



Daily Telegraph
16/06/2009
 Page: 14
 General News
 By: Vicky Campion
 Region: Sydney
 Circulation: 369000
 Type: Capital City Daily
 Size: 391.66 sq.cms
 Frequency: MTWTFS-

Pet-loving residents throw a policy bone

Vicky Campion
 Urban Affairs Reporter

UNIT living is about to get better for man's best friend under sweeping changes recommending new developments are pet-friendly.

A new report to be presented to the Australian Local Government Association key policy meeting in Canberra advises councils to bring in housing featuring dog doors, closed balconies, soundproofing, tiling and door-to-floor windows so people can keep pets.

They said it would help lower crime rates and make owners healthier and more sociable.

Dr Lisa Wood, from the Centre for the Built Environment and Health at the University of Western Australia and author of the *Living Well Together* report, said the recent wave of high-density building had ignored pet owners.

She said councils should look to Jackson's Landing at Sydney's Pymont Point, which has about 1000 apartments and 200 dogs.

"Patterns of housing are changing. The single house on a quarter-acre block is not only

less common but less sustainable," she said.

Chris Durman paid an extra \$150,000 to buy at Jackson's so he could share with his dog.

"We picked two apartments and ran into problems," he said. "One wanted us to carry her in and out of the building. We love it here."



Dog day afternoons: Chris Durman and his dog Penny checked out two apartments before settling on Jackson's Landing, where (below) 'walkies' is now a social occasion Pictures: Cameron Richardson