

Animal Justice Party, South Australia

Press Release

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Rights for renters to include pets

October 9th 2017

The Animal Justice Party calls on all political parties in SA to follow the lead of Victoria in allowing tenants to have pets.

This reform is included in new tenancy rules about to be introduced by the Victorian state government.

“Animal welfare groups have long called for more pet-friendly accommodation to reduce much loved pets being surrendered to shelters and possibly euthanased.” said Dr Suzanne Pope, Secretary of AJP SA. “Rescue groups deal with many tragic situations, but so far neither major party in SA has acknowledged the importance of this issue.”

Dr Pope added: “It’s also a question of social justice. More and more people are excluded from the housing market and will remain renters. Many of these people are currently denied the benefits and joys of having an animal companion, which is unfair.”

According to Dr Pope, a US survey of landlords and tenants showed that allowing pets was financially advantageous – properties were rented faster and tenants stayed longer if pets were allowed. People with pets did not cause more damage than those without. In fact, pets caused less damage than children. Most of the landlords opposed to pets had never rented to pet owners, so their views were not based on experience.

The Animal Justice Party is calling for more pet-friendly accommodation and subsidised desexing in the lead-up to the 2018 election. Other election issues include an end to bow hunting, duck shooting, and jumps racing, as well as an enquiry into greyhound racing.

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