



The Pet Committee

The Pet Committee can be an important part of a successful pet policy. Comprised of both pet and non-pet owners, the committee helps to establish pet policies and resolve pet related issues. The committee may be charged with various duties including:

- Developing house rules regarding pets.
- Promoting a harmonious living environment for people and pets.
- Screening and approving pets being considered as a resident.
- Reviewing concerns regarding pets and recommending solutions.
- Assuring that pet policies are fairly and equitably enforced.

The board of directors should meet and decide what role your pet committee will play. Most organizations have found success when enforcement powers are shared between the pet committee, board of directors and building manager.

When establishing a pet committee you may want to consider the following:

- A committee of no less than five and no more than nine members. Fewer or more members may cause conflict and make it impossible for the committee to function.
- Include pet owners and non-pet owners. Ideally, you want to split the number of each as evenly as possible.
- Different types of animals should be represented whenever possible. For instance, a dog owner, cat owner, bird owner, etc.
- The committee's duties should be clearly defined.
- The length of committee members' commitment should be established. A two-year rotating membership works well in most instances.
- Select leaders who can direct and facilitate the group. Avoid people that may try to intimidate others.
- Make a formal announcement to residents and owners about the committee and how owners can join.
- Only property owners should be allowed to sit on the committee.

Each property is unique and the suggested structure for the committee will need to be varied to accommodate your individual complex. Once established, the pet committee, working closely with your board of directors, building management and residents, will help ensure a pet-friendly and pleasant atmosphere for all. 

