



### APPLICATION FOR ANIMALS IN SOCIAL CARE FACILITIES

Certain animals are restricted from every social care facility that is not the client's residence in order to help minimize the spread of communicable disease and hazards to the client resulting from such animals.

In the Calgary Health Region Social Care Facility Policy, *Section 10.0 Animals* states that

- 10.1 *Except for foster homes, the owner of a social care facility must submit a written application to the REGION and receive health approval prior to allowing any animal into the social care facility. This section does not apply to animals that are the subject of a special event or entertainment. This section does not apply to a guide dog as defined in the Blind Persons' Rights Act or any animal that is used to assist a person who is physically or mentally handicapped.)*
- 10.2 *Notwithstanding section 10.1, an owner is not required to submit an application to allow:*
1. *gerbils.*
  2. *guinea pigs*
  3. *fish.*
  4. *ant farms*
  5. *rabbits*

Exceptions to the permanent residence of a restricted animal may only be made after the Environmental Health office receives a written proposal outlining handling and care procedures. In addition to any requirements outlined in the Calgary Health Region Social Care Facility Policy, the following specific information will be required for any proposal to be considered complete:

- Cleaning and sanitizing times, materials and procedures for cages, aquariums and equipment associated with the animal
- Food types, feeding times and procedures
- Potential handling of animals by children/clients
- Location of storage for all pet supplies, including food, cleaning chemicals and other supplies.
- Method of containment (full or partial) or adequate control of animals and their waste products, including feathers, food waste and animal waste
- Details outlining disposal of animal waste products
- Proper assurance of the health of the animal

In addition to the proposal, the Calgary Health Region may require specific veterinary testing for pathogens or diseases of concern with the animal involved.

All proposals must be submitted to the Environmental Health office for review.