



A guide to responsible pet ownership

Pets can bring companionship, comfort, and happiness to our lives. We know that many people see pets as part of the family, and we want to support customers who wish to keep them in their home.

At the same time, everyone has a role to play in keeping our neighbourhoods clean, safe and enjoyable places to live. This guide explains what you need to know about keeping pets at home and how we can all be good neighbours.



Keeping a pet in your home

You do not need permission from Riverside Scotland to keep a pet in your home. However, the number and type of pets you can keep must be suitable for your property.

Pet limits

Flats and maisonettes

- Maximum of 1 dog or 1 cat

Houses and bungalows

- Maximum of 2 dogs, 2 cats, or a combination of both

Small domestic pets such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, arachnids and reptiles may be kept in addition to these limits, provided they are suitable for the property and do not cause nuisance, damage, overcrowding, health and safety concerns, or animal welfare issues.

Pets you cannot keep

You must not keep:

- Dangerous dogs prohibited by law
- Livestock
- Wild animals
- Pets kept for commercial breeding purposes

This includes any dog breed prohibited under current legislation, such as the Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro and XL Bully. Pet owners are responsible for ensuring they comply with all relevant legislation relating to pet ownership.

Being a responsible pet owner

Owning a pet is a long-term commitment. As a pet owner, you are responsible for ensuring your pet is well cared for and does not negatively affect your neighbours or the wider community.

Caring for your pet

Make sure your pet:

- Has suitable food, water and shelter.
- Receives the care, exercise and attention it needs.
- Has access to veterinary treatment when required.
- Is identified and microchipped where required by law.

Respect your neighbours

Help keep your neighbourhood safe and enjoyable for everyone by:

- Keeping your pet under control and supervised.
- Preventing excessive barking, noise or unpleasant odours.
- Ensuring your pet does not cause nuisance, fear, alarm or distress to others.
- Supervising pets in communal and shared spaces.
- Keeping a suitable number of pets for the size and nature of your home.

Keep your community clean

Dog fouling on footpaths, roads, parks, gardens, children's play areas and other public spaces is unacceptable.

Please:

- Always clean up after your dog.
- Dispose of pet waste responsibly.
- Keep communal areas clean and free from fouling.
- Help protect shared green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Dog fouling can pose serious health risks, particularly to young children. Failure to clean up after your dog may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice and further action by the local authority.

Look after your home

You are responsible for:

- Any damage caused by your pet.
- Keeping your home and garden clean and well maintained.
- Ensuring your pet does not damage communal areas or neighbouring properties.

Being a good neighbour

Most pet owners are considerate and responsible. Simple actions can make a big difference:

- Keep dogs on leads where appropriate.
- Clean up after your pets.
- Deal with noise issues promptly.
- Respect shared spaces.
- Act if your pet's behaviour causes concern.



If a pet is causing a problem

Pet-related issues may include persistent barking, dog fouling, nuisance behaviour, damage to property or concerns about animal welfare.

If you feel comfortable doing so, speak to your neighbour first, as many issues can be resolved through a friendly conversation.

If the problem continues, please contact us and we will work with everyone involved to find a solution.

If a complaint is found to be justified, your Tenant Partner will advise you of the action required to prevent further incidents. Where problems persist or serious concerns remain, Riverside Scotland may require further action, including taking steps to remove the pet from the property.

Your tenancy responsibilities

Your tenancy agreement sets out the conditions for keeping pets. Failure to comply with these conditions may be considered a breach of your tenancy agreement and could result in tenancy enforcement or legal action.

By being a responsible pet owner, you can help ensure that Riverside Scotland communities remain clean, safe and enjoyable places for everyone to live.

Part of The Riverside Group Limited

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