



Australia CAN calls to embrace pet-friendly rentals in Tasmania amid rising pet surrenders due to rental issues

- **Pet-positive housing policies are good for people and pets.**
- **Pet-friendly housing can be more profitable than pet-restricted properties.**
- **Landlords can improve quality of life by providing affordable homes that allow pets.**

Australia's leading animal welfare charity Companion Animal Network Australia (Australia CAN or CANA) underscores the significant benefits of pet-friendly rentals amid concerns from real estate leaders and property owners in Tasmania about the state government's pet-inclusive rental reforms.

Australia CAN's [Rent with Pets program](#) advocates for Tasmania's new laws, highlighting the positive social and economic outcomes of embracing pet-friendly housing policies.

"Allowing pets in rentals has a number of benefits to landlords, including creating a more inclusive rental market and fostering better tenant-landlord relationships," said Trish Ennis, CEO of Australia CAN, formerly Animal Welfare League Australia.

"Renting with pets also enhances tenant wellbeing and mental health, as well as supports responsible pet ownership and reduces the number of animals surrendered to shelters. It's already harder to rent due to the rental and housing crisis and even harder to rent with pets, causing people to have to choose between a place to live and the pet they love."

Australia CAN represents the companion animal welfare work of [six member agencies](#) that provide rescue, shelter, re-homing, fostering, health care and enrichment services to more than 50,000 animals every year across Australia.

Increase in pet surrenders due to rental issues

According to Australia CAN's agency member Dogs' Homes of Tasmania, the proportion of canine surrenders due to rental issues (no pets allowed) in May 2024 was 15% - a 3.1% increase since January 2024. Renting issues is also one of the top reasons why dogs are being surrendered in the state.

Also, the [latest Census data](#) also shows the number of Tasmanians experiencing homelessness is continuing to rise (48% rise from 2016 to 2021).

"It's heartbreaking to see beloved dogs being surrendered due to restrictive rental policies on pets. Our furry friends are family, and we must advocate for more pet-friendly housing solutions to keep them with their loving owners," said Ms Ennis.



Under the amendments to the [Residential Tenancy Act 1997](#), Tasmanian homeowners will not be permitted to unreasonably refuse rental applications from prospective tenants due to pet ownership. Current and future tenants will also be able to keep pets, as long as the tenant notifies the owner.

The owner can object and apply to the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (the Tribunal) within 28 days of the notification. The “Pets in Rentals” legislation also provides an avenue for an owner to withdraw consent and to seek an order from the Tribunal that a pet must be removed in the event of a pet causing a nuisance, damage over and above reasonable wear and tear, posing an unacceptable safety risk or other reasonable grounds.

The Real Estate Institute of Tasmania (REIT) has launched a campaign (Hear Our Voice) opposing the state government's proposed legislation allowing pets in rentals, stating that the new laws do not offer enough protections for property investors and will ultimately “exacerbate rental affordability and availability in the current housing and cost of living crisis.”

Benefits of renting with pets for landlords

Ms Ennis said REIT’s campaign is “scare mongering and ignores the many benefits of renting with pets for landlords / property investors”.

- Pet friendly properties attract more potential tenants and rented out more quickly by those with pets who may struggle to find housing.
- Pet owners often rent longer to avoid the hassle of moving and finding another suitable pet friendly property.
- Tenants with pets may have higher satisfaction and better mental health, potentially leading to better property care.
- Pet friendly properties can enhance a landlord’s reputation as accommodating and compassionate.

Rent with Pets provides information, advice and resources to support tenants and landlords to be responsible pet owner tenants and welcoming landlords and encourage pet friendly rental laws.

How can you help make a difference?

- Visit [Rentwithpets.com.au](https://rentwithpets.com.au) and learn how to work with each other to achieve the goal of no surrenders due to rental refusal.
- Ask people to become responsible pet owners and help others to do the same. (See our responsible pet ownership checklist [here](#).)
- If you’re a landlord or property manager, encourage responsible renting with pets by requesting references for pets. (Here are some tips to write a stellar [pet resume](#)).
- If you are a tenant, landlord, property manager or animal welfare advocate, [tell us your story](#) about renting with pets.
- [Download](#) Rent with Pets resources and share on social media with hashtag #rentwithpets to help raise awareness!

Australia CAN represents the companion animal welfare work of [member organisations](#) across the country. The charity also celebrates the human-animal bond and promotes responsible pet ownership through national campaigns, partnerships and initiatives, such as [Pets in Aged Care](#) and [Rent with Pets](#) programs.

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AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW

Trish Ennis

CEO of Companion Animal Network Australia

Dr Megan Alessandrini - Pet friendly landlord

Adjunct Senior Lecturer in politics and policy at the University of Tasmania.

Vice President of Companion Animal Network Australia

Director on the Board of Dogs' Home of Tasmania

[**STORY HERE**](#)

About Companion Animal Network Australia (Australia CAN)

Companion Animal Network Australia (Australia CAN) is Australia's peak body representing companion animals. It comprises six member agencies, each aiming to make the world a better place for pets. Through national campaigns, partnerships and initiatives, we celebrate the human-animal bond and promote responsible pet ownership. We use our national voice to campaign for the humane treatment of all companion animals and we rally support for programs that deliver high welfare standards. To discover more, visit <https://australiacan.org.au/>