you will need to discuss with us first.
- The animal is not a pet which is usually kept in a domestic setting, such as a horse or goat.
- There is a history of poor treatment of animals such as RSPCA involvement or abandonment.
- If the animal/s are not owned by the tenant or a household member. However, permission may be granted for a short term visit.

Centacare Evolve Housing will not refuse permission where the animal assists the tenant or a household member with a disability e.g. guide dog.

## What are my responsibilities if I keep a pet?

If we approve your request to keep a pet, you will need to:

- Have the animal registered with local council where required, and provide a copy of this registration to Centacare Evolve Housing.
- Comply with all legal obligations for keeping the pet (from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 this will include a dog aged 6 months or more being micro-chipped)
- Care for the animal in a satisfactory manner (this includes appropriate disposal of waste)
- Be responsible for controlling the animal at all times and ensure it does not:
  - disturb neighbours
  - become a nuisance or danger
  - cause damage to the property

We may revoke our permission for you to keep pets at any time with little notice. We may do this if we believe that you are not meeting your responsibilities. In extreme circumstances we can have pets removed from your property or we may seek to end your tenancy.

### Council Determination- Dangerous Dogs

Centacare Evolve Housing takes the safety of all members of the community seriously. The keeping of dangerous animals (particularly dogs) in residential areas is not seen as consistent with establishing and maintaining an inclusive family friendly community.

Where local council, under the *Dog Control Act 2000*, has served a public housing tenant with a Notice declaring their dog/s to be dangerous, Centacare Evolve Housing will generally not consent to the modifications required to facilitate the keeping of such dogs and will revoke permission to keep the dog at the property. Centacare Evolve Housing will report any breach regarding Council instructions by a tenant at the time.

### Does having a pet affect my application for housing?

No. But you may have to wait longer for a home to become available that suits your needs.

You may be offered homes that are not suitable for your pet. If you reject an offer because of your pet, this may be treated as an unreasonable rejection of housing, unless you need the pet to alleviate the effect of a disability (such as a guide dog).

### More information

If you would like further information about your responsibilities as a Centacare Evolve Housing tenant please refer to your Lease or contact us.