

16. Pets

Individuals in Spectrum's services may choose to have pets in their residence. The following considerations should be taken into account before deciding whether to introduce a pet into the residence:

- (a) Was the request made by the individuals served / for the benefit of the individuals served?
- (b) Are the residence and grounds suitable for a pet? Consider the available space, proximity to neighbours, noise levels.
- (c) Are there health and safety implications for other residents or staff – eg. allergies, fears, mobility issues?
- (d) Can the person afford to have a pet? Consider cost implications and how other activity choices may be affected, if the person has limited financial resources.

Policy:

- (a) Individuals living in Society-owned or operated homes will obtain prior approval from a Director before introducing a pet into the residence. Individuals in Shared Living will obtain prior approval from the landlord and from the homeshare provider before introducing a pet into the home.
- (b) Individuals who choose to have a pet in their home will be financially responsible for all costs associated with the feeding and care of the pet, including any costs associated with cleaning or repairing damage caused by their pet.
- (c) Individuals will be responsible for the direct care and control of their pet.
- (d) Individuals will be responsible for ensuring the cleanliness of the residence and grounds, eg. cleaning litter boxes, disposing of pet waste, minimizing pet hairs and odors inside the home.
- (e) Staff will obtain prior consent from the individuals served and the supervisor before bringing their pets to work. Staff will be responsible for the direct care and control of their pet, including any costs associated with cleaning or repairing damage caused by their pet.