

Policies & Procedures

Policy No. 121

Pets in Sheltered Housing

August 2009 Reviewed April 2010 April 2011

Policies & Procedures are to be read and signed in the Central Policy File every six months

1. Aim

The aim of this policy is to outline the how the Council will deal with the issue of pets in sheltered housing.

2. Background

Pets can provide a source of company for many people and can be particularly beneficial in providing company to older people who may be more isolated in their homes. Some pets such as fish present no potential nuisance to other residents; however others such as cats and dogs present may give rise to complaints due to odours, noise from barking dogs, or the fouling of communal areas such as corridors or gardens.

For this reason, for many years the council prohibited residents of sheltered housing from keeping cats or dogs in the “enclosed” schemes with internal corridors, where the tenants’ front door opens onto the corridor.

However this policy was challenged at another landlord under the “Human Rights” legislation, and as a result the council was forced to review its policy.

3. Current policy

The policy now adopted is that residents in the council’s sheltered housing may keep pets, like any other of the council’s tenants, providing that the pet does not cause a nuisance. The Housing Support Officer (HSO) or Senior will offer advice about the suitability of individual schemes for any pet at the pre-allocation assessment, but should any complaint subsequently arise regarding a pet, the matter will be dealt with through the usual nuisance procedure, by referring the matter to the Neighbourhood Manager. Tenants with pets must provide details of who will take responsibility for the pets in the event of the tenant becoming ill or going into hospital.

Dated April 2011

Business Improvement Manager

Next Review – April 2012