



CITYWEST HOMES

# Want to keep a dog in your flat? Important information enclosed...



**QUALITY HOMES IN GREAT COMMUNITIES**

on behalf of  City of Westminster

## **The City Council's tenancy and lease agreements state that you must not keep a dog, bird or other animal in your home without our permission.**

### **When do we give permission for a dog?**

We only give permission to keep a dog if you live on the **ground floor and you have a private garden**. We give special consideration to deaf, blind or partially sighted residents who live above the ground floor and require an assistance dog (such as a hearing dog or guide dog). But it is only in these circumstances that we will consider granting permission outside of the policy.

Permission will not be given for any dog that would be illegal under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (as amended) such as a pit-bull terrier.

If we give you permission you must ensure the dog does not cause a nuisance. You must keep it on a lead at all times on the estate, not allow it to annoy or frighten others and not allow it to foul the estate or bark if left alone.

An application form is attached to this leaflet. Please provide a photo of your dog with the form.

### **Think hard before getting a dog**

Looking after any animal is a huge commitment in time and money. Food can cost up to £10 a week, with annual vaccinations on top of that. Moreover nearly 90% of our stock is flats with only limited access to areas suitable for exercising dogs.

**We therefore ask you to think very carefully before getting one.**

### **If you are given permission**

Please ensure that if you do have permission for a dog that it carries identification with your name and address and is kept under control on a lead at all times on estates. Your dog should not cause a nuisance or danger to anyone.

### **What happens if it does cause a nuisance?**

If a dog is reported to be causing a nuisance we would investigate and take appropriate action. This would initially be by warning letter but could escalate to seeking an injunction or even an eviction if the nuisance continued. Any permission that had been given would be withdrawn and you would have to make alternative arrangements for the dog to live elsewhere.

## Cleaning up after your dog

Dog mess is a health hazard and you may face a fine if you don't scoop a poop! It can carry diseases such as *Toxocara canis*, a roundworm found in dogs which can easily be picked up by young children. This causes stomach upsets, sore throats, asthma and in rare cases blindness. So – **please clean up after your dog.**

## Micro-chipping your dog”

A micro-chip is recommended by the RSPCA as this is the best way to ensure any lost pet is re-united with its owner.

## Churchill Gardens Estate and Queens Park Ward – Dog Control Order

On 1 December 2009 a trial of new powers to tackle irresponsible dog ownership starts in Queens Park ward and Churchill Gardens Estate.

From this date owners can be given on the spot penalty fines of £80 if they:

- Fail to clean up after their dog – this will apply Citywide
- Let their dog off the lead in designated areas or on the highway
- Allow their dog to enter areas where dogs are excluded. (A small number of areas popular with residents, such as children's play areas, will exclude all dogs.)



# Application to keep a dog

I would like to apply for permission to keep a dog in my flat.

I am / not blind / partially sighted / need the use of a hearing dog

Name:

Address:

Phone no:

Does your flat have access to a private garden? Yes/ No

If not we will be unable to give you permission to keep a dog.

Breed of dog

Is the dog micro chipped?

**If permission is granted I will keep to the following rules:**

**My dog will carry identification bearing the owner's name, current address and / or telephone number.**

*This is a legal requirement. Failure to comply could result in a heavy fine.*

**I will ensure that my dog is kept under control at all times and does not cause a danger to anyone. It will be kept on a lead when outside in shared areas of City Council estates.**

**I will not allow my dog to foul my home, garden or any communal areas.**

*Dog faeces can carry diseases which can be harmful to people. It is an offence for a dog owner not to clean up after their dog in public places such as roads, estates, footpaths and parks. Failure to clean up can result in a £80 fixed penalty on the spot fine or prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.*

**I will not allow my dog to cause a nuisance to other people, such as barking.**

*I understand that failure to comply with these rules will mean that permission may be withdrawn and enforcement action taken.*

**If you want to register for more than one dog please fill an additional form**

Signed:

Date: