

Keeping People and Pets Together

One of the greatest barriers to keeping pets with their families is the growing scarcity of pet-friendly housing, and when people are forced to choose between housing and their pets, they often choose their pets. This crisis must be addressed.



Why Remove Barriers to Pets in Housing? Facts and Figures

- **95%** of pet owners consider their pets to be part of the family.
- While **90%** of rental housing owners/operators agree that pets are an important part of the family, nearly **90%** of landlords do not allow pets or impose restrictions on weight, breed, number or type.
- Tenants of pet-friendly housing stay **21%** longer than tenants of pet-restrictive housing.
- **83%** of rental owners/operators say that pet-inclusive vacancies are filled faster.
- On average, a pet causes only **\$191** in damage per rental unit — far less than a young adult.
- Nearly **15%** of dogs and cats surrendered to U.S. shelters were given up due to housing-related issues.
- A 2021 Texas-based study found that low-income communities and communities of color were more likely to pay higher fees to keep pets in their homes.
- Having a pet benefits human health at nearly every stage of life, including lower blood pressure, lower risk of heart disease, reduced stress levels, decreased anxiety and depression, strengthened immune systems and increased physical activity.
- **43%** of households would be willing to move to better accommodate their pet(s).
- Pet ownership among unsheltered homeless adults was estimated at **12%** in 2019. **48%** of unhoused, pet-owning individuals reported being turned away from shelters because of pet policies.
- **48%** of domestic violence survivors delayed leaving abuse — or returned — out of fear for the welfare of their pets. **71%** of pet-owning women entering domestic violence shelters reported that their abuser threatened, harmed or killed a pet.

The ASPCA is committed to preventing and addressing animal cruelty nationwide.

