

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
1	Ashfield				
2	Dulwich Hill	Yes, I'm very limited in the rental properties I can apply for because landlords can just automatically refuse them, and I have had applications refused explicitly because I have a dog, even though she's been absolutely no problem at previous properties.	Lack of rental properties which allow pets, exorbitant cleaning fees for property simply because a pet had lived there	I love my dog very much and during lockdown she was a massive help, both in having another creature to interact with and a reason to leave the house when I had very little motivation to. She's also good friends with our neighbours, who enjoy her company.	Allowing pets by default would make the whole experience of renting easier for a lot of people, and it's unfair that having a pet is basically a privilege for homeowners that property investors can bestow on renters if they feel like it. I've also found it frustrating that very little evidence of the need for specialised cleaning at the end of lease is required - a dog having lived there is enough for them to demand it.
3	Horsfield Bay	It's not right that a homeowner can have a pet but a renter can only get a pet at their landlord/strata committee's say so. Renters are not second class citizens, we should have the same rights.	I was extra careful with my dog's training to make sure he didn't annoy the neighbors. I lived in fear that I wouldn't be able to find a home for me and my pet if we had to move. I would rather live under a bridge or in my car than give up my dog.	Pets are better emotional support than most humans. Pets bring life and joy to the home. I don't think I would have gotten through lockdown without my pet.	Pets make a house a home. Their companionship is good for mental well-being. It shouldn't be up to a landlord if we own a pet. Homeowners shouldn't have more rights to pet ownership just because they own property.
4		Yes, landlords refuse pets on arbitrary reasons, assuming they will always cause a mess or somehow cause damage to the property. This is far from the truth.	We have not told our landlord we have a cat. We know they will not allow it and we were semi forced into adopting the cat as it had nowhere to go.	Pets are important for mental health and combatting loneliness, something were all familiar with.	
5	Ashfield	Yes, pets are a part of the family these days, and you'll find most people with pets are responsible and will look after the property better than people without. Though there would be some that don't fall in that category, I think allowing 1-2 pets depending on the size of the property is reasonable. Obviously you don't want to accommodate the animal horders.	Hard finding a rental that's in good condition	They're a part of my family	
6	Broadmeadow	Yes - Even though I have permission now, there have been times where we have had to move due to no fault eviction and then moved into somewhere that wouldn't allow pets and lied about having a dog out of desperation. If you are forced to move you cannot just abandon your dog. For many of us, our pets are as close as a family member.	Have had to move due to no fault eviction and been forced to lie about having a pet on new rental applications.	For many of us, our pets are as close as a family member. Companionship, love and affection.	Thank you Tenants Union NSW for raising this matter publicly.
7	Frenchs forest	Yes, landlords have far too much power. Pets are an important part of our lives, and we should not be stopped from having one.	Landlords insisting we pick up the dog poo within 5 minutes.		
8	Haberfield	No one should have to choose between keeping their pet and being homeless. If I had a pet and it caused property damage it would come out of my bond anyway so I don't understand why the current rental system is so prohibitive of having a pet.	I don't have a pet and I don't feel like I should own one whilst I'm trapped in the rental market as I don't want to risk being homeless or having to surrender a pet I grow to love.	I struggle with chronic and quite severe mental health issues and I find the presence of animals to be very comforting.	Landlords need to accept that their properties are investments, and like any investment there are risks. If they can't accept that people want to LIVE in the homes they rent, maybe they should seek out other investment opportunities. Most of us would love our own home that we can live in whichever way we want to, but because of landhoards we don't have a choice.
9	Sydney	It should be much easier for renters to keep pets - especially low-maintenance, low-mess pets like cats etc. People should also be protected from ridiculous cleaning/pest-control costs at the end of the tenancy where the pet has not impacted the property.	Personally don't have a pet but know many renters who have wanted one. A friend of mine was told to pay an exorbitant fee to get her apartment fumigated when her lease ended, even though she only had 1 indoor cat who had not impacted the property whatsoever. Not only should people be able to have pets, but they should also not be required to pay fumigation/cleaning fees where there are no grounds.	Pets are so important to people's well-being and overall happiness. They can also help people create routine and become comfortable with responsibility.	

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
10	Arding	Yes. The way I see it is like this. Smokers are just as much of a damage risk as pets. The smoke can damage paint and carpet, leave a lasting unpleasant smell, cigarettes can leave burn marks if carelessly put down and are a fire hazard. And yet there's very rarely blanket bans on them, so saying it's about damage is a lie. Renters should be able to keep pets without needing permission, but assume legal and financial responsibility for any noise or damage. It's really that easy. And I say that as the owner of three noisy birds who like to chew on things.	I've been looking for a rental for months. Because of disabilities I have, I need any place I move into to have certain amenities. Nearly every place I find, either the ad says strictly no pets, or when I view a place they tell me 'oh the owner doesn't like pets'. There has been two places I've come across in five months that meet my needs, are in my budget, and explicitly say they allow pets. Two.	My birds are the only thing in the last three years that have brought me any real joy. I've lost two jobs since the pandemic started. One because the industry imploded, and the other due to illness. I've had to move in with my mother and her husband who I don't get along with. Spending time every day with my boys, listening to them talk and sing is the only thing I have. All I want is somewhere I can be by myself with my birds. But they won't let me have that.	If you publicise or use my story, please don't use my name. I'd rather stay anonymous so that people think more that it could be anyone having these issues.
11	Croydon	Yes! Pet owners are just as responsible (if not more so) in looking after a house as any renter. Potential damages to the property could occur in a multitude of different ways and are covered by the renters' bond, pets should be included in this.		Pets provide the comfort and love that being at "home" brings. Especially when renting and not being as attached to the place you live, having a pet can make it feel like you are invested and safe in where you live with them.	
12	Marrickville	Yes, pets bring so much joy and happiness, they are great support for mental health issues, great at introducing routine and providing company. I think it is unfair that landlords have so much control over renters lives and that it is stressful having a pet just because I can't afford to buy my own home!	I have wanted to adopt a dog for many years but have been nervous about the consequences as a renter trying to find a new home. I ended up secretly adopting a dog without the knowledge of my landlord (who lives two doors up the road) which was very stressful as I had to sneak my dog in and out of the house for walks etc. Our landlord eventually found out about the second dog (we were already approved for the first dog) and was thankfully fine with it after we lied and said she was my mums dog and she is too sick to look after her (my mum has a terminal illness). My partner and I would like to move out of our sharehouse and into a place of our own but with the current rental crisis and the fact we now have a dog, that doesn't feel like a possibility for us at the moment.	My mum was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in February and I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in August. Having a dog during this incredibly difficult year has been a huge comfort for me, has given me a reason to get out of bed and out of the house on some days, and she's been great company when I've had to spend weeks in bed. It's also been really heartwarming to see this tiny, nervous rescued chihuahua come out of her shell and actually enjoy her life after being used for breeding for the first three years of her life!	
13	Marrickville	Absolutely, it would help get pets off the streets, out of (state run and funded) pounds and help everyone's wellbeing	I've wanted a pet for a long time and have been lucky to find an apartment that would accept a cat. It's really hard finding a pet "considered" place as it also always adds to the price. Hopefully, this change could mean that as pets would be an expected requirement, it doesn't add to the already huge rental prices	The overall bonuses of having a pet is that they are good company, I think we all found in COVID how much connection was necessary, and they also ground us in what's important, which is getting by and being there for each other	
14	Marrickville	People are more destructive and noisy than pets there is no reason to ban renters from having them. Pets are allowed in VIC, why not NSW?	Finding a place to rent and being open about having a pet, it's next to impossible	My pet is part of my family, I love them and they bring joy and structure to my life	Pets help people with chronic illness, neurodivergence and mental health issues, it's unfair to ban these people from having them unless they put down a mortgage that they can't afford or pay increased rent.
15	Rose bay	Yes, pets help with mental health and the idea that a landlord could make you surrender a pet is a horrible idea, most pets cause the same amount if not less mess and damage than babies/young children and most responsible pet owners would get a quiet animal that wouldn't disturb apartment block neighbours and happily clean any mess	Had a pet before my new landlord who wouldn't allow pets, so I had to hide my cat at my parents or hide him in the laundry room	A companion for those struggling with mental health and those living alone, bring a new life into the home	
16	Dulwich Hill	Yes! The stress of moving and inspecting rentals plus the cost of renting going up is enough stress let alone having to think about moving with a pet. You know if you seek a new place you're likely to get rejected vs someone who is pet-free. It's hard. I think we should treat each applicant without discrimination. We shouldn't have to note a pet until you get to the offer stage.	Discrimination. I was asked for a 'pet bond' on top of my normal bond which I pushed back on and got approval but only for a small dog. Ironically the small dogs in our block bark the most. I am sure they will keep my bond or a portion just because I have a pet.	My mental health. I am also unable to have children of my own so I am glad I can have a pet now as I probably won't own a home of my own in next few yrs, it makes me feel less alone and allows my partner and I to have something to make us feel whole.	
17	Hornsby	Yes absolutely! I find that pets are much easier and less likely to cause damage than say, a small child.	We have definitely been overlooked for rentals due to having pets.	They are my best friends! They make life so fun, and they relieve a whole bunch of my stress and anxiety. I couldn't imagine my life (or home) without them!	Mojo and Sadie say that all rentals should allow pets!

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
18	Camperdown	Yes, pets are a huge contributor to mental health. They also cause no more structural damage to a property than humans accidentally do, e.g when moving furniture, having parties, young children etc.	Other potential tenants having a much better chance at being chosen	They improve mental health and quality of life, particularly for people living alone.	
19	Marrickville	Yes, until I found where I currently lived I faced so much discrimination because I have a dog. Even offering up to \$100 rent more a week I was getting rejected on the basis of my dog.	I have experienced countless (more than 20) application rejections because of my dog, despite a flawless rental history.	My dog is my best friend and provides me so much emotional support and a reason to get out of bed on my down days. He's more than a pet, he's a member of the family.	Housing is a basic human right, having a pet shouldn't change that.
20	Parramatta	Yes, I have a 5 month old baby and he is messier than my dog. My dog has meant me and my partner survived lockdown, became healthier and met new friends in our suburb. The dog has made our life much better and I'd get her again. I think if the rental market is to work more rights need to be given to tenants as we are the ones paying the landlords.	We were told in the inspection by the agent that the landlord was fine with dogs, all the other units had dogs. So after we settled we put a deposit on our dog and informed our agent without thinking they'd have a problem. They cited our agreement that had the clause of pets crossed out then sent a direct email from the landlord saying that she couldn't allow it because it was against the strata by laws. Our neighbours told us not to worry because she never comes over and she is in fact the strata manager. 4/6 units have dogs.	They mean that we had to function in lockdown, they helped us get outside. I work in mental health and psychiatric settings and having a pet make a huge difference to my health. We wanted to raise our kid around pets to teach him to respect animals and be aware of other living things.	This experience really shook us and made us not trust our agents. We're currently month to month and are worried about finding a new rental for all of us. We've been saving for a house since 2020 and keep getting pushed out of the market.
21		Yes. Pets have an amazing ability to create warmth and love to someone/a family without wanting anything in return. They give you unconditional love and with training, can be better house mates than some humans.	I've been on the go, moving into short term rentals/ living in my van with my dog since June 2021 which has taken a huge impact on my mental health let alone holding a job down then impacting me financially. I've had to move up and down the East Coast to wherever I could find a pet friendly room to live in.	My boy Arlo has saved me from myself and the darkness that sometimes creeps into my thoughts. Without Arlo my mental health would have been so heavy I may not even be here today. I owe him my life.	I understand that people can be negligent towards their animals. I believe that's why this rule has been so enforced but because of this rule I've had to struggle and fight so much for something that I should not be deprived of, a safe place to call home. It's inhumane and unjust how we get treated because we've decided to look after an animal. I just would like things eased and not be put on the sideline completely when applying for rentals. I do believe animal owners need to be assessed/ their dogs to be assessed as I have come across some awful humans and aggressive dogs. So I understand if a family suburb would want to deny an aggressive dog being homed to avoid any accidents or mishaps that may occur for safety reasons but that needs to be addressed with each case and evaluated properly, not having this blanket ban of having 'no pet friendly accommodation'.
22	Ashfield NSW	Yes. We pay hundreds of \$\$ to our landlords each week, and they have insurance. Landlords can afford the risk.	Not having a pet because my landlord would not allow it! Impacts my mental health	I grew up with dogs and they were wonderful companions to me. They are always excited when you get home and bring so much joy and laughter to a home. Happy memories.	
23	Ashfield	Yes. there is no reason to not allow pets in a rental property. Humans do far more damage to properties than pets do. It's inhumane and unfair for renters who already have far less rights than landlords.	I am afraid to apply to have my pet on my lease out of fear that the application will be denied - the rental market is already so tight with such little supply that I can't afford to be rejected.	Pets are incredible little animals that support you and improve mental health.	
24	Newtown	Yes. Great for mental health (for single people, couples, or families) and feels unnecessarily controlling to disallow	Properties will mention that no pets are welcome. In the current rental crisis I've avoided getting a pet thus far to try and make looking for new places a little less difficult. It's still incredibly hard and emotionally taxing to find a rental as it is.		
25	Newtown	Yes. If the issue with pets is property damage and/or noise, how is it different from having children in a home. Ensuring and enforcing responsible pet ownership is a more productive route that benefits all involved	Restricted renting options and having to pay above advertised to secure housing	They are important for mental health and as a young woman living alone I have a higher sense of safety having a dog around	Animals are legally considered property, landlords cannot prevent you from having a dining table so why can they prevent you from having an animal
26	Summer Hill	Absolutely, the risk of noise and damage from a pet is lesser than children which you don't need approval. The issue is more with working to ensure that tenants are encouraged and held accountable for their pets is a more beneficial option to all parties.	We've had to go through multiple approval processes, subjected to ridiculous conditions by strata boards and flat out refusal of applications once we advice of our pet.	My pet is important to me as she is a member of my family. She brings joy and love into my life and my house and I couldn't imagine life without her.	

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
27	Belfield	Yes, 61% of the Australian pop have a pet at home. The problem with damage and noise, that is equivalent to having a child/children, can be solved with proper training.	Having to add at least 15% extra in rent with the only reasoning being we have a pet. Being denied to rent due to having a pet.	It's detrimental for my mental health, for my physical health, for my social life, and overall well being.	61% of Australian households have a pet today. 90% of Australian households have had a pet at some time. If more than half of the population have a pet in their family, why would anyone want to make it harder for them to find a place to live? https://www.aph.gov.au/DocumentStore.ashx?id=04b744d5-783e-4983-82ba-8c73effcb980&subId=691105
28	Newtown	Yes. If the issue with keeping pets is property damage or noise, how is it different from having children in a home, or leasing your property as a share-house to multiple friends/partners. Pet ownership can be so beneficial to health and well-being.	Denied rental applications and unable to find pet-friendly rentals, resulting in living in less than admirable living situations or needing to move back to family home, outside of the city, 2 hour each way commute to employment.	Pets are so important for my health and well-being. They provide love, responsibility, companionship and joy.	No
29	marrickville	yes. with the current rental crisis in aus, people work pets are so limited to the properties they can rent	being denied properties, lack of available pet friendly rentals	i love my pets !	
30	St Peters	I believe that if the problem with pets is damage to the property or sounds how is that different to just being a normal tenant any way. if i played loud music and scratched the walls it would be the same thing.	Having fewer choices, trying to find places with adequate fencing.	Ive grown up with pets, my pets help me immensely with the management of my mental health issues and bring my great joy	I love dogs
31	Utungun	Pets are comforting and great for mental health. When you have a pet you treat them as part of the family, they bring joy to life and we befriend them wholeheartedly. They help bond families and are beneficial when we have issues we find hard to deal with. So the question is why not allow people to have pets? As long as the owners premises are not affected and it is left in the same condition as when you move in, what is the problem? Animals are now used in palliative care and hospitals to visit people in nursing homes to promote well being as well. They are great for people suffering with mental issues and can be calming and helpful when suffering with trauma.	I have found that a huge percentage of the market will not allow pets on the rented premises. Even if it is a small animal that is caged, this is discriminatory as pets are great for the healing process in ones life no matter what they are going through.	To put it simply i love animals, I have two types of pets as I live on a rural property. I have drop ins that visit, I call them free and wild spirits. They bring me a lot of pleasure as do my domesticated bunnies, which are hand raised from birth. We have a great bond and they return love by snuggling and playing around me. Nothing could be more pleasing.	I agree that people should have pets as by the reasons I have supplied.
32	Heddon Greta	Yes! I have lived in my current rental for three years. It is a stand alone, 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house in a new estate with an average sized yard. Never any problems caused by us at the property. Always clean, tidy, very well looked after. No issues raised during routine inspections. Rent is paid either on time or early every week. 18 months ago I requested a large breed dog at the property which was declined. I was heartbroken but moved on. Almost 6 weeks ago I sent another written request for a dog and I am yet to receive an answer. If I was in Victoria, I could have gotten the dog after 2 unresponsive weeks. Instead, I am sat in limbo not knowing if it's a yes or no and too scared to send any more follow up emails in case they decide I'm too much trouble and give me my notice. My mental health is suffering without a companion animal and my 5 year old daughter is heartbroken she can't have a dog.	Yes! I have lived in my current rental for three years. It is a stand alone, 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house in a new estate with an average sized yard. Never any problems caused by us at the property. Always clean, tidy, very well looked after. No issues raised during routine inspections. Rent is paid either on time or early every week. 18 months ago I requested a large breed dog at the property which was declined. I was heartbroken but moved on. Almost 6 weeks ago I sent another written request for a dog and I am yet to receive an answer. If I was in Victoria, I could have gotten the dog after 2 unresponsive weeks. Instead, I am sat in limbo not knowing if it's a yes or no and too scared to send any more follow up emails in case they decide I'm too much trouble and give me my notice. My mental health is suffering without a companion animal and my 5 year old daughter is heartbroken she can't have a dog.	Dogs are my life. I have owned dogs all my life until I moved into this rental and was told I cannot have one. My mental health has declined due to this.	
33	Lilyfield	The law should make it easier for renters to keep pets. Most pet owners are responsible and barriers to keeping pets actually means animals are abandoned or surrendered.	I was couch surfing for six weeks trying to find a place I could legitimately have my cat. At the time my cat was 15 years old, there was no way I was going to abandon my constant companion; that's cruel. It was incredibly stressful and exhausting.	Our cats are a great source of comfort for me and my family. They bring us together, and during COVID; they were a solace to my teenagers who were feeling isolated from friends. As a bonus, our neighbours love seeing our cats sunbaking in their window bed!	

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
34	Tahmoor	Definitely, people who rent are often alone & lonely & there is much evidence that proves a companion pet can improve one's mental & physical well-being.	I have never attempted asking if it would be possible as my leases have always stated no pets.	Owning a pet would be for sure.	Hopefully this campaign will deliver results. Thankyou for championing the cause ðŸ˜†
35	Teralba	Yes, most people are very responsible with pets and they help with in so many ways including better mental health outcomes, help with social isolation and physical health.	Obtaining permission to have a pet	Pets help people in many ways including feeling a sense of companionship, better mental and physical health outcomes. Pets also help people who struggle with loneliness and social isolation engage in the community.	
36	Campbelltown	Absolutely YES pets are part of the family and they enhance our quality of life too.	I have found it's usually the Real Estate agent's Property Manager that advises the landlords against letting tenants keep a pet, I use to work in Real Estate so I know first hand where the real problem is coming from.	Quality of life which everyone is entitled to & the love and compassion. Owning a pet can also help children to understand not only love but responsibilities that come from having a pet.	Much more needs to be done to help tenants keep their pets. And Property Managers need to be encouraged as many do not want pets in their rental role.
37	Redhead	Yes, especially for older renters as they provide company	Owner of over 50 villas refuses to allow them under any circumstances	Company	
38	glenmore park	Most definitely. We were evicted from our prior rental due to a particular property manager (new), who didn't agree with animals in rentals as she didn't like them, even though we had been approved for prior to her starting at the real estate! My dog is a therapy dog for PTSD and for many valid reasons renters should be able to keep pets, PTSD, MENTAL HEALTH, Depression, companionship. As long as renters are looking after the property with having the pet and ensuring pet also is safe, secured, cared for and loved, not neglected and left alone therefore either destroying property, escaping, distressed therefore barking 24/7, crying, etc.	As above	As above.	
39	Dulwich Hill	absolutely. Pets provide comfort to all and also provide families with important life lessons.	lack of properties that encourage pet ownership.	They add to general well being.	
40	Hamilton	With covid isolation and increasing mental health issues it's important not to feel alone. A pet can give people comfort and company. Thereby increasing mental and physical health and wellbeing. In turn saving the government money in Medicare and other programs	I have had to give away pets when forced to find new rentals. I have asked twice in the eight years I have been in my current home and the answer has been no. I have always been a good tenant and there is no reason why that would change if I had a pet.	Love, health, companionship, happiness, socialising, fitness	
41	Asquith	Yes, I do think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets. Studies show that owning a pet reduces stress, anxiety and depression; eases loneliness; encourages exercise and improves your overall health. Why should these health benefits only be accessible to homeowners? I think the current laws contribute to an incohesive and unjust society. Also, the current laws send a message that all tenants are unreliable and cannot be trusted to be responsible pet owners. My belief is that a tenant is responsible for all damage incurred no matter what, and whether caused by another human, or pet is irrelevant.	We have been tenants for 18 years at the same property. We have made several requests to be allowed to have a pet, all denied. The reasons given by the landlord were that pets cause damage. The landlords also own the house next door to ours. They have leased that house to their family members who have all been allowed to have pets.	Pets can have a positive impact on our mental and physical health. They can be caregivers, helping people to feel loved and less lonely. They can help people socially as well. And they can help teach younger people responsibility.	
42	Coffs Harbour	Absolutely. Pets are proven to be beneficial for physical and mental health. Pets, indeed anything we can do to add more nature, to our rental experience, is proven to have significant personal, and therefore wider societal benefits. The legislation has changed to allow pets in Victoria - without any negative repercussions.	Pet has been used by landlords and agents as a manipulative device e.g. don't ask for repairs, we know you have a pet and therefore we'll just evict you.	Pets provide a significant role in maintaining my physical and mental health. I make all other decisions, particularly around housing, based on their needs as a priority.	Stop treating renters as serfs to landlords and their henchmen real estate agents. Housing is a human right. How many of us make, and do, home involves pets.

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
43	Narooma	Yes. Pets support mental health in positive way; combating loneliness, prompting outdoor exercise as needed by pet as well as socialisation opportunities that may arise from this, providing affection, mood lifting, companionship and motivation to care for another being which can provide reprieve from self focussed unhappiness. Physical health positives can be lowered blood pressure, increased serotonin and positive hormone boost due to bonding as well as nervous system soothing.	No pets allowed as default lease requirement, no negotiation possible.	Mental health needs as a person with a disability that can manifest as clinical depression and chronic anxiety.	
44	Ashfield NSW	Definitely. There are many ways in which landlords have excessive power in the tenant-landlord relationship, but this is the worst. If landlords fear damage a pet-bond would be reasonable but flat refusal is very unfair in a society where housing is in crisis even without this.	Suspicion by real estate agents, flat refusal to allow "animals" in the house.	My dogs are my family. I need them as much as they need me.	
45	Meadowbank	Yes. Needs to tighten up on reasons why a landlord can refuse a pet	Landlord refuses - cites floorboard damages as reason of refusal even though I have offered to replace floorboards.	Companionship, mental health	
46	Katoomba	Yes, it was challenging to find a house with a pet, it eliminated a lot of options in an already tight rental market. When we applied it was 'pets on application' so we had no idea if our pet would be approved. Our dog is part of our family, surrendering our dog was not an option	See above	Our dog is part of the family	
47	Petersham	Renters shouldn't be second-class citizens. If a pet causes damage to the home, the renter should bear the cost of any repairs, as they would for any other damage caused to the home. But the choice and risks of pet ownership should be open to renters as capable adults, instead of being restricted.	We have to smuggle our cat and all signs of her existence out of the house twice a year for inspections. We have to keep her out of sight of any tradespeople or similar who attend our home. We worry that if she meows when we are not home or somehow irks a neighbour we could be reported and lose our home, even though we are good tenants and are often praised by the real estate for how well we keep the home. If this were to happen we might also be blacklisted and have trouble finding another rental.	They are companions and are good for our mental health. Our cat is a rescue so was saved from a life on the street.	
48	Port Macquarie	Yes definitely. Companion animals are very important & offer therapeutic benefits, lower stress/depression & loneliness, gives security & joy.	Up front just about ALL real estate agents state "no pets"! Its frustrating & makes my blood boil, NO PETS ALLOWED IN ANY RENTALS grrrrrr, so its either be homeless with your dog or re-home your dog if you can. Dogs cost a fortune upfront to purchase plus all shots/worming, desexing, bedding, toys etc yet agents dont give a toss	As mentioned above, but really its been a deep seated need i had since i was a child to always have a dog, they are your best friend & family. Very important to me to have a dog but because i got to rent im dogless all my life,(except once i bought a dog & sneaked him in but got found out by a surprise visit from the agent & told to get rid of asap)its so unfair & unjust that we are deprived thanks to other peoples telling us how we can & cant live	Im just really angry that i am deprived of owning a furry best mate because landlords/ real estate agents have no care about the mental/physical & emotional well being of renters that want a dog/cat to share their lives with but everywhere you go its a no pets policy upfront. Enough is enough, we should have a right to keep a pet
49	Coogee	I wish i could say yes to this but im allergic to cats, dogs, rabbits and rodents and i wouldn't want to live in a property after pet owners leave unless carpets are replaced and walls etc painted. Im also not keen to live in an apartment building with lots of animals. allowing pets in rentals is a risk to me.		Pets are very important for many peoples mental health. but not in apartments where your allergic neighbours will suffer...	If there is legal change there should be clear disclosure of pet history for particular properties and also information about pet presence in apartment buildings to protect those who will be negatively impacted.
50	Ashfield	Yes, for mental health and quality of life, the bond is meant to cover damages and inspections to avoid issues with the property being mistreated.	No pet bans with no reason given or consideration to renters.	They are good for mental health, quality of life and moving without them or being forced to put them down to find a place to live is inhumane.	

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
51	Earlwood	Yes. As it is currently, and has been for a long time and will be, extremely difficult to buy a home, renters should not have to sacrifice having a pet and other basic lifestyle choices.	We only got a pet during our current rental home. We were lucky the owners said yes. If we are asked to leave our current rental home, we are worried that in a tight rental market it will be difficult to get a rental in our price range that will allow our dog. We have the additional worry that as our child is in school, we are restricted to a certain geographical area so they don't have to travel long distances or move schools. Therefore, finding an affordable rental may be difficult and let's hope not impossible. The other challenge, and while our fault cause we got a greyhound, we need a place with a bit of backyard for him to zoom in.	They are part of the family, they are great company for all of us and good for mental health and physical health, due to the walks.	
52	Fern Bay	Yes, it helps make a house your home.	We have been lucky, all of our agents have been wonderful with accepting our cat	We love them!	
53	Marrickville	Yes - they benefit mental and often physical health. They likely cause less damage to a house than a young child..!	Even if one landlord address to a pet, of you need to move there's no guarantee the next landlord would agree to pets. So I can't take the risk of potentially being homeless or having to accept sub-par accommodation in the future.	They bring so much joy to life!	
54	WALLSEND	I am a citizen who contributes to society and pays tax but I'm only allowed to have a pet if my landlord says so - tenants live under so many restrictive laws - the rest of the population doesn't.	My current landlord may be OK but if I had to move? What utter cruelty to the person and the animal to be separated due to a fussy landlord.	Pets are vital to physical and mental health and have been linked to living a longer life. What right do you have to deny me health and happiness?	Good tenants will be good with or without pets. Bad tenants will be bad with or without pets. Not sure why being a tenant means I'm not treated like an adult. I work in health care so you trust me with your life but not a pet?
55	Stanmore	Yes. Pets are like family. Any damage a pet does to a house should be the responsibility of the pet owner to rectify, just the same as if the tenant damages the house themselves. That's why we have bonds!	We have to hide the dog every time there is an inspection.	They're like family. They provide support, comfort, stability, and in the case of a dog they give you a reason to leave the house.	No
56	Stanmore	Yes, the rental contract has a bond in place to protect the landlord from damages. If a renter wants move place with their family members, all dependants children and animals should not be left behind. Adults and the tenant sign a lease agreement taking accountability and responsibility for their dependants and the property.	It is difficult finding a place to rent, which can lead to hopelessness, having to hide when inspections take place	They are family, they improve mental illness, they bring joy into humans lives that's why they call them "man's best friend"	If an adult that signs a contract cannot take accountability or responsibility and respect a property like it was their own home then that will become evident in inspections despite whether the owner has pets or not

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
57	Katoomba	There are secret cats and dogs in properties all throughout NSW, and they overwhelmingly don't cause any nuisance, damage or problems of any kind. It's about time the laws were changed so that renters don't have to go through the tedious, stressful charade of hiding the pets that already live in so many rental properties. Landlords need to understand that they have chosen to make a living out of other peoples' need to live and have a home, and that being an investor should not automatically give them the right to dictate how other people live their lives. The housing situation in Australia is ridiculous, and it's unfair that one third of households don't have the same rights as those who are lucky enough to own their own (or multiple) homes. And it is sheer luck, and privilege, for the most part, that separates home owners from renters, even if most landlords think they've worked harder than everyone else, and they're God's gift to fucken humanity.	I am a former tenant, I rented for nearly 20 years around the inner west, in share houses and with my partner. In every house I've rented in, at least one person has had a 'secret cat'. For most of the time especially in the early 2000s up until around 2010 landlords/agents were mostly reasonable and tolerated the presence of the cat/s, even though we had not officially asked for permission to have them. We reasoned that if we asked for permission, there was a chance that we'd have our application to rent rejected, which, with the difficulty in finding an affordable rental (let alone an affordable rental that was openly pet-friendly) was not a risk we could take. It seemed like a more sensible risk to not disclose the cat, hide it when inspections came up, and deny its existence if ever questioned. As I said, this didn't seem to be a problem for most places I rented for most of the time I was a renter, and I know countless people friends and family who have done the same. My 77 year old father is a renter with a 'secret cat' who puts his cat in the car when there is an inspection, for example. In the last property I lived in my frankly sociopathic landlord would turn up unexpected, look through our windows, snoop around and in doing so discovered the existence of our 'secret cat'. They told us to get rid of it or move out. Coincidentally, the cat was old and sick and we needed to have it put down at about the same time. But it was stressful and unfair nonetheless. The cat was quiet, clean and didn't cause any damage to the property. Subsequently we couldn't get another pet at that property, although we would have liked to at the time. We couldn't afford to move. My partner, who suffers from PTSD, experienced severe mental health problems in the years following the cat's death, and I sincerely think that having a companion animal at that time would have made it easier for him. He felt too overwhelmed to go through the process of registering a support animal. I imagine there are a lot of people in this situation.	Pets are a part of many people's lives and families. I find it deeply unfair that some people (home owners) have a right to have pets, while others don't. I am a home owner now and at this stage in life personally prefer not to have a pet. But I strongly support tenants' rights to have pets, and I am sick to death of whinging landlords.	Cheers for all your work.
58	North Sydney	Yes, I strongly believe that the laws should change. Renters have the same desire for animal companionship as anyone else, and the fact that we have to ask someone else's permission to keep a pet is infantilising and unfair.	My cat is 17 years old and it's only in the past year that she's been "officially" permitted by a landlord. For the 16 previous years during which I've been renting as cat owner, I've had to hide her during rental inspections and from the property owners, because none of my previous leases have permitted animals. I've always had that background anxiety that if my cat was discovered by a landlord or real estate agent I could be evicted. I've sometimes done ad-hoc rescue and re-homing of street kittens as well, and I don't like knowing that if I try to help an animal, I put my own housing at risk.	Pets are important to me because I love animals and I like to be around them. As a single person and renter facing constant economic insecurity, the companionship of an animal has been really beneficial for my mental health over many years. Everybody should be able to experience the love of a companion animal.	NSW has really backwards laws on renters and pets and it needs to change!
59	Faulconbridge	Definitely yes. People need pets for mental health reasons, among others.	Many landlords won't accept applications that include pets.	My children need their pets. They are companion animals. For their mental wellbeing.	

Serial	Town or Suburb	Do you think the law should change to make it easier for NSW renters to keep pets? Why?	What challenges have you experienced as a renter who has a pet or would like to have a pet?	Why are pets important to you?	Is there anything else you'd like to add?
60		<p>I think pets add significant tangible benefits to a person's well-being and health. There is often very little property damage, which is essentially a myth. I think children could do as much damage as pets. My pet hasn't done any damage so far, and I would happily pay for anything she might do.</p> <p>Considering that there is different legislators' advice across other states and territories, it limits pet owners from relocating. It pressures the tenant to justify their pet ownership and find properties that accept pets. Limiting pet ownership seems unnecessary and somewhat cruel when so many people cherish and love their animals. The legal changes in Victoria regarding pet ownership haven't seemed to change much for landlords but have taken a weight off the shoulders of renters. The myth of pet owners being irresponsible is likely untrue, and many people looking after pets are likely to be much more responsible as they are already caring for animals.</p>	<p>I have a pet, but she is secret, so I am writing anonymously for obvious reasons. We had a fire alarm the other day, which was not a drill, and I realised that I would have to leave her behind or face a coming out to everyone in the building. This felt heartbreaking at the time. If the fire had been genuine, many pets might have perished because they couldn't legally be there. This doesn't feel kind.</p> <p>Further, it is not just about landlords; the law needs to change around Strata buildings as if these can outlaw pets/make specific rules different from the states. It puts tenants, landlords and building managers in tricky and unnecessary tensions where clear and specific guidelines would do much to rectify these situations.</p>	<p>Pets are essential to me, like the rest of the animal and plant kingdoms are. Animals conserve and construct the world we live in. And we, as humans, aren't different from animals, and we all exist in the world. We need to create spaces that reflect systems as a whole so that we can start looking at us all as a living system that needs care and looking after.</p>	<p>Please help to change this - it's such a silly rule that does no good!</p>
61	Ultimo	<p>No, landlords should not be obligated to allow animals on their property.</p> <p>Pets have many up sides but they also cause problems. Dogs and cats can damage property - especially if they don't have easy access to outdoors.</p> <p>Cats (and to a much smaller degree dogs) are a threat to nature if they can leave the property. Cats decimate local bird and small mammal populations (most cat owners disagree saying "not their cat" or they don't care). If a landowner is willing to take the responsibility of having a small ecological disaster on their property - it's within their right - not their tenant's.</p>	<p>My current apartment block does not allow pets. As much as I would like a dog, I respect the ruling. This is an old building - things can get damaged. The halls are carpeted. If pet owning tenants had their cleaning utility bills doubled perhaps the ruling could be changed.</p>	<p>They provide support and can help improve your mental well being. But so can being social with people.</p>	
62	Petersham	<p>Absolutely. Our tenancy laws are completely outdated - based on an assumption that renting is a temporary form of accommodation that people will only live in for a short period while saving to buy. Now that so many individuals and families have been locked out of owning a home, our tenancy laws need to catch up and recognise that people are paying rent to LIVE in a home, not stay for a short while. Pets play such an important role in health and wellbeing. It is so much harder to find a rental property when you have a pet and we have an awful situation where pets sometimes have to be given up and/or people stay in unsafe DV situations because they can't find anywhere to go where they can take their pet/s. Renters are no less likely to be responsible pet owners than homeowners are, and we pay bond in case there is any damage left unresolved. Why should kids have to grow up without pets just because their parents/carers can't afford to buy a house?!</p>	<p>After moving into a house that had been advertised as "pets on application" we asked to get a cat and were refused. We moved out at the end of that 9 month lease so that we could try again.</p> <p>Two years ago we had to move because the landlord was selling the house and wanted to sell it empty. We had a cat at the time (he has since passed away) and found that about half the houses advertised in our area (Sydney inner west) said "no pets"; most of the others said "pets on application", and very few said "pets welcome".</p>	<p>Pets are great for mental health, exercise, companionship, helping kids learn responsibility and care.</p>	