

#MakeRentingFair

Tenant Voices: Renting with Pets

Earlier this year, South Australia joined the national movement to make renting fair. Since South Australia is the only State without a tenant union, Shelter SA took responsibility for leading the charge to improve renters' rights and focus on three major areas for change.

Our primary policy ask was that landlords and real estate agents should consider welcoming pets. We started a campaign on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram, encouraging renters to share their experiences in the private rental market and renting with pets. We had high engagement from renters, especially regarding our position on pet bonds and pet-friendly rentals. The following document highlights the comments we received relating to renting with pets, gathered from the #MakeRentingFair hashtag or comments and messages left on our social media channels.

"Our landlord said it would be \$20 more per week to have pets"



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"Properties advertise as pet-friendly but expect you to keep your best friend out in the backyard"



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"We just hide everything and take [our pet] out for a drive when there's an inspection"



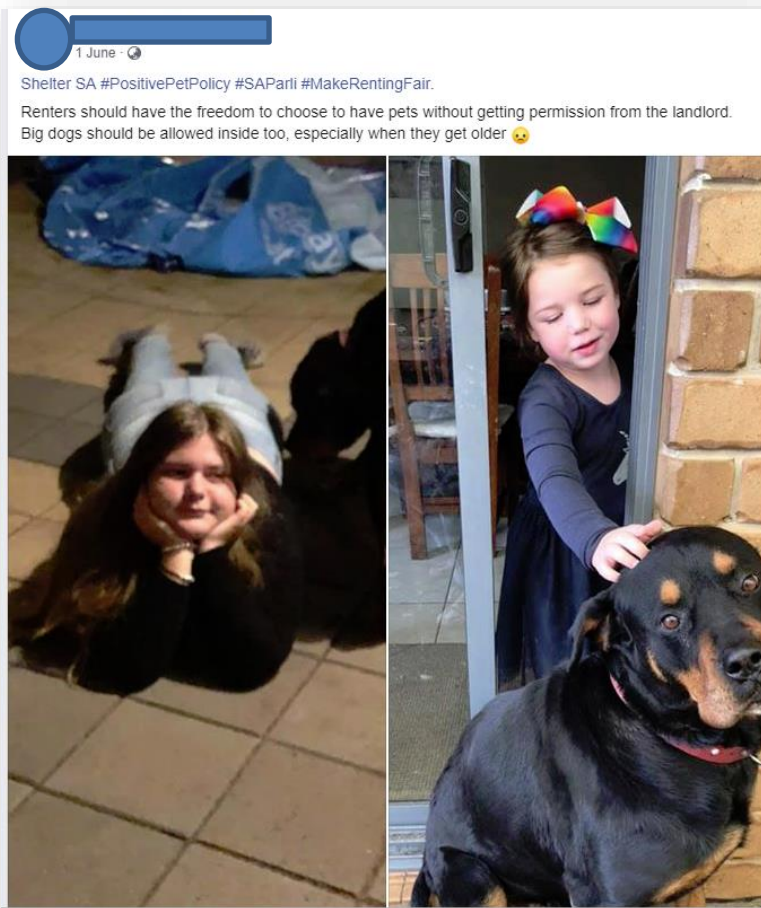
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"I was threatened with an eviction notice due to evidence of a cat"

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Positive Examples of Landlords Welcoming Pets

Not all of the responses to our #MakeRentingFair campaign were negative. There are several examples of landlords doing the right thing and opening up their properties to renters with pets.

**"I've had five cats here
at once and my landlord
has been amazing"**



**"If you have
responsible
tenants,
then you
should have
no issue
with pets"**



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**"Animal
loving
landlord
here!
Pets are
family!"**

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**"Having grown up with pets
I think it's rather inhumane
to not allow them"**



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**"I am
incredibly
thankful
that my
landlady is
absolutely
fine with me
having a
pet"**



Examples of Pet Bond Discussions on Twitter

Shelter SA strongly opposes pet bonds (read our [Positive Pet Policy](#) if you would like to know the reasons why). The screenshots below show a discussion thread on Twitter regarding pet bonds, which are currently illegal in South Australia.

The screenshot shows a Twitter thread. The main tweet is from a user with a blue profile picture, asking: "Is \$1000 for a pet bond good or bad on top of a normal bond?". It is dated 9:52 AM - May 28, 2019, and has 3 retweets and 10 likes. Below it are two replies. The first reply, dated May 28, asks: "Where does the bond go? I thought the NSW Bond board would only accept bonds up to 4 week's rent and up to 6 weeks for really expensive places (eg like thousands a week)". The second reply, dated Jun 7, says: "Good question, in someone's pocket? #MakeRentingFair".

This screenshot continues the Twitter thread with five more replies, all dated May 28. The first reply says: "I've never had to pay a pet bond! Surely pet stuff is covered under a regular bond?". The second reply says: "Exactly". The third reply says: "That sounds odd especially in Victoria with new tenancy laws". The fourth reply says: "The new laws dont start til next year". The fifth reply says: "Aaah that makes sense". The final reply, which includes a yellow umbrella icon, says: "Your regular bond covers damage. All damage. Whether it was done by you, your pet or your visitors. Pet bond is a scam."