

PET OWNERSHIP POLICY (FAMILY)



Pet Ownership

Section 526 of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 added a new Section 31 (“Pet Ownership in Public Housing”) to the United States Housing Act of 1937. Section 31 establishes pet ownership requirements for residents of public housing other than Federally assisted rental housing for the elderly or persons with disabilities. In brief, this section states that: a resident of a dwelling unit in public housing may own 1 or more common household pets or have such pets present in the dwelling unit. Allowance of pets is subject to reasonable requirements of the PHA.

The Housing Authority of the City of Texas City (PHA) notifies eligible new residents of that right and provides them copies of the PHA’s Pet Ownership Rules. To obtain permission, pet owners must agree to abide by those Rules.

In consulting with residents currently living in the PHA’s developments, the PHA will notify all such residents that:

- A. all residents are permitted to own and keep common domesticated household pets, such as a cat, dog, bird, and fish, in their dwelling units, in accordance with PHA pet ownership rules;
- B. the non-refundable nominal pet fee is intended to cover the reasonable operating costs to the development. The refundable pet deposit is intended to cover additional costs not otherwise covered (i.e. fumigation of unit);
- C. animals that are used to assist the persons with disabilities are excluded from the size and weight requirements pertaining to ownership of service animals; however, they will be required to assure that proper licensing, inoculations, leash restraints, etc. are observed;
- D. residents may request a copy of the PHA’s pet ownership rules or proposed amendments to the rules at any time; and
- E. if the dwelling lease of a resident prohibits pet ownership, the resident may request that the lease be amended to permit pet ownership, in accordance with the PHA’s pet ownership rules shown below.
- F. Section 31 does not alter, in any way, the regulations applicable to Federally Assisted housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities found at Section 227 of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 and located in 24 CFR part 5, subpart C.
- G. New Section 960.705 of 24 CFR clarifies that the regulations added in Section 31 do not apply to service animals that assist persons with disabilities. This exclusion applies to both service animals that reside in public housing and service animals that visit PHA developments. Nothing in this rule limits or impairs the rights of persons with disabilities, authorizes PHAs to limit or impair the rights of persons with disabilities, or affects any authority PHAs may have to regulate service animals that assist persons with disabilities.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF TEXAS CITY

Pet Ownership Rules for Families

1. Common household pet means a domesticated cat, dog, bird, and fish in aquariums. Reptiles of any kind, spiders, and mice and rats are prohibited.
2. Each household shall have only one pet (except fish or birds). The limit for birds is two (2).
3. The pet owner shall have only a small cat or a dog. The animal's weight shall not exceed 20 pounds. The animal's height shall not exceed fifteen inches. Such limitations do not apply to a service animal used to assist a handicapped or disabled resident.
4. Pet owners shall license their pets yearly with the City of Texas City or as required. The pet owner must show the PHA proof of rabies and distemper booster inoculations and licensing annually. The pet owner must also carry renter's liability or other form of liability insurance which covers household pets.
5. No pet owner shall keep a pet in violation of State or local health or humane laws or ordinances. Any failure of these pet ownership rules to contain other applicable State or local laws or ordinances does not relieve the pet owner of the responsibility for complying with such requirements.
6. The pet owner shall have his or her cat or dog spayed or neutered and shall pay the cost thereof. A veterinarian shall verify that the spaying or neutering has been accomplished. If the pet is less than six (6) months old, the resident must agree to have the appropriate procedures performed when the animal reaches the age of six (6) months. Exceptions to this requirement shall be granted only upon certification from a veterinarian that permanent harm may result from this procedure due to the pet's age or illness.
7. The pet owner shall house the pet inside the pet owner's dwelling unit. The pet owner shall keep a cat or a dog on a leash and shall control the animal when it is taken out of the dwelling unit for any purpose. The owner of a bird(s) shall confine them to a cage at all times. No pet owner shall allow his or her pet to be unleashed or loose outside the pet owner's dwelling unit.
8. No resident shall keep, raise, train, breed or maintain any pet of any kind at any location, either inside or outside the dwelling unit, for any commercial purpose.
9. No resident shall keep a vicious or intimidating pet on the premises (i.e. chows, pit bulls, German shepherd dogs, Doberman pinchers, rottweilers, or any other known fighter breed). If the pet owner declines, delays or refuses to remove such a pet from the premises, the Authority shall do so, in order to safeguard the health and welfare of other residents.
10. No pet owner shall permit his or her pet to disturb, interfere or diminish the peaceful enjoyment of the pet owner's neighborhood or other residents. The terms "disturb, interfere, or diminish" shall include but not be limited to barking, howling, biting, scratching, chirping and other activities of a disturbing nature. If the pet owner declines, delays or refuses to remove the pet from the premises, the PHA shall do so.

11. The owner of a cat shall feed the animal at least once per day; provide a litter box inside the dwelling unit; clean the litter box at least every two (2) days; and take the animal to a veterinarian at least once per year. The pet owner shall not permit refuse from the litter box to accumulate or to become unsanitary or unsightly, and shall dispose of such droppings by placing them in a plastic tie sack in a designated trash container outside the building where the pet owner lives.
12. The owner of a dog shall feed the animal at least once per day; take the animal for a walk at least twice per day; remove the animal droppings at least twice per day; and take the animal to a veterinarian at least once per year. The pet owner shall not permit dog droppings to accumulate or to become unsanitary or unsightly, and shall dispose of such droppings by placing them in a plastic tie sack in a designated trash container outside the building where the pet owner lives.
13. The pet owner shall take the precautions and measures necessary to eliminate pet odors within and around the dwelling unit, and shall maintain the dwelling unit in a sanitary condition at all times, as determined by the PHA.
14. No pet owner shall alter the dwelling unit or the surrounding premises to create a space, hole, container or enclosure for any pet.
15. PHA staff shall enter a dwelling unit where a pet has been left untended for twenty-four (24) hours, remove the pet and transfer it to the proper local authorities, subject to any provisions of State or local law or ordinances in this regard. The PHA shall accept no responsibility for the pet under such circumstances.
16. Each pet owner shall pay a non-refundable pet fee of \$150.00 and a refundable pet deposit of \$100.00. A refundable deposit of \$250.00 will be charged for aquariums over 10 gallons. There is no pet deposit for birds, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs or turtles. The pet fee/deposit is not part of the rent payable by the pet owner, and is in addition to any other financial obligations generally imposed on residents of the development where the pet owner lives. The PHA shall use the non-refundable pet fee only to pay reasonable expenses directly attributable to the presence of the pet in the development, including, but not limited to the cost of repairs and replacements to, and the fumigation of, the pet owner's dwelling unit. The refundable deposit will be used, if appropriate, to correct damages caused by the presence of the pet.

The refundable pet deposit will be placed in an escrow account and the PHA will refund the unused portion, plus any accrued interest, to the resident within thirty (30) days after the pet owner moves from the dwelling unit or no longer owns or keeps a pet in the dwelling unit, pending a special inspection by the PHA.
17. All residents are prohibited from feeding, housing or caring for stray animals or birds. Such action shall constitute having a pet without permission of the PHA.
18. Each pet owner shall identify an alternate custodian for his or her pet. If the pet owner is ill or absent from the dwelling unit and unable to care for his or her pet, the alternate custodian shall assume responsibility for the care and keeping of the pet, including, if necessary, the removal of the pet from the PHA premises.
19. Should any pet housed in the PHA's facilities give birth to a litter, the residents shall remove from the premises all of said pets except one as soon as the baby's are able to survive on their own (a maximum of 6 weeks.)

20. If a resident including a pet owner, breaches any of the rules set forth above, the PHA may revoke the pet permit and evict the resident or pet owner.

I have read and understand the above pet ownership rules and agree to abide by them.

Resident's Signature

PHA Staff Member's Signature

Date

Date

Type of Animal Breed

Name of Pet

Description of Pet (color, size, weight, sex, etc.)

Name of Alternate Custodian

Phone Number

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Resident's Signature

Date

Refundable Damage Deposit

Date

Non-refundable Damage Deposit

Date