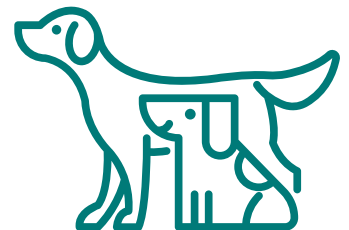


# Pet Policy



# Still Green Pet Policy

## KEY POINTS

- Pets are welcome and we recognise their importance as companions
- Pets are not allowed in indoor communal areas
- Numbers are limited
- Owners take responsibility

## INTENTION

This policy's principle intention is to enable ownership of pets by residents of Still Green, while minimizing the potential for nuisance to neighbours and negative impacts on wildlife. It is intended to promote:

- a harmonious relationship between pet owners and non-pet-owners
- a clean and safe environment for all
- minimal impact of pets on people and wildlife.

Still Green Cohousing acknowledges the fun, affection, comfort, and meaning pets add to their owners' lives and the lives of others in the community, while accepting that some residents may prefer neither to have pets nor to interact with others' pets. The community aims to be accessible to all people, including those with asthma, allergies or fear of animals. Residents and their guests should be free to enjoy any public outdoor space, as well as their dwelling's private outdoor space, including for cooking and eating, without intrusion from pets.

The policy recognises that pets have different needs according to age and experience and pose different threats to wildlife, and that residents have different beliefs about animals, including their medical treatment. Still Green Cohousing expects pet-owners to act responsibly within the policy, while offering a range of possible actions rather than one-size-fits-all. It encourages dialogue based on respect for the choices of others and accepts that different options or exemptions are possible according to pet/owner needs, and in agreement with the community.

## GENERAL

1. We recognise the importance of pets to their owners and the need for great sensitivity.
2. Pet owners are responsible for preventing incidents and dealing with problems, including a commitment to be responsive when receiving complaints about their pet(s). Pet owners agree to address concerns about their pet(s) that cause a problem to their neighbours, and any serious pet incidents must be addressed immediately.
3. No pets are allowed in the Common House (except for service dogs) for reasons of cleanliness, health and safety, and potential allergies or phobias of other users.
4. Pet owners are responsible for any property damage caused by their pets.
5. Pet owners are expected to thoroughly clean up their pet's faeces in all outdoor areas.
6. Pet food is not to be left outside to discourage stray animals and rats.
7. Any animal that hurts or threatens a person or another animal, if unprovoked, is subject to immediate exclusion at the discretion of the pet committee.
8. Residents shall be responsible for the pets of their visitors.
9. Pet owners are responsible for dealing effectively with any excessive noise generated by their pets.

10. Residents are requested to consult the Pet Committee before introducing a new pet.
11. Owners are responsible for the medical care and well-being of their pets including vaccination, deworming, defleaing and neutering.
12. The management committee may immediately exclude any pets that deliberately hurt or threaten people, other pets, or livestock.
13. Pet waste should be disposed of in the appropriate waste container.

## DOGS

1. Dogs must always be accompanied and be kept under proper control, on a lead, when on communal land including communal garden.
2. Owners to ensure dogs do not poo in communal areas. Any accidents to be cleared up by owner.
3. No more than one dog per unit, unless agreed with the pet committee.
4. Biodegradable, non-oil based, poo bags should be used.

## CATS

1. Cats should be discouraged where possible from pooing in communal areas i.e. by the provision of litter trays. Cat owners to collectively be responsible for regular clearing up of any contaminated areas.
2. All cats should be sterilized.
3. We recognise the effect that cats can have on the local wildlife and therefore choose to limit cat numbers: an average of 0.3 per housing unit. No more than one cat per unit, unless agreed with the pet committee.
4. Cats should not enter people's private property without permission.

## INDOOR PETS

Indoor pets are the responsibility of the household in which they live. Unless they cause complaint beyond the walls of their living unit (such as noise), they are not the community's business. Exotic pets such as snakes and spiders may only be kept at the discretion of the community.

## POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The Pet Committee will be responsible for the ongoing implementation of this policy and retains the right to exclude pets. The pet committee may also declare a moratorium on new pets with the agreement of the Residents Association.