

Keeping Small Household Pets and Service Dogs

Small Household Pets

With effect from 1 April 2025, the Hong Kong Housing Society (HKHS) will, in principle allow Tenant to keep small household pets in the rental flat (except for rental blocks subject to Deed of Mutual Covenant / house rules with restriction on pet keeping in the rental flat^{Note 1}). Details are as follows:

1. Keeping animals or livestock inside rental units is prohibited, such as snakes, chickens, pigs, ducks, monkeys and pigeons.
2. Keeping small household pets including desexed cats which do not pose any health hazard and nuisance is allowed.
3. No prior application is required. However, the small household pets should be properly taken care of and kept in suitable dwellings to avoid causing nuisance to the environment and the neighbourhood. Otherwise, the Tenant should send away the small household pets within a specified period.

Service Dogs

Additionally, HKHS will conditionally permit Tenant to keep service dog (guide dog / companion dog) in the rental flat (except for rental blocks subject to Deed of Mutual Covenant / house rules with restriction on pet keeping in the rental flat^{Note 1}). Details are as follows:

1. Under the general ‘no nuisance rule’ principle, HKHS will consider giving **conditional permission** to keep service dog in flat for medical reasons. The dog should not be a ‘fighting dog’ or ‘known dangerous dog’ or ‘large dog*’ as defined under the Dogs and Cats Ordinance (Cap. 167). (‘Large dog’ refers to a dog that weighs 20kg or more).
2. If the service dog causes nuisance to the environment and the neighbourhood or Tenant breaches any HKHS rules/regulations governing dog keeping, HKHS will withdraw the permission and the Tenant should send away the service dog within a specified period.
3. **Eligibility Criteria for Applying Service Dog**
 - i. Applicant should complete the 'Application Form for Service Dog (Guide dog or Companion Dog) Keeping in Rental Flats' and provide the following required documents to the estate office for approval:
 - (a) Valid dog licence (the registered dog owner should be the Tenant or household member listed on the Tenancy Agreement);

Note 1 Some of the rental flats of the HKHS's composite site (i.e. an estate with both rental and sale flats) are subject to the management of the Deed of Mutual Covenant (DMC) which prohibits the keeping of pets and dogs in flats. For further details, please contact the respective Estate Office.

** Except for guide dog*



- (b) Certificate from a registered veterinarian showing dog weight, microchip no., vaccinating (i.e. vaccination against rabies and other diseases such as Canine Distemper, Hepatitis and Viral Gastroenteritis) and neutering surgery record;
 - (c) Medical recommendations issued by a registered medical practitioner or psychologist within the past 3 months should be provided, recommending that the Tenant or household member listed on the Tenancy Agreement keep a guide dog/companion dog (hereafter referred to 'the Dog') ;
 - (d) Proof of visual impairment recognized by the HKSARG and matching record issued by guide dog organization (for guide dog); and
 - (e) A recent 3R/4R color full-body photograph of the dog.
- ii. Applicant should be the Tenant, and the registered dog owner should be the Tenant/household member listed on the Tenancy Agreement who needs the service dog for medical reasons.
 - iii. The dog should be desexed.
 - iv. Applicant and/or registered dog owner is required to comply with "Regulations for Service Dog (Guide Dog/Companion Dog) Keeping in Rental Flats".
- 4. Household should apply for renewal of dog keeping permission with a copy of the updated licence, completed application form, medical certificate issued within the past 3 months (for companion dog), and other required documents to the estate office within one month after renewal of the dog licence.
 - 5. If the Tenant passed away, the current dog keeping permission will be automatically revoked. After successful application for take over tenancy by his/her spouse or other household member listed on the Tenancy Agreement, if needed, the new Tenant should submit a new application to the estate office.
 - 6. If the registered dog owner (not Tenant) has passed away, moved out, or does not retain regular and continuous residence in the flat, the Tenant should arrange alternative accommodation for the dog within the period specified by the HKHS and should not keep the dog in the rental flat.
 - 7. If the Tenant is required to transfer to another flat, after the transfer, the Tenant should submit a new application to the estate office.
 - 8. Tenant who keeps prohibited animals inside his/her rental flat, keeps dogs without prior permission of HKHS, or keeps small household pets with permission already withdrawn, constitutes a breach of the provisions of the Tenancy Agreement. If the Tenant fails to send away the said animals, dogs or pets within specified period, HKHS will serve a Notice-to-Quit to terminate the tenancy of the rental flat.

Enquiries

The above information is for reference only. For details, please contact the Estate Office so that we can render assistance.

Last Review Date: 4/2025