

Housing

**SQUARED**



**Your  
pets**

# Pets at Squared



We recognise the enormous benefits pets bring and will not unreasonably withhold permission for them to be kept in our **Homes for Independant Living** properties. However we need to make sure that tenants look after pets responsibly and prevent them from causing a nuisance to others.

We have conditions attached to keeping a pet in our properties which are outlined in this document.

Please read these carefully to make sure you can meet them before applying for permission. If you fail to keep to these conditions, permission for your pet may with withdrawn and you may be subject to action against your tenancy.

**Before you get a pet, you need to be very sure that you can meet its needs.**



# What are my legal obligations?

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes owners responsible for ensuring their animals' welfare needs are met.

These include the need:

- For a suitable environment (place to live)
- For a suitable diet
- To exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- To be housed with or apart from other animals (if applicable)
- To be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease

Anyone who is cruel to an animal or does not provide for its welfare needs may be banned from owning animals, fined up to £20,000 and/or sent to prison.



# Can you afford it?

Looking after a dog or cat can involve a significant financial commitment, including food, equipment, vet bills and medicine. It has been estimated in recent years that the average annual spend can be around £1,183 on a pet dog and £1,028 on a cat. Allowing for an average lifespan of six to 18 years, the total cost of pet ownership adds up.

As well as the above you need to factor in the yearly vaccination costs which can be around £50 as well as flea and worming products which can cost around £10 each month.

Most people now have pet insurance to cover the cost of any unforeseen medical bills, you should research into whether you can afford this.

You should also consider how you will exercise your pet, who will look after your pet if you are unwell, holiday arrangements, and things like extra cleaning in your home.

# Recommendations and conditions



1. We do not permit pet breeding in our properties and strongly recommend that you have your pet neutered. Please speak to your local vet to find out how much this will cost before you get a pet to ensure you can afford it. There are an enormous number of unwanted pets and neutering helps control this problem. As well as helping to prevent unnecessary suffering to abandoned pets neutering provides numerous health benefits to pets. A vet can explain this to you.

2. If you have not yet chosen a pet please consider adopting from one of the many rescue societies in the area. Adopting has many benefits for you and your pet. You can also consider fostering from rescue societies if you are considering getting a pet. Usually if you foster you will be expected to buy food but all other costs relating to the pet will be covered.

3. The law requires that all dogs must be microchipped and we recommend that cats are chipped too. There is a small cost to this which you should investigate prior to getting a pet, however some charities such as the Dogs Trust will microchip your dog for free. Micro-chipping makes it easier to reunite a pet with their owner if it is lost or stolen. Dogs must also legally wear a collar with a tag displaying their owners name and contact details at all times when they are outside.

4. If you have a dog you must put it on a lead before you leave your property and not let it run free in shared hallways or shared garden areas. If you have a private garden, it is your responsibility to make sure your dog does not get out.
5. You must obey the laws relating to animal care and control. For dogs this means picking up their faeces immediately, and keeping proper control over the dog at all times.
6. You must care for your pet by ensuring that it is given adequate nutrition, veterinary care (consider pet insurance to help with unforeseen costs) when needed, is not left alone for long periods of time and is exercised appropriately.
7. You must ensure your pet is regularly treated for fleas to protect the pet and the property from infestation. If your property is infested with fleas you would be expected to cover the cost of any treatment.
8. If your pet causes a nuisance, such as prolonged barking or chewing, we will expect you to resolve this using humane methods within a reasonable period.
9. We require you to give us the name and address of someone who will take over the care of your pet if you are temporarily unable, and also require details of your vet.

## **Squared**

Bramingham Business Centre  
Unit B2, Enterprise Way  
Luton  
Bedfordshire  
LU3 4BU

**T** 01582 391 053

**E** [office@squared.org.uk](mailto:office@squared.org.uk)

## **Homes with Support Squared**

63 Inkerman Street  
Luton  
Bedfordshire  
LU1 1JD

**Follow us**

