

PETS FACTSHEET



Owning pets

Pets play a valuable role in the lives of their owners and can bring a variety of physical and mental health benefits as members of the family.

WHL generally accepts pets in all programs, apart from the Rooming House Program.

How to apply for a pet

Renters must complete the Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) Pet Request Form. This can be found on the CAV website or from your Tenancy Officer. After submitting this, your Tenancy Officer will provide a written response within 14 days.

WHL will consider:

- Type / size of property
- Type / size of pet
- Length of rental agreement
- Potential for property damage

What the law says

- WHL cannot unreasonably refuse a pet
- If a Tenancy Officer believes a pet is not suitable for the property, they will apply to VCAT within 14 days of receive the formal request
- VCAT will decide whether or not the pet is suitable for the property
- Renters who do not comply with VCAT orders that exclude pets may be issued a Notice to Vacate
- WHL will only attempt to exclude pets with careful consideration and in the best interests of the renter, the animal, neighbours or the property

Rights and responsibilities

- All cats and dogs must be microchipped and registered with the local council
- Renters are responsible for ensuring pets do not cause damage to properties or nuisance/danger to neighbours
- Renters must manage animal waste appropriately
- Renters may need to have carpets professionally cleaned if odour of damage exists at the end of a tenancy

**Ask your
Tenancy
Officer for a
Pet
Application
Form before
bringing your
pet home**