

Madawaska Valley

Association For

Community Living

**POLICY: PETS & COMMUNITY HOMES**

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Policy Statement:

It is the policy of Madawaska Valley Association for Community Living (hereafter referred to as MVACL) that people receiving services have the right to own pets. It is the role of this organization’s Employees to provide guidance and teaching to people about the responsibilities associated with pet ownership, including the care and the cost that is involved.

Procedure:

1. Where a person wants to acquire a pet, every effort will be made to acknowledge, support and pursue the interest. In doing so, Employees will fulfill the following functions:

* Listen to the person who is expressing an interest in pet ownership and acknowledge that such an interest has been heard.
* Explore the interest in greater detail with the person, supporting a process of understanding the nature of the interest and the context in which it is expressed.
* Support the person to ensure that they are fully aware of the responsibilities and the costs associated with owning a pet.
* Ensure that the person’s interest in pets is reflected in his/her Personal Plan and that the goals articulated in the plan deal with the subject.
* Collaborate with the person to consider the implications of pet ownership on themselves and others, particularly those who may share living space.

1. In some instances, the right to own a pet may be constrained by circumstances. People who receive services from MVACL residential support services will need to be aware of the needs and interests of others who share their home, (i.e., allergies or other health concerns, etc.) Those particular situations may prevent a person from acquiring a pet in their current living arrangement. In group living arrangements, people may need to compromise their interests and priorities out of respect for others.
2. Each pet that resides within and/or visits MVACL residential locations will have the documentation that is required for annual external Health Inspections. This will include:

* All documentation of all annual veterinary medical checks.
* All documentation on provincial standards for pet immunization.
* All documentation that is deemed necessary by each individual township/municipality.
* All appropriate licensing.