

Language Matters!

To foster healthy, productive conversations around pets in rental housing, it is important to use terms that are accurate, respectful, and inclusive. Try using this resource the next time you're engaging in a conversation about pet-inclusive housing.



INSTEAD OF...



Pet-Friendly

Allows at least one pet, but often includes pet restrictions and fees



Landlord

Emphasizes ownership of the property, rather than the service of providing housing



Tenant

Emphasizes the contractual aspect of living in a rented space



Aggressive

Can oversimplify and overstate a pet's responses to real and significant triggers



Welfare

Implies that something is lacking or needs to be corrected



TRY THIS!



Pet-Inclusive

Allows cats and dogs with no breed or size restrictions or unreasonable fees



Rental Housing Provider

Highlights the service of providing a place to live



Resident

Highlights living in a place and being part of a community



Reactive or Selective

Recognizes the context of the individual pet's behavior and that the behavior is a form of communication



Well-being

Accounts for the physiological and behavioral measures of an animal's physical and psychological health