

## Chapter 15

# Pets

We recognise the importance of pets to many people, and we appreciate that most pet owners are responsible people who look after their pet and consider their neighbours and neighbourhood.

## **Keeping pets**

You can keep a pet in your flat but you must make sure you keep it under control. This is because pets can sometimes cause problems such as barking and making a mess, which can annoy your neighbours. As a leaseholder, you are responsible for the behaviour of people visiting your flat. You must make sure that their pets do not cause a nuisance to your neighbours or neighbourhood.

There are certain dangerous wild animals that you cannot own, such as poisonous snakes. There is a full list at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk), or phone the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 08459 33 55 77 for more information.

## **Dogs**

When walking your dog on the estate, you must keep it on a lead. Do not let your dog enter fenced play areas.

If your dog's barking causes a nuisance, we may serve a notice on you to stop the noise. We may also fine you if your dog doesn't stop. Letting your dog foul pavements or verges of estate roads or any other shared areas and not clearing it away is very inconsiderate. Street enforcement officers may issue you with a warning, prosecute persistent offenders or issue fixed penalty notice fines.

You must keep to the conditions of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. Certain types of dogs are not allowed to be kept under the act. This includes breeds of dogs such as the Japanese Tosa, Fila Brasileiro, Dogo Argentino and the Pit Bull Terrier.

You must make sure your dog can be permanently identified so that it can be traced if it is lost.

## **Housing staff and visitors to your flat**

Strangers coming to your flat can often disturb animals. To reduce stress to the animal and show consideration for your visitors, including our staff, it may be appropriate to keep pets in another room while the visit takes place.

Anyone staying in or visiting your flat who has a pet must keep it under control and not allow it to cause a nuisance or annoyance to anyone.

## Reporting problems with animals

Tenants who allow their pets to disturb or annoy neighbours could be guilty of antisocial behaviour.

- To report problems such as persistent loud barking, fouling of footpaths or animals out of control, please contact the council's antisocial behaviour line on **0845 671 1177**.
- To report stray dogs in the area, please contact the council's Animal Welfare and Control Team on **020 8489 5546**.

Chapter 10, 'Anti-social behaviour' gives more information about our policy on nuisance and antisocial behaviour, and explains how we will deal with your complaint.

## Questions about keeping pets

For general information on animal Welfare, contact the council's Animal Welfare and Control Team on **020 8489 5546**.