



Tasmanian  
Dog  
Walking  
Clubs, Inc.

[dogwalkingtas.org.au](http://dogwalkingtas.org.au)

## *Renting with Dogs* *Tenant Info Sheet*

Hundreds of Australian families are forced to surrender loved pets to animal welfare organisations and 20,000 pets are euthanised annually, according to RSPCA research as [reported by ABC News](#).

One reason for this pain? Many owners could not find pet-friendly rental accommodation.

We can take action to improve these outcomes, and action is being taken across Australia (such as this [endorsement from the Australian Veterinary Association](#)). This cause is relevant to anyone who realises the value that dogs provide to our society. Collectively, all parties can make a difference – lawmakers, landlords, and tenants with dogs.

As a tenant *and* a responsible dog owner, you deserve to find dog-friendly rental accommodation. Here are some actionable steps to improve your chances.

✓ A face, not a species

If you have dog-inclusive references from previous tenancies, include this with your application. Take a photo of your dog so that the landlord can make a more informed decision about acceptance, and consider writing a 'profile' description. Size, age, temperament, breed, special needs or their history with your family – these are all important factors, so don't leave them blank. The SA government has produced [an example 'pet resume'](#) that might give inspiration, as well as their own [tenant fact sheet](#) with common-sense suggestions.

✓ Habits and behaviour

Will you be home on some days so your dog isn't left alone – and perhaps you might provide an indoor grass toilet? Are they walked and/or trained to discourage boredom? If your dog is a natural barker, do you supervise so it doesn't become a nuisance behaviour? Is your dog non-shedding or low-allergen, or brushed regularly? Does your dog dig, or wouldn't it want dirty feet?

✓ Preventative care and maintenance

Not every dog can be a 'poster child' of good behaviour, but be honest about their challenging points and don't forget to include the characteristics that could make them a suitable tenant too. It goes a long way if you take pro-active care. If you are already keeping your car windows and seats clean, this can indicate to the landlord that you will also keep a clean house.

✓ Find the right real estate agency

If there are staff members who have dogs themselves and can understand your side of the story, they're better positioned to present your application to landlords.

*All the best with your search.*