



respond



Pet Ownership

PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Pet Ownership

Respond know that pets can be an important part of family life and bring real benefits to their owners.

Before you bring a pet into your home, you must get permission from Respond. To do this, contact your Tenant Relations Officer (TRO) and ask for a pet application form. This applies to all pets, including animals you are looking after temporarily.

On the application form, you will need to tell us:

- what type of animal you want to keep
- for dogs, the breed and age
- microchip registration details (where applicable)

Not all homes are suitable for all pets. For example, there may be restrictions in:

- apartments
- homes with shared communal areas or facilities
- properties without an enclosed garden
- homes with legal restrictions (covenants) on keeping pets

Each request is considered on a case-by-case basis. Tenants with an assistance or guide dog will always be accommodated.



Insurance

For many people, pets are part of the family. That also means being responsible for their care if they are sick or injured.

Along with routine check-ups, your pet may sometimes need veterinary treatment. Vet bills can be expensive, so you may wish to consider pet insurance. If you do, shop around and make sure you understand what your policy does and does not cover.

Being a Responsible Pet Owner

Pets must not cause problems for others. Any nuisance caused by a pet is considered anti-social behaviour (ASB).

This can include:

- excessive noise
- fouling
- aggressive or violent behaviour

If you experience problems with a pet, or if your pet is causing an issue, please report this to your Tenant Relations Officer so it can be addressed.

Noise

Persistent barking by dogs, usually as a result of being left alone for long periods of time, is a nuisance to neighbours and should be investigated as soon as possible.

If you are unable to solve this problem on your own, contact a veterinary surgeon or animal welfare organisation for advice. If after advice and intervention, the problem remains permission will be revoked for you to keep the dog(s).

NSPCA The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Website: www.nspca.ie Tel: (01) 499 4700

Vaccinations

Preventative healthcare is important for your animal's welfare. The care should be based on routine treatments. Where vaccinations are available (for dogs, cats and rabbits), you should consult a local veterinary practice and have them carried out. Vaccinations are essential to protect against some particularly distressing and serious illnesses.

Vets carry out health checks during vaccinations and this is also a useful part of disease prevention. They will also give advice on treating or preventing parasites.

Neutering

Dogs, cats and rabbits are all routinely neutered. Neutering is important both to keep the animal healthy and to prevent unwanted breeding. Advice on neutering can be obtained from your veterinary surgeon or animal welfare organisation. Some charities subsidise neutering services and veterinary care if the owner is in receipt of certain means-tested benefits.

Damage

Insurance policies, such as contents insurance, may not cover any damage caused by pets to properties and furnishings, so it's important that you do everything you can to prevent it from happening.

As part of your tenancy agreement, you must make good any damage caused to your home or any communal areas by your pets. Dealing with cruelty and neglect. Where there is evidence or concerns regarding cruelty, neglect or abandonment of a pet and these are brought to our attention, we will contact an appropriate animal welfare society.

If these are proven, permission will be withdrawn for the keeping of pets. There may be a case for further action under the Animal Health and Welfare Act.

Fouling

If you do not clean up and dispose of the faeces safely and hygienically after your dog has defecated on land on our estates, footpaths or areas out of bounds to dogs, we will see this as anti-social behaviour. Whilst cats tend not to foul public areas, they do foul in private gardens which can cause a problem to neighbours. Providing a regularly cleaned litter box should help prevent this behaviour.



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Responsibility As An Owner

You are responsible for the care and behaviour of any pet living in your home and have a clear obligation to ensure your pet does not cause a nuisance to others – nor cause damage - both inside or outside your home and in the wider locality. You are legally obliged under the Animal Health and Welfare Act to care for your pet by providing five basic needs:

- Somewhere suitable to live.
- A proper diet, including fresh water.
- The ability to express normal behaviour.
- Any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals.
- Protection from unnecessary suffering or anything that could endanger the health of the animal.

Make sure you have arrangements in place for looking after your pet before you go away on holiday or should an unexpected emergency arise. No pet should be left in the property alone when you are away.



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