

H15. DURING A TENANCY - KEEPING PETS

Content:	Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation Policies and Procedures
Version:	2.0
Section:	Housing
Applies To:	Board, Management and Staff of all IAC Services
Date:	October 2015 (Review October 2018)

Background and Purpose

The IAC's Housing policies articulate our aims, goals and philosophies in providing housing services for Aboriginal tenants and their families. They explain how the Illawarra Aboriginal Corporation works with its staff and other agencies to ensure that our tenants are afforded the best and most appropriate services and that we meet all of the requirements of the Aboriginal Housing Office and the Office of Community Housing.

Keeping Pets

Tenants who live in properties owned or managed by the IAC may keep pets if:

- The property is suitable for the animal, which may be a companion animal, and
- The pet does not interfere with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours, and
- They comply with any council requirements and the Companion Animals Act

Suitable Property for Pets

When determining if a property is suitable for a certain type of animal, the IAC will consider:

- The amount of open space available on the property, and
- Requirements of the local council, and
- The size and type of animal and its suitability to the property, and
- The likelihood of damage to the property, and
- The likelihood of interference with neighbours, even if the neighbours have not yet made a complaint.

The Companion Animals Act

To comply with the Companion Animals Act, a person must:

- Ensure that the animal does not harm or threaten any other person or animal.
- Ensure dogs are contained on the property and not allowed to roam.
- Ensure dogs and cats do not cause a nuisance by persistently making a noise, straying or interfering with other people's property.
- Ensure dogs and cats are micro chipped and registered if they are born or change owners after 1 July 1999.

Keeping Pets (cont)

Companion Animals

Companion animals include:

- Cats.
- Dogs (including dogs such as working dogs and trained assistance animals such as Seeing Eye or hearing dogs).
- Any animal that is prescribed by the regulations.

Restricted and Dangerous Dogs

Tenants who live in properties owned or managed by the IAC may not keep:

- Restricted dogs, as defined by the Companion Animals Act
- Dogs that have been declared dangerous by a local council, local court, or under the Companion Animals Act.

Restricted Dogs

Restricted dogs include:

- Pit bull terriers.
- American pit bull terriers.
- Japanese tosas.
- Argentinean fighting dogs (filo Brasileiro).
- Other dogs such as guard dogs used by security personnel.

Dangerous Dogs

Dangerous dogs are dogs that have been declared dangerous by a local council or local court. These include dogs that attack without provocation, or kill a person or animal, or repeatedly threaten to attack or chase a person or animal.

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Keeping Pets (cont)

Removal of Animal

If an animal belonging to an IAC tenant causes a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours, or is not suitable for the property, the IAC will ask the tenant to remove it within 48 hours. Failure to remove the pet when asked to do so is a breach of the tenancy agreement, and may result in action being taken through the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

COMPLIANCE

This policy complies with:

- NSW Housing Act 2001
- NSW Residential Tenancies Act 2010

REFERENCES

This policy should be read with:

- **Housing NSW** "During a Tenancy Policy"
- **National Regulatory Code** - 1. Tenant and housing services