
From: Residential Tenancies Regulation 2010
Subject: FW: Pets in rental houses consultation

From: Paige Burton
Sent: Monday, 29 July 2019 7:04 PM
To: Residential Tenancies Regulation 2010 <rtreg@finance.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Pets in rental houses consultation

I support a positive approach to pets in rented homes that places responsibility for the decision to keep pets with tenants. Allowing pets gives access to the health and wellbeing benefits of pet ownership to tenants and reduces the number of animals abandoned, and reliant on shelters each year. The Residential Tenancies Regulation should prohibit blanket 'no pets' terms from tenancy agreements except where another law prevents the keeping of pets. Terms in the standard form agreement should encourage responsible pet ownership, and transparency around the keeping of pets in homes.

Too many landlords issue blanket 'no pets' clauses in their tenancy contracts. The Residential Tenancies Regulation has the ability to restrict the kinds of additional terms from being placed into an agreement.

Currently the standard form agreement starts with a negative default additional term against pets. This is not required by the Act and is not in keeping with modern community standards. I support a default additional term which encourages responsible pet ownership and makes clear to both tenants and landlords the responsibilities tenants have around keeping pets.

For many, renting is the only option for housing. But not being able to afford a house renting shouldn't mean that children grow up without knowing the love of a family pet to look after, exercise, and have as a companion.

Paige Burton