

QUITMAN HOUSING AUTHORITY

PET POLICY

I. Purpose

In compliance with Section 227 of Title II of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983, and with 24 CFR Parts 5, 243, 842, and 942, Final Rule, the Housing Authority will permit residents of housing projects built exclusively for occupancy by the elderly and persons with disabilities, to own and keep common household pets in their apartment. Additionally, in compliance with the 1998 Quality Housing and Responsibility Act, family residents shall also be permitted to own and keep common household pets in accordance with the provisions of this policy. This policy sets forth the conditions and guidelines under which pets will be permitted. This policy is to be adhered to at all times.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that pet ownership will not be injurious to persons or property, or violate the rights of all residents to clean, quiet, and safe surroundings.

Common Household Pets are Defined as Follows:

Birds: Including canary, parakeet, finch and other species that are normally kept caged; birds of prey are not permitted.

Fish: Tanks or aquariums are not to exceed 20 gallons in capacity. Poisonous or dangerous fish are not permitted. Only one (1) tank or aquarium is permitted per apartment.

Dogs: Not to exceed thirty (30) pounds at time of maturity. All dogs must be neutered or spayed.

Cats: All cats must be neutered or spayed and declawed.

Exotic pets such as snakes, monkeys, rodents, etc. are not allowed.

II. Registration

Every pet must be registered with the Housing Authority's management prior to moving the pet into the unit and updated annually thereafter. Registration requires the following:

- A. A certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian, or a state or local authority empowered to inoculate animals (or designated agent of such authority), stating that the animal has received all inoculations required by the state and local law, if applicable (dogs, cats).
- B. Proof of current license, if applicable (dogs, cats).
- C. Identification tag bearing the owner's name, address, and phone number (dogs, cats).
- D. Proof of neutering/spaying and/or declawing, if applicable (dogs, cats).
- E. Photograph (no smaller than 3x5) of pet or aquarium.

*Quitman Housing Authority
Pet Policy*

Revisions Effective: August 1, 2009

F. The name, address, and phone number of a responsible party that will care for the pet if the owner becomes temporarily incapacitated.

G. Fish - size of tank or aquarium must be registered.

III. **Licenses and Tags**

Every dog and cat must wear the appropriate local animal license, a valid rabies tag and a tag bearing the owner's name, address and phone number. All licenses and tags must be current.

IV. **Density of Pets**

Only one (1) dog or one (1) cat will be allowed per apartment. Only two (2) birds will be allowed per apartment. The Housing Authority only will give final approval on type and density of pets.

V. **Visitors and Guests**

No visitor or guest will be allowed to bring pets on the premises at anytime. Residents will not be allowed to Pet Sit or House a Pet without fully complying with this policy.

Feeding or caring for stray animals is prohibited and will be considered keeping a pet without permission.

VI. **Pet Restraints**

A. All dogs must be on a leash when not in the owner's apartment. The leash must be no longer than three (3) feet.

B. Cats must be in a caged container or on a leash when taken out of the owner's apartment.

C. Birds must be in a cage when inside of the resident's apartment or entering or leaving the building.

VII. **Liability**

Residents owning pets shall be liable for the entire amount of all damages to the Housing Authority premises caused by their pet and all cleaning, defleaing and deodorizing required because of such pet. Pet owners shall be strictly liable for the entire amount of any injury to the person or property of other residents, staff or visitors of the Housing Authority caused by their pet, and shall indemnify the Housing Authority for all costs of litigation and attorney's fees resulting from such damage. Pet liability insurance can be obtained through most insurance agents and companies.

VIII. **Sanitary Standards and Waste Disposal**

- A. Litter boxes must be provided for cats with use of odor-reducing chemicals.
- B. Fur-bearing pets must wear effective flea collars at all times. Should extermination become necessary, cost of such extermination will be charged to pet owner.
- C. Pet owners are responsible for immediate removal of the feces of their pet and shall be charged in instances where damages occur to Authority property due to pet or removal of pet feces by staff.
 - 1. All pet waste must be placed in a plastic bag and tied securely to reduce odor and placed in designated garbage container and/or trash compactor.
 - 2. Residents with litter boxes must clean them regularly. Noncompliance may result in removal of the pet. The Housing Authority reserves the right to impose a mandatory twice weekly litter box cleaning depending on need. Litter box garbage shall be placed in a plastic bag and deposited outside the building in the garbage container and/or trash compactor.
- D. All apartments with pets must be kept free of pet odors and maintained in a clean and sanitary manner. Pet owner's apartments may be subject to inspections once a month.

IX. **General Rules**

The resident agrees to comply with the following rules imposed by the Housing Authority:

- A. No pet shall be tied up anywhere on Authority property and left unattended for any amount of time.
- B. Pet owners will be required to make arrangements for their pets in the event of vacation or hospitalization.
- C. Dog houses are not allowed on Authority property.

X. **Pet Rule Violation and Pet Removal**

- A. If it is determined on the basis of objective facts, supported by written statement, that a pet owner has violated a rule governing the pet policy, the Housing Authority shall serve a notice of pet rule violation on the pet owner. Serious or repeated violations may result in pet removal or termination of the pet owner's tenancy, or both.
- B. If a pet poses a nuisance such as excessive noise, barking, or whining which disrupts the peace of other residents, owner will remove the pet from premises upon request of management within 48 hours. Nuisance complaints regarding pets are subject to immediate inspections.

- C. If a pet owner becomes unable either through hospitalization or illness to care for the pet and the person so designated to care for the pet in the pet owner's absence refuses or is unable physically to care for the pet, the Housing Authority can officially remove the pet. The Authority accepts no responsibility for pets so removed.

XI. **Rule Enforcement**

Violation of these pet rules will prompt a written notice of violation. The pet owner will have seven (7) days to correct the violation or request an informal hearing at which time the Authority's Grievance Procedure will be followed.

XII. **Grievance**

Management and resident agree to utilize the Grievance Procedure described in the Lease Agreement to resolve any dispute between resident and management regarding a pet.

XIII. **Damage Deposit**

A "Pet Damage Deposit" will be required for dogs and cats only; however, all pet owners must comply with registration rules for all other pets. The "Pet Damage Deposit" must be paid in advance and is to be used to pay reasonable expenses directly attributable to the presence of the pet in the project including (but not limited to) the cost of repairs and replacements to, and fumigation of, the resident's dwelling unit. The amount of the "Pet Damage Deposit" will be \$150.00.

XIV. **Exceptions**

Certain provisions of this policy do not apply to animals that are used to assist persons with disabilities. This exclusion applies to animals that reside in the development, as well as animals used to assist persons with disabilities that visit the development. Pets used for the purpose of aiding residents with disabilities must have appropriate certification. The Authority shall maintain a list of agencies that provide and/or train animals to give assistance to individuals with disabilities.

All provisions limiting the size or number of pets shall not apply to assistance animals. In addition, no deposit shall be required for assistance animals. General rules and sanitary standards provisions of this policy will apply to assistance animals

Housing Authority of the City of Quitman

P.O. Box 229

Quitman, Ga. 31643

Phone: 229.263.4631

Fax: 229.263.8767



BANNED DOG BREEDS

PIT BULLS are the most commonly banned dog breed, and the **band EXTENDS to any Pit Bull mix as well**. Other dogs commonly found on the blacklist include, but are not limited to:

- Mastiffs
- Rottweilers
- Alaskan Malamutes
- Siberian Huskies
- Doberman Pinschers
- Akitas
- Chows
- German Shepherds
- Great Danes
- Terriers
- Bulldogs
- Wolf Hybrid

Dogs are typically restricted because of a perceived tendency to be aggressive, or attack, or sometimes they are particularly large or strong.

Quitman Housing Authority does not discriminate on the basis of disability status in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its federally assisted programs and activities.