

Tips for responsible pet ownership

Before applying for permission to keep a pet

- Check your tenancy or lease agreement to identify whether it may be permitted to keep a pet in your home. We will consider each application on a case-by-case basis.
- Think about whether your lifestyle, responsibilities and home environment are suitable for a pet and will allow your pet to be well cared for.
- Learn about any special requirements the pet you want might have – think about their needs and how they match up with yours. For example, would you have enough time to walk a dog every day? Would you be happy to sit and groom a long haired cat every day?
- Think about whether a new pet would fit in with any other pets you may have.

Tips for looking after a pet

If you are given permission to keep a pet:

1. Ensure you regularly feed your pet (but don't overfeed) and provide a nutritious diet.
2. Register your pet with a local vet and take your pet for regular check-ups, especially if you have a dog or cat. This will help keep your pet healthy.
3. If you have a dog, cat or rabbits you may want to consider taking out pet insurance to cover against unexpected veterinary fees.
3. Neuter or spay your dog or cat as soon as it is old enough to prevent any unwanted litters.
4. Clean up after your pet, especially dogs. Dog mess is a health hazard and you can be issued with an on-the-spot fine by your local council if you don't clean up their mess.
5. Check your garden is secure when your pet is outside. This will help prevent your pet escaping into your neighbour's gardens and getting lost or causing a nuisance.
6. Make sure your dog is microchipped by the time it is 8 weeks old. You can get your dog microchipped for free at the following:
 - [Battersea Dogs and Cats Home](#)
 - [Blue Cross centres](#)
 - [Dogs Trust](#)
7. Keep dogs on leads in communal areas to help prevent them getting lost or causing a nuisance.
8. Never leave dogs in the car on a hot day. Temperatures inside the car could rise to a dangerous level and the dog could suffer heatstroke, which can be fatal.
9. Get your dog or cat a collar with a pendant with your phone number on so you can be contacted if they get lost.
10. If you are going to be away from home for an extended period, make sure you arrange for your pet to be properly cared for until you are back.

These are just tips, and for more information you can speak with your vet or visit animal welfare websites like the RSPCA or Dogs Trust.