



# Creating a Pets Accepted Community

# About Citizens for Pets in Condos

Citizens FOR Pets in Condos

<http://www.petsincondos.org>

is a non-profit public advocacy and educational organization dedicated to increasing acceptance of companion animals in condos and other types of association-run housing. We educate the public about the health benefits of having animal companions and also advocate for responsible pet ownership/guardianship. Our motto: “creating a win-win situation for both people & pets.”

We provide resources for a pet-friendly America/Florida



# Steps to Create Pets Accepted Community

- Bring together a group of pet owners / animal guardians
- Write up reasonable pet guidelines
- Create a Pet Committee to administer pet rules
- Line up outside resources for additional help
- Everyone be tolerant and considerate of their neighbors

# Bring together a group of pet owners / animal guardians

- You want a representation of responsible pet owners (animal guardians) who are committed to integrating pets into the community while minimizing negative impact on neighbors.
- Identify a few people who will be point persons to lead the effort and work with the board to make it happen.



# Write up **REASONABLE** pet guidelines

- **pets leashed or in carriers in common areas**
- **all pets over 6 months of age spayed or neutered**
- **clean up after animals and dispose of waste properly**
- **no hoarding**
- **dogs obedience trained**

NOTE: Find examples of reasonable pet guidelines on our web page



## It is NOT reasonable to:

- Make people carry their animals
- Not let people walk their dogs around the community
- Not let people bring their animals to neighbors who want to see them
- To restrict certified service animals that are trained to do specific tasks from going anywhere (per federal disability law)



# It IS reasonable to say:

- No pets in the pool or clubhouse
- No pets running loose
- No jumping or biting
- No extendable leashes
- No excessive barking
- No “accidents” left not cleaned up



## Create a **Pet Committee** to administer pet rules

A pet committee can help residents and management in the solution of pet problems. By acting as the first line of complaints as well as complaint resolution, the pet committee can alleviate the housing manager's involvement with resident's questions and complaints concerning pets. Emphasizing "caring for each other" rather than "policing each other," the pet committee provides peer pressure and peer support for responsible pet guardians.





## **Pet Committee** more

The committee could also help deal with issues no one wants to discuss:

- The unit owner is alone and becomes ill
- The unit owner passes away

Good pet committees can provide pet care when owners are incapacitated and help re-home animals if needed.



# MORE INFO on Pet Committees

Pet Committees are recommended by ASPCA, Doris Day Animal League (HSUS) and other long-standing organizations. These committees work! We recommend them even in communities where pets are already allowed, so that people can continue to have the privilege to have animal companions

NOTE: Find more on Pet Committees on our web site, including links to more resources from ASPCA, HSUS and more.

# Outside Resources

## Pet Professionals



# Be Good Neighbors!

We acknowledge Gary A. Poliakoff, of Becker and Poliakoff law firm, for introducing us to the concept of Pet Committees. The last sentence of his book, “New Neighborhoods,” about shared ownership communities:

“Good luck, and remember – be neighborly!”

# Questions?



Allow Pets in Condos

Even if you don't live in a condo, please sign our petition to allow pets in condos if 51% of the Unit owners agree (turn the card over for details)