



## **Rules for keeping a dog**

Valid from: July 2022

Valid to: July 2024

Version: 3.1

EPIC will allow you to keep a dog where you have the facilities to look after it properly. However, irresponsible dog ownership causes suffering to animals and nuisance to neighbours. You also have a legal responsibility to care for your dog.

EPIC receives many complaints relating to dogs. The complaints include noise nuisance caused by barking, fouling in communal gardens and damage caused to fixtures and fittings; therefore, if you wish to keep a dog in our property, you must apply for permission to do so. A request form can be collected from the office or requested by telephone, text or email.

When you ask for permission to keep a dog, we will consider:

- Whether the dog's breed, size and temperament is suitable for the type and size of the property
- Your financial circumstances
- Your employment status
- Whether you have access to a garden or an open space nearby
- Whether you already have pets
- Whether you have had any experience of looking after a dog

Below is guidance taken from the RSPCA which you must follow if you wish to keep a dog.

### **Do**

- Provide a balanced diet and constant supply of fresh, clean water
- Provide a bed and blanket
- Take it for regular walks and use a lead when walking near to traffic or other animals
- Provide vet care for regular vaccinations and treatment for fleas and worms, or if your dog is ill or injured
- Arrange care if you intend to take a holiday or leave your dog for a long period of time
- Properly train your dog
- Clean up after your dog
- Provide a collar and identity tag
- Have your dog microchipped

### **Don't**

- Keep the following dogs, because this is banned by law: Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa, Dogo Argentina, Fila Brazeliero; or any other dog that the law regards as dangerous or out of control
- Breed or board dogs in your home
- Keep your dog in communal spaces
- Leave your dog alone or unattended overnight or for long periods of time
- Allow your dog to cause a nuisance
- Allow your dog to damage any of the company's fixtures or fittings.

Useful Website – [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk) or [www.dogstrust.org.uk](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk)

## Declaration

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to read and follow the rules for keeping a dog at all times throughout my tenancy and understand that failing to do so, could result in EPIC withdrawing permission for me to keep a dog.

Signed (Applicant).....

Signed (Joint Applicant).....

Date.....

**NB:**

Please note: from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016 the law changed - all dogs must be microchipped. By law any owner who does not comply can face a fine of up to £500.