

## Keeping pets in public housing

Pets are an important part of the lives of many people. The department allows pets, but there are some rules that must be followed when you have pets living at your premises.

### Rules for keeping pets

You can keep pets at your premises, as long as:

- pets do not prevent lawful access to the premises
- pets do not cause a nuisance or are a danger to others
- pets do not cause damage to the premises
- you comply with local council bylaws for pets
- you look after your pet's welfare and safety
- pets are registered and have relevant certificates
- pets are allowed by the body corporate, where applicable.

The department must give approval for any cages, fencing or structural housing for your pets. You also need to get approval before you start building or making changes to the property for your pets. Any structure you build must comply with council bylaws.

Each local council in the Northern Territory has its own bylaws. These bylaws have information about the number and type of animals you can keep as pets.

### Livestock in public housing

You cannot keep livestock in public housing. This includes any animals declared as livestock by Gazette notice and the following:

- crocodiles
- cattle, horses and buffalo
- camel, sheep and goats
- pigs, including wild pigs
- deer, llamas and alpacas
- poultry and honey bees.

### Animals for money

The department must give approval for you to breed or keep animals that are going to be



used for business purposes or to make money from. Further to this, approval is required before starting any business activity.

### Looking after your pet

It is important to look after your pets and ensure they are safe and cared for.

The minimal level of care required for your pet is that the animal:

- has appropriate and sufficient food and water
- has appropriate shelter/accommodation and living conditions
- is appropriately treated if sick or injured
- is handled or worked only in ways that are appropriate.

### You must not:

- use your pet in organised animal fights
- confine or restrain your pet in a way that causes it harm
- abandon your pet.

The department will make a formal report in response to any concerns about a pet that is at risk of dangerous care by its owner.

The appropriate authority will be notified and may remove the pet from the premises. You may be responsible for the cost of removing and caring for your pet after it has been removed.

### Complaints about pets

The department will investigate all complaints about pets and work with you to help solve any concerns.

Complaints about dangerous or nuisance behaviour may be referred to the appropriate authority.

### Damage caused by pets

You are responsible for how your pet behaves while in your care. This includes any damage your pet makes to the premises.

You are responsible for the repairs and costs of any damage caused by a pet.

You also have a responsibility to make sure your pet does not continue to cause damage to the premises. This may include protecting any areas your pet can access.

### Where can I get more information?

For more information contact your local Housing office:

Greater Darwin	8999 8814
Nhulunbuy	8987 0533
Arafura Region	8995 5122
Tennant Creek	8962 4497
Katherine	8973 8513
Palmerston	8999 4767
Alice Springs	8951 5344

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