

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to describe EACH Housing's approach to managing and accessing renter applications for permission to keep a pet.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 Applying for permission to keep a pet

All renters of EACH Housing Ltd are entitled to apply for permission to keep a pet. In most instances applications to keep pets will be approved. EHL recognises the valuable contribution that pets make to the lives of their owners and that keeping a pet is an important part of feeling at home.

2.2 EHL Considerations

When assessing applications to keep a pet, EHL staff will consider:

- The type of animal
- If the property is suitable for the animal
- If the animal is medically deemed an 'assistance or service animal' that aids people living with a disability
- The potential or history of the animal interfering with the reasonable peace, comfort, and privacy of neighbours

It will not be possible for EHL to give permission to renters to keep a pet if the property is not owned by EHL. An example is where they are governed by strata by-laws which ban pet ownership and/or require third party permission, or where the property is in a head leased arrangement with EHL.

EHL cannot give permission to residents to keep a restricted dog as defined by the Companion Animals Act, or a dog that has been declared as dangerous by a local council or a local court. In most situations, permission will not be given to renters to keep more than two pets per household. All dogs must be kept on a leash when in the common areas of any EHL building.

2.3 Inside Pets

Renters who live with pets may be required to steam clean carpets and to fumigate their apartment annually, and/or when they leave.

2.4 Nuisance Pets

If permission to keep a pet has been given, and the pet goes on to cause nuisance or annoyance to neighbours, EHL may withdraw permission to keep the pet.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Assistance or Service Animal - A service animal is any **dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability**, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained, or untrained, are not considered service animals.

4.0 DOCUMENT OWNER

The Operations Manager, EHL is the subject matter expert and person responsible for this document review.

5.0 REFERENCES AND RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Domestic Animals Act 1994
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Human Rights Commission
- Pet Request Form
- Consumer Affairs
- Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (Vic)
- Housing Registrar (Vic) Performance Standards