



# YOU CAN ADVOCATE FOR PET-FRIENDLY HOUSING

*British Columbia is in a housing crisis, and finding a home that allows pets is even more difficult. Vulnerable people that need a pet's companionship the most often have the hardest time.*

The BC SPCA's mission is to enhance the quality of life for domestic, farm and wild animals in British Columbia.

Have questions about how you can improve animal welfare in your community?

Contact us at:  
1-855-622-7722

[animalbylaws@spca.bc.ca](mailto:animalbylaws@spca.bc.ca)



*The BC SPCA respectfully acknowledges that we live, work and play on the unceded traditional territories of the numerous and diverse First Nations within British Columbia.*

*We express our gratitude to all Indigenous communities - First Nations, Métis and Inuit - for stewarding and sharing this land.*

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

[spca.bc.ca](http://spca.bc.ca)



## WHY IS THIS AN ISSUE?

Most pet owners consider their animals an important part of their family, and research has proven that pets improve our physical, mental and emotional health and well-being. However, many families have to make the heartbreaking choice between keeping their pets and finding a place to live. Approximately 25% of all cats and dogs surrendered to the BC SPCA (totaling more than 11,000 animals and families over the past eight years) are victims of a lack of pet-friendly housing.

Already vulnerable populations, including those earning low incomes, young people, seniors and women are disproportionately impacted by the lack of pet-friendly housing across the province - and these are the very people who often rely on the love and support of their pets the most.



## WHAT CAN WE DO?

Although local governments are not primarily responsible for housing, you can call on the provincial government to increase the availability and affordability of pet-friendly housing in your community and across British Columbia. You can also work with MLAs, housing developers, non-profit housing providers and landlords in your community to advocate for more pet-friendly housing and find creative solutions that protect families with pets as well as landlords and stratas.



## WHO ELSE HAS TAKEN ACTION?

Ontario's Residential Tenancies Act does not allow landlords to include "no pet" clauses in rental agreements or to charge additional pet deposits on top of regular damage deposits. In 2020, the City of Vancouver passed a motion to ask the province to prohibit "no pet" clauses in rental contracts in B.C.