

FOI REF:	16917
RESPONSE SENT:	23/04/26

Request

1. Does your council accommodate pets (excluding guide dogs and trained assistance animals) in council provided / arranged temporary accommodation?
2. Does your council accommodate pets (excluding guide dogs and trained assistance animals) in council provided / arranged emergency accommodation (specifically for people who are considered legally homeless / threatened with homelessness)?
3. Are your responses to questions one and two formalised council policies?
4. Does your council work with any partners on the provision of pet-friendly temporary or emergency accommodation, OR has your council worked with any partners on the provision of pet-friendly temporary or emergency accommodation at any point since 1st January 2023 and now?
5. Does your council (at the time of writing) work with AT LEAST ONE temporary or emergency accommodation provider that will accept pets (not taking into account whether they are available / have vacancies at the present time)?

Response

Winchester City Council is currently in the process of updating its Pet Policy. The existing policy (last formally updated in 2018) remains in place, however a revised Pet Permissions Policy is currently in its second phase of consultation and is expected to be finalised in May / June 2026.

Therefore, the questions have been answered based on the current position, with clarification where the updated policy will strengthen or formalise our approach.

1. Pets may be permitted in council-managed housing subject to prior written permissions and suitability of the property.

For temporary accommodation, the current approach is more restrictive. Pets are not routinely accommodated, and decisions are made on a case-by-case basis depending on the type of accommodation, risk, and suitability.

2. As with temporary accommodation, pets are not routinely accommodated in emergency accommodation.



Provision is dependent on availability and suitability of accommodation and is considered on a case-by-case basis. In many instances, due to the nature of emergency and short-term placements (e.g. shared or nightly-paid accommodation), it may not be possible to accommodate pets.

3. The current (2018) Pet Policy primarily relates to permanent council housing and does not explicitly formalise the council's approach to pets in temporary or emergency accommodation.

However, the draft, updated, Pet Permission Policy (currently in consultation) does formalise this position. It explicitly states that:

Pets in temporary accommodation are subject to stricter controls.

Permissions may be refused where risks cannot be appropriately managed

Decisions are based on property type, shared facilities, contractual arrangements, and welfare considerations.

4. Housing Services work with a range of accommodation providers to meet temporary and emergency housing needs.

While there is no formal or exclusive partnership specifically for pet-friendly accommodation, some providers may accept pets on a case-by-case basis, depending on their own policies and property types.

5. Yes, while not guaranteed or consistently available, there are accommodation providers within our supply chain that may accept pets, subject to availability and their individual policies.

