

Revised Date:	4 August 2026	By:	A.Stewart
Approved Date:	Pending	By:	V.Chettleburgh, Manager
Board Acceptance:	Pending	By:	C.Sherer, Chair

1. Background

Sirovilla recognises the benefit that pets can provide to residents' health, wellbeing, and social connection. For many people, pets are valued companions and an important part of independent living.

Approval may be granted subject to reasonable conditions, considering the resident's circumstances, the suitability of the pet, the size and layout of the unit, the welfare of the animal and the safety, wellbeing, and comfort of other residents.

2. Associated Documents

- Sirovilla Resident Pet Approval Request Form (attached)
- Sirovilla Pet Approval Outcome Letter template

3. Policy Applicable to

- Residents in all villages
- Both new and existing pets
- Pet-sitting someone else's pet on a temporary basis
- Pets brought into the village by your visitors

4. Approval Process

Residents must.

- Seek written approval **before** keeping a pet at their unit, even if the pet is staying with you on a temporary basis, by submitting a **Sirovilla Resident Pet Approval Request Form**.
- For cats or dogs:
 - Provide a **desexed certificate** or letter from your vet. Cats or dogs must be desexed unless under 6 months old or desexing is not appropriate for veterinary reasons.
 - Provide proof of **current council registration**
 - Provide **microchip number**
- Agree to comply with all village Pet Ownership By-laws, this Pet Ownership Policy and any conditions of approval.

Sirovilla will.

- Notify the resident of the outcome of their request in writing within 5 business days.
- Provide reasons if the request is declined.
- Retain a copy of the request and outcome on file.

5. Considerations

Approval will not be unreasonably withheld and will consider factors such as.

- the type of pet
- unsuitable size of the pet relative to the size or layout of the unit
- number of proposed and/or existing pets,
- the suitability of the unit and village environment,
- animal welfare
- the safety of/risk to other residents
- impacts on other residents' peaceful enjoyment of the village
- the resident cannot adequately care for the animal.

6. Types of Pets

- A single cat or dog may be approved, subject to Sirovilla village By-laws, this Policy and the suitability of the pet and unit.
- Up to two birds in a portable cage may be approved.
- Requests to keep snakes, reptiles or similar animals will generally not be approved due to safety concerns and their potential impact on other residents.
- Requests for any other type of pet will be considered on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the nature of the pet, the suitability of the unit and the impact on other residents.

7. Pet Ownership Conditions

It is important that if permission to own a pet is approved then the following conditions will strictly apply. The conditions below for all pets and communal areas also apply to any pets brought into the village by your visitors.

Applicable to all resident pet owners,

- Any damage caused by the pet to the resident's unit, garden or village property is the responsibility of the resident to rectify.
- Pet droppings in private courtyards must be collected daily and disposed of hygienically.
- Pets must not cause ongoing noise, odour, aggression or other behaviours that unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or enjoyment of the village by other residents.

Applicable to all communal areas,

- Pets are not permitted inside communal village buildings such as the Community Centre or Community Hall.
- Pets must be always supervised and on a lead within communal village grounds.
- Pet droppings in communal areas must be collected immediately, bagged hygienically and disposed of in a red rubbish bin.

Applicable to residents who own a cat or dog,

- Must be desexed, unless under 6 months old or desexing is not appropriate for veterinary reasons, supported by a letter from your vet.
- Council registration must be kept current
- Must be microchipped

Applicable to residents who own a cat,

- Cat litter trays must always be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and must not create odours, attract pests or cause a nuisance to other residents.
- Cat litter and pet waste must not be disposed of in gardens, common areas or village drains and be bagged up hygienically before being placed in red rubbish bins.
- Cats must remain indoors
- Cats are only allowed out into a resident's private courtyard, within a fully enclosed secure cat run or on a lead.

Applicable to residents with pet birds,

- Bird cages must always be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition and must not create odours, attract pests or cause a nuisance to other residents.

8. Retirement Village Act Compliance

This Policy is intended to comply with the provisions in the **Retirement Villages Act 1986 (Vic)** as amended **by the Retirement Villages Amendment Act 2024** which commenced on 1 May 2026. Under the Act, an operator must not unreasonably refuse consent for residents to keep a pet.

Sirovilla may require residents to obtain approval before keeping a pet, may impose reasonable conditions on that approval and may refuse a request where their refusal is reasonable having regard to the considerations set out in this Policy.

If the conditions of approval are not complied with, or a pet causes an ongoing nuisance, safety concern, damage to property, or interferes with the reasonable peace, comfort or privacy of other residents, Sirovilla may require the resident to take reasonable steps to address the issue. Where the issue is not resolved, Sirovilla may withdraw approval for the pet to remain in the village.

9. Complaints Regarding Pets

Residents who have concerns about another resident's pet should raise the matter with Sirovilla as soon as practical.

- Wherever appropriate, residents are encouraged to discuss minor concerns directly and respectfully with the pet owner before making a formal complaint.
- If a resident wished to make a complaint regarding a pet to Sirovilla **please see the Sirovilla Village Dispute Policy & Procedure** for the process for registering a Notice of Dispute.

1. Your Details

Resident's Name:

Village:

☐ Highton ☐ Anglesea ☐ Lorne ☐ Point Lonsdale

Unit No.

Mobile:

Email:

2. Your Pet's Details

Type of Pet:

☐ Dog ☐ Cat ☐ Bird ☐ Other

Pet's Name:

Breed:

Age of Pet:

Weight:

Physical Description:

3. Desexed Status – Cat or Dog

If your pet is not a cat or dog, skip to section 5

Has your pet been desexed?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, why?

Copy of desexing certificate or vet letter attached.

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. Registration – Cat or Dog

If your pet is not a cat or dog, skip to section 5

Is your pet registered with the council? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which Council? ☐ Greater Geelong ☐ Surf Coast ☐ Queenscliff ☐ Other

If other, when will this be updated?

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Council ID Number:

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Microchip Number:

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4. Pet Owner's Declaration

I, _____

- ☐ agree that any damaged caused by my pet to my unit, garden or village property is my responsibility to rectify.
- ☐ agree that it is my responsibility to ensure that my pet must not cause ongoing noise, odour, aggression or other behaviours that unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort or enjoyment of the village by other residents.
- ☐ agree to always keep my pet on a lead in communal village grounds, and to collect, hygenically bag, and dispose of all pet droppings immediately.
- ☐ agree to comply with all Sirovilla Pet Ownership, By-laws, the pet ownership conditions laid out in the Pet Ownership Policy and any other conditions placed on the approval of this request.

Signature: _____

Date: _____