

Thinking about having a pet/s (Guidance)



The Association does not wish anyone to be deprived of the enjoyment of a pet. We appreciate the benefits pets can bring in addressing loneliness, helping people to socialise and most importantly giving people a sense of responsibility to care for a pet. Pets are also a great source of companionship and happiness. However, the Association does not feel that all of its properties are suitable for pets. In fact, there are even some properties where the lease arrangement the Association has with the owner, prohibits any pets at the properties (ie; Plas Maldwyn, Caersws).

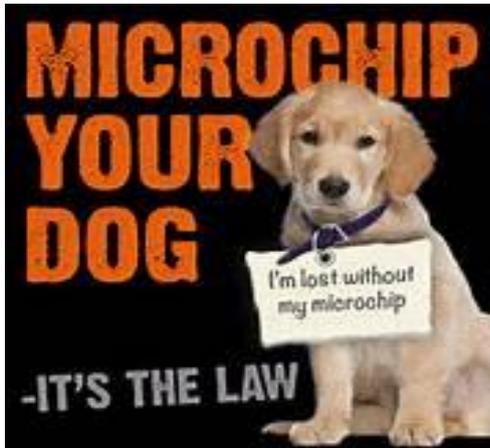
The Association will not allow dogs listed in the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in their properties. In 2006 the following types of dog were specified, Pit Bull Terrier, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro and Japanese Tosa. The Association will also not allow any animal listed in the schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 and animals reasonably regarded as livestock. This is to protect the health and safety of any tenant, the wider community and employees of the Association who may come into contact with them.

When thinking about having a pet, please consider the following:-

- Is your housing situation suitable?
- Does the pet fit your lifestyle and family circumstances?
- Are you able to provide the pet with a suitable diet?
- Can you afford the pet? Consider any cost to buy the pet initially, the cost of food, vet bills (accident or injury and annual vaccinations etc), a bed and toys
- Do you have enough space within your home?
- Are you able to provide the pet with adequate exercise?
- Can you give it the love and attention it needs?
- Will you get bored with it?
- Will it restrict you going out for the day, or an evening or going on holiday?
- If you work all day, will the pet be lonely?
- Have you had practical experience of looking after a pet before?
- Are you aware of possible illnesses and how to reduce the risks?
- Are you able to give the pet a comfortable resting area?
- Are you able to give access to fresh water?
- Would your pet be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns?
- Would your pet be able to play and interact?
- Would you be able to recognise the early signs of stress in your pet?
- What contingency plans do you have if the pet is ill?
- Who will look after the pet if you are ill?
- Are you going to choose to insure your pet? How much will it cost?
- If you are considering a dog or cat, are you planning to have it neutered?
- Are you able to afford to microchip your dog (vets charge around £15)?

Microchipping

Any dog over the age of eight weeks is legally required to be microchipped and registered to an approved database. It's up to the breeder to microchip the dog and for each subsequent new owner to ensure the details have been changed and are up-to-date.



If your dog isn't microchipped or registered on an approved database, then you could be served with a notice ordering you to microchip your dog. You'll have 21 days to do so or you may be liable to pay a £500 fine and could face criminal prosecution. You could contact your local vets to arrange for your dog to be microchipped. Some local organisations and animal charities, offer microchipping programmes.

Prospective tenants

- If a prospective tenant already has a pet, they **may** be able to house it with them but will be asked to comply with some rules and regulations. The Community Housing Officer will decide whether the pet is appropriate in that particular situation. This can be discussed when a viewing of the prospective new home takes place. If you are given permission that may only be granted provided you do not replace the pet, in the unfortunate event of it dying.

Useful contacts: -

Cats Protection (Newtown and District) 01686 670277

www.newtown.cats.org.uk

Cats Protection (Aberystwyth and District) 01970 822120

www.aberystwyth.cats.org.uk

Dogs Trust (Shrewsbury) 01952 770225

www.dogstrust.org.uk

PDSA (People's dispensary for sick animals) 0800 731 2502

www.pdsa.org.uk

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

Holds a list of registered vets.

www.rcvs.org.ukRSPCA 24-hour cruelty line

0300 1324 999

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets> - lots of advice and information on pet care etc



Your dog can't do this for himself, so please do it for him.



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