



Retirement Intel.

RETIREMENT HOUSING OPINIONS AND GUIDELINES

Retirement Intelligence

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Pets

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Pets in retirement villages ...

are undoubtedly a significant benefit for those who enjoy the company of animals and who find companionship, comfort and meaning in the relationship that they develop with those animals.

This is a highly emotive topic – partly because many people do not like the company of animals and do not like the challenges that are largely unavoidable in villages where pets are allowed.

Many retirement villages are fairly dense in terms of their layout – meaning that neighbours have no choice but to come into contact with the pets of neighbours.

Pets also occupy a disproportionate amount of time in Trustee meetings of villages that allow the housing of pets within the estate buildings.

Many challenges arise when pets are permitted, including:

1. Noise
2. Public defecation
3. Control
4. Hygiene
5. Animal welfare

It is common cause that the control of certain animals (like cats) is high impossible, and while cats are relatively clean animals, dogs are not, and left to their own devices will defecate wherever they choose.

Many animals can be noisy and some animals can become a real challenge to keep clean. Perhaps highest on the list of considerations is that the animals need to be well looked after as the resident ages, and in certain instances it will fall to the Management of the estate to step in – either in the interest of the pet, the owner or the neighbours!



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What if pets are banned in my village?

Two viable alternatives to personal pets provide a kinder alternative to a ban:

1. A service whereby pets are brought to the development at arranged times, either to specific individuals or to groups of residents. This is believed to be highly therapeutic and beneficial to elderly and lonely residents.

2. The management of the development keep, house and care for a limited number of pets.

Residents can become involved in the care of the pets and can even have them in their dwelling units for short stays, at the discretion of the manager.

Even if there only one "estate dog" and/or a "estate cat", this makes the development feel more like a home.

Rules

Every village needs a set of rules that provide a framework for expected behaviour. Here are some of the things you can expect to see in the rules of your chosen estate, if pets are allowed:

- Written permission will need to be obtained for your pets before you occupy your unit.
- Your pets will need to be housed out of sight of the neighbours.
- You will most likely be restricted to a single pet. Some villages allow two pets when you enter, but when the one passes away, it may not be replaced.
- Your pets are not allowed to cause any nuisance to other residents.
- You need to clean up after your pet when it fouls the common property or the property of other people.
- Dogs will need to be on a leash when walked, or enclosed within your property.
- All pets must wear a collar with ID of the owner.
- You will need to register your pet with the estate manager and provide:
 - A photograph of the pet/s
 - Proof of neutering
 - Proof of ID chipping
- Only domesticated pets will be permitted
- Only certain types and sizes of pets will be permitted
- No breeding of pets will be allowed.
- No pets may be held on a short-term basis
- No visitors may bring pets into the village
- Damage caused by your pets will be for your cost to rectify
- If your pet is not well cared for, it will be removed for its own safety





Further reading:

- <https://starts60.com/money/property/pets-retirement-village-guidelines>
- <https://www.pawspetouspets.com/articles/petretire.shtml>
- <https://www.villages.com.au/info-centre/post/retirement-villages/pets-in-retirement-villages>
- <https://www.agingcare.com/Articles/benefits-of-elderly-owning-pets-113294.htm>
- <https://www.aginginplace.org/seniors-and-pets/>
- <https://www.nextavenue.org/health-benefits-pets-older-adults/>
- <https://money.usnews.com/money/retirement/slideshows/10-reasons-older-people-need-pets>
- <https://seniordirectory.com/articles/info/should-seniors-own-pets-pros-cons-faqs>
- <https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2018/01/04/pet-ownership-for-seniors.aspx>
- <https://www.familiesonlinemagazine.com/pets-in-retirement/>



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