

| Pet Policy

DOCUMENT APPROVAL

Approval date: 13 April 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanne Denley', written in a cursive style.

Joanne Denley
Chair, Minda Housing Limited Board

Pet Policy

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Pet Policy

1. POLICY PURPOSE

This Policy provides the criteria for MHL assessing a tenant's application for a pet.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to all MHL Tenant Pet applications. Assistance animals are considered exempt under this policy.

Pets defined by this policy include animals such as fish, birds and larger domestic animals such as cats and dogs.

3. POLICY OVERVIEW

We recognise that all people with disability have human and legal rights which should be respected at all times. We promote and protect those rights as an integral component of each and all of our services.

MHL recognises that pet ownership is valued by many of MHL tenants and this policy seeks to encourage responsible pet ownership where this is possible.

4. POLICY

4.1. Application

- No pets are allowed in MHL properties without written approval
- A request to keep a pet in an MHL property must be in writing by way of the MHL 'Pet Request Application' form
- The Pet Request Application form must be fully completed and signed accordingly

4.2. Assessment

- The request will be reviewed and approved or declined by the MHL Tenancy Team
- MHL will provide a response to all fully completed Pet Request Applications, within 14 days of receipt by MHL
- The tenant must live alone or have written consent and acceptance from all other household members if residing with others;
- The tenant/s must have capacity to care for the animal themselves and/or SIL supports in place to facilitate care for the animal – ordinarily the applicant will engage with SIL to work through any additional requirements and seek confirmation of SIL support in this activity;
- The property must support the requested animal type (for example adequate outdoor space; upstairs units will be unlikely to support dogs);
- For Brighton Site residents, additional consideration may be given to known neighbouring tenants and their needs; and
- A independent party must be nominated and accept responsibility for care and collection of the pet if the tenant needs to vacate (temporarily or permanently).

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4.3. Approval

- Approval will depend on the suitability of the property to keep a particular pet and will require the written agreement of all household residents and any authorised representative/s
- Additional considerations will be taken into account by MHL such as capacity to adequately care for the requested pet. MHL will make reasonable enquiries to determine capacity to care for the pet, including any external agreement from the tenant's SIL provider if required
- Where a pet is approved by MHL, the tenant will be required to complete an 'MHL Pet Agreement' and attach a photo of the pet to the agreement

5. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

- Residential Tenancies Act 1995
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 – 54A Assistance animals

6. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- MHL Pet Request Application Form
- MHL Pet Agreement
- MHL Tenant Handbook
- MHL Residential Tenancy Agreement
- Practice Excellence Policy – Rights and Responsibilities for Clients