Housing Services
Keeping dogs in your council home

What you need to know about keeping a dog in your council home

We allow you to keep pets where you have the facilities to look after them properly. However, irresponsible pet ownership can cause suffering to animals and nuisance to neighbours.

So we must have rules about keeping pets in council accommodation

You must never:

- keep the following dogs, because this is banned by law: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentina, Fila Brazeliero; or any other dog that the law regards as dangerous or out of control;
- breed or board dogs in your home or on any council-owned land;
- keep dogs on balconies or in any communal spaces;
- chain or tether dogs on any council-owned land;
- leave your dog alone or unattended overnight or for long periods of time.

Regulations for keeping dogs

- If you live in a house, bungalow or ground-floor flat with access to a garden that is for your use only, you can keep one dog without asking our permission.
- If you wish to keep more than one dog in ***any*** type of council accommodation, you must get our permission.
- If you wish to keep a dog in any other type of council accommodation, you must apply for special permission to do so. Where you live in a flat with no direct access to a garden or open space, we will not normally give permission, and would only consider it in exceptional circumstances such as a request to keep a registered guide dog or hearing dog.

When you ask for permission to keep a dog, we will consider:

- the type of accommodation and facilities available to you;
- whether you have access to a garden or an open space nearby;
- how many dogs you have, and their breed, size and temperament;
- what other pets you have.

Where you ask us to consider exceptional circumstances we will also take into account:

- whether the type of dog is suitable for the location and size of your flat;
- whether the dog may cause a nuisance or risk to anyone in the immediate location;
- whether you can promise that the dog will get enough exercise with good access to a suitable open space;
- whether you have unique or exceptional circumstances that we should consider.

Micro-chipping

Tendring District Council and The Dogs Trust support the micro-chipping of all dogs and all applicants who's dogs are not currently micro-chipped will be actively encouraged to have their dog micro-chipped and will be contacted by our Dog Warden Service providing details of our Free Micro-chipping Initiative within Tendring.

We will normally consider allowing only one dog.

We only allow dogs in sheltered housing schemes if they are registered guide or hearing dogs.

Whether or not we have granted specific permission to keep a dog, **all** dog owners must ensure that their pets do not cause a nuisance or annoyance to others or break the terms of their tenancy.

How to apply for permission to keep a dog

You can get an application form from Housing Services reception or www.tendringdc.gov.uk/TendringDC/Housing

See also: Secure and introductory tenancy agreement or Non secure tenancy conditions
Tenants Handbook
Advice for controlling your dog(s)' behaviour is available from Defra at
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/neighbour/documents/barkingdog.pdf or at
www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/noise/research/barkingdogs/constantbarking.pdf

Note: Other landlords may have different rules about keeping pets. This leaflet is for tenants of Tendring District Council.

For information about keeping other types of pet, please see our leaflet 'Keeping Pets'.