



Flintshire County Council

# Responsible Pet Ownership



# Responsible Pet Ownership

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## Introduction

Flintshire County Council recognises the value that pets can bring to a people, however, sometimes things go wrong, either because the pet causes a nuisance to others, or may be too much of a commitment for their owner.

This leaflet aims to give advice and guidance to tenants of the Council who may be thinking of getting a pet, and explains what the Council's policy is in relation to keeping pets and animals. We have also included information of where you can get advice and support for keeping pets.

It is the over-arching aim of the Council's approach to encourage responsible pet ownership and promote the welfare of animals.

## Tenancy Agreement

It is a requirement of the Tenancy Agreement that permission must be sought before getting a pet.

Permission will not be unreasonably withheld; however the council will need to consider a number of factors, such as whether your property is suitable for the type of pet or animal you want to keep.

It is also a requirement of the tenancy agreement that any pet or animal you do keep, should not be allowed to cause nuisance or annoyance. If it does, you may be asked to re-home your pet/animal, although we will always try to help you resolve any issues first.

## How to apply to keep a pet

We do not expect you to apply for permission to keep a small caged pet such as a hamster, or a gerbil, nor do you need permission to keep fish in a bowl or tank produced for domestic use.

## You do need permission to keep the following:

Cats, Dogs, Caged Birds, Snakes and other reptiles such as lizards, Poultry/Fowl and animals kept outside in a hutch or other animal shelter.

## Permission will not be given for certain types of animals, for example:

- Cattle
- Pigs
- Sheep
- Goats
- Horses
- Donkeys



### **Permission will not normally be given for:**

Any dogs specified in The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, the types of dogs specified are the Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro and the Dogo Argentino. (Any amendments to these can be obtained from DEFRA.)

Or

Any animals registered under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

### **Responsible Pet Ownership**

The Council will expect tenants with pets or animals to be responsible pet owners. Before getting a pet or animal, you should consider whether you are able to make this commitment.

It is worth carrying out research on the needs of the pet/animal you are considering, to ensure that you can look after it properly.

Permission to keep a pet will be subject to you agreeing to accept certain responsibilities and you will be advised of these if you are granted permission.

### **The following are examples of the kinds of conditions that the Council may attach to permission to keep a pet:**

- No breeding, boarding or selling of animals from a Council owned/managed dwelling
- Dogs must not be allowed to foul in public/communal areas, and if they do, it must be cleaned up straightaway.
- Pets must not be tethered or left unattended in communal spaces, hallways, balconies or communal gardens.
- Pets must not be left unattended for long periods.
- Pets should not be allowed to cause noise nuisance, for example dogs barking.
- It is a legal requirement that dogs must wear a collar with an ID tag. They should also be micro chipped for additional identification in case they escape, get lost or are stolen. Micro-chipping is also to become a legal requirement in Wales from April 2015.
- Animals should be looked after properly. This means they should be fed and watered regularly in line with their requirements, should be up to date with vaccinations, and treated for any illnesses, or infestations or problems with parasites, such as fleas, ticks, mites etc.
- You will be required to nominate someone who we can contact in the event that you are unable to look after your pet/animal, for example, if you are taken into hospital.





## **Things to consider before getting a pet or animal**

### **Cost**

Some pets can be costly to look after. You will need to consider their dietary requirements, and vets bills. Are you able to provide everything your pet/animal needs, or will the additional cost cause you financial hardship?

Who will look after your pet/animal if you go on holiday? Will you need to pay for boarding, and if so, can you afford this additional expenditure?

### **Your pet's environment**

What environment does your pet/animal need? Do you need to provide specialist equipment such as a tank for reptiles, a hutch for a rabbit or a coop for chicken? Do you have space? How much will it cost? What are the maintenance requirements?

### **Will your pet be lonely?**

Will you be out of the property for long periods leaving the animal on its own? Do you have any other animals to keep it company? Do you have children and will the pet be comfortable around children and them around it?

### **Food and Diet**

Feeding pets and animals can be expensive. Are you able to provide a well balanced diet to keep your pet healthy? Do you know how much it will cost to feed your pet?

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## Animal Behaviour

Will you be able to ensure your pet is able to behave normally? For instance a dog needs regular exercise and to be socialised to other dogs. Will you have the time to train your dog? Most animals enjoy playing with other animals or toys.

## Health and Welfare

It is a legal requirement that you make sure that your pet is protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. Can you ensure that they have access to a vet for regular checks and vaccinations? If your pet is female you may need to ensure that you have it neutered to prevent breeding.

## Identification

If you have a dog, you will need to ensure that it is micro chipped for identification purposes. You should also ensure that your dog has a collar with identification. Contact your local housing office for details on where you can get your dog micro-chipped.

## When you aren't around

Consider who will look after your pet when you are out for long periods, on holiday etc. When applying for permission to keep a pet or animal, you will need to provide the details of a nominated person that will take care of your pets/animals in the event of an emergency, for example, if you are taken into hospital.



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### Useful contacts for advice and assistance

#### RSPCA

A charity which investigates complaints of cruelty and neglect. They run animal hospitals and clinics for low income households. They run centres which house dogs looking for new homes. They also provide general animal care and welfare advice, and campaign on animal welfare issues. They may provide financial assistance with neutering animals.

**Tel: 0300 1234 555**

**[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)**

**24 hour National Cruelty and Advice Line: 0300 1234 999**

#### DogsTrust

A dog welfare charity providing advice on all aspects of dog ownership. It runs 15 centres for dogs looking for new homes. It campaigns on animal welfare issues, and runs education programmes. It subsidises neutering and provides free micro-chipping in certain areas.

**Tel: 020 7837 0006**

**[www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)**

#### Cats Protection

A charity which provides advice on cat care, it runs a rescue service and a service to find new homes for cats. It may provide financial assistance with neutering cats.

**Tel: 03000 12 12 12**

**[www.cats.org.uk](http://www.cats.org.uk)**

#### PDSA

A charity which runs animal clinics to provide veterinary care for sick animals owned by low income households.

**Tel: 01952 290999**

**[www.pdsa.org.uk](http://www.pdsa.org.uk)**

#### The CinnamonTrust

An organisation that helps older people keep their pets with them for longer by organising walks for them if you are ill, fostering them if you have to go into hospital or finding a good home for them if you die and there is no one else to care for them.

**Tel: 01736 757900**

**[www.cinamon.org.uk](http://www.cinamon.org.uk)**

#### Neighbourhood Housing Officer –

Telephone our Contact centre on **01352 701500**

**[www.flintshire.gov.uk](http://www.flintshire.gov.uk)**



## Application to keep a pet or animal in your council home

**Please note that permission is not granted until you receive written confirmation from the Council.**

If permission is granted, it will be subject to terms and conditions relevant to the type of pet or animal you are proposing to keep.

### Your details

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of accommodation where the pet or pets will be kept:  
(eg. Two-bedroom ground-floor flat)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does the property have direct access to its own garden? Yes/No

Does the property have direct access to a shared garden or open space? Yes/No

Have you or any member of your household ever been denied permission to keep a pet in the past? Yes/No

Have you or any member of your household ever been prosecuted for any offence against an animal? Yes/No



## Application to keep a pet or animal in your council home

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### Details of Pet or Animal you wish to keep

Type of pet/animal:

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Numbers of each type of pet/animal you want to keep:

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Please state the breed or type:

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For female pets/animals, please say what you have done / will do to prevent breeding:

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Please provide details of someone who would be prepared to look after your pets/ animals if you were unable to, for example in an emergency:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone Number:

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## Application to keep a pet or animal in your council home

\*Can you meet the welfare needs of the animal(s) / pet(s) by providing suitable accommodation and any specialist equipment they may need?

Yes/No

Any comments:

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If you have already obtained your pet, please provide details of their micro-chip number, pets name and a photograph (these can be provided at a later date if you are unable to provide these details yet).

### Declaration

By making this application to keep a pet, I can confirm that I have read and fully understood the “Responsible Pet Ownership: A Guide for Flintshire County Council Tenants” leaflet and I understand my responsibilities under my tenancy agreement.

I confirm that I will keep to the following conditions:

1. I understand that I am fully responsible for the care, welfare and behaviour of my pets and will make sure that they do not cause any nuisance or distress to my neighbours or others, (for example, if I have a dog, I will not allow it to bark for long periods, I will clean up any mess it makes, and I will not allow it to cause damage to property).
2. If I have applied to keep a dog, I understand that I must microchip it so that it can be identified if it goes missing.
3. I will understand that breeding is prohibited and will consider neutering my animal to pre-vent unwanted babies. [details of subsidised schemes for customers in receipt of means test-ed benefits can be obtained from the Neighbourhood Housing Team]
4. I will look after my pet/animal properly by giving it a proper diet (food and water), making sure it is free from pain, suffering, injury or disease and making sure it gets regular exercise.



## Application to keep a pet or animal in your council home

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5. I will make sure that my pet/animal has somewhere suitable to live and will prevent it from escaping into neighbouring properties or shared areas. My pet/animal will not be allowed to roam in shared areas.
6. I will make sure that if my pet/animal fouls in any shared or public areas, or in my own garden, I will clear this up immediately and dispose of it appropriately (for example, by flushing it down the toilet). I will not just leave it or put it in the bin.
7. I understand that I will have to pay for any damage caused by my pet. This includes damage to your property (for example, the cost of treatment to get rid of fleas or other pests and the cost of repairing any damage caused to my property, garden or shared areas as a result of not clearing up after my pet).
8. I can confirm that I (and all other members of my household) have never been denied permission to keep a pet, and have never been prosecuted for an offence against an animal.
9. I understand that you have the right to withdraw permission to keep a pet and that irresponsible pet owners will not be allowed to keep any pets in your properties and may be reported to the RSPCA.
10. I understand that you may give my details to local veterinary practices and the RSPCA so they can give me information about caring for my pet. I give you permission to do this.

Print full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

We aim to respond to applications with 15 working days. If you need a response sooner, please explain why:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your completed form to:  
Neighbourhood Housing Team, Flintshire County Council,  
Chapel Street, Flint, Flintshire, CH6 5BD**

