

<b>Policy Name</b>	<b>Pet Policy</b>
<b>Policy No.</b>	<b>034</b>

## Introduction

GHA recognises that pets can have a very positive effect on people's lives and can provide companionship and enjoyment for a great many people. We wish to support residents to be responsible pet owners and therefore do not impose unnecessary restrictions on pet ownership. Equally however we know that pets are expensive to look after and if not cared for correctly can cause damage to properties and be a nuisance and danger to other residents.

GHA's policy aims to strike a balance so that responsible residents can enjoy the benefits of pet ownership but this is not an automatic right and permission will be withdrawn should owners not behave responsibly.

This policy covers the following issues

- What pets can be kept and in what circumstances
- The action GHA will take when pets are kept inappropriately or cause a nuisance to neighbours.

### 1. Applicants applying for Social Housing

- a. Applicants for housing are asked to indicate on their application form if they intend to keep a pet. This will not prejudice their application unless they plan to keep a pet for which permission will not be granted. If this is the case the matter must be resolved before an offer of accommodation is made.

### 2. Pet ownership not needing permission from GHA

- a. GHA permits tenants to keep a small number of pets without having to seek official permission from us. For example Rabbits, Guinea pigs, Mice, Dwarf hamsters or small caged birds e.g. Finches, Budgies or Canaries. This is only permission for a maximum of 1 or 2 small pets and permission is not granted for multiple small pets.
- b. Appendix 1 shows a full list of which animals are allowed without permission and in what numbers. It also clearly identifies animals which will not be permitted under any circumstances. This list has been drawn up in partnership with the States Veterinary Officer. Tenants are only permitted to have one type of pet from any one category. Should you want more than two small pets in total from any category you must seek permission from GHA.

### 3. Obtaining permission for other pets such as a cat or dog

- a. Anyone wishing to get a cat or a dog or a pet not on Appendix 1 would need to complete an application form requesting permission from GHA.
- b. If necessary GHA will seek advice from animal welfare agencies and The States Veterinary Officer but the decision as to whether permission will be granted will be with GHA as the landlord of the property.

#### **4. Permission will be granted if the:**

- a. Animal is suitable for the size of the property. To clarify; permission will not be granted for a dog in a flat unless there is an outside area, garden or balcony and the property has its own outside entrance, unless living in Extra Care. Permission will only be granted for a cat if the resident has their own outside entrance unless the applicant is living in an Extra Care property.
- b. Space needed to keep the pet does not detract from the primary use of the property.
- c. Breed of dog is on the GHA list of acceptable dogs Appendix 2.
- d. Animal is not a farm animal for example chickens or a pig.
- e. Owner has the correct licence and/or permission from the States Veterinary Officer if required.
- f. Potential owner has not been found guilty or been suspected of causing cruelty and neglect to an animal in the past.
- g. Tenant is able to care for the pet (if for example through poor mobility or health the tenant is unable to care for the pet the tenant will need to make arrangements for the pet to be cared for).
- h. Tenant does not owe GHA any money, has not fallen into rent arrears in the last 3 months and has a good history of rent payment.
- i. The animal will receive regular treatment to avoid the risk of infestation in the property from fleas and other insects.
- j. Animal does not pose any risk or danger to other residents.
- k. Animal does not cause nuisance by excessive noise (barking, whining, howling or squealing).
- l. Animal is not allowed to roam unattended and is kept under control (excluding cats).
- m. Animal is not left tied up.
- n. Animal does not foul in neighbouring gardens or in communal areas on the estate.
- o. Owner immediately clears up after their animal and bags up and discards appropriately any animal excrement either in a designated bin or takes it home to dispose of.
- p. Keeping of the animal does not cause unpleasant odours for neighbouring properties.
- q. The animal has been micro chipped.
- r. The animal is neutered or will be neutered by a qualified Vet as it reaches an appropriate age for neutering.
- s. Pets shall not be kept or bred for any commercial purposes.
- t. Tenant does not already have 2 dogs or 2 cats or a cat and a dog.

#### **5. Should these conditions not be kept to:**

- a. GHA will withdraw consent for any pet(s) should:
  - Any of the above conditions be breached or
  - Where the keeping of such pets results in a breach of the tenancy or licence agreement
- b. Should the tenant breach these conditions GHA will commence legal action to repossess the property.

## Appendix 1

The tables below indicate various categories of animals that tenants may be looking to keep as a small pet. The pets high-lighted in green do not need permission as long as the tenant complies with the maximum number and that where required they are neutered.

Tenants are only permitted 1 option from any section without asking for permission.

Should tenants wish to keep multiple pets they would need to obtain permission from GHA.

The tables indicate the maximum number allowed and the maximum number of cages.

### Rodents

Female rabbits and guinea pigs should be neutered for health reasons and to prevent breeding.

Rodent size	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Extra small
Examples	Giant rabbit	Rabbits	Chipmunks	Rats	Dwarf hamsters
		Dwarf rabbits	Chinchilla	Gerbil	Mice
		Guinea pigs (out doors only)	Degu	Hamster (1)	
Maximum number in this category	4	4	4	4 Only 1 hamster	4
Maximum number of cages	2	2	2	2 for rats/gerbils 1 cage for a hamster	2
Where they must be kept	Outdoors + neutered	Outdoor/indoor + neutered	In/outdoor large cage required	Rats and gerbils need larger cages	Indoors

**Birds** – many exotic birds are protected under the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) regulation. Those highlighted in red are not permitted.

Bird Size	Extra Large	Large	Medium	Small	Extra -Small
examples	Macaw	Amazons	Large Parakeets	Cockatiels	Finches
	Large Cockatoos	Small cockatoos	Small Conures	Budgies	Canaries
	Eclectus Parrot	African grey	Pionus Parrots	Lovebirds	
	Peafowl	Large conures	Lories and Lorikeets	Parrotlets	
		Mini-Macaws not permitted			
Maximum number	Not permitted	2	2	2	6
Maximum number of cages	None	2	2	2	3
NOTE	Not permitted too loud	Mini Macaws not permitted			

**Reptiles and amphibians** – tenants applying to keep reptiles and amphibians may require a licence to do so. Many exotic species of reptiles and amphibians are protected under the CITES regulation. Extra-large and large reptiles will not be permitted. Those highlighted in red are not permitted.

Reptile/amphibian size	Extra large	large	medium	Small	Extra-small
Examples	Iguana	Monitor lizard	Royal python	Chinese Water Dragon	Brown anole
	Python	Tegus	Bearded Dragon	Corn snake	
	Boa	Snapping turtles	Rat Snake	Hognose snake	
			Kingsnake	Geckos	Geckos
			Chameleons (2)	Chameleons	
			Tortoise	Frogs/Toads	
			Musk Turtles and Terrapins	Blue-tongue Skinks	
Maximum number in this category (not including hatchlings and juveniles)	0		Only 1 snake in this category 2 of others.	2	2
Maximum number of Vivarium ( indoor enclosure such as an aquarium or tank)	NOT PERMITTED	NOT PERMITTED	2	2	2
				Only locally bred frogs/toads due to disease in the UK	

**Invertebrate** – many exotic species of Invertebrate are protected under the CITES regulation. No spiders and Scorpions will be permitted. Those highlighted in red are not permitted.

Invertebrate	Spiders / Scorpions	Mantids cockroaches	Millipedes Stick Insects	Land crab	Land snails
examples	Emperor Scorpions	Praying Mantis	Indian Stick Insects	Land hermit crabs	Giant African Land snails
	Chilean Rose Tarantulas	Madagascar hissing cockroach	Jungle Nymphs		
			African Giant Millipedes		
Maximum number in this category	NOT PERMITTED	6	6	2	2
Maximum number of tanks	NOT PERMITTED	2	2	2	1
Notes	Venomous not permitted			Keep with companions of their own size	

## Appendix 2

### Breeds of Dog Considered Suitable for Guernsey Housing Association Accommodation

On the advice of the States Veterinary Officer; below is a list of dog breeds (including crosses between these breeds) that are deemed suitable for GHA properties.

ALL OTHER DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN GHA PROPERTY

#### Group 1

<b>Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs)</b>
Bearded Collie
Rough Collie
Shetland Sheepdog
Welsh Corgi Cardigan
Welsh Corgi Pembroke
Polish Lowland Sheepdog

#### Group 2

<b>Pinscher and Schnauzer – Molossoid and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs</b>
Affenpinscher
Miniature Pinscher
Miniature Schnauzer
Schnauzer
Russian Black Terrier
Boxer
Bulldog

#### Group 3

<b>Terriers</b>
Bedlington Terrier
Border Terrier
Fox Terrier - Smooth & Wire
Yorkshire Terrier
Lakeland Terrier
Welsh Terrier
Irish Terrier
Kerry Blue Terrier
Australian Terrier
Cairn Terrier
Dandy Dinmont Terrier
Jack Russell Terrier
Norfolk Terrier
Scottish Terrier
Skye Terrier
West Highland White Terrier
Australian Silky Terrier
English Toy Terrier

#### Group 4

<b>Dachshunds</b>
<i>All varieties</i>

#### Group 5

<b>Spitz and primitive types</b>
Pomeranian
Basenji
Pharaoh Hound
Miniature Peruvian Hairless Dog

#### Group 6

<b>Scenthounds and related breeds</b>
Basset Fauve de Bretagne
Grande Basset Griffon Vendeen
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
Basset Hound
Beagle

#### Group 7

<b>Pointing Dogs</b>
German Short-Haired Pointer
German Wire-Haired Pointer
English Pointer
English Setter
Gordon Setter
Irish Red & White Setter
Irish Red Setter

#### Group 8

<b>Retrievers – Flushing Dogs – Water Dogs</b>
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
Curley Coated Retriever
Flat Coated Retriever
Golden Retriever
Labrador Retriever
Chesapeake Bay Retriever
Clumber Spaniel
English Cocker Spaniel
English Springer Spaniel
Field Spaniel
Sussex Spaniel
Welsh Springer Spaniel

Group 9

<b>Companion and Toy Dogs</b>
<i>All Breeds</i>
Bichons ( <i>Bichon Frise, Maltese etc.</i> )
Poodles ( <i>All varieties</i> )
Small Belgian Dogs ( <i>Belgian Griffon etc.</i> )
Hairless Dogs ( <i>Chinese Crested Dog etc.</i> )
Tibetan breeds ( <i>Lhasa Apso, Shih Tzu etc.</i> )
English Toy Spaniels ( <i>King Charles Sp etc.</i> )
Japanese Chin & Pekingese
Small Molossian type Dogs ( <i>Pug etc.</i> )
Chihuahueno ( <i>Chihuahua etc.</i> )
Continental Toy Spaniel and Russian Toy ( <i>Papillion, Phalène etc.</i> )
Kromfohländer

Group 10

<b>Sighthounds</b>
Afghan Hound
Saluki
Borzoi
Greyhound
Whippet
Italian Greyhound
Sloughi

**Date reviewed:** March 2019

**Next review:** March 2021