NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL
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PET POLICY

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Document control			
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Strategic Alignment

The Plan for North Lanarkshire: Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

Ambition Statement: Ensure we keep our environment clean, safe, and attractive

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1. Introduction

This Pet Policy sets out the purpose, aims, objectives, scope and principles in keeping pets within North Lanarkshire Council properties.

The intention of this policy is to provide guidance to tenants and staff on keeping a pet. The policy recognises the need to balance individual enjoyment in keeping a pet while considering the interests of neighbours and the wider community.

2. Related Documents

There are operational Pet Procedures to guide housing staff on the conditions of the tenancy in keeping a pet whereby written consent is required from North Lanarkshire Council. The operational pet procedures contain the Supplementary Agreement, the application form for pets (Pets 01), the approval decision letter on keeping a pet (Pets 02 – Approved), the refusal decision letter on keeping a pet (Pets 03 – Refusal).

3. Purpose of the Policy

This policy outlines North Lanarkshire Council's approach to keeping a pet in your home and promoting responsible pet ownership.

The intention of this policy is to provide clear guidance to staff and tenants on keeping a pet as a companion and caring for their pet responsibly**.** Our aims are:

- To promote responsible pet ownership.
- Ensure tenant's compliance with the conditions of their Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement.

The objectives of the Pet Policy are:

- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation, regulations and guidance related to keeping pets as well as animal welfare and control.
- Promote responsible pet ownership, including proper care, control, and supervision of animals.
- Prevent and address nuisance issues such as noise, fouling, and aggressive behaviour.
- Balance the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners as well as the wider community.
- Provide guidance and information to residents on best practices for pet ownership.
- Facilitate effective enforcement procedures where breaches of the policy occur.

Legislative and Regulatory Context

The legislation and guidance which is relevant for this Pets Policy is as follows:

- The Housing (Scotland) Act 2025
- The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Types) Scotland Order 2024
- The Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997
- The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
- The Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010
- The Control of Dogs Order 1992
- The Litter (Animal Droppings) Order 1991
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

- The Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016
- The Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976

4. Scope of Policy

The policy applies to all tenants and occupants of North Lanarkshire Council properties who would like to keep a pet. Tenants of multi-storey properties, shared access flats, and linked corridor retirement homes are not permitted to keep dogs or cats.

Where relevant, this policy operates alongside tenancy conditions, estate management procedures, antisocial behaviour policy, and enforcement powers available to the council. The council will apply this policy proportionately and reasonably, taking into account individual circumstances, vulnerability, and equality considerations, and will seek to resolve pet-related issues through engagement and early intervention wherever possible.

5. Policy Prinicples

- **Responsible Ownership:** Pet owners are responsible for the behaviour, control, care, and supervision of their pets.
- **Public Safety:** Pet ownership must not pose a risk to the health or safety of other tenants, residents, visitors, employees, or the wider public.
- **Community Respect:** Pet owners must ensure that their pets do not cause nuisance, distress, or antisocial behaviour.
- **Animal Welfare:** Pets must be kept in a manner that promotes their health, safety, and wellbeing at all times.
- **Environmental Protection:** Pets must be managed in a way that protects North Lanarkshire Council's properties as well as public spaces.
- **Legal Compliance:** All pet ownership must comply with relevant legislation and conditions of Tenancy Agreement.
- **Fairness and Consistency:** The policy will be applied fairly, transparently, and consistently across North Lanarkshire Council.
- **Prevention and Early Intervention:** The council will seek to resolve issues at an early stage through advice and support where possible.
- **Enforcement:** Where action is required, enforcement will be proportionate, reasonable, and consistent with tenancy conditions and relevant legislation.
- **Individual Circumstances:** The council recognises individual circumstances, and the policy will take cognisance of vulnerability and equality duties.
- **Partnership Working:** The council will work with relevant partners, including animal welfare organisations.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Tenant Responsibilities

In line with North Lanarkshire Council's Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement (Tenancy Agreement), keeping a pet is subject to the following conditions and responsibilities:

- The tenant of North Lanarkshire Council is permitted to keep one domestic pet without written permission.
- Written permission is required to keep any additional domestic pets.

- **The tenant of a multi-storey property, shared access flat, and linked corridor retirement home may be permitted to keep one small domestic pet with written permission.**
- The tenant is responsible for the behaviour of any pets owned by you or anyone living with you.
- The tenant must take all reasonable steps to supervise and keep such pets under control.
- The tenant must take all reasonable steps to prevent such pets causing nuisance, annoyance or danger to your neighbours. This includes fouling or noise or smell from your domestic pet.
- The tenant must take reasonable care to see that such pets do not foul or cause damage to the house, your neighbour's property, anything belonging to us or anything we are responsible for, such as the common parts.
- The tenant shall be responsible for cleaning dog faeces.

North Lanarkshire Council's Responsibilities

North Lanarkshire Council will:

- Ensure that the Pet Policy aligns with legislation including animal welfare regulations.
- Provide clear information to tenants about rules, expectations, and procedures for obtaining permission to keep pets, which are in line with the conditions of the Tenancy Agreement.
- Respond to a request to keep a pet within 20 working days from the date the request is received.
- Provide reasonable conditions for keeping a pet.
- Provide reasons for refusal on keeping a pet.
- Ensure that pets kept within council-managed properties do not pose a risk to other residents, staff, or the wider community.
- Provide guidance and resources to help tenants understand their responsibilities in caring for pets responsibly.
- Monitor compliance of the pet policy and procedures and take appropriate action where breaches occur, ensuring actions are fair and consistent.

7. Policy Requirements

Standards

Tenants are expected to look after their pet responsibly. Permission to keep pets may be withdrawn if the following standards are not maintained.

Tenants are obliged to:

- Keep only domestic pets, which may include cats, dogs, rabbits, small caged animals, fish and small reptiles.
- Ensure that all pets are properly cared for, adequately fed, watered, exercised, and provided with appropriate living conditions. Animals must not be subjected to neglect or harm.
- Keep their pet under proper control at all times. Dogs must be kept on a lead in communal areas. Pets must not be allowed to roam freely or pose a risk to others.
- Ensure pets do not cause excessive noise, fouling, or disturbance to neighbours or the wider community.

- Dispose of pet waste appropriately and promptly.
- Take responsibility for any damage caused by their pets to the property, fixtures, fittings, or communal areas.
- Ensure pets are appropriately registered, vaccinated and microchipped.

Dangerous Dogs and Other Animals

The Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 bans the ownership, breeding, advertising, sale and exchange of the following types of fighting dogs, unless you have a Certificate of Exemption with strict conditions:

- Pit bull terrier
- Japanese tossa
- Doga Argentino
- Fila Braziliero
- XL Bully or XL Bully breed

The animals below are not permitted:

- Animals listed in the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976
- Livestock such as sheep, goats, cattle and fowl birds
- Any endangered species

Multi-storey, Shared Access Flats & Linked Corridor Retirement Complexes

All tenants will be advised at sign up stage that dogs and cats are not allowed in tower blocks, flats with common entrance or linked corridor retirement complexes with the exception for Assistance Dogs. We may allow the following small pets with written permission. This is not an exhaustive list.

- Budgies
- Hamsters
- Gerbils
- Fish

Assistance Dogs

Tenants who need an assistance dog will be allowed to keep their dog including in multi-storey towers or flats with a common entrance. Assisted dogs are highly trained animals that carry out a range of tasks/alerts that support a disabled person or person with a long-term medical condition.

This includes:

- a guide dog that guides a visually impaired person
- a medical alert dog that alerts a person to an oncoming medical episode
- an assistance dog that alerts someone with a psychiatric condition to take medication

8. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be subject to regular review and monitoring, to ensure effective implementation and relevance as well as to support best practice. The Pet Policy will be reviewed annually to reflect legislative and regulatory changes; and may be earlier given forthcoming Scottish Government Guidance.

9. Equalities, Human Rights and Impact

This policy is consistent with the council's Equal Opportunities Policy and aims to ensure that we act fairly and lawfully on all occasions. We will not discriminate against anyone on the grounds of race, colour, ethnic origin, nationality, gender, sexuality, disability, age, religion or other belief.

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out whilst this policy was being developed to identify any potential adverse impacts on people or groups who share protected characteristic and any opportunities in which to strengthen and promote equalities. This assessment included an assessment of the Fairer Scotland Duty and Human Rights.

Two further impact assessments have been carried out for this policy given the scope and impact of this policy on women, children and health. This included a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Assessment (HIA). A summary of this EqIA can be found on the council's website and the full impact assessments are all available on request.

10. Glossary of Definitions

Animal Welfare
The responsibility to ensure that pets are healthy, safe, properly fed, and living in suitable conditions.

Assistance Animal
A trained animal that supports a person with a disability, such as a guide dog or hearing dog.

Domestic Pets
Animals typically kept in homes such as cats, dogs, small rodents, birds, and fish.

Dangerous Animal
Any animal considered a risk to people or other animals, including those prohibited by law.

Exotic Pet
An animal not commonly domesticated or normally kept in households, such as reptiles or wild species.

Fouling
Pet waste deposited in inappropriate places such as communal areas or public spaces.

Nuisance
Behaviour by a pet that causes annoyance, disturbance, or inconvenience to others, including noise and aggression.

Responsible Pet Ownership
Ensuring pets are properly cared for, controlled, and do not negatively impact others.

Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement
A Scottish Secure Tenancy Agreement is a legally binding agreement between the Council and the tenant outlining terms and conditions of the tenancy.