

MEDIA RELEASE

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Dog tired of looking for a pet-friendly rental?

Help may be at hand for pet-loving renters with a new online resource to help pet owners prepare themselves and their pets for the rental market.

The most recent Australian Bureau of Statistics figures show that around 28% of all houses are rented, with the Real Estate Institute of Australia saying vacancy rates in parts of Australia are currently as low as 1.2%.

“Securing a good rental property can be hard work at any time and with 51% of renters in recent research saying that they were not allowed to have a dog in their home, it is not surprising that there have been many stories about people having to surrender a pet because they were unable to find rental accommodation. I certainly know from my own experience just how hard it is to find a house when you have a pet,” says Ryan Blunden from Pet Friendly Rentals.

“When I found myself having to consider giving my dog Tonka away because of the difficulty I had in securing a house I decided to do something about it. I created a low-cost search tool that people can use on the major real estate sites to find properties that accept pets.

“I have also developed a free resume builder that enables pet owners to enter details about their pet, creating a resume that can be submitted to property managers. It allows you to list all relevant information about your pet and demonstrate your commitment to responsible pet ownership.

The Australian Companion Animal Council (ACAC) says identification of rental properties that welcome pets is an opportunity for property owners and managers.

“With 63% of Australian households having a pet, the prospective pool of tenants is broader if owners allow pets. Responsible pet owners also make great tenants as they value continuity once they have found a pet-friendly home,” says Dr Kersti Seksel, ACAC President.

ACAC has several tips for tenants seeking a pet-friendly home.

“We have found that preparing a resume on your pet and offering to sign an agreement about the standards you will meet really helps when you are applying for rental accommodation.

“Most States do not allow a property owner to collect a bond that is specific to pets but in your written agreement you can state that you are willing to pay for any damage if it is caused by your pet.

“We have also found that speaking directly to the property owner with your well-behaved pet in attendance helps.

“The sort of information that will be important to property owners and managers is the amount of time and exercise you give your pet each day, housetraining and general cleanliness, obedience, up to date health checks and the arrangements you will make for your pet if you are away from the house for a period of time.

“References for your pet are also a great idea. If you can show that you and your pet have been good tenants previously, it goes a long way towards overcoming any concerns the property owner may have,” says Dr Seksel.

Search tools, the pet resume builder, a sample pet rental agreement as well as information on renting with pets is available on www.petfriendlyrentals.com.au

(ENDS)

Issued by the Petcare Information and Advisory Service

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Australia – A Nation of Pet Lovers

Australia is a nation of pet lovers. It is estimated that 63% of Australian households have some type of pet with 53% of households owning a dog or a cat.

Over many years, Australian and international research has shown that owning pets can help improve a person’s mental and physical health, reduce the effects of stress, help children learn about responsibility, facilitate social interaction between people and build a sense of community.

The Petcare Information & Advisory Service (PIAS) is funded by Mars Petcare Australia as part of its commitment to socially responsible pet ownership. PIAS’ websites: www.petnet.com.au and www.i-pet.com.au provide information on the responsible and enjoyable ownership of pets. The sites are suitable for children, although PIAS encourages parents to supervise any online access by their children.