

RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

Renting with Pets in Sydney

Dr Emma Power from the School of Social Sciences and Psychology with Susie Willis from the Petcare Information and Advisory Service Australia Pty. Ltd., have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership grant to examine the impact of pet ownership on low income households.

'Sixty percent of households include pets, but what about if you rent?' asks Dr Power. 'The insecurity and low affordability of private rental housing in Australia is a growing social concern, with low income households at a particular disadvantage. Current scholarly understandings of the equity of the rental market examine social factors like income, age and household type. This project broadens this focus to examine pet ownership, which may make housing security worse for low income households. The project will examine the place of pets in Sydney's competitive rental housing market, the experiences of pet owning rental households, and the role of tenancy managers in supplying pet friendly housing. This focus on pets addresses a significant absence in research on housing security.'

The research team will be combining a large scale quantitative survey with small scale qualitative interviews with two target groups: real estate agents involved in tenancy management, and people renting privately with pets in Sydney, Australia. Surveys will be conducted across the city with the goal of identifying a geography of pet friendly renting, while the intensive qualitative interviews will be substantively focused in Sydney's west and southwest suburbs, reflecting the geographical location of low-income renters in Sydney.



The outcomes will address a gap in knowledge about the experiences of pet owning renters finding and keeping rental accommodation, and the perspectives of real estate agents responsible for providing and managing this housing. It will provide data to support, advocate and educate government, welfare groups, housing providers and the public about issues impacting socially responsible pet ownership in the housing market.

Project Title: Renting with Pets in Sydney, Australia: a social and animal welfare challenge

Funding has been set at: \$22,732

Contact Details: e.power@uws.edu.au
<http://www.uws.edu.au/ssap>

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