

ZCLA PET POLICY

ZCLA recognizes the importance of pets in the lives of individuals, families and community. We strive for a residential community with an environment that welcomes pets yet does not infringe upon those who do not have pets and does not create disharmony in the community.

1. New residents must apply to the BHC for pet consideration during the initial application process.
2. Current residents must apply to the BHC before acquiring a pet.
3. Any new pets must be “interviewed” by the BHC.
4. Licenses and vaccinations:
 - a) Pet owners must comply with laws regarding licensing and vaccinations. Current vaccination certificates will be kept on file with the rental agreement in the office.
 - b) Neutering/spaying and veterinary care are the responsibility of the pet owner.
5. Residents are responsible for their pets:
 - a) Pet cleanup for both dogs and cats is to be done by the owner, inside and outside of apartments (including the Nilotpala catbox), and waste is to be disposed of in the trash bins.
 - b) As a general rule when possible, dogs should be walked outside ZCLA property. Special circumstances with children are to be treated on an individual basis. On ZCLA property, the primary area for curbing your dog is the grassy area on the east side of Pundarika, from the driveway to the entrance gate.
 - c) Those dogs which are companions to ZCLA residents should be kept on leash in public spaces, unless or until it is ascertained that they are responsive to voice command from their owner. In such cases, the dogs may go without leash, except on weekend mornings and/or during special public programs.
 - d) Pet food is not to be left outside where it can attract feral animals.
 - e) Pets are not allowed in the ZCLA common buildings (Zendo, Sangha House, Dharma Hall, Buddha Hall).
 - f) Pets (and their food, water, bedding, toys, etc.) cannot be kept in the common hallways of residential buildings.
 - g) Pet owners are responsible for appropriate training of their pets.
 - h) Pet owners assume full responsibility for their pets, including legal liability.
 - i) Regarding pet complaints, follow the Statement of Right Conduct (quoted in (8) below.) If direct contact with the owner has not worked or is not possible, pet complaints should be taken to the BHC and/or the Business Manager.
6. Pet Deposit
 - a) A pet deposit of \$200 is required.

- b) It is the resident's responsibility to take care of damages and/or insect infestations caused by pets.

7. Stray animals, spaying and neutering:

In cases where stray dogs or cats are hanging around the Zen Center, residents are asked to discourage these animals from staying. This includes especially no feeding; also, do not pet or engage in any other encouraging activities. For assistance with reporting stray animals, contact L.A. Animal Services at 1-888-452-7381.

According to Los Angeles Municipal Code, cats may roam outdoors and may go off their home property if they are spayed or neutered. ZCLA policy complies with the policies of Los Angeles Animals Services regarding spaying and neutering. Information is available from LA Animal Services about free spaying and neutering for those who qualify, and about agencies which provide these services at little cost.

8. Pet-Related Right Conduct:

Permission to keep a pet in the community is conditional upon the resident's continued compliance with the terms of the ZCLA pet policy.

ZCLA'S STATEMENT OF RIGHT CONDUCT (abridged)

(For a full copy of the Statement, please see the ZCLA website or find copies at the ZCLA bulletin board in the Sangha House.)

We are committed to dissolving problems and difficulties that may arise from violations of right conduct. If a situation or difficulty arises, persons who are involved should...

a) go directly to the person(s) in question and make every effort to work out the situation. If this step is inappropriate or fails, then...

b) contact a senior member of the community and/or a member of the Teachers Council, as appropriate. When a grievance is made, steps will be taken to hear the grievance and, if desired, to meet with all parties concerned. If these steps have been exhausted and the difficulty has not yet been settled, then we will...

c) set up an arbitration committee to dissolve the situation. It is our hope that difficulties will be resolved well before such action becomes necessary, and that an arbitration committee will be used infrequently.