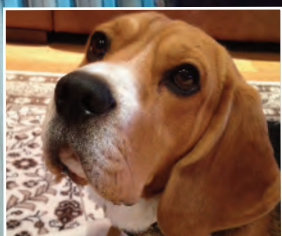


# Keeping Pets in your council home

Permission to keep a pet in your home



Winchester  
City Council

A tenant or anyone residing with the tenant is not permitted to keep a pet at the property without first obtaining our written permission. Although we appreciate the benefits that many people have by keeping pets, we need to strike a balance as not all of our properties may be suitable for all kinds of pets. This is why we require all tenants to apply for permission first so we can consider their particular circumstances and whether the type of pet is acceptable.

We understand how much fun and happiness a pet can bring, and want to help people to be responsible pet owners. Our Pet Policy has been designed to ensure people's lifestyles and homes are suitable for a pet, with the welfare of the animals always at the forefront of everyone's minds.

You must take such steps as are reasonable to ensure that the needs of the pet are met to the extent required by good practice. This includes the following:

- The need for a suitable environment
- The need for a suitable diet
- The need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- Any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
- The need to be protected from suffering, injury and disease
- If a dog is left howling while the owners are out, this would be considered a nuisance to neighbours. If this is continual you could lose the right to keep a dog.



If we believe you have breached this term then in addition to tenancy action we may take, we may also report you to the RSPCA.

## Fouling

Pets must not be allowed to foul inside the property, except for caged pets and pets trained to use a litter tray. Any pet faeces must be removed immediately from the garden or outside areas and disposed of safely and hygienically.



## Damage

- The pet must not damage the property or communal areas. If it does, in addition to any other enforcement action we may take, you will be responsible for paying for the repair.
- You must not allow your property to become unhygienic.

In addition to any other enforcement action we may take, permission may be withdrawn at any time if any of the terms the Policy and / or the conditions of the Tenancy Agreement are not complied with.

Permission will not be granted (or if already granted it shall be withdrawn) if you are disqualified from having custody of an animal.

Permission will not be unreasonably withheld, delayed or withdrawn. Each application will be treated on its own merits having regard to things such as:

- The type of home you live in
- Species, size and number of pets
- The size of garden
- Your history of keeping a pet

Permission for a dog will not be granted unless it has been micro-chipped. You must provide written confirmation that this has been carried out and supply the identification number, ensuring your details are kept up to date on the microchip database.

## You don't need permission for:

- A registered assistance dog
- A reasonable number of small caged birds and small animals (such as hamsters and gerbils)
- A reasonable number of fish contained in a tank not exceeding 33 gallons (155 litres)

If you are in doubt whether you need to apply for permission, or what we would regard as 'reasonable', please make the application and we will tell you.

Contact your Area Housing Manager or  
Winchester City Council

Tel: 01962 848 400

Email: [housing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:housing@winchester.gov.uk)  
[www.winchester.gov.uk/petpolicy](http://www.winchester.gov.uk/petpolicy)



If you have any particular needs which affect how you are able to use or be involved in our services or how you would like to receive information for example translation, interpreters, Braille, audio tape, large print, sign language - please contact the Customer Service Centre either by

**telephone 01962 840 222**

or by **email [customerservice@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:customerservice@winchester.gov.uk)**