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# **PETS IN URBAN AREAS**

**A GUIDE TO INTEGRATING  
DOMESTIC PETS  
INTO NEW RESIDENTIAL  
DEVELOPMENTS**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- ◆ Pet ownership is a common shared pleasure among a majority of Australian families. While it is impossible to measure precisely the benefits pet ownership provides, we now know that in addition to the long recognised companionship, caring and sharing and security aspects, pet ownership can have a very positive therapeutic effect. Pets for many people can be one of the major 'keys' to a healthier lifestyle and overall better health.
- ◆ While pets are traditionally associated with family-type households, we should also recognize pet ownership is just as important to childless couples and people who live alone.
- ◆ Since World War 2, the number of owned dogs and cats in Australia has risen steadily. In 1991, 55% of Australian households owned either a dog or a cat.
- ◆ Pet ownership may be compromised in the future, however, by the nationwide push to promote urban consolidation. Smaller homes and backyards discourage people from owning pets. They also place greater demands on scarce public open space.
- ◆ An added dimension is that some of the problems caused by pets, such as excessive barking, are felt more strongly in urban areas. Urban consolidation may exacerbate these problems.
- ◆ This study is a response to these pressures. Its aims are to identify those aspects of urban design which affect domestic pet ownership and to develop guidelines which focus on better integrating pets into new residential development.
- ◆ There are three independent variables to a better relationship between a pet and its owner: the pet, the owner and the environment. While it is wrong to assume a certain pet, owner or environment will cause certain behaviours, each will have the capacity to increase or decrease the chances of certain types of behaviour.
- ◆ People thinking about obtaining a pet need to decide on (1) the species, i.e. cat, dog, canary, etc., (2) the breed and strain, and (3) the individual characteristics sought, e.g. appearance, playfulness, etc.
- ◆ We should be cautious about generalizing about different species and breeds. There are, nevertheless, commonalities among populations that warrant consideration. Chapter four looks at the main distinguishing features of dogs, cats and other types of domestic pets kept in urban areas. Further advice on breed choice is available from the PIAS and veterinarians.
- ◆ It is important to note that while many people share a love of animals, they often own them for very different reasons and have different preferences. Dog owners are not always the same as cat owners. There are also enthusiasts for different breeds. It is important to recognize these distinctions and avoid simple solutions which seek to prescribe different pets for different types of housing.
- ◆ The pet's physical environment includes both the owner's premises and the wider neighbourhood. There is also the non-physical environment to consider such as activity occurring in adjacent and neighbouring properties. This study looks at the non-physical environment only insofar as it is affected by the physical environment.
- ◆ Those aspects of the owner's premises that affect pets include:
  - Housing type;
  - Housing and precinct design;
  - Private open space and landscaping;
  - Fences;
  - Restraint of cats;
  - Windows;
  - Garages, carports and car spaces;
  - Internal light courts;
  - Dog and cat doors;
  - Disposal of excrement; and
  - Other design features such as internal flooring and bedding.
- ◆ Housing type is probably the most fundamental of these. However, people tend to place too much emphasis on housing type as it relates to successful pet ownership. The most definite conclusion that can be made is that as housing density increases so, too, does the need to pay attention to breed choice, training, environmental enrichment, and other design features.
- ◆ The guidelines look at each of these aspects of the home environment.
- ◆ The wider neighbourhood includes walking in the street and visits to the park and other public areas. It is important mostly to dogs. Opportunities for visiting parks depend on the number of parks available, their accessibility and restrictions imposed on access by dogs.
- ◆ There has been considerable debate in recent years on access to parks by dogs. They have been prohibited from some parks.

- ◆ For owners to be able to exercise their dogs regularly, it is obvious access is needed to public areas such as parks within easy walking distance from home.
- ◆ The PIAS believes that properly leashed dogs do not pose a threat to people and should be permitted into urban parks.
- ◆ In catering for the needs of dog owners in open space planning the following principles should be considered.
  - Linear parks and pedestrian paths are ideal for walking dogs. They provide interest and diversity for the dog and a sense of purpose for the owner.
  - Access to passive recreation areas is crucial if owners are to integrate dogs into family outings.
  - Ideally, dogs should also have access to free running areas, i.e. off the leash. Free running tends to pacify dogs.  
*However the PIAS believes that free running should not be provided at the expense of leashed access to other parks.*
  - Education of pet owners of their responsibilities needs to be carried out on an on-going basis. Local Government can assist in a number of ways, including installation of signs in parks reminding owners of their responsibilities. Many Councils now also supply such things as free 'pooper scoopers' in parks to assist dog owners.

# PART A : PETS IN THE COMMUNITY

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background and aims of the study

The popularity of pets ranges across all socio-economic groups and all types of communities. Pets play an important role in teaching children about sharing, caring, communication and responsibility. They act as companions and protectors, an incentive to exercise, stress relievers and in a lot of cases are truly 'man's best friend'. This applies especially to our two main pet groups, dogs and cats. But all this could be changed in the future or at least compromised by the nationwide push to urban consolidation. Smaller homes and back gardens and multi-dwelling developments can act as factors discouraging people from owning pets while placing greater demands on scarce public open space. They could also magnify management problems caused by some pets.

This study is a response to these pressures. Its aims are as follows:

- 1 To identify those elements of urban design which affect domestic pet ownership.
- 2 To develop guidelines which focus on better integrating pets into new residential development.

The study has been conducted with several audiences in mind and with the expectation of it being read at different levels. At one level, it is hoped that the report and accompanying guidelines will encourage everyone to think about pets in decisions about residential and community development. This includes home owners, architects and developers as well as Councils and other authorities who approve housing and subdivision plans, develop housing policies and who are interested in ensuring that there is diversity in the nation's housing stock. At another level, the results can be used in a very positive way to promote urban consolidation. By better accommodating the needs of pet owners we may encourage more people to live in more compact accommodation.

It should be added that many of the recommendations contained in this report are not new but are either not well understood or have never been applied in an urban planning context before. Opportunities are often lost because pets are not considered when developments are being planned.

### 1.2 About The Petcare Information and Advisory Service (PIAS)

The PIAS was established in 1966 with a charter to encourage socially responsible pet ownership. An autonomous non-commercial body, its funding is provided by Uncle Ben's of Australia as a public service to all pet

owners. It has offices in all major cities in Australia and is also represented in New Zealand.

The PIAS's aims are as follows:

- 1 To encourage pet ownership and help owners enjoy their pets.
- 2 To provide information on the correct care of pets.
- 3 To educate owners in the responsibility of pet ownership.
- 4 To ensure information is available to legislators and the media on pet issues.
- 5 To undertake original research on the relationship between people and companion animals.

The PIAS has pioneered a wide range of initiatives that today we take for granted. These initiatives have included:

- Financing for the 'Dog in Residence' study
- Introduction of nationwide school pet care talks
- Financing of instructional pet care videos
- Production of 'How to care for pets' pamphlets
- Various research projects into all aspects of pet ownership
- Introduction of a free SELECTAPET service - matching potential owners with the breed of cat or dog best suited to their lifestyle and expectations
- Introduction of free school 'fun' pet shows.

These initiatives are based on a belief that education is more effective than legislation.

This study is another example of the PIAS support for projects designed to accommodate pet ownership in the best interests of the community at large.

### 1.3 Scope of study

The study is restricted to consideration of domestic pets kept in Australia. It is not about feral or wild animals or about keeping animals for commercial purposes. The study relates primarily to dogs and cats but also looks at the keeping of birds, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, fish and tortoises for non-commercial purposes. Horses have not been considered.

The following definitions of housing type are used in this study :

*High-density:* Includes flats and apartments which are usually accessed by a lift or communal staircase. Separate private open space is not provided except possibly a balcony.

*Multi-dwelling developments:* Includes villa units, town houses, dual occupancy (i.e. two houses on one lot), and subdivided houses. It is characterised by separate entrances at ground level and small private gardens or courtyards.

*Small lot subdivision:* Lots for detached houses usually ranging from 300 to 600m<sup>2</sup>..

*Low Density housing:* Conventional detached housing (epitomised by the three bedroom house on the quarter acre lot).

*Rural Residential:* Urban fringe development with lots in the range of two to four hectares each. It is a popular "lifestyle" choice of housing for families seeking the benefits of rural living.

The focus of the study is on urban consolidation and as such, low density housing and rural residential subdivision have not been addressed specifically. Nevertheless the principles are applicable to both housing types.

While formulated with new residential development in mind (whether on the urban fringe or in established areas), aspects of the guidelines are also relevant to existing residential development.

Keeping pets in institutional settings such as nursing homes is now a 'fact of life' but is not considered in this study.

## 1.4 Methodology

In 1992, the PIAS commissioned Harlock Jackson Pty. Ltd., Planning and Development Consultants to conduct the study in association with Goad Fink, Architecture and Landscape and Dr Robert Holmes, Animal Behaviourist.

The methodology for the study included the following procedures.

- 1 A review of urban consolidation and design policies from the perspective of the pet owning household.
- 2 A review of the literature concerned with the care of pets from the perspective of urban planning and design.
- 3 A tour by the study team and the PIAS staff of new residential development including high-density housing, multi-dwelling developments and small lot subdivision.
- 4 A workshop attended by the study team and the PIAS staff to review and establish principles for keeping pets in urban areas.
- 5 Drawing up of draft guidelines.
- 6 Obtaining feedback and conducting interviews with industry and government representatives and making adjustments as appropriate.
- 7 Preparation of brochures explaining the guidelines.

## 1.5 Structure of Report

Part A of the Report looks at the role and influence of pets in Australia

Chapter two looks at pet ownership in Australia. It provides statistics on pet numbers and examines the benefits of owning pets along with some of the problems. The chapter concludes with an outline of the work carried out to date to promote socially responsible pet ownership.

Successful pet ownership is dependent on three variables : the pet, the owner and the pet's environment as outlined in Chapter three. Chapters four, five and six look at each of these variables respectively. Each is interdependent on the others so none of the chapters should be read in isolation. Included in Chapter six is an examination of those aspects of urban design that affect pets.

Part B contains the design guidelines for integrating domestic pets into new residential development.

## 2.0 The role and place of pets in the community

### 2.1 Number of pets

The number of owned dogs and cats has increased steadily since market research figures were first collected in 1966 (Morgan Research, 1988). In 1966, the total number of dogs in Australia was estimated to be 1.3 million. By 1988 there were an estimated 3.04 million. From 1978 to 1988, the number of dog-owning households increased from 1.74 million to 2.13 million although the number of dogs per household has remained relatively constant. The pattern of ownership for cats has been similar. Morgan Research estimates that there were 1.2 million owned cats in 1966 and 2.9 million in 1988. The number of cat-owning households has increased slightly as has the number of cats per household.

Table 1 summarises the results of the Morgan Research surveys relating dog and cat-owning households to the population as a whole. The surveys estimate that in 1991, 38% of Australian households owned one or more dogs, and 31% owned one or more cats, while 55% of all households own either a dog or a cat.

Clearly pet ownership is not a minority community interest. On numerical criteria alone, we should be looking for ways to better accommodate the needs of pet-owning households in community and residential planning.

### 2.2 Benefits of pet ownership

But why is pet ownership so popular? For many people the most obvious reason for obtaining a pet is for companionship. People can derive great satisfaction and joy from the relationships they have with their pets. These benefits are easy to understand, however there are important social benefits that are not as well understood.

For children, experience with pets contributes to their development. Pets help them learn responsibility and how to share. Pets show that if affection is given, it will be returned. They also encourage children to exercise.

In their submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into the Role and Welfare of Companion Animals in Society, the Royal Guide Dogs Associations of Australia stated :

*"The bottom line of pet ownership is that children learn selfless behaviour because of owning animals."*

(Royal Guide Dogs Association of Australia, 1987, p7)

Pets help to foster family cohesion. In childless families, they are often surrogates for children.

**TABLE 1 :  
SUMMARY OF AUSTRALIAN  
PET POPULATIONS (1992)**

The total number of dogs is 3.0 million.  
37% of households have one or more dogs.

The total number of cats is 2.7 million.  
30% of households have one or more cats.

53% of households have either a dog or a cat.

#### **DOG POPULATION (,000)**

STATE	CAPITAL CITY	X-CAPITAL	TOTAL NO.	
QLD	Brisbane	294	331	525
NSW	Sydney	512	516	1028
VIC	Melbourne	459	318	777
TAS	Hobart	31	64	95
SA	Adelaide	190	138	328
WA	Perth	168	92	260
TOTAL		1554	1459	3013

#### **CAT POPULATION (,000)**

STATE	CAPITAL CITY	X-CAPITAL	TOTAL NO.	
QLD	Brisbane	194	280	474
NSW	Sydney	426	396	822
VIC	Melbourne	450	275	725
TAS	Hobart	32	55	87
SA	Adelaide	190	125	315
WA	Perth	199	87	286
TOTAL		1491	1218	2709

**Source : Roy Morgan Research Centre  
Survey of Pet Ownership 1992**

Pets are just as important for those who live alone providing companionship and promoting conversation with people in the street and at the park. For some, particularly the elderly who live alone, taking a dog out with them might promote the only social contact they have for an entire day.

Another reason why people obtain a dog is for security. Housebreakers will tend to steer clear of houses with dogs. People also tend to feel safer with a dog in the house and when they are walking or jogging in the street.

The elderly face special problems associated with reduction in income, loss of stimulus of work, difficulty in finding new interests and making new friends, loneliness arising from reduced mobility, retirement depression which dampens enthusiasm for regular exercise and threat of bereavement. The permanent loneliness of the widow or widower is a very serious contemporary social issue which will become more prevalent with the ageing of the population. The PIAS has found that with very few exceptions, most elderly people have very close associations with their pets. Yet the prospect of changing accommodation, whether to a smaller dwelling or flat or to a retirement or nursing home, is a disincentive for them to own pets. It is also conceivable that elderly people may defer moving because they think their pet would not be suitable or allowed in more compact or group-style accommodation.

Another benefit of owning pets is their use in therapy. Pets can reduce the heart rate and lower blood pressure. Pets are often suggested as a drug-free way of coping with stress. A recent study by the prestigious Baker Medical Research Institute, Melbourne, showed that pet owners had significantly lower risk factors for cardiovascular disease than did non-owners.

Some 5,471 persons participated in the study that revealed a beneficial effect of pet ownership on several of the classical risk factors for coronary heart disease. Heart related diseases are the biggest cause of death among adults in Australia.

Proof of the therapeutic benefit of pets becomes stronger every day as more studies and case histories become available. The Joint Advisory Committee on Pets in Society (JACOPIS) documented the introduction of a 'pet in residence' at Caulfield Hospital. A former guide dog named 'Honey' was introduced into two long-term care wards which accommodated 60 frail and elderly patients. The study showed that the presence of 'Honey' in these wards had a positive effect on a large number of patients in terms of their emotional well-being.

The Royal Guide Dogs Associations of Australia, in their submission to the SDC Inquiry stated:

*"It is the contention of this Association (supported by scientific evidence) that companion animals can and do increase the well being of people in society and help to lower levels of stress. There is medical and scientific evidence that animals can reduce the heart rate and lower blood pressure. This is not only the case with dogs but with cats, horses, birds, goldfish etc...."*

(Royal Guide Dogs Association of Australia, 1987, p6-7)

'Pet ownership fits with a strong emerging theme in the sociocultural evolution of Australia in the 90s. Increasingly Australians are talking about the need to "get back to basics"; to get closer to nature; to simplify their lives; to recapture traditional values.'

(*'What Australians Feel about Their Pets'*, MacCallum Research, 1992).

## 2.3 Problems

Common problems caused by pets include :

- Excessive vocalisation (barking, whining, howling, caterwauling)
- Biting and chewing
- Urination and defecation in inappropriate places
- Disposal of excrement in the home
- Urine spraying by cats
- Aggression towards humans
- Aggression towards other animals
- Predation on livestock and wildlife
- Hyperactivity
- Escaping and roaming by dogs
- Excessive licking
- Getting into chairs
- Jumping up on benches by cats
- Sex behaviour to people
- Scratching furniture by cats

Problems can be either annoying such as scratching furniture or hazardous, such as aggression towards humans and other animals. Their effect can be isolated to the owner, such as getting on chairs, or they can affect others, such as barking. In most instances the problem is a matter of degree, e.g. most dogs bark, it is when the barking becomes excessive that a problem emerges.

Problems also vary geographically. For instance, in inner areas pet problems are more likely to be associated with effects on neighbours than conflicts with other land uses, such as adjacent farming areas. In outer areas where densities are lower and there are farms nearby, the reverse is likely to be the case.

Many of the above problems arise because the pet is bored.

## 2.4 Responsible pet ownership

Most problems of pet ownership can be solved. At the forefront of work by all parties interested in pets is the promotion of *socially responsible pet ownership*. This concept has two components :

- The knowledge of the owner of his or her responsibilities; and
- His or her efforts to meet these responsibilities.

Both of these can be met by education and pressure by others. The Pet Food Manufacturers of Australia argue that education and subsequent peer group pressure are more effective than restrictive legislation and the associated control infrastructure (SDC, 1989, 169).

Education is performed by individual vets, animal behaviourists, the Australian Veterinary Association, manufacturers of pet foods and products and organisations such as the PIAS and the RSPCA. Section 6 of this Report outlines owners' responsibilities in detail.

The PIAS takes a proactive role in promoting responsible pet ownership. It provides specialised information on all types of pets including :

- A range of leaflets and posters on caring for dogs and cats and responsible pet ownership which are distributed through councils, schools and veterinary surgeries.
- School talk programmes for educating children.
- Regular columns for major magazines and newspapers on the care of pets and pet ownership, e.g. Women's Weekly.
- Response to written and telephone enquiries on the correct care, hygiene and nutrition for pets.

Part of the problem has been a lack of information on selecting the right pet. In 1985, the PIAS introduced SELECTAPET, a computerised pet/human compatibility test which selects the right breed of dog or cat for the prospective owner and his or her lifestyle. Four breeds of dog or cat are suggested and information is provided on the characteristics and care of each. SELECTAPET is believed to be a world first. SELECTAPET is used by local government, the Canine and Feline Control Councils and is promoted at pet and agricultural shows. It can also be run by

request at any other time. At the time of writing, the program has been run up to one million times since inception. It is a valuable contribution to encouraging more responsible pet ownership.

The PIAS recognises that many people need to become more responsible pet owners but believes that real progress has already been made. The PIAS is confident of further progress in the future. We only need look at other issues on which there has been vigorous debate in recent years. Smoking in public places has become unacceptable. Drinking and driving is now not only illegal it is seen as morally wrong. We have even been convinced to 'Slip, Slop and Slap' as a defence against harmful UV rays. In each of these cases, it is the ethical standard that has changed and because the change has occurred so gradually, we often don't realise how significant the progress has been. The PIAS believes the prospects for promoting responsible pet ownership are just as promising.

This Study complements other work promoting responsible pet ownership by looking at the ways in which urban design can prevent problems of pet ownership from occurring in the first place and by helping people to be responsible pet owners. Often only minor modifications to a design will make a substantial difference, e.g. the installation of a return-spring self-closing gate to stop dogs from roaming outside the owner's premises.

## 3.0 Successful pet ownership summarised

A successful pet is one that meets the owner's needs and expectations and integrates well into the family and surrounding neighbourhood. Important to successful pet ownership are three variables :

- The pet,
- The owner, and
- The environment.

Whether a pet is suited to a household also depends on what the owner is looking for in a pet (i.e. security, mellowness with children, etc.)

The relationship between these variables is complex and constantly changing. While it is wrong to assume a certain pet, owner or environment will cause certain behaviours, each will have the capacity to increase or decrease certain types of behaviour. Considering one variable in isolation cannot be the answer to successful pet ownership.

The pet's environment is particularly important in urban areas due to the more compact nature of development and the need for neighbours to coexist with one another. That is not to say that pets do not have a legitimate place in urban areas. Indeed, they are an integral part of family life and should not be separated from residential use of land. What it does mean is that in urban areas more attention needs to be paid to each of the three variables.

The following three sections examine each of these three variables in turn.

## 4.0 Choice of pet

Anyone who is thinking about owning a pet needs to decide on :

- The species or type of pet (e.g. dog, cat, canary, etc.);
- The breed and strain; and
- The individual characteristics sought, particularly if selecting from a litter.

How these factors relate to one another is complex and needs to be explained.

Every animal has a genotype which is its own individual set of genes it shares with no one (unless it has an identical twin). While every animal has a different genotype, it will have numerous genes in common with other individuals of the population of which it is a part. Its behaviour will be more like that of members of its own population than that of another group. The population might be a species, a breed or a strain. It might also include members of the one family.

We should be cautious of generalising about different species and breeds, e.g. in most cases a Greyhound will outpace a Poodle, however the fastest Poodle will probably outpace the slowest Greyhound and this might simply be a product of his or her particular set of genes. There are, nevertheless, commonalities among populations that warrant consideration. The following is a brief description of the main distinguishing characteristics of dogs and cats. There are many breeds and strains and people should consider the expected behavioural characteristics of the breed in which they are interested. Part B suggests different breeds for different housing types. Further advice is available from the PIAS and veterinarians.

Other types of domestic pets are also considered in this chapter.

### 4.1 Dogs

Dogs probably enjoy the closest relationship with man of any pet and because of this they are more demanding of our time and attention. They are social creatures that seek out social interaction and affection. They are best suited to homes which have some private open space, although many are able to be kept successfully in flats and apartments. Part B suggests breeds of dog that are suitable for flats, multi-dwelling developments and single dwellings on small lots. The breeds are suggestions only and the list is not exhaustive.

Dogs usually benefit from another pet in the house. Dogs have a strong sense of their territory. In domestic situations, the territory a dog defends is the family's home and property. On neutral territory such as in a park, dogs can be friendly and enjoy each other's company without having to defend territory. He or she is more likely to tolerate the

intrusion if the intruder is a puppy, a clearly subordinate individual or a member of the opposite sex.

### 4.2 Cats

Although much less dependent on humans than dogs, cats may develop very strong bonds with their owners. They are relatively clean and do not usually make much noise. Cats are very agile and sure-footed and are rarely restrained by fencing. They generally move over a home range of several houses.

Cats are gentle in the vast majority of cases. They fit in well with most families. Cats very rarely scratch or bite without giving unmistakable warning.

Cats are generally asocial creatures and are usually more adaptable than dogs to being left on their own for long periods. However because they are asocial they do not develop the same dominant-subordinate relationships with humans or other animals as dogs. If introduced at kitten stage, two cats are often better than one where they are left alone for long periods.

Cats are usually better suited to more compact accommodation than dogs since they will readily use a litter tray and do not need as much access to the outdoors.

### 4.3 Other pets kept in urban areas

The following is a discussion of other types of domestic pets.

- *Budgerigars*: These are the most practical of the cage birds. They are lively, colourful, quite hardy animals which can be brought up to mimic human speech. Although they need daily attention, they are reasonably cheap to buy, house and feed.
- *Canaries*: These are not quite as popular as 'budgies' but are obtained for their lively song.
- *Rabbits*: A reasonably hardy pet which is quite cheap to feed and house. They live on average six to seven years and can be kept outdoors. There is a large number of rabbits to choose from. (People should check restrictions on keeping rabbits in their area before obtaining one as a pet.)
- *Guinea pigs*: A pet which can be kept easily in domestic situations. They are short-lived, not often living beyond three years. Although they appear nervous and move rapidly, they usually do not bite or scratch.
- *Mice*: The domestic mouse can be kept cheaply and easily in a suitable cage in most homes. They are easy to feed and have a short lifespan of 1.5 to 2.5 years. They are

best kept in female pairs or as single males. Males tend to fight and have a stronger odour.

- *Aquarium fish*: Fish are attractive, colourful, absorbing to study and very interesting to watch. They do not demand much time and do not make any noise. They can be left for short periods if the owners need to go away.
- *Tortoises*: Tortoises need a reasonable sized garden unless you can provide a ready supply of green food. Arrangements must be made for them to hibernate safely in winter. They are only comfortable outside in the summer months and must be provided with a shelter from the rain and direct sunlight. Care must be taken that they do not escape although they are not suitable for tethering.

Most of these pets are suitable for any type of housing.

While many people share a love of animals, they often own them for different reasons and have different preferences. Dog owners are not always the same as cat owners. There are also enthusiasts for different breeds. Within each group, there are also people who are attached to a particular breed. Other people are attracted to some of the other types of domestic pets mentioned above. It is important to recognise these distinctions and to avoid simple solutions matching pet type (i.e. dog or cat, etc.) to housing type.

## 5.0 The owner's responsibilities

Pet ownership brings with it certain obligations and responsibilities. The focus of this study is not about pet management and, accordingly, the following is only a brief outline.

### 5.1 Choice of pet

Owners should choose their type and breed of pet carefully, e.g. by using the PIAS's Selectacat and Selectadog programs. Advice is also available from veterinarians, animal behaviourists and animal associations.

There may be restrictions on keeping pets in a particular area and advice should be sought first from the local council.

### 5.2 Initial responsibilities

All pets should be properly vaccinated and registered as required.

It is also a good idea to have pets desexed unless intending to breed from them. Not only can unwanted pregnancies be avoided but the inconvenience and nuisance of bitches in season and the tendency of males to roam and fight can be reduced.

### 5.3 Providing an enriching environment

An environment which provides stimulation and activity for pets is important. It can reduce, if not eliminate, many unwanted behaviours associated with boredom, e.g. excessive barking. It provides pets with complexity, unpredictability and choice in the home environment. For dogs this means providing them with obedience work, free-running exercise outside the owner's property, toys to play with, objects to chew and, where possible, a view of the outside world. (Holmes, 1992). Providing an enriched environment for cats is similar but more focused on the internal house environment, e.g. providing them with a view of the outside world, scratching posts, climbing objects, cardboard boxes, paper bags, cat herbs and grasses and chasing games with people and objects. (Holmes, 1991a).

### 5.4 Management and training

It is recommended that dogs are confined to the owner's premises. The advantages of this include protection from catching disease, being run over and fighting (with associated disease risks). The days of the roaming dog are no longer acceptable. Dogs can be humanely restrained on a running wire so long as they receive an enriched environment. (See 5.3 Providing an enriched environment.) Ideally cats should be confined to the house at night for their own safety where practicable. In environmentally sensitive areas where wildlife may be at risk, additional solutions may need to be sought, e.g. total or partial confinement,

animal-proof fences, cat bells. The immense popularity of pets and the important social benefits they provide should be recognised in discussions about their control for wildlife protection.

Children need to be taught appropriate behaviour and it is the same with pets. Barking, biting and chewing, scratching, chasing cars and straying are all behaviours that can be altered with training. Advice is available from the PIAS, veterinarians, animal behaviourists and various books specialising on the subject.

In addition to giving better control to the owner, obedience training gives dogs "work" to do. (Holmes, 1992)

### 5.5 Excessive barking

Barking is a perfectly natural activity in dogs. It serves as communication, expressing excitement, pleasure, fear, alarm and anxiety. A good dog is not one that barks at everything and everybody and does not stop; this is excessive and will adversely affect the amenity of the neighbourhood.

A dog can be trained to stop barking excessively. The owner first needs to establish the cause or causes of the barking, i.e. is it due to :

- The breed;
  - A potential threat to territory;
  - Training (i.e. for the owner's security);
  - Fear;
  - Separation anxiety;
  - Play; or
  - Boredom?
- (Holmes, 1991b)

There are different solutions for different causes of barking. Advice is available from dog trainers, the PIAS, veterinarians, animal behaviourists and dog clubs.

Training, in conjunction with a stimulating home environment and regular exercise, can help reduce excessive barking. If provided with a small, dark and comfortable area, dogs will also lie quietly for limited periods but not all day. (Holmes, 1991b) Apart from being morally objectionable to many people, debarking is not recommended as a treatment as it does not remove the cause of the barking.

## **5.6 Exercise and family outings**

By itself, exercise in the back yard is not always sufficient for dogs especially if they spend long periods on their own. Exercise outside the home is stimulating and can quieten them down. Where possible, dogs should also be included in family outings, e.g. on trips to the park.

Ideally exercise should be free-running (i.e. off the lead) outside the property. If that is not possible they can be exercised on a light line (about 30 metres long).

Responsible pet owners dispose of their pets' faeces (e.g. by using a "pooper scooper") or ensure their dogs defecate in designated areas.

## **5.7 Hygiene**

Cases of disease transmitted from pets to people are rare. However it is sensible to take precautions to avoid them. These safeguards are simple everyday measures, such as keeping pet animals in clean surroundings with adequate clean bedding, keeping eating utensils separate from those used for humans and simply washing hands after handling them. Any illness in people or pets must be dealt with and professional advice sought promptly.

## 6.0 Role of the environment

The pet's physical environment includes both the owner's premises and the wider neighbourhood. There is also the non-physical environment to consider such as activity occurring in adjacent and neighbouring properties. This study looks at the non-physical environment only insofar as it is affected by the physical environment.

A poor physical environment can discourage people from owning pets and affect their successful integration into the family unit. People's perceptions about the most appropriate environment for keeping pets are not always accurate.

### 6.1 The owner's premises

Those aspects of the home environment that affect pets include :

- Housing type;
- Housing and precinct design;
- Private open space and landscaping;
- Fences;
- Restraint of cats;
- Windows;
- Garages, carports and car spaces;
- Internal light courts;
- Dog and cat doors;
- Disposal of excrement; and
- Other design features such as internal flooring and bedding.

Housing type is probably the most fundamental of these. We should note, however, that most people place too much emphasis on housing type as it contributes to successful pet ownership. As shown in Part B, the most definite conclusion that can be made about housing type and pets is that as housing density increases so, too, does the need to pay attention to breed choice, training and environmental enrichment.

It is worthwhile at this point to repeat the definitions of housing type used in this study.

*High-density:* Includes flats and apartments. Dwellings are usually accessed by a lift or communal staircase and are not provided with private open space except, possibly, a balcony. In the 1990s approval for new high density housing development tends to be taken on its merits on a case by case basis.

*Multi-dwelling developments:* Includes villa units, town houses, dual occupancy (i.e. two houses on one lot), and subdivided houses. It is characterised by separate entrances at ground level and small private gardens or courtyards. Encouraging medium density housing is a priority for managing future urban growth and accommodating the changing housing needs of the

population. There is a multiplicity of policies and codes guiding this form of development.

*Small lot subdivision:* Lots for detached houses usually ranging from 300 to 600m<sup>2</sup>. The planning stage can involve either a single site or a future residential community, i.e. a whole subdivision.

*Low Density housing:* Conventional detached housing (epitomised by the three bedroom house on the quarter-acre lot).

*Rural Residential:* Urban fringe development with lots in the range of two to four hectares each. It is a popular "lifestyle" choice of housing for families seeking the benefits of rural living.

As stated earlier, low density housing and rural residential development have not been examined specifically in this Study although many of the guidelines are equally applicable to both.

None of the policies or codes examined address the issue of pet ownership.

### 6.2 The wider neighbourhood

While the home is where pets spend the greater part of their lives, it is visits outside the home that provide the greatest variation, stimulation and unpredictability. As stated above dogs can be quieter at home if they are taken out regularly particularly when they live in compact surroundings or spend long periods on their own. Some breeds need more exercise than others.

In urban areas, walking in the street and visits to public parks are the main sources of exercise for dogs. The opportunities sought may range from a small park very close to home to a larger park further afield for less frequent use. It is also important to remember that owners need to be able to take their dog with them on their own recreational outings, e.g. a picnic. This needs to be distinguished from the need for dogs to be exercised.

The opportunities available depend on the number of parks available and accessibility to those parks (whether physically or by restrictions on access).

Access by dogs to parks has been the subject of considerable debate throughout Australia in recent years with dogs being banned from some parks. PIAS believes that properly leashed and controlled dogs do not pose a threat to people or wildlife and should be permitted in all urban parks.

The guidelines that follow in Part B address residential and neighbourhood planning for dogs and cats in more detail.

## 7.0 Conclusion

The pleasures and benefits of pet ownership should be available to everyone. However, pet ownership brings with it rights and responsibilities. This report has sought to clarify these rights and responsibilities and explain the inter-relationships that exist between choice of pet, its management and training and its environment.

The guidelines that follow in Part B looks at the environment in more detail. They shows how pets are ideally integrated into new residential development. It is recognised that planning for pets is just one of many objectives in planning new residential development. Nevertheless, it is considered these guidelines demonstrate that accommodating pets can be reconciled with other requirements to the benefit of the whole community.

# PART B : GUIDELINES FOR INTEGRATING DOMESTIC PETS INTO NEW & ESTABLISHED URBAN AREAS

## 1.0 Housing Type

It might be tempting to prescribe different pets for different types of housing. Some people already have firm views about pets and housing type mostly in relation to dogs (e.g. that the only environment for a dog is in conventional detached housing or that a "big" dog is only suitable in the country). However these statements are not necessarily correct. Suitability is as much dependent on the quality of space as it is on the quantity. It also depends on management of the pet, access to public open space and correct breed choice (not just "big" or "small" or some other equally vague or inaccurate classification). These are critical distinctions that need to be made.

In North America and in many European countries dog ownership is very popular in urban areas despite much higher residential densities including a far greater concentration of high rise apartments.

That is not to say that dogs are appropriate in flats everywhere. In most cases they are better kept in a dwelling that has some private open space. However there are no clear standards. Some breeds of dog cope well with living in flats. In other circumstances there may be scope for creative solutions to keeping dogs (and cats) in high-density developments. One possibility is the communal pet. There is very little research on this concept but further examination is warranted. The communal pet could produce indirect social benefits by promoting interaction and cohesion amongst residents. However the right of individual people to own pets in their own right should be maintained

The most definite prescription that can be made about housing type and pets is that as housing density increases so too does the need to pay attention to breed choice, specific design features, management, training and environmental enrichment.

Table 2 recommends breeds of cats and dogs that are particularly suited to different types of housing. The breeds are suggestions only and the list is not exhaustive.

**TABLE 2 :  
EXAMPLES OF BREEDS SUGGESTED FOR  
DIFFERENT HOUSING TYPES  
(Source : PIAS)**

HOUSING TYPE	CATS	DOGS
High-Density	Persian/ Chinchilla. Russian Blue	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel. Poodle (Miniature)
Multi-Dwellings	British Shorthair. Birman	Welsh Corgi (Pembroke or Cardigan). West Highland White Terrier.
Small Lot Housing	Burmese Abyssinian	Whippet Cocker Spaniel

**Notes**

1. The breeds are suggestions only and the list is not exhaustive.
2. Breeds suggested in high-density housing are also suitable in multi-dwelling developments and small lot housing.
3. Pets suggested for multi dwellings are suitable for the other two categories as well.
4. The domestic moggie (a non purebred cat) is suitable in most situations.
5. For a comprehensive guide to breed selection, see the PIAS's *Selectapet*.

## 2.0 Housing and precinct design

A dwelling that overlooks areas of activity is ideal for pets because it increases the amount of stimulation that can be received from the property, e.g. dwellings that overlook a park or adjacent to a busy street.

Semi-detached housing is better than housing that is attached on both sides because it gives pets more freedom to move about within the property. Where housing is attached on both sides, particular attention needs to be paid to the open space that is accessible to the pet (whether front or rear) or pet doors should be provided to enable free movement to the back and front. If there is no accessible open space at the front, a window could provide the pet with a view of the outside world. (See Section 6 : Windows)

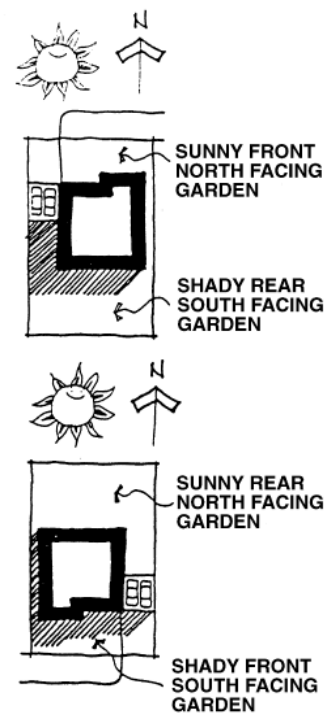
## 3.0 Private open space and landscaping

Preferably a dog should have access to some outdoor space. Open space is not essential for a cat providing an enriching environment is maintained indoors, e.g. a bay window or internal fernery.

### 3.1 Amount, location and design of open space

The following principles illustrate the requirements that should be considered in designing open space for dogs.

1. Private open space should be maximised as appropriate to the housing type.
2. Ideally dogs should have access to all areas of open space on a property.
3. Open space for pets should be located to receive maximum solar access, i.e. access to north-facing open space whether front or rear is the most desirable. This is consistent with residential design principles generally. (Shade and shelter is important - refer Section 3.2)
4. On the whole a dog's behaviour is likely to be better if he or she can see a busy scene such as a busy street. Restraining a dog to a service yard with no view for long periods increases the chance of boredom which may result in undesirable behaviour such as excessive barking. Although the dog may bark at passers-by in the street, there will be less likelihood of excessive barking that might arise through boredom. It should be added that in a very busy street, a dog's tendency to bark at passers-by is likely to be considerably reduced because of the intensity of the stimulation.



While we recommend that private open space be focused to the rear of the dwelling in accordance with residential design principles generally, there should be provision for the dog to see outside the property whether from the frontage or from a fence beside the house.

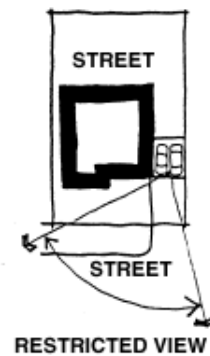
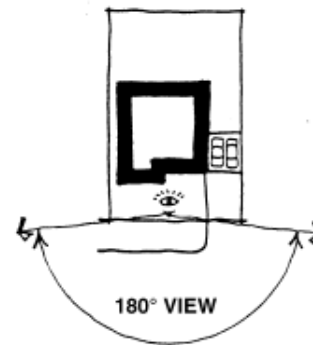
Providing a dog with surveillance of the street will have the additional benefit of enhancing public security in the street.

If the dwelling abuts a park or other public facility on another boundary it should be able to view these activities as well.

(Refer Section 4 for a discussion of fencing).

5. The closer dogs are able to get to the view, the better that view will be (i.e. they will get a 180 degree view from the boundary rather than one of say 20-90 degrees from behind a fence set back from the street).

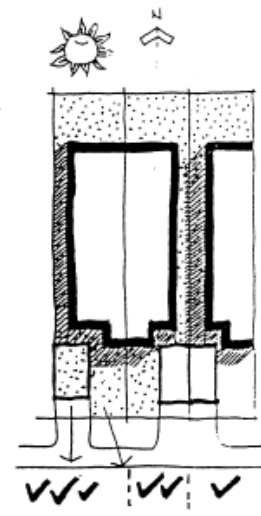
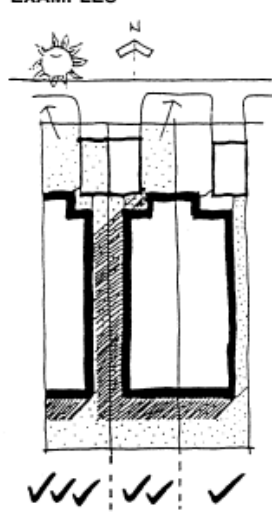
The examples on pages 21 and 22 illustrate all of these principles as they work in conjunction with one another.



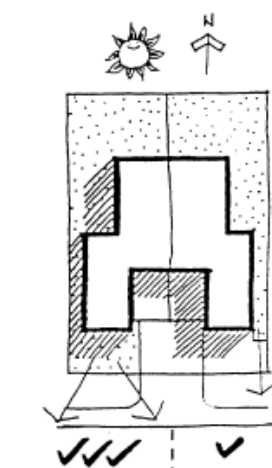
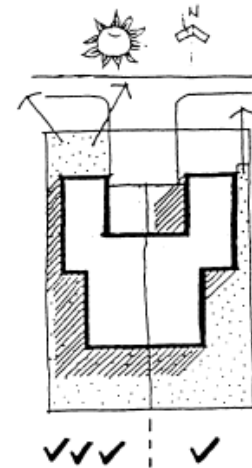
HOUSING DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLES

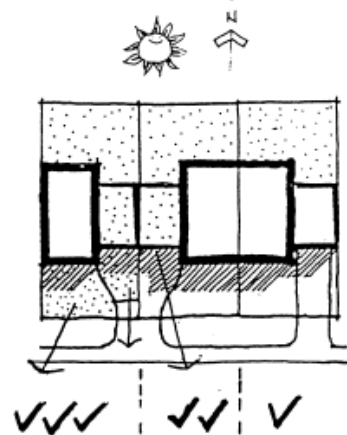
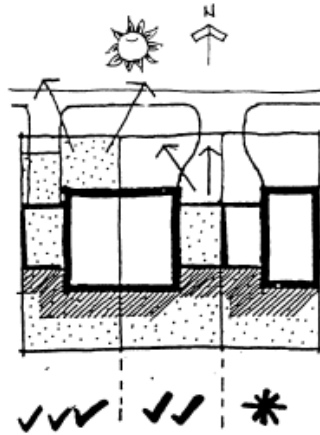
SEMI-DETACHED  
CAR PORTS IN FRONT



SEMI-DETACHED  
CAR PORTS CENTRAL



SEMI-DETACHED  
CAR PORTS TO SIDE



- ✓✓✓ PREFERRED
- ✓✓ VERY GOOD
- ✓ GOOD

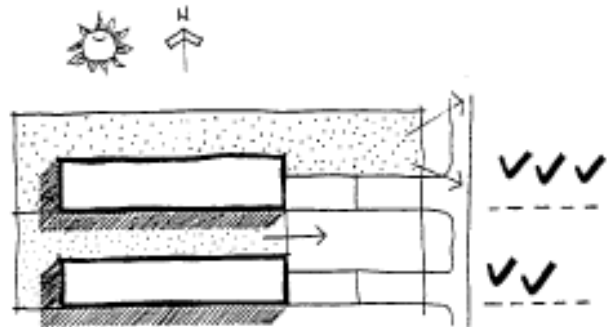
- ↗ POSSIBLE VIEWS
- ↘ DOGGY DOOR
- \* POOR

- ▨ PET ACCESS
- ▨ SHADED AREA
- ⌞ VIEW FROM HOUSE

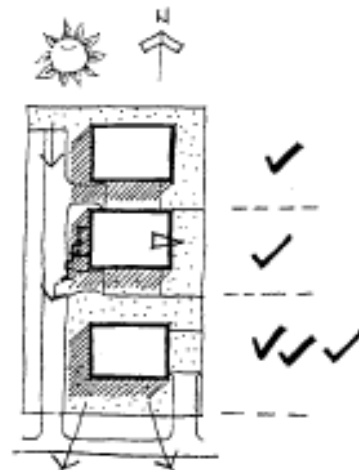
HOUSING DESCRIPTION

EXAMPLES

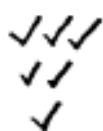
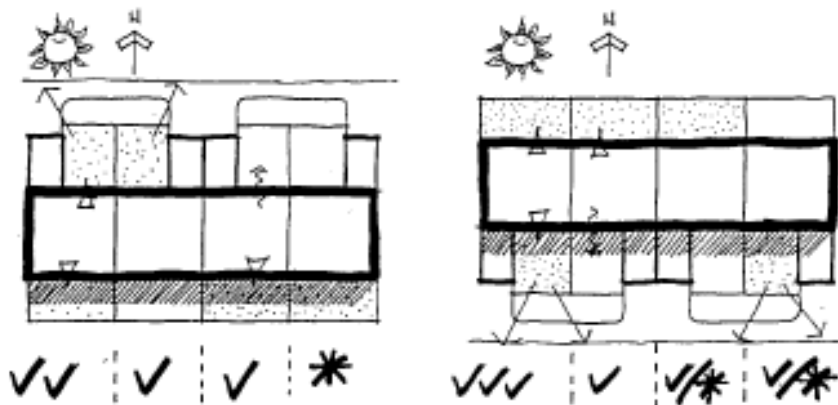
ZERO-LOT LINE



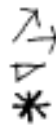
VILLA UNITS



ATTACHED ROW HOUSING



PREFERRED  
VERY GOOD  
GOOD



POSSIBLE VIEWS  
DOGGY DOOR  
POOR



PET ACCESS  
SHADED AREA  
VIEW FROM HOUSE

There are other considerations in designing open space for dogs that should also be recognised.

Open space that is rectangular in shape is likely to be better than square shaped open space because it provides greater lineal distance and scope for variety in landscaping that will be of more interest to the pet. However, it must be remembered that quality of open space can be as significant as its configuration. Quality depends on landscaping and other features of interest for the pet.

Zero-lot lines (i.e. where a dwelling sits directly on the side boundary) are effective. Since the need for setbacks from boundaries is removed they provide more useable open space. They also provide scope for greater acoustic separation between dwellings. This is consistent with residential design principles generally.

Roof top gardens (e.g. above a garage) and balconies require a balustrade that is appropriate for the pet's safety (both dogs and cats). This is also important for safety of children and is a legal requirement.

In medium and high-density developments, consideration should be given to providing a fenced area of communal open space in which owners can relax with their pets.

### 3.2 Shade and Shelter

Pets may not be able to escape extremes in weather as readily as humans can. A garden that does not have large shade trees, a cool verandah or access to a garage or carport can become a sauna for pets left alone throughout the day. It will not provide shelter from the rain either. Consideration should be given to shade and shelter for pets in the design of all new developments.

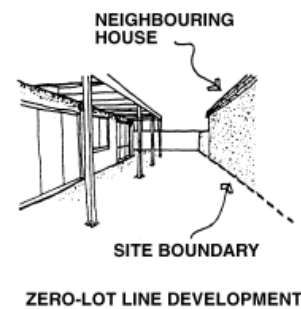
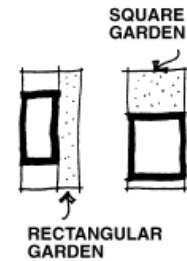
If shady trees are not possible, relief can be provided by covering large areas with shade cloth.

Animals that are stressed by heat will prefer to lie on cool surfaces such as shady areas of lush vegetation. These areas will be a welcome retreat for the human members of the family as well. (Bedding is examined in a following section.) A permanent supply of clean drinking water is essential for all pets

### 3.3 Play

Trees in the garden are beneficial for cats providing free-climbing, increased surveillance and a post for scratching.

A range of play-inducing toys should be provided outside to keep pets entertained when they are on their own. Examples for dogs might include plastic ice-cream containers, a thick



knotted rope hanging from a tree or similar structure and a car tyre hanging so that the middle is about dog head height. Stimulation is enhanced with more than one pet. This does not need to be a member of the same species or breed.

### 3.4 Landscaping

Trees are ideal in gardens for pets providing shade, interest and an outlet for cats to climb.

Preferably an area of soil should be provided somewhere in the garden for cats to scratch. This might need special consideration where the space is to be all paved, e.g. a sand pit or space surrounding a tree or shrub planted in the ground (around 1m<sup>2</sup>). If this is not possible a tray or large pot filled with soil could be provided. Garden beds are handy for disposal of faeces which can be turned over in the soil.

Refer Section 10.0 Disposal of excrement.

## 4.0 Fences

With adequate fencing, a dog will be confined to the property. Cats are less easily constrained and are discussed in the following section.

The standard height of a paling fence is 1.7m which will restrain almost all dogs. They are recommended for side and rear boundaries. Front fences, however, vary greatly in design and height. Some properties have no front fence at all.

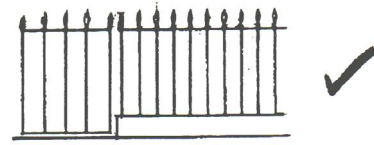
### 4.1 Fence Height

A front fence of 1.2m will restrain most dogs. The PIAS considers this to be the most appropriate minimum height for front fences. It can provide restraint for most dogs while still providing adequate surveillance of the street by humans. If a particular dog is not confined by this fence height, he or she should be kept behind a higher fence set back further on the property.

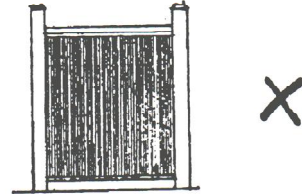
### 4.2 Fence Design

Solid front fences limit the view of the outside world and are not recommended for new development. The dog will tend to be less roused by sound stimuli, if he or she can see passers-by or activities in the street.

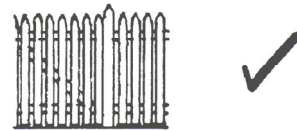
There is a range of suitable fences for all house styles and periods and some examples are shown in the illustrations. If more privacy is required, additional landscaping can be provided while not detracting from a dog's view of the street.



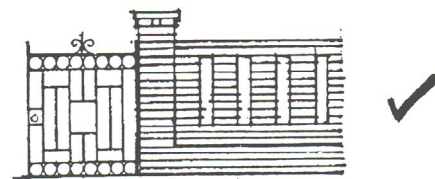
metal picket



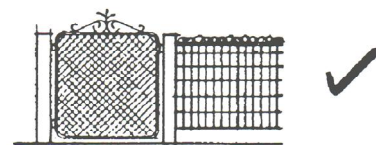
corrugated iron  
(no view)



timber picket



red brick & wrought iron  
gate



woven wire



low brick  
(too low)

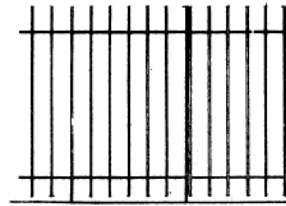
If a solid fence is required one or more "viewing windows" can be provided as illustrated. It may even be possible to install such windows in existing fences. Alternatively, a mound or platform could be provided in the front garden but set back from the fence to prevent the dog from jumping out. This will also provide some variation to his or her environment and could be used where a solid fence is needed to screen out street noise.

It is important to ensure that a dog cannot get through the fence. Picket spacing and holes should be no wider than 100mm. If the fence required will not confine the dog, chicken wire or 100mm square broad weave wire fencing can be fixed to the inside of the fence without detracting from the streetscape.

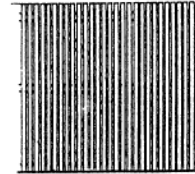
In some areas front fences are not permitted. These policies are prejudicial to the ability of people to own dogs. They also disadvantage people with small children. If there is a "no front fence policy" in a particular area or the fence required is inadequate for confining a particular dog, permission should be sought for a variation. Failing that, the dog can be kept in the side or rear garden although this reduces accessible territory and the view of the world. Dogs can be humanely confined on a running wire provided they receive adequate daily environmental enrichment.

### 4.3 Gates

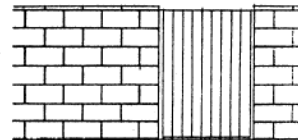
All gates should be fitted with a return spring self-closing device, particularly if there will be children coming in and out who may forget to shut the gate.



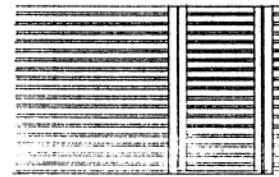
**VERTICAL STEEL RODS**



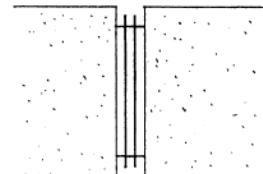
**VERTICAL TIMBER SLATS**



**CONCRETE BLOCK**



**HORIZONTAL TIMBER SLATS**



**SOLID FENCE WITH VIEW WINDOWS**



**SOLID  
SIDE FENCE  
(NO VIEW)**

**TIMBER SLATTED  
SIDE FENCE  
(HAS VIEW)**

## 5.0 Restraint of cats

Cats are not as easily restrained as dogs. They are more agile and flexible in their use of space and attitude to the presence of other cats, whereas the dog's territory is usually confined to the owner's premises. Mostly this does not create a problem although difficulties may arise in environmentally sensitive areas.

It is recommended that cats be confined to the house at night for their own protection.

There needs to be an evaluation done on the efficiency of cat bells before they can be considered a serious option for protection of wildlife. Proofing an area against cats is very difficult but further information on cat-proof fences is available, e.g. the Victorian Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

There is an increasing awareness of the benefits of partial or total confinement of cats to:

- The cat's health
- Wildlife.
- The amenity of the neighbourhood.
- The owner's enjoyment.

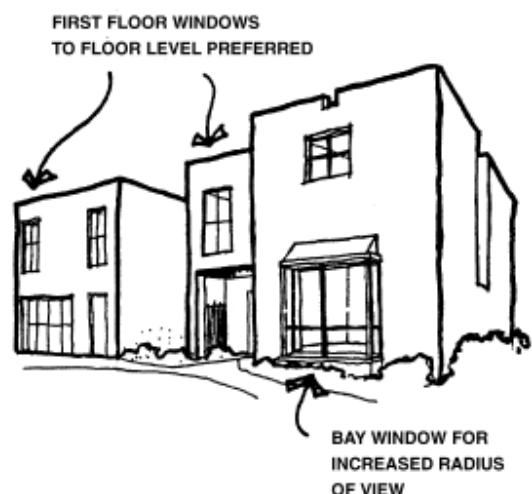
## 6.0 Windows

Well-designed and located windows provide pets with a view of the outside world and a warm spot in which to lie.

- Windows overlooking the street are excellent because they provide a range of activity to be observed.
- Bay windows and upper storey windows are excellent because they increase the range of surveillance.
- Floor-length windows provide both a view and warmth, particularly for dogs.
- If floor length windows are not possible then window sills that are wide enough for a pet to sit on and unencumbered (say by venetian blinds or curtains) provide similar benefits and should be considered both inside and outside.

In summer pets need special consideration. Sufficient fixed ventilation should be provided to allow a breeze to flow through the dwelling all day (special locks are available from hardware stores to secure open windows). West-facing windows should also have heavy curtaining or external sunshades to minimise the amount of direct radiant heat from the sun.

Windows can reduce loneliness and boredom for animals kept outside if the pet can see family activities inside the house.

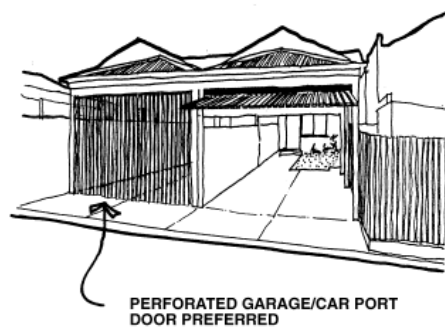


## 7.0 Garages, carports And car spaces

Garages, carports and car spaces are better if they are accessible by pets because of the extra space and shelter they provide.

For this reason it is better for car parking in multi-dwelling units to be sited alongside the dwelling rather than located in a separate car parking area.

In designing fences and garage doors consideration should be given to providing pets with a view of the outside world.



## 8.0 Internal light courts

These are ideal for pets especially for those kept inside during the day and in flats and units. They provide the pet with interest, daylight and sunlight and a small area of outdoor space. The animal's food and water bowls can be kept here.

Internal light courts should be accessible from inside the dwelling. Owners should ensure that light courts provide adequate restraint as appropriate.

Internal light courts are recommended for all dwellings in multi-dwelling and high-density developments.



## 9.0 Dog and cat doors

These provide pets with access into and out of the house and to and from different parts of the property. They are easy and reasonably inexpensive to install. A consideration is whether the installation of a dog or cat door poses a risk to security.

If entry by other cats and dogs in the neighbourhood is likely to be a problem a magnetic device can be fitted so that the family's pet is the only animal able to use it. Dog and cat doors should be secured at night.

## 10.0 Disposal of excrement

Garden beds are handy for turning over pets' faeces. Indoor pets should be provided with a litter tray.

In high-density and multi-dwelling developments, consideration could also be given to installation of a communal disposal unit for pet faeces.

Regulatory bodies contacted by PIAS had no agreed policy and the official method for disposal of dog and cat faeces needs to be clarified for each state.

## 11.0 Other design features

### 11.1 Internal Flooring

In hot weather a pet kept inside should have access to flooring that is cool to lie on. Incorporating cool surfaces into the design is helpful, e.g. tiles, slate or lino.

### 11.2 Bedding

Pets should be provided with a suitable place to sleep.

If a pet lives outside, it should have a weather-proof kennel or shed or space in the garage where it can shelter. A kennel needs to be dry, have an insulated floor and be draught-free. Ideally it should be in the lee of the house, fence or shed.

If a pet sleeps inside owners should watch for draughts (particularly entering under doors) and cold rising up from the floor.

## 12.0 Public open space

All dogs should have access to public open space. The amount of open space is not as important as accessibility. Increasingly, there are restrictions on taking dogs to public parks and beaches.

There are three options to the issue of dogs in public places:

1.Allow dogs unrestricted access under the control of their owner. 2.Allow dogs access provided they are kept on a leash. 3.Prohibit dogs.

It is the third option that is of most concern to the PIAS. Accessibility to a park close to home is vital to ensure people exercise their pets. Availability of a park further away will not be useful on a daily use if it requires the owner to drive there. It also means the dog is deprived of an interesting walk to and from the park.

It is considered that a properly leashed and controlled dog is of no threat to any person or animal and should be allowed into all urban parks. Education and pressure by others about owners' responsibilities are the key to ensuring dogs remain leashed in public parks. Prohibition disadvantages pet owners.

In some areas, Councils can vary restrictions by month of the year or time of the day depending on peaks in demand. For example, in parks people could be allowed to exercise their dogs off the leash before 10am and after 6pm. There are usually fewer demands on parks in these hours.

In developing new parks there is more scope to cater for the needs of all park users at the planning stage and the following is a discussion of some of the principles that should be considered in accommodating the needs of dog owners in public open space planning.

Linear parks and pedestrian paths provide links between community facilities. They are ideal for walking dogs providing interest and diversity for the dog and a sense of purpose for the owner.

Access to passive recreation areas is important because it means that leashed dogs can be included in the family's recreational outings.

Ideally an area should be set aside where dogs can run freely off the leash. This may pacify some dogs. Free-running exercise outside the home is an important part of environmental enrichment.

The two illustrations following show the ideal concept. They show a network of local parks and open space links connecting with a neighbourhood park. The local parks would be available for frequent use by leashed dogs. The neighbourhood park shows paths for walking leashed dogs and connecting to a fenced off area for free-running by dogs. The PIAS believes that provision of free-running areas for dogs should not be provided at the expense of areas where people are able to take leashed dogs.

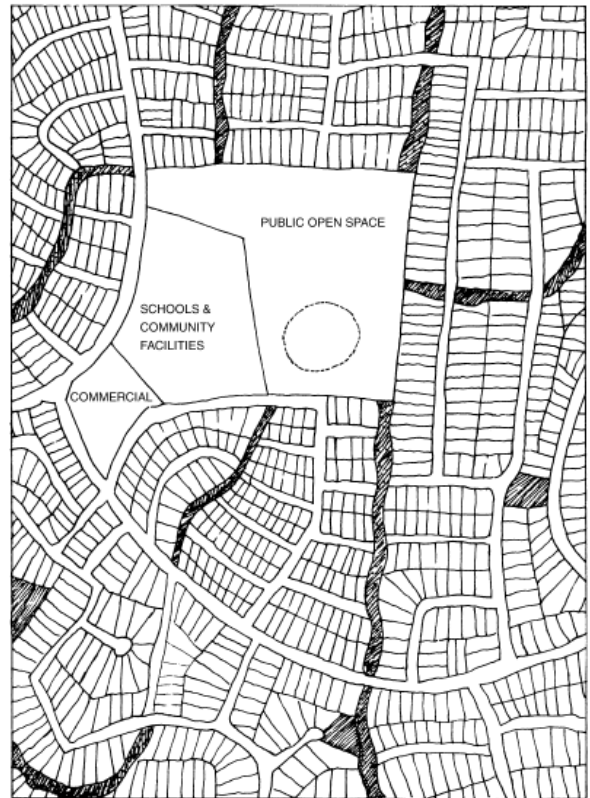
Education of owners' responsibilities for disposing of their dog's faeces in parks or ensuring that they defecate in appropriate places is an important part of promoting responsible pet ownership. There are a variety of methods that have been tried both here and overseas including use of 'pooper scoopers' and 'doggy loos'.

Some pet owners are still not aware of their responsibilities when taking their dogs out in public places. Local government can assist in a number of ways including installation of signs in parks reminding owners of their responsibilities. Many Councils now also supply such things as free 'pooper scoopers' in parks to assist dog owners.

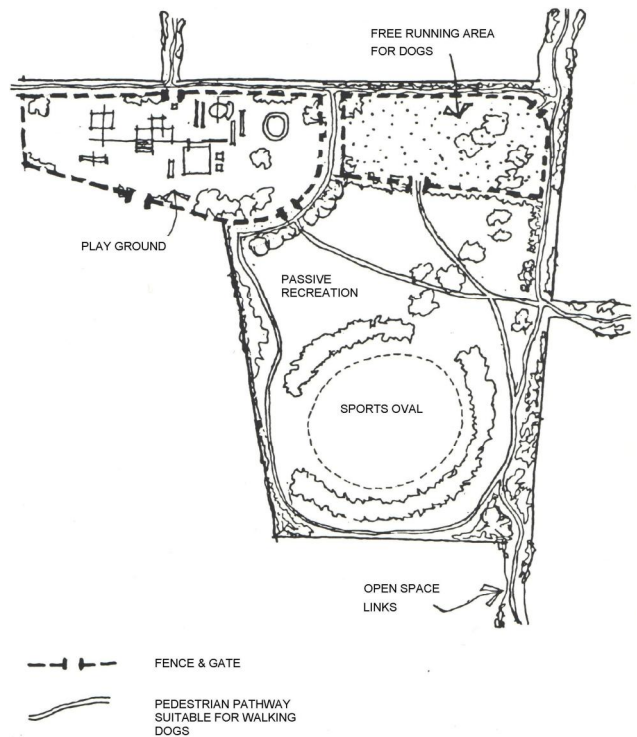
**Figure 1**  
**Recommended open space network**



Open space links and local parks  
 Accessible by leashed dogs connecting  
 With neighbourhood parks.



**Figure 2**  
**Recommended plan**  
**For neighbourhood park**



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