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Housing Services
Tenancy Services

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Keeping Pets In Your Home

A pet that is well behaved and properly cared for can be of real benefit to its owner, especially to children and the elderly.

Oxford City Council is happy for you to keep an animal, bird or reptile as long as it is appropriate for the type of home that you live in and does not annoy or disturb your neighbours.

This leaflet tells you what you must consider before having a pet.

You can download a copy of this leaflet from
www.oxford.gov.uk

Translations available

অনুবাদের ব্যবস্থা আছে
提供有翻譯本
तरजमे उपलब्ध हैं
उपलब्ध मिल सकते हैं
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Tenancy Services Leaflets Available

- Garages
- Guide to Exchanging Your Tenancy
- How to Pay Your Rent
- Keeping Pets in Your Home
- Making Your Own Improvements to Your Home
- Moving into Your Home
- Moving from Your Home in the Event of Emergencies and Major Repairs
- Moving Out of Your Home
- Neighbour Nuisance
- Opening Times of Local Service Shops and Housing Offices
- Tenancy and Estate Management Services
- Succession to Tenancies
- Transfers
- Living in a Tower Block

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Keeping Pets in Your Home



For Oxford City Council Tenants

Points to Consider Before Getting Your Pet



- Your Tenancy Agreement says that you are responsible for the behaviour of your pet in your home, garden, shared and surrounding areas. It must not cause a nuisance, annoy or disturb anyone.
- To keep an uncaged animal, reptile or bird in a flat or upper maisonette you must first receive our written agreement. The Council has to consider all our residents and needs to make sure that your pet will not cause a problem.
- You must not keep animals that are unsuitable for your type of home. If you are unsure please ask your Estate Manager for advice.
- There are laws about keeping dangerous animals and the protection of some species. It is always advisable to find information about any type of animal, bird or reptile before you acquire it. For example, how big will it get, what does it need to eat, how should you care for it properly?
- You should consider the cost of keeping the animal including pet insurance. You will also need to consider how much exercise the animal may require.
- You may need to make arrangements to care for your pet(s) when you are on holiday.

Keeping a Dog



- If you are given permission to keep a dog in your home it must not annoy other people, for example by barking or being aggressive.
- The dog must not be allowed to damage your home.

- You must clear up any mess, including in communal areas and public spaces. You can be fined if your dog fouls on public land, a £50 on the spot fine, or up to £1000 if the matter is taken to Court. Not knowing the dog has fouled or not having anything to clear it away with is not a defence.
- It is your responsibility to know where your dog is at all times and your dog must wear a collar and tag bearing the name and address of its owner by law.
- If you lose your dog you must inform the Dog Warden and the Police immediately. If you find a stray dog and do not report it to the Police and the Dog Warden it is a criminal offence.

For advice on taking care of a dog please contact the Oxford City Council Dog Warden Service on 01865-252845 or by e-mail to dogs@oxford.gov.uk

A leaflet giving advice called Dog Warden Service is available in all the Local Housing Offices, Local Service Shops and direct from the Dog Warden Service at Ramsay House.

Structures in Gardens



- There are rules about building pigeon lofts and chicken coops in your garden. If you wish to keep a bird outside ask your Estate Manager for advice first. You will need to apply for written permission to build the structure and may also require planning permission.
- You may apply for permission to keep up to a maximum of six hens in a garden hencoop, you cannot keep a cockerel.

If you are in any doubt whether the animal you want to keep is suitable, contact your Estate Manager straightaway.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this leaflet please contact your Local Housing Office by telephone or visit by appointment or ask your Estate Manager to visit you at home.

Local Service Shops and Housing Offices Opening times: please pick up a copy of our opening times leaflet, or check out our website on www.oxford.gov.uk

Useful Contact Numbers



Police **0845 8 505505**

Dog Warden **01865 252845**

RSPCA: national cruelty and advice line
0870 55 55 999

RSPB: advice on keeping birds (not a rescue service) **01295 253330**

PDSA: provides free veterinary services to eligible persons for sick and injured animals
0800 731 2502

The Blue Cross: Animal hospital and adoption centre **01993 822651**