

Moving from your family home soon?



Are you - or is a member of your family - moving to a retirement village, independent living unit, hostel or nursing home - and worried about being parted from a pet?

See over for information that will be helpful.

Ask if you can take your pet with you

Aged care operators are recognizing the benefits of pets, with some allowing owners to take their pets with them. There will be rules and some pets are not appropriate in some circumstances. If you have more than one pet, you could ask if you can bring more than one. You may also want to ask whether you may get another pet if your current pet passes away. Useful information about aged care accommodation that allows pets can be found in DPS guides or see contacts below.

Tell them how important your pet is to you

When making enquiries, be ready to explain the benefits owning your pet has for you. Give accurate information about your pet(s) including type, size, age, behaviour, whether desexed (vet certification is probably required) and any vaccinations.

Consider options for care

If you have to move and are unable to take your pet with you, you do not have to euthanise your pet. There are other options. Contact an animal shelter (RSPCA: 02 6287 8100) or a local rescue group (such as ARF: rehome@fosterdogs.org). They may be able to assist with rehoming advice. Alternatively, check online to find out if your breed of dog has a special rescue group.

You are not alone

If you are likely to experience the loss of a pet, or have to part with one, your vet can discuss the issues with you before this happens. If required, pet bereavement support is available from Dr David Foote, veterinarian and counsellor (0425 281 424 - fees apply) and Rev Barbara Allen, Uniting Church Australia (0439 317 924 - Mon-Fri: 9am - 5pm).

These are useful contacts for aged care organisations that offer some pet-friendly options:

Anglicare: 1800 457 255 • BUPA Aged Care: 1300 302 350

Calvary Retirement Community, Canberra: 02 6464 7400

CatholicCare: St Vincent Villas (Aranda) and

Aloysius Morgan Villas (Campbell): 02 61626100

EdeninOZNZ: 03 8819 4732 • Freedom Aged Care: 1800 994 763

Goodwin (Ainslie, Farrer, Monash and Crace) 02 6175 5058

Hindmarsh: 02 6169 3669 (Bellerive); 02 6282 1782 (The Grange Deakin)

Lend Lease Aged Care: 02 6257 8798 (Isabella Gardens)

Murray Glen Village (Tumut): 1800 996 126

RSL LifeCare (Linton Village and Gardiner Grove) 02 6226 1899

Stockland Retirement Living: 1800 72 71 70

UnitingCare Ageing (Amala Village): 02 6294 8200