

# Bloomington Cohousing Pet Policy

Accepted December 5, 2021

## Rationale

- This pet policy is designed to make the presence of pets in Bloomington Cohousing a joy to many and bearable to all.
- The limitations in this policy are chosen in recognition of the unique circumstances of our community:
  - We are a densely populated community with limited green space, which makes noise and pet waste a greater concern than it would be in many neighborhoods.
  - Many of us lack private yards and/or private pathways to our homes, so we are less able to avoid interaction with pets than residents of typical communities.
  - Different people have different interpretations of what makes a pet well-behaved or intimidating.
- Given these facts our policy prioritizes making all human residents comfortable living here regardless of their comfort level with other peoples' pets.

## General Guidelines

- All Bloomington Cohousing residents are responsible for their own pets and ensuring they are well-behaved. We endeavor to make the presence of our pets a joy to the community rather than an annoyance.
- All Bloomington Cohousing residents are expected to be kind and respectful to pets living in the neighborhood.
- All Indiana, Monroe County, and City of Bloomington policies and regulations on pets, such as limits on exotic animals, still apply.

## Specific Guidelines

- No aggressive behavior by pets is permitted. Pets with any history of aggressive behavior (such as biting) towards pets or humans are not allowed in Bloomington Cohousing.
- All pet owners will keep their pets leashed when outside of their homes or fenced-in yards, with the exception of 'outside cats' (see below).
- All dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered.
- All pet owners must prevent their animals from damaging any community property or the property of their neighbors. In the event damage does occur, the pet owner assumes responsibility for the cost of any repairs or replacement.
- All pet owners must promptly pick up their pets' waste and deposit it bagged into the dumpster or their personal trash can.
- Pets are not allowed inside any of the common buildings.

- Pets are not allowed at outside events where food is served.
- Dog owners must make all reasonable efforts to keep their dog from barking outside between the hours of 10pm and 7am. They should also endeavor to limit incessant barking during the remaining hours of the day.
- Hosts of visitors with pets will assure that the guests follow the guidelines in this policy.

### **Pet Limits**

- Bloomington Cohousing residents are not permitted to keep pets over 50 pounds.
- Bloomington Cohousing residents are not permitted to keep pit bulls or pit bull mixes.
- Each residence may not have more than three dogs or cats combined.
- Residents or potential residents may apply for an exemption to these pet limits for well-behaved, non-threatening pets who do not meet the above criteria. These pets must be unanimously accepted by the community.

### **Outside Cats**

- Outside cats are permitted to wander the property without leashes.
- Owners of outside cats are still responsible for any property damage caused by outside cats.
- Residents may discourage outside cats from visiting their lots through use of water or other nonviolent methods.
- There is a maximum of five outside cats allowed in the community. These slots are available on a first come-first serve basis (currently all filled) and are passed along to the next resident on the waiting list when the resident outside cats pass on or move away.