

Bridport Cohousing CLT

PET POLICY

Valid from: May 2022

Review date: November 2022 and every 2 months thereafter

The principles which inform this policy

1. Pets enrich the lives of their human companions and of many non-pet owners as well.
2. Some pet behaviors trigger concerns about safety and comfort for some of the people in the community.

The aims of this policy

1. To create an environment that welcomes pets and the contributions they bring to the community, while minimising any potential conflict between people with pets and those bothered by their behaviors.
2. To create clear accountability for pet and human behavior and support us living together effectively as a community.

Therefore, we have agreed that:

1. Pet owners assume full responsibility for their pet's behavior, noise, damage or droppings.
2. We commit to be gracious when giving and receiving information/complaints about pets.
3. Pet owners will willingly address concerns about their pet(s) that may be/become an annoyance to their neighbours.
4. Dog owners will take responsibility for their pets' noise in our closely clustered community.
5. In our common outside areas, dogs are always under the control of the owner and on a lead if necessary to achieve this. If there are more than 2 dogs in the area at the same time, then the dogs should be kept on the lead.
6. Cat owners take account of the [RSPB guidance](#) to stop cats catching and killing birds and small mammals.
7. Community members are ultimately responsible for the behavior of pets brought in by their visitors and are responsible for ensuring that their visitors with pets follow our Pet Policy.
8. When there are complaints about someone's pet the community member first tries to informally resolve this with the pet owner. If the problem persists, they ask for direction through the Dispute Guidance Circle.
9. The issue of pets in common facilities will be addressed by the Environment Circle who will convene a group drawn from the whole membership.

10. The Environment Circle will develop a process to introduce any dogs who come to live at Hazelmead to other residents, in order to help dog owners to appreciate the fears and concerns that some members have about dogs' behavior and to help us all be sensitive to each other's needs.