

ADDENDUM 11  
PETS AT HELEN PURCELL

Residents are welcome to keep pets or have pets visit subject to Helen Purcell's approval and compliance with the following policies.

Pet management and care is the responsibility of the resident. A good neighbor policy should always be followed. Since pets are expected to reside with you, usually having their bedding in your quarters, they must be kept under control and not allowed to make a nuisance of themselves with disturbing noises, odors, parasitic infestations or such. In the event a pet bites or otherwise injures a resident or staff member, the person bitten or injured is to be examined by the nurse and have an incident report completed. Depending upon circumstances the person's attending physician or Helen Purcell's Medical Director may be contacted. A pet that has bitten someone or has shown aggressive behavior will not be permitted to remain at Helen Purcell. A "Contents" (what is often called "Renter's") insurance policy that includes pet liability coverage sufficient to meet the requirements of Helen Purcell's insurance provider must be carried, by the pet owner. A certificate of insurance coverage must be provided for Helen Purcell.

Only dogs and cats that have been neutered can be considered for residence at Helen Purcell. Cats must be declawed prior to residing at Helen Purcell.

**Veterinary Care**

A copy of certificates of current shots and vaccinations by a licensed veterinarian are to be kept on file with Helen Purcell. Pets must be kept up to date on current vaccines for common infectious agents, including rabies. Pets need to be seen at least annually by a vet and when symptoms like unusual lethargy, bowel, bladder or changes to their eating habits appear or if the animal becomes injured. The annual physical examination must include an examination for internal and external parasites. All pets especially those that access the outdoors, are expected to be on a flea protection medication and use a tick shield during tick season. Owners are responsible to see their pet has appropriate veterinary care and receives any prescribed medications in a timely manner.

**Food/Water/Bedding**

Pet food may be stored in your room but must be kept in an air tight container when not being served. Unused (leftover) portions along with opened cans or similar containers must be disposed of in your floor's snack room trash container within a half hour of serving. A daily supply of fresh water must be provided. It is suggested for dogs and cats that self-watering bowls be used. Bedding must be cleaned as needed or at least monthly.

**Cleanliness**

Arrangements for periodic (usually monthly) bathing of dogs with an outside professional should be made. Dogs may be walked on leash and allowed to relieve themselves on the grounds as long as feces is immediately picked up and disposed of in one of Helen Purcell's outside trash bins. Kennel runs are currently not available.

**Size**

Only pets that do not exceed or are not expected to exceed 25 lbs. are permitted.

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#### **Pets in Cages**

Birds, gerbils, rabbits and similar animals normally kept in cages need to have their cages on a separate stand (to limit drawing crawling insects). A pad to catch food discards should be located around the cage or base and daily sweeping around the base of the cage should be done. Most pets including birds may be allowed out of their cages as long as they do not fly down halls or enter into other residents' rooms. Cages are to be kept clean. For example, birdcages are to be cleaned about three times a week or more.

#### **Fish**

Fish bowls without filters should be cleaned weekly; those with filters should be cleaned monthly.

#### **Prohibited Pets**

Pets that must be fed living creatures are prohibited.

#### **Pet Deposits**

The resident will be charged a security deposit of \$500.00 prior to the pet taking up residence that will be used to defray the expenses of any damages to Helen Purcell that may be caused by the pet. The owner of the animal is responsible for the cost of repair and/or replacement of any items damaged by their animal while present at Helen Purcell. If the security deposit is not sufficient to cover these costs the resident will reimburse the facility for expenses over and above the amount of the security deposit.

#### **Pet Fees**

The pet owner will be charged \$50.00 per month for their pet to reside at Helen Purcell

#### **Service Animals**

Service animals will not be charged a monthly fee nor will they be required to pay a security deposit. However, the owner of the service animal will be responsible for the cost of any damages to the property of Helen Purcell and residents.

**Final approval of any pets at Helen Purcell is at the discretion of the Executive Director**