



Bernhard Baron
Care Home
Care Amongst Friends

BBCH – Pet policy

At Bernhard Baron Care Home we recognise the importance of companionship, and the benefits and positive impact pets can have for Residents. This is a pet policy to allow for the Residents to keep pets in a harmonious environment that ensures the comfort and safety of all Residents, especially those looking to join BBCH who are finding it difficult to part with their pets that have been integral to their lives.

This policy sets out our overall approach to Residents keeping pets. It covers the types of pets that are permitted, the conditions attached to keeping pets in the Home and how we will manage issues relating to keeping pets.

The policy will only apply to Residents residing in cottages, as it is not currently deemed viable for pets to be living in main building rooms.

Benefits of animals

- Pets can bring owners joy and reduce stress.
- Pets can alleviate boredom and isolation.
- Pets can provide companionship.
- Pets can encourage activity and movement (for example, dog walking or play), which may lower blood pressure and the risk of cardiovascular disease.
- Socialisation can be encouraged by owning a pet, particularly in a care home.
- Animals have a calming effect on humans and research has proved that they can increase levels of oxytocin in our bodies, a hormone that promotes positive feelings.

Types of animals

Small/medium sized dogs would only be suitable for cottage Residents (assistance dogs welcome), and no more than one dog per cottage. Other animals that could be considered are cats.

There are some animals that would not be suitable for a care environment and as such, permission will not be granted for:

- Animals listed under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 (including large mammals, carnivores - except domestic cats, larger or venomous reptiles, dangerous spiders, and scorpions)
- Any endangered species
- Dogs listed under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
- Guard dogs
- Livestock (including poultry)



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- Animals that create too much mess or noise or need to live outside
- Caged animals

Pet Registration, Microchipping and Insurance.

A Resident wishing to have a pet must have this agreed by the management team in writing, in advance. A pet care plan will then be drawn up and agreed by all parties (see below).

Prior to the pet moving into the Home the Resident (Owner) must provide updated records for all vaccinations and have the pet registered and microchipped (where relevant) with a local vet. The Owner is responsible to keep vaccinations, flea, worming and any other recommended treatment up to date and provide us with evidence of this.

Prior to the pet moving into the Home, the Owner must provide up to date insurance documentation for the pet.

Animal Care Plan

Once pet ownership has been agreed, the Owner must complete a care plan with the staff detailing how we are to care for the animal in case of emergency only. The plan will also contain details of a named person who will take responsibility in any instance where the Owner is unable to maintain responsibility. This could be short-term, for instance, if they are admitted to hospital, or residing in sick bay, or long-term if they are no longer able to care for the animal safely.

Responsibilities for Pet Owners

Owners are responsible for the health and welfare of their pet as detailed under the Animal Health & Welfare Act 2006. We expect Owners to:

- Care for their pets responsibly. This includes giving them a healthy and appropriate diet, not subjecting them to abuse, and not leaving them unattended for a significant amount of time.
- Pets should be regularly groomed (where appropriate)
- It is the Owner's responsibility to clear all fouling instantly using disposable gloves and appropriate waste bags. There are designated bins for the disposal of these.
- Owners must ensure that pets always have access to fresh water.
- Owners must ensure that pets are exercised regularly (where appropriate)
- Owners must demonstrate commitment to the care of the animal and follow a plan of how this will be done.
- The pets must be well behaved and should never be left unattended in communal areas
- Pets are not permitted to be in areas where there is food storage, preparation, cooking or serving (except when passing through).
- Pets should not be a threat to any other Residents, staff or wildlife. Dogs must be kept on a lead outside the cottage and be well behaved and not jump up.



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- The Owner will have a responsibility to cover any damages to the cottage, furnishings, or soft furnishings or communal areas, or other Residents' property, and take full responsibility for the behaviour of the pet.
- An individual risk assessment will be created for each animal.
- A named person (NOK) must be provided who will take on the responsibility of the pet should the Owner not be able to care for them (see Animal Care Plan section above).
- If the Owner does not have a suitable named person, they can register their pet with The Cinnamon Trust, who will care for a pet if the Owner is unable to do so.

Area for dog walking

There is a suitable area for dog walking – the Millennium Path, where Owners will be permitted to walk dogs on the lead. Owners will need to respect that other Residents may not like dogs and must ensure they have plenty of disposal bags to clear up any faeces instantly.

Infection Control

- Residents must maintain a high standard of cleanliness in their living area.
- Hygienic practices must be observed at all times ie: handwashing
- Feeding areas should be kept clean and kept pest free
- Once opened moist food should be used the same day
- Moist food should be removed after 4 hours if not eaten
- Feeding dishes and containers should be washed in between feeds
- Litter trays should not be stored near food preparation areas
- Disposable gloves should always be worn when dealing with animal bodily waste
- Litter should be changed daily
- Animal claws should be trimmed to reduce the risk of scratches, skin tears

Ending of Agreement

Please note that in the event of pet-related nuisance, we reserve the right to end the agreement for a pet to reside with its Owner.

Examples of things we consider are pet related nuisance could include, but are not limited to:

- Fouling in communal areas
- Excessive noise (due to volume, duration or time of day)
- Attacks on people or other animals
- Causing a person to believe they might be injured or being injured due to an out-of-control pet



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- Failing to keep a dog on a lead in communal areas
- Failing to keep living areas clean and odour free

AGREEMENT

Resident Name:

I agree to the above guidelines and understand that failure to do so could result in restriction or removal of the pet from BBCH.

Date:.....

Signed:.....

Pets NOK (emergency contact) Name:.....

Contact
details:.....

Date:.....

Signed

Responsibility: Trudi Knight – Principal Care Manager
Review Date: April 2026