

Renting

Experience 1

I adopted two cats in 2010, and one of them went missing in 2014 when I was on exchange in [REDACTED]. For years my other cat and I have been heartbroken and missing the other cat, dearly. Then after 8 years, I was called by someone 3 hours south-west of me here in [REDACTED], that my cat had her microchip scanned in and she was alive. I was so happy. I didn't think for a moment and went to go and collect my cat from [REDACTED] not even considering the implications on my current rental. It was the peak of the pandemic, I had already moved twice during this stressful time and the rental market was grim. To this day, I only have one cat on the lease in fear that asking for my other cat to be formally recognised would result in eviction (who will believe this story?). They are both seniors now, sleep all day and night and are so happy to be back together after 8 years.

When looking for rentals online, the results for dwellings that would "consider pets" dwindle to less than 1 in 5. I just don't understand why renting with pets needs to be so difficult. I have seen humans cause more damage to rentals, yet the only signs in the house that cats live here are the water and food bowls (and themselves).

Experience 2

During the pandemic, we signed our lease for a house in [REDACTED] on a Friday and we were called by [REDACTED] 3 days later on Monday telling us that the owner wishes to sell and then asked if they could show people the house this coming weekend. We hadn't even finished unpacking and they wanted to show people through our rental. We were gutted and had to look for a new place during the height and stress of the pandemic.

We were not made aware of this in the rental advertisement. The Real Estate side of the practice had clearly established a selling account with the owner before the house went up for rent.

It's time we give renters a fair go.