

Case study - Tiffy to the rescue



A dog lover her whole life, Heather didn't think it was fair to keep a dog in her Hackett apartment in Canberra when her working day often involved long and unpredictable hours.

But seeing four -year old Tiffy, a tiny Jack Russell-Chihuahua-cross, on an animal rescue site two years ago chased away all her doubts.

"Tiffy was such a special little girl who needed a loving home. She'd been found starving and emaciated and carrying a litter of stillborn pups. I thought that if she could survive that, then I could find a way to give her a home.

"There were no Strata rules about animals in my apartment complex. People who lived there just assumed pets weren't allowed so no one had ever brought one to live with them-which I think is a common perception amongst apartment dwellers."

The problem of Heather's work schedule was quickly solved when her mother, whose own beloved Jack Russell had passed away the year before, offered to take Tiffy during the day in a dog-crèche arrangement.

"I drop Tiffy off each morning and pick her up after work. It's worked brilliantly and Tiffy has the best of both worlds. Even when she's alone in the apartment she's more than happy to curl up in a comfy spot and have a nap."

Two years after Tiffy moved in, the Body Corporate developed a set of house-rules to help residents live harmoniously in a shared environment.

"I was given a draft to comment on and was concerned a no-pets rule had been added. Tiffy's presence had inspired other owners to acquire pets and asking us to give up our furry-friends was not an option for us. The Body Corporate wasn't being callous, they simply hadn't considered the presence of these pets.

"I worked with the Body Corporate Committee to revise the rule so pets can be allowed in the complex, once the Committee's approval has been sought and granted.

"Having these guides for Strata groups is very important as pets can make excellent apartment dwellers. There are so many animals needing homes and they don't always need a house or garden to live in. A secure and loving home is all they really need."