



Department of Rural Health Student Accommodation Pet Policy

The Department of Rural Health aspires to be a place where all people are valued and respected with a vision for a thriving, fair and diverse University community.

The Department of Rural Health have reviewed the student accommodation pet policy and have been able to provide students with the opportunity to apply for a pet within the conditions outlined below.

Approval

Any student wishing to apply to have a pet in the accommodation must be given written approval from the Campus Life Team prior to the animal entering any Department of Rural Health accommodation site.

To get approval, please download the Pet Application form from the Rural Living Portal on the Policies and Procedures page. Submit the form to the Campus Life Team via drh-accom@unimelb.edu.au no later than 15 business days before your expected arrival to the accommodation.

The outcome of your pet application form will be given to you within 14 business days of submission.

Various accommodation sites are leased by the Department of Rural Health and will therefore require approval from the landlord of the property.

Please note, where an accommodation site is leased, the approval confirmation may exceed 14 business days however students will be kept informed on the status of the application from the Campus Life Team.

Species

Standard species that are likely to be approved will include fish and non-venomous lizards.

No mammals are permitted including but not limited to dogs, cats, rodents and guinea pigs.

Venomous and non-venomous snakes will not be permitted.

Enclosures

All approved animals must be kept in enclosures smaller than 45cm high, 76cm wide, 30cm deep.

Approved enclosures must only have one standard filtration system.

No heat lamps, lights, or tank chillers are permitted.

The standard filtration system must be tested and tagged prior to bringing into the accommodation at the student's expense.

Conditions

1. The animal must not be outside of the responsible student's bedroom.
2. The animal enclosure must always be kept clean and tidy.
3. The enclosure or animal must not damage any part of the Department of Rural Health's accommodation, including water or electrical damage. If any damage does occur the responsible student will be liable for 100% of the repair costs to the property.
4. The animal must not cause a nuisance or interfere with the reasonable peace, comfort, or privacy of neighbours.
5. The animal must not endanger the safety of neighbours.
6. All pet food must always be kept in rodent proof containers.
7. The Department of Rural Health are not liable for any power outages that may affect the filtration system of the enclosure which may cause harm to the animal.

Complaints

All students have the right to anonymously complain about any animal in the accommodation at any time to drh-accom@unimelb.edu.au

Complaints about an animal will be handled on a case-by-case basis however it may result in a banning of the animal from the accommodation.

Breach of Conditions

If an animal is found or reported as residing in the Department of Rural Health Accommodation without prior permission from the Campus Life Team, the student will be directed to remove said within 48 hours.

If it is identified at any time that the responsible student is in breach of the conditions, the student will be issued a formal written warning.

The student will be granted 14 days to comply with the conditions.

An inspection of the premises and the pet in question, arranged between the Campus Life team and the student, will be conducted following the 14 days to review if the conditions are being met.

Failure to comply with the conditions after the formal warning may result in termination of the students accommodation with the Department of Rural Health.