



Pet Friendly Housing Pilot: Final Report Summary

Purpose

The Pet Friendly Housing Pilot, funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery, ran from January 2023 to January 2026. The pilot aimed to increase the availability of pet friendly social housing in Scotland by developing and testing an accreditation scheme for housing providers to become more pet friendly. This summary outlines the work and its contribution to Dogs Trust's wider mission of keeping pets and their owners together.

Delivery

The pilot was delivered in three phases: Research and Scoping, Partnership, and Expansion. The first phase involved research into the pet friendly social housing landscape in Scotland through surveys, developing a Theory of Change model and creating the Pet Friendly Housing Toolkit. A nine-month long partnership with Manor Estates Housing Association helped to test and refine the toolkit. This was carried out by delivering interventions such as a template pet policy, animal welfare and signposting information packs for tenants and staff, and bespoke staff training on interacting safely with dogs. Manor Estates was accredited as the UK's first pet friendly landlord in February 2024. We then expanded across Scotland; accrediting additional landlords whilst testing and tailoring the process, thereby extending the reach and impact of pet friendly housing throughout the country.

Impact

The toolkit and accreditation process proved effective with eight social landlords and one private landlord accredited, and an additional six social landlords currently in the accreditation process. Once complete, this will result in a total of 43,000 properties across 27 local authorities being recognised as pet friendly - 6.8% of the total social housing stock in Scotland. To have the biggest impact, learnings from the pilot must inform efforts to tackle the biggest barriers owners face in accessing housing. These include restrictive policies, landlord motivation, inconsistent engagement and Private Rented Sector challenges.

Recommendations

- Dogs Trust to continue active engagement in the housing sector; online resources alone will not impact the supply of pet friendly housing
- Dogs Trust to strengthen internal data collection on housing-related relinquishments and define impact measurements



- Social housing providers to reconsider restrictive pet policies in (such as pets being banned in flats)
- Private landlords to consider going further than the requirements of the Renters' Rights Act 2025 and Housing (Scotland) Act 2025, and take a proactive approach to welcoming pets using Dogs Trust resources
- Creation of central online portal for accredited landlords to share resources and expertise

The pilot has laid the foundations for increased pet friendly rented accommodation across the UK, and moves us towards a future where nobody has to choose between their pet and a safe place to live. Any landlords, social or private, interested in working with Dogs Trust to become pet friendly can contact petfriendlyhousing@dogstrust.org.uk.