

Chapter 10

PET POLICY- ELDERLY/DISABLED PROJECTS

[24 CFR Part 5, Subpart C]

INTRODUCTION

PHAs have discretion to decide whether or not to develop policies pertaining to the keeping of pets in public housing units. This Chapter explains the PHA's policies on the keeping of pets and any criteria or standards pertaining to the policy for elderly/disabled projects. The rules adopted are reasonably related to the legitimate interest of this PHA to provide a decent, safe and sanitary living environment for all tenants, to protecting and preserving the physical condition of the property, and the financial interest of the PHA.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the PHA's policy and procedures for ownership of pets in elderly and disabled units and to ensure that no applicant or resident is discriminated against regarding admission or continued occupancy because of ownership of pets. It also establishes reasonable rules governing the keeping of common household pets.

Nothing in this policy or the dwelling lease limits or impairs the right of persons with disabilities to own animals that are used to assist them.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS THAT ASSIST PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

An Assistance Animal is an animal that assists, supports or provides services to persons with disabilities. **An Assistance Animal** will be permitted once proper documentation is submitted; however, animal control and veterinary practices will still be in force. For persons with disabilities to have an animal excluded from the size and weight requirement and pet deposit requirement, the resident must certify;

That there is a person with disabilities in the household;

That the animal actually assists, **supports or provides services to persons with disabilities.**

A. MANAGEMENT APPROVAL OF PETS

All pets must be approved in advance by the PHA management.

The pet owner must submit and enter into a Pet Agreement with the PHA.

Registration of Pets

Pets must be registered with the PHA before they are brought onto the premises. Registration includes certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian or State/local authority that the pet has received all inoculations required by State or local law, and that the pet has no communicable disease(s) and is pest-free.

Revised 7/1/13

Registration must be renewed and will be coordinated with the annual recertification date, and proof of license and inoculation will be submitted at least 30 days prior to annual reexamination.

Dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered.

Execution of a Pet Agreement with the PHA stating that the tenant acknowledges complete responsibility for the care and cleaning of the pet will be required.

Refusal To Register Pets

The PHA may not refuse to register a pet based on the determination that the pet owner is financially unable to care for the pet. If the PHA refuses to register a pet, a written notification will be sent to the pet owner stating the reason for denial and shall be served in accordance with HUD Notice requirements.

Chapter 11

PET POLICY - GENERAL OCCUPANCY (FAMILY) PROJECTS

[24 CFR Part 960, Subpart G]

INTRODUCTION

This Chapter explains the PHA's policies on the keeping of pets in general occupancy projects and any criteria or standards pertaining to the policy. The rules adopted are reasonably related to the legitimate interest of this PHA to provide a decent, safe and sanitary living environment for all tenants, to protecting and preserving the physical condition of the property, and the financial interest of the PHA.

The purpose of this policy is to establish the PHA's policy and procedures for ownership of pets in general occupancy (family) projects and to ensure that no applicant or resident is discriminated against regarding admission or continued occupancy because of ownership of pets. It also establishes reasonable rules governing the keeping of common household pets.

This policy does not apply to animals that are used to assist, support or provide service to persons with disabilities, or service animals that visit public housing developments.

A. ANIMALS THAT ASSIST, SUPPORT OR PROVIDE SERVICE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The resident/pet owner will be required to qualify animals (for exclusion from the pet policy) that assist, support or provide service to persons with disabilities.

Pet rules will not be applied to animals that assist, support or provide service to persons with disabilities. This exclusion applies to **Assistance** Animals as reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities. This exclusion applies to such animals that reside in public housing and that visit these developments.

B. STANDARDS FOR PETS

The standards for pets are contained within the PHA Pet Policy. No exotic, wild animals or any other animal not permitted by State or Local Laws may be kept by any resident.

Persons With Disabilities

See Chapter on "Pet Policy – Elderly/Disabled Projects", **Assistance** Animals That Assist Persons With Disabilities.

Revised 7/1/13

Types of Pets Allowed

No types of pets other than the following may be kept by a resident

Tenants are not permitted to have more than one *type* of pet.

1. Dogs

Maximum number: one

Maximum adult weight: 25 pounds

Maximum adult height: may not exceed 15" at the shoulder

Must be housebroken

Must be spayed or neutered (unless under 6 (six) months)

Must have all required inoculations

Must be licensed as specified now or in the future by State law and local ordinance

Any litter resulting from the pet must be removed immediately from the unit

2. Cats

Maximum number: one

Must be declawed

Must be spayed or neutered

Must have all required inoculations

Must be trained to use a litter box or other waste receptacle

Must be licensed as specified now or in the future by State law or local ordinance

Any litter resulting from the pet must be removed from the unit immediately

3. Birds

Maximum number: one

Must be enclosed in a cage at all times

4. Fish

Maximum aquarium size: 10 (ten) gallons

Must be maintained on an approved stand

5. Rodents (Rabbit, guinea pig, hamster, or gerbil ONLY)

Maximum number: two

Must be enclosed in an acceptable cage at all times

Must have any or all inoculations as specified now or in the future by State law or local ordinance

The following are NOT considered "common household pets":

Domesticated dogs that exceed 25 pounds or is 15" at the shoulder (Animals certified to assist persons with disabilities are exempt from this weight limitation).

Vicious or intimidating pets. Dog breeds including [pit bull/rottweiler/chow/boxer/doberman/dalmatian/German shepherd] are considered vicious or intimidating breeds and are not allowed.

Animals who would be allowed to produce offspring for sale.

Wild, feral, or any other animals that are not amenable to routine human handling.

Any poisonous animals of any kind.

Fish in aquariums exceeding 10 gallons in capacity.

Non-human primates.

Animals whose climatological needs cannot be met in the unaltered environment of the individual dwelling unit.

Pot-bellied pigs.

Ferrets or other animals whose natural protective mechanisms pose a risk of serious bites and/or lacerations to small children.

Hedgehogs or other animals whose protective instincts and natural body armor produce a risk of serious puncture injuries to children.

Chicks, turtles, or other animals that pose a significant risk of salmonella infection to those who handle them.

Pigeons, doves, mynahs, psittacines, and birds of other species that are hosts to the organisms that cause psittacosis in humans. Snakes or other kinds of reptiles.

C. REGISTRATION OF PETS

Pets must be registered with the PHA before they are brought onto the premises.

Registration includes certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian or State/local authority that the pet:

has received all inoculations required by State or local law

has no communicable disease(s) and
is pest-free.

Registration must be renewed annually at the designated development office.

Pet information, proof of licensing and veterinarian certification must be submitted to the development office when requested by the development manager.

Each pet owner must provide two color photographs of their pet(s).

Each pet owner must display a "Pet Here" sticker, provided by the PHA, which will be displayed on [the front door/a front window] of the unit at all times.

Refusal To Register Pets

If the PHA refuses to register a pet, a written notification will be sent to the pet owner stating the reason for denial. The notification will be served in accordance with HUD notice requirements.

The PHA will refuse to register a pet if:

The pet is not a "common household pet" as defined in this policy;

The pet owner fails to provide complete pet registration information

The pet owner fails to update the registration annually;

The PHA reasonably determines that the pet owner is unable to keep the pet in compliance with the pet rules and other lease obligations. The pet's temperament and behavior may be considered as a factor in determining the pet owner's ability to comply with provisions of the lease.

The notice of refusal may be combined with a notice of a pet violation.

D. PET AGREEMENT

Residents who have been approved to have a pet must enter a Pet Agreement with the PHA.

The Resident will certify, by signing the Pet Agreement, that the Resident will adhere to the following rules:

Agree that the resident is responsible and liable for all damages caused by their pet(s).

All complaints of cruelty and all dog bites will be referred to animal control or applicable agency for investigation and enforcement.

All common household pets are to be fed inside the apartment. Feeding is not allowed on porches, sidewalks, patios or other outside areas.

Tenants are prohibited from feeding stray animals

The feeding of stray animals will constitute having a pet without permission of the Housing Authority.

Residents shall not feed any stray animals; doing so, or keeping stray or unregistered animals, will be considered having a pet without permission.

No animals may be tethered or chained outside or inside the dwelling unit.

When outside the dwelling unit, all pets must be on a leash or in an animal transport enclosure and under the control of a responsible individual.

All fecal matter deposited by the pet(s) must be promptly and completely removed from any common area. Failure to do so will result in a Pet Waste Removal charge of \$25. All animal waste or the litter from litter boxes shall be picked up immediately by the pet owner, disposed of in sealed plastic trash bags, and placed in a trash bin.

Litter boxes shall be stored inside the resident's dwelling unit or in animal enclosures maintained within dwelling units AND must be removed and/or replaced regularly. Failure to do so will result in a Pet Waste Removal charge.

The Resident/Pet Owner shall be responsible for the removal of waste from any animal or pet exercise area by placing it in a sealed plastic bag and disposing of it in an outside trash bin immediately.

Pet owners must take precautions to eliminate pet odors.

The resident/pet owner shall take adequate precautions to eliminate any animal or pet odors within or around the unit and to maintain the unit in a sanitary condition at all times.

Mandatory implementation of effective flea control by measures that produce no toxic hazard to children who may come into contact with treated animals.

The right of management to enter dwelling unit when there is evidence that an animal left alone is in danger or distress, or is creating a nuisance.

The right of management to seek impoundment and sheltering of any animal found to be maintained in violation of housing rules, pending resolution of any dispute regarding such violation, at owner's expense. The resident shall be responsible for any impoundment fees, and the PHA accepts no responsibility for pets so removed.

That failure to abide by any animal-related requirement or restriction constitutes a violation of the "Resident Obligations" in the resident's Lease Agreement.

Residents will prevent disturbances by their pets that interfere with the quiet enjoyment of the premises of other residents in their units or in common areas. This includes, but is not limited to, loud or continuous barking, howling, whining, biting, scratching, chirping, or other such activities.

Residents/pet owners shall not alter their unit, patio, premises or common areas to create an enclosure for any animal. Installation of pet doors is prohibited.

Dogs may only be kept in dwelling units with an enclosed yard space. Pet owners may not alter their unit or patio to accommodate an animal.

E. LIMITATIONS ON PET OWNERSHIP

Although the PHA, consistent with statutory intent, generally allows pet ownership in general occupancy (family) developments, upon extensive discussion with [resident/resident groups/resident councils/Resident Advisory Board/Resident Management Corporation/other], the PHA shall limit pet ownership at certain PHA developments or portions of developments. Specific developments and portions of developments are described in the PHA Annual Plan. Limitations include, but are not limited to the following:

Animals with fur, such as dogs and cats, will not be permitted in [developments/portions of developments/duplexes/other] where residents have identified a family member with verified asthma exacerbated by fur or allergies to fur.

F. DESIGNATION OF PET-FREE AREAS

The following areas are designated as no-pet areas:

PHA playgrounds

PHA day care centers

PHA management offices

PHA community centers

PHA recreation center areas

G. PETS TEMPORARILY ON THE PREMISES

Excluded from the premises are all animals and/or pets not owned by residents, except for service animals.

Residents are prohibited from feeding or harboring stray animals.

This rule excludes visiting pet programs sponsored by a humane society or other non-profit organization and approved by the PHA.

H. DEPOSITS FOR PETS

Tenants with animals must pay a pet deposit of \$200.00 for the purpose of defraying all reasonable costs directly attributable to the presence of a particular pet.

The resident will be responsible for all reasonable expenses directly related to the presence of the animal or pet on the premises, including the cost of repairs and replacement in the apartment, and the cost of animal care facilities if needed.

These charges are due and payable within 30 days of written notification.

An initial payment of \$50.00 on or prior to the date the pet is properly registered and brought into the apartment, and;

Monthly payments will be paid in an agreed upon amount until the specified deposit has been paid.

The PHA reserves the right to change or increase the required deposit by amendment to these rules.

The PHA will refund the Pet Deposit to the tenant, less any damage caused by the pet to the dwelling unit, within a reasonable time after the tenant moves or upon removal of the pet from the unit.

All reasonable expenses incurred by the PHA as a result of damages directly attributable to the presence of the pet in the project will be the responsibility of the resident, including, but not limited to:

- The cost of repairs and replacements to the resident's dwelling unit;

- Fumigation of the dwelling unit;

- Common areas of the project, if applicable.

The expense of flea deinfestation shall be the responsibility of the resident.

If the tenant is in occupancy when such costs occur, the tenant shall be billed for such costs as a current charge.

If such expenses occur as the result of a move-out inspection, they will be deducted from the pet deposit. The resident will be billed for any amount that exceeds the pet deposit.

Pet Deposits are not a part of rent payable by the resident.

I. PET AREA RESTRICTIONS

Pets must be maintained within the resident's unit. When outside of the unit (within the building or on the grounds) dogs and cats must be kept on a leash or carried and under the control of the resident or other responsible individual at all times.

A common household pet must be effectively restrained and under the control of a responsible person when passing through a common area, from the street to the apartment, etc.

Pets are not permitted in common areas including lobbies, community rooms and laundry areas except for those common areas which are entrances to and exits from the building.

An area of the development grounds has been designated as the area in which to exercise animals and to permit dogs to relieve themselves of bodily wastes. This area will be identified and marked with signs at each development.

Residents/Pet Owners are not permitted to exercise pets or permit pets to deposit waste on project premises outside of the area designated for such purposes.

J. PET CARE

No dog or cat shall be left unattended in any apartment for a period in excess of 12 (twelve) hours. All other animals, excluding fish, shall not be left unattended for more than 24 (twenty four) hours.

All residents/pet owners shall be responsible for adequate care, nutrition, exercise and medical attention for his/her pet.

Residents/pet owners must recognize that other residents may have chemical sensitivities or allergies related to pets, or may be easily frightened or disoriented by animals. Pet owners must agree to exercise courtesy with respect to other residents.

K. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

The resident/pet owner will be required to designate two responsible parties for the care of the pet if the health or safety of the pet is threatened by the death or incapacity of the pet owner, or by other factors that render the pet owner unable to care for the pet.

L. PET RULE VIOLATION NOTICE

The authorization for a common household pet may be revoked at any time subject to the Housing Authority's grievance procedure if the pet becomes destructive or a nuisance to others, or if the tenant fails to comply with this policy.

Residents who violate these rules are subject to:

Mandatory removal of the pet from the premises within 30 days of notice by the Housing Authority; or if for a threat to health and safety, removal within 24 hours of notice.

Lease termination proceedings.

If a determination is made on objective facts supported by written statements, that a resident/pet owner has violated the Pet Rule Policy, written notice will be served.

The Notice will contain a brief statement of the factual basis for the determination and the pet rule(s), which were violated. The notice will also state:

That the resident/pet owner has 10 (ten) days from the effective date of the service of notice to correct the violation or make written request for a meeting to discuss the violation;

That the resident/pet owner is entitled to be accompanied by another person of his or her choice at the meeting; and

That the resident/pet owner's failure to correct the violation, request a meeting, or appear at a requested meeting may result in initiation of procedures to terminate the pet owner's tenancy.

M. NOTICE FOR PET REMOVAL

If the resident/pet owner and the PHA are unable to resolve the violation at the meeting or the pet owner fails to correct the violation in the time period allotted by the PHA, the PHA may serve notice to remove the pet.

The Notice shall contain:

A brief statement of the factual basis for the PHA's determination of the Pet Rule that has been violated;

The requirement that the resident /pet owner must remove the pet within 2 (two) days of the notice; and

A statement that failure to remove the pet may result in the initiation of termination of tenancy procedures.

N. TERMINATION OF TENANCY

The PHA may initiate procedures for termination of tenancy based on a pet rule violation if:

The pet owner has failed to remove the pet or correct a pet rule violation within the time period specified; and

The pet rule violation is sufficient to begin procedures to terminate tenancy under terms of the lease.

O. PET REMOVAL

If the death or incapacity of the pet owner threatens the health or safety of the pet, or other factors occur that render the owner unable to care for the pet, the situation will be reported to the Responsible Party designated by the resident/pet owner. This includes pets that are poorly cared for or have been left unattended for over 24 (twenty four) hours.

If the responsible party is unwilling or unable to care for the pet, or if the PHA after reasonable efforts cannot contact the responsible party, the PHA may contact the appropriate State or local agency and request the removal of the pet, or the PHA may place the pet in a proper facility for up to 30 days. If there is no other solution at the end of 30 days, the PHA may donate the pet to a humane society. Cost of this professional care will be borne by the pet owner.

If the pet is removed as a result of any aggressive act on the part of the pet, the pet will not be allowed back on the premises.

P. EMERGENCIES

The PHA will take all necessary steps to insure that pets that become vicious, display symptoms of severe illness, or demonstrate behavior that constitutes an immediate threat to the health or safety of others, are referred to the appropriate State or Local entity authorized to remove such animals.

If it is necessary for the PHA to place the pet in a shelter facility, the cost will be the responsibility of the tenant/pet owner.

This Pet Policy will be incorporated by reference into the Dwelling Lease signed by the resident, and therefore, violation of the above Policy will be grounds for termination of the lease.