

## **CITY OF MUSCATINE HOUSING DIVISION PET POLICY**

A resident in public housing may own and keep one common household pet (24 CFR 5.306) under the conditions of the PHA's pet policy and abide by the requirements set forth by the PHA. These regulations shall not include animals that are used to assist persons with disabilities.

**A. Application for Pet Permit.** Prior to housing any pet on premises governed by the CFR, the resident shall apply to the City for a pet permit which shall be accompanied by the following:

1. Written notice will be issued to residents refusing to register pets.
2. A current license issued by the appropriate authority, if applicable, including information sufficient to identify the pet and to demonstrate that it is a common household pet;
3. Written evidence that the pet has been **SPAYED** or **NEUTERED**, as applicable.
4. Written evidence that the pet has received current inoculations, and an **ANNUAL** intestinal parasite check. Specifically, dogs must have current rabies, distemper, and parvo inoculations. Dogs must undergo annual intestinal parasite and heartworm checks. Cats must have current rabies, distemper inoculations, and intestinal parasite check. Written verification must be provided for all test results and inoculations.

**B. All residents with pets permitted to be kept under the CFR shall comply with the following rules:**

1. For purposes of Housing programs: A domesticated animal, such as a dog, cat, bird, rodent (including a rabbit), fish, or turtle, that is traditionally kept in the home for pleasure rather than for commercial purposes. Common household pet does not include reptiles (except turtles). If this definition conflicts with any applicable State or local law or regulation defining the pets that may be owned or kept in dwelling accommodations, the State or local law or regulation shall apply. This definition shall not include animals that are used to assist persons with disabilities. The adult weight of a dog/cat may not exceed 25 pounds. Aquariums may not exceed 10 gallons.
2. Only one pet, except fish, per household will be permitted.

3. Dogs and cats **MUST BE LICENSED YEARLY** with the City of Muscatine Finance Department.
4. Vicious, exotic, and/or intimidating pets will not be allowed.
5. All permitted pets must be spayed or neutered, as applicable.
6. All permitted pets shall remain inside the resident's unit. No animal shall be permitted in hallways, lobby areas, elevators, laundry rooms, community rooms, yards or other common areas of the facility, except for reasonable ingress and egress to the project or building.
7. When taken outside the unit, all permitted pets must be kept on a leash, controlled by an adult.
8. Birds must be confined to a cage at all times.
9. Residents shall not permit their pet to disturb, interfere or diminish the peaceful enjoyment of other residents. The term "disturb, interfere and diminish" shall include but not be limited to barking, howling, chirping, biting, scratching, shedding, purring, molting and other like activities. Complaints of disturbances of this nature shall constitute a violation of the lease and may result in the revocation of the pet permit, termination of the lease agreement, or both.
10. Residents must provide litter boxes which must be kept in the dwelling unit. Residents shall neither permit refuse from litter boxes to accumulate nor become unsightly or unsanitary and must be changed at least twice each week.
11. Residents are solely responsible for cleaning up pet droppings, if any, outside the unit and on facility grounds.
12. Residents shall take adequate precautions and measures necessary to eliminate pet odors within or around the unit and shall maintain the unit in a sanitary condition at all times.
13. If pets are left unattended for a period of twenty-four (24) hours or more, the City may authorize entrance to the dwelling unit, removal of the pet and transfer of the pet by proper authorities, subject to provision of Iowa law and local ordinances. The City accepts no responsibility for the animal under such circumstances.
14. Non-registered and/or **VISITING** pets are **NOT ALLOWED**.
15. Residents shall not alter their unit or unit area in order to create an enclosure for any pet.
16. Residents are responsible for all damages caused by their pets, including and not limited to the cost of cleaning of carpets and

draperies and/or fumigation of units.

17. Feeding or harboring stray animals shall constitute having a pet without written permission.
18. All resident pet owners are required to pay an **ADDITIONAL REFUNDABLE PET DEPOSIT for dogs and cats only.**  
\$300 (2bdrm), \$350 (3bdrm), \$400 (4bdrm)
19. Should any pet housed in a City facility under the CFR give birth to a litter, the resident shall remove all the pets from their premises within 24 hours of birth.
20. Resident pet owners are responsible for the safety and health of their pet during those scheduled occasions when the dwelling units in the facility are being treated for control of pests.
21. In the event of the death of a pet, the resident shall properly and immediately remove and dispose of the remains. The remains shall not be placed in any refuse container inside a City residential facility or on City residential grounds.
22. Residents must identify an alternate custodian for pets in the event of resident illness or absence from the dwelling unit. This identification of an alternate custodian must occur prior to the City issuing a pet registration permit.

C. The privilege of maintaining a pet in a facility owned and/or operated by the City shall be subject to rules set forth in paragraph B, above. This privilege may be revoked at any time if the animal should become destructive, create a nuisance, represent a threat to the safety, health, quiet enjoyment, and security of other residents, or create a problem in the area of odor, cleanliness or sanitation. If the City determines, on the basis of objective facts, supported by written statements, that a pet owner has violated a rule governing the owning or keeping of pets, the City may serve a WRITTEN NOTICE OF PET RULE VIOLATION on the pet owner in accordance with the regulations and in conformity with the CFR the regulations, (Pet Rule violation procedures).

D. Should a breach of the rules set forth in paragraph B, above, occur, the City may also exercise any remedy granted it in accord with the Code of Iowa.

E. The City shall notify the pet owner if the City refuses to register a pet. The notice shall state the basis for City's action and shall be served on the pet owner as required in the CFR regulations.