

YOUR TEAM IS GOING TO RESEARCH

Animals in housing

and speak **for and against** landlords allowing pets in homes

This brief has been produced as part of the RSPCA's Animal Welfare: The Great Debate and is a starting point for the research you will need to do into the subject in order to ensure a successful debate. The points for or against a subject may not be RSPCA policy and represent some of the wider thinking around the subject.

- In England approximately 45 percent of people have a pet and 35 percent of the population live in privately or socially rented accommodation.
- When living in rented accommodation, tenants have to abide by the rules set by their landlord and in many cases the landlord does not allow them to have pets.
- Many homes owned by local councils and housing associations have pets policies as part of the tenancy agreement to allow their tenants to have pets.

FOR

Here are some points **in favour of** allowing pets in homes – what other points can you find?

- Tenants with pets tend to stay twice as long in a property compared to other renters.
- Having a pets policy makes it clear to the landlord and the tenant what is expected of them.
- Pets policies can help to improve animal welfare.

AGAINST

Here are some reasons why pets **shouldn't be** allowed – can you find any more?

- If a pet causes damage, the landlord will end up paying for repairs and losing money on their investment.
- Not all animals are suitable to be kept as pets in certain types of accommodation.
- Landlords should be able to decide what happens in their properties.

Information you may want to find out

- Does your local council or housing association have a pets policy – what does it say?
- Why do people rent homes and why do people buy homes to rent out? What would be the impact on the landlord by allowing pets in their property?
- Are there any positive or negative impacts on animals being in rented accommodation? And is there an award scheme that recognises housing associations that have pets policies?

Potential sources of information

- RSPCA website: www.rspca.org.uk
- Political Animal website: www.politicalanimal.org.uk
- RSPCA facts and figures: <http://media.rspca.org.uk/media/facts>
- Residential Landlord Association: www.rla.org.uk

