

Tools for you

Property managers, tenants, landlords, Neighborhood Justice Center representatives, and experts in real estate and condominium association law provided input in the development of the Pets in Housing program and materials. Use these materials as is or as a guide. We will talk to your Association and help you custom design pet policies for your building or rental unit.

For more information, contact us at 356-2247 or email hhs@hawaiianhumane.org.

Facts to know

- More than 60% of Oahu households have pets.
- 43% of Oahu households own dogs.
- More than 300,000 pets are family members on Oahu.
- It is illegal to charge a pet deposit in Hawaii.
- Responsible pet owners tend to be great tenants.
- Smaller dogs do not necessarily make better tenants.
- Breed-restrictive policies don't work and breed is not indicative of aggression.

Laws to learn

Visit www.hawaiianhumane.org/current_laws.html for the following laws:

- Hawaii State Revised Statutes, which protect pet owners and govern pet issues.
- The Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities who need service or emotional support animals.
- The Housing & Urban-Rural Recovery Act, which allows access to certain federally subsidized rental units.



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Pets in Housing

No one should ever have to choose between their pet or a place to live. 



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Pets are Family Too!

The Hawaiian Humane Society's Pets in Housing program works to increase the number of residences that allow pets. We work with landlords and tenants, home owners and associations, property and resident managers, realtors, as well as people who love animals and people who don't. Workable solutions can be achieved for the benefit of all.

More than 60 percent of Oahu's households include pets. Policies that ban animal companions limit the pool of qualified applicants and unnecessarily penalize the majority of pet owners who are responsible. Bans also increase the number of families that have to relinquish pets.



Pet-Friendly Rental Units are Now Online

Visit hawaiianhumane.org for a listing of pet-friendly rental units currently available. Simply click on Pets in Housing on our home page. Landlords can post their rentals for free.



Finding a Pet-Friendly Home

Step 1 – Take your time

Give yourself eight weeks before your lease expires to check ads and contact realtors and rental agencies. When buying a condominium, plan on a minimum of four to six months for your search.

Step 2 – Get help from the experts

Seek assistance from realtors, rental agents or resident managers. Make a professional connection with someone who understands how important it is to stay united with your pet.

Step 3 – Secure endorsements

Secure a letter from your current landlord or condominium association that says you're a responsible pet owner. Also get a letter from your veterinarian stating that you have been diligent in your pet's medical care and that your pet is sterilized. Put your pet through the AKC Canine Good Citizen test as further demonstration of good behavior and manners.



Step 4 – Respect the rules

Keeping a pet in violation of a no-pets rule puts your pet and you at risk for eviction and other legal action.

Step 5 – Put your best paw forward

Responsible pet owners make excellent tenants. Once the right home is found, pet owners are more likely to stay longer, and lower vacancy rates can mean lower costs and fewer challenges for landlords and real estate agents. Offer to bring your well-behaved pet to meet the owner or property manager.

Step 6 – Put it in writing

Permission to have a pet should be in writing and should be signed by you and your new landlord. We recommend using our Pet Addendum form, which can be found at hawaiianhumane.org. Comprehensive agreements protect people, property and the animals themselves. If your lease has a no-pets clause, verbal approval is not enough. The clause should be crossed out of the lease before you sign it, and be sure it's crossed out on your landlord's copy, too.

