

Appendix 3

I looked at the policies of about eight other social landlords which were recommended by the RSPCA as exhibiting good practice: there was some common ground in all the policies looked at; all obliged residents to apply for permission before they get a pet (with the exception sometimes of very small ones like fish, or insects).

Most of their pet policies state that they are supportive of pet ownership. They all prohibit the keeping of animals banned in law; i.e., breeds of dogs specified in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

Some prohibit the keeping of farm animals; others prohibit "exotic pets". And some prohibit certain types of pet depending on the type of dwelling that someone lives in.

Places for People Housing Association state that "in flats with communal entrance and passage ways, pets such as cats and dogs are not usually allowed".

Tendring District Council say they will "usually grant permission to keep dogs and cats in flats only if they have direct access to an outdoor space".

Eastland Homes Housing Association will "not permit dogs in high rise flats". They also will not permit any pets to be kept in sheltered blocks other than birds and other small caged animals.

Sometimes, policies state maximum permitted numbers: Tendring say they "nearly always" limit the number of dogs to one, and the number of cats to two.

Wolverhampton Homes state that "the keeping of animals should be restricted to one cat and one dog or two cats or two small dogs"

Some social landlords prohibit pet breeding.

Wolverhampton Homes state that they do not allow "commercial or non-commercial breeding and/or the selling of animals from the property"

Blackpool Coastal Housing state that tenants "must not breed animals in your home". They state that they "may request that dogs are neutered" if they are causing a nuisance. They also oblige dog owners to micro chip their dogs before permission will be given.

Wandsworth also state that residents are “not permitted to cause nuisance by breeding their animals”

Wandsworth introduced compulsory dog micro chipping in 2006 to address irresponsible dog ownership, straying and fouling. The number of stray dogs being reunited with their owners has risen from 43% in 2007/8 to 65% in 2010/11, which has saved the local authority kennelling costs.