

## **PET POLICY**

### **Introduction**

AHA recognises that pets can have a very positive effect on people's lives and can provide companionship and enjoyment for a great many people. We wish to support residents to be responsible pet owners and therefore do not impose unnecessary restrictions on pet ownership. Equally however we know that pets are expensive to look after and if not cared for correctly can cause damage to properties and be a nuisance and danger to other residents.

AHA's policy aims to strike a balance so that responsible residents can enjoy the benefits of pet ownership but this is not an automatic right and permission will be withdrawn should owners not behave responsibly.

This policy covers the following issues

- What pets can be kept and in what circumstances
- The action AHA will take when pets are kept inappropriately or cause a nuisance to neighbours.

### **1. Applicants applying for Social Housing**

- a. Applicants for housing are asked to indicate on their application form if they intend to keep a pet. This will not prejudice their application unless they plan to keep a pet for which permission will not be granted. If this is the case the matter must be resolved before an offer of accommodation is made.

### **2. Pet ownership not needing permission from AHA**

- a. AHA permits tenants to keep a small number of pets without having to seek official permission from us. For example Rabbits, Guinea pigs, Mice, Dwarf hamsters or small caged birds e.g. Finches, Budgies or Canaries. This is only permission for a maximum of 1 or 2 small pets and permission is not granted for multiple small pets.
- b. Appendix 1 shows a full list of which animals are allowed without permission and in what numbers. It also clearly identifies animals which will not be permitted under any circumstances. This list has been drawn up in partnership with the States of Guernsey Veterinary Officer. Tenants are only permitted to have one type of pet from any one category. Should you want more than two small pets in total from any category you must seek permission from AHA.

### **3. Obtaining permission for other pets such as a cat or dog**

- a. Anyone wishing to get a cat or a dog or a pet not on Appendix 1 would need to complete an application form requesting permission from AHA.
- b. If necessary AHA will seek advice from animal welfare agencies and The States of Guernsey Veterinary Officer but the decision as to whether permission will be granted will be with AHA as the landlord of the property.

### **4. Permission will be granted if the:**

- a. Animal is suitable for the size of the property. To clarify; permission will not be granted for a dog unless there is an outside area, garden or balcony. House cats are permitted in flats, as long as they are kept within the property, and not allowed to roam in the communal areas.
- b. States Veterinary Officer agrees in writing to the AHA that the property is suitable for the animal.

- c. Space needed to keep the pet does not detract from the primary use of the property.
- d. Breed of dog is on the AHA list of acceptable dogs Appendix 2
- e. Animal is kept on a leash in communal areas.
- f. Animal is not a farm animal for example chickens or a pig.
- g. Owner has the correct licence and/or permission from the States Veterinary Officer if required.
- h. Potential owner has not been found guilty or been suspected of causing cruelty and neglect to an animal in the past.
- i. Tenant is able to care for the pet (if for example through poor mobility or health the tenant is unable to care for the pet the tenant will need to make arrangements for the pet to be cared for).
- j. Tenant does not owe AHA any money, has not fallen into rent arrears in the last 3 months and has a good history of rent payment.
- k. Animal will receive regular treatment to avoid the risk of infestation in the property from fleas and other insects.
- l. Animal does not pose any risk or danger to other residents.
- m. Animal does not cause nuisance by excessive noise (barking, whining, howling or squealing).
- n. Animal is not allowed to roam unattended and is kept under control (excluding cats).  
~~Animal is not left tied up.~~
- o. Animal does not foul in neighbouring gardens or in communal areas on the estate.
- p. Owner immediately clears up after their animal and bags up and discards appropriately any animal excrement either in a designated bin or takes it home to dispose of.
- q. Keeping of the animal does not cause unpleasant odours for neighbouring properties.
- r. The animal has been micro chipped.
- s. The animal is neutered or will be neutered by a qualified Vet as it reaches an appropriate age for neutering.
- t. Pets shall not be kept or bred for any commercial purposes.
- u. Tenant does not already have 2 dogs or 2 cats or a cat and a dog.

**5. Should these conditions not be kept to:**

- a. AHA will withdraw consent for any pet(s) should:
  - Any of the above conditions be breached or
  - Where the keeping of such pets results in a breach of the tenancy or licence agreement
- b. Should the tenant breach these conditions AHA will commence legal action to repossess the property.

<b>Date Approved:</b> March 2021	<b>Date for Review:</b> March 2023
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# APPLICATION TO ACCOMMODATE A PET

**COMPLETING THIS FORM DOES NOT GUARANTEE PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED. YOU MUST HAVE RECEIVED PERMISSION FROM AHA BEFORE YOU OBTAIN OR KEEP AT YOUR PREMISES ANY PET /ANIMAL.**

Please read the enclosed AHA Pet Policy prior to completing and returning this form to AHA for a decision.

Tenant's Name: ..... Joint Tenant's Name: .....

Address: .....

If you already have a pet please provide details below. Do you have permission to keep this pet? **YES / NO**

TYPE AND BREED OF ANIMAL	GENDER	AGE	WHERE IS THE ANIMAL KEPT	HOW LONG HAS THE ANIMAL LIVED WITH YOU	IS THE ANIMAL TRAINED ASSISTANCE I.E. HEARING DOG

Please provide details of the pet for which permission is being requested:

TYPE AND BREED OF ANIMAL	GENDER	AGE	WHERE WILL THE ANIMAL BE KEPT	DATE YOU WISH TO OBTAIN THE ANIMAL	IS THE ANIMAL TRAINED ASSISTANCE I.E. HEARING DOG

Where is the above animal(s) currently being kept? .....

If you are requesting permission to obtain a cat or dog please answer the following questions by circling the correct answer (documentation may be requested). **Please note before AHA can grant formal permission to accommodate a cat or dog, a home check should be carried out by a recognised animal welfare agency.**

Has the animal been or will the animal be neutered / spayed? **YES / NO**

Do you / will you have a Licence (*if required*) to keep the animal? **YES / NO**

Is the animal or will the animal be micro chipped? **YES / NO**

*Please attach confirmation documents for the above with this application if already obtained, or within two weeks from the date you obtain the animal. If the animal is a kitten/puppy you will need to provide confirmation when the animal has been neutered/spayed.*

If you have answered NO to any of the above questions please give a detailed explanation: .....

.....

Which veterinary practice is/will your animal be registered with? .....

***I/We do hereby declare that details provided are true and correct and confirm that if permission is granted to keep an animal I/We acknowledge that I/We have read and fully understand the conditions of the Pet Policy and agree to be bound by them and any obligations as a pet owner in extra care housing. I/We also acknowledge as part of this application AHA may share and continue to share information provided to all relevant organisations such as: the States of Alderney, Alderney Police, Local Veterinary Clinics, Animal Welfare Organisations etc***

Signed: ..... Signed: ..... Date: .....  
 (Tenant) (Joint Tenant)

## Appendix 1

The tables below indicate various categories of animals that tenants/license holders may be looking to keep as a small pet. The pets high-lighted in green do not need permission as long as the tenant/license holder complies with the maximum number and that where required they are neutered.

Tenants/License holders are only permitted 1 option from any section without asking for permission. Should tenants wish to keep multiple pets they would need to obtain permission from AHA.

The tables indicate the maximum number allowed and the maximum number of cages.

**Rodents** - Female rabbits and guinea pigs should be neutered for health reasons and to prevent breeding.

Rodent size	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Extra small
Examples	Giant rabbit	Rabbits	Chipmunks	Rats	Dwarf hamsters
		Dwarf rabbits	Chinchilla	Gerbil	Mice
		Guinea pigs (out doors only)	Degu	Hamster (1)	
Maximum number in this category	4	4	4	4 Only 1 hamster	4
Maximum number of cages	2	2	2	2 for rats/gerbils 1 cage for a hamster	2
Where they must be kept	Outdoors + neutered	Outdoor/indoor + neutered	In/outdoor large cage required	Rats and gerbils need larger cages	Indoors

**Birds** – many exotic birds are protected under the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) regulation. Those highlighted in red are not permitted.

Bird Size	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Extra - Small
Examples	Macaw	Amazons	Large Parakeets	Cockatiels	Finches
	Large Cockatoos	Small cockatoos	Small Conures	Budgies	Canaries
	Eclectus Parrot	African grey	Pionus Parrots	Lovebirds	
	Peafowl	Large conures	Lories and Lorikeets	Parrotlets	
		Mini- Macaws not permitted			
Maximum number	Not permitted	2	2	2	6
Maximum number of cages	None	2	2	2	3
NOTE	Not permitted too loud	Mini Macaws not permitted			

**Reptiles and amphibians** – tenants applying to keep reptiles and amphibians may require a licence to do so. Many exotic species of reptiles and amphibians are protected under the CITES regulation. Extra-large and large reptiles will not be permitted. Those highlighted in red are not permitted.

Reptile/amphibian size	Extra large	large	medium	Small	Extra-small
Examples	Iguana	Monitor lizard	Royal python	Chinese Water Dragon	Brown anole
	Python	Tegus	Bearded Dragon	Corn snake	
	Boa	Snapping turtles	Rat Snake	Hognose snake	
			Kingsnake	Geckos	Geckos
			Chameleons (2)	Chameleons	
			Tortoise	Frogs/Toads	
			Musk Turtles and Terrapins	Blue- tongue Skinks	
Maximum number in this category (not including hatchlings and juveniles)	0		Only 1 snake in this category 2 of others.	2	2
Maximum number of Vivarium ( indoor enclosure such as an aquarium or tank)	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	2	2	2
				Only locally bred frogs/toads due to disease in the UK	

**Invertebrate** – many exotic species of Invertebrate are protected under the CITES regulation. No spiders and Scorpions will be permitted. Those highlighted in red are not permitted.

Invertebrate	Spiders / Scorpions	Mandtids cockroaches	Millipedes Stick Insects	Land crab	Land snails
Examples	Emperor Scorpions	Praying Mantis	Indian Stick Insects	Land hermit crabs	Giant African Land snails
	Chilean Rose Tarantulas	Madagascar hissing cockroach	Jungle Nymphs		
			African Giant Millipedes		
Maximum number in this category	NOT PERMITTED	6	6	2	2
Maximum number of tanks	NOT PERMITTED	2	2	2	1
Notes	Venomous not permitted			Keep with companions of their own size	

## Appendix 2

### **Breeds of Dog Considered Suitable for Alderney Housing Association Accommodation**

On the advice of the States of Guernsey Veterinary Officer; below is a list of dog breeds (including crosses between these breeds) that are deemed suitable for AHA properties.

ALL OTHER DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN AHA PROPERTY

<b>Group 1</b> <b>Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs</b> <b>(except Swiss Cattle dogs)</b> Bearded Collie Rough Collie Shetland Sheepdog Welsh Corgi Cardigan Welsh Corgi Pembroke Polish Lowland Sheepdog	<b>Group 4</b> <b>Dachshunds</b> <i>All varieties</i>	Clumber Spaniel English Cocker Spaniel English Springer Spaniel Field Spaniel Sussex Spaniel Welsh Springer Spaniel American Cocker Spaniel
<b>Group 2</b> <b>Pinscher and Schnauzer –</b> <b>Molossoid and Swiss</b> <b>Mountain and Cattle dogs</b> Affenpinscher Miniature Pinscher Miniature Schnauzer Schnauzer Russian Black Terrier Boxer Bulldog	<b>Group 5</b> <b>Spitz and primitive types</b> Pomeranian Basenji Pharaoh Hound Miniature Peruvian Hairless Dog	<b>Group 9</b> <b>Companion and Toy Dogs</b> <i>All Breeds</i> Bichons <i>(Bichon Frise, Maltese etc.)</i> Poodles <i>(All varieties)</i> Small Belgian Dogs <i>(Belgian Griffon etc.)</i> Hairless Dogs <i>(Chinese Crested Dog etc.)</i> Tibetan breeds <i>(Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu etc.)</i> English Toy Spaniels <i>(King Charles Sp etc.)</i> Japanese Chin & Pekingese Small Molossian type Dogs <i>(Pug etc.)</i> Chihuahueno <i>(Chihuahua etc.)</i> Continental Toy Spaniel and Russian Toy <i>(Papillion, Phalène etc.)</i> Kromfohrländer
<b>Group 3</b> <b>Terriers</b> Bedlington Terrier Border Terrier Fox Terrier- Smooth & Wire Yorkshire Terrier Lakeland Terrier Welsh Terrier Irish Terrier Kerry Blue Terrier Australian Terrier Cairn Terrier Dandy Dinmont Terrier Jack Russell Terrier Norfolk Terrier Scottish Terrier Skye Terrier West Highland White Terrier Australian Silky Terrier English Toy Terrier	<b>Group 6</b> <b>Scenthounds and related</b> <b>breeds</b> Basset Fauve de Bretagne Grande Basset Griffon Vendeen Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Basset Hound Beagle	
	<b>Group 7</b> <b>Pointing Dogs</b> German Short-Haired Pointer German Wire-Haired Pointer English Pointer English Setter Gordon Setter Irish Red & White Setter Irish Red Setter	
	<b>Group 8</b> <b>Retrievers – Flushing Dogs</b> <b>– Water Dogs</b> Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Curley Coated Retriever Flat Coated Retriever Golden Retriever Labrador Retriever Chesapeake Bay Retriever	<b>Group 10</b> <b>Sighthounds</b> Afghan Hound Saluki Borzoi Greyhound Whippet Italian Greyhound Sloughi

#### **Note:**

AHA makes no guarantee that permission will be granted in cases where permitted breeds are requested as individual factors will be taken into account when making an application. Should you wish to apply to keep a pet in AHA Accommodation you will need to complete the necessary form, comply with AHA's Pet Policy and receive written permission from AHA PRIOR to obtaining any dog/animal.