

Policy on Pets in Rectories

Approved by the Presbyteral Council, November 5, 2007

In a spirit of good stewardship, priests should think of themselves as guests within the parish they serve. Personal household pets should not infringe upon the privacy or well-being of other priests in the rectory. Care must be taken so that the comfort of other priests and parish staff and the accessibility of the rectory to parishioners are not overlooked.

A priest follows a previous resident, and a brother priest will follow him. Thus care regarding pets is to be expected. Residual signs of pets in rectories should not be the expense of the parish or the priest who follows.

When a pet causes damage to the rectory (e.g. to furniture, flooring, wall coverings, etc.), the damage must be repaired and the priest is required to pay the parish for the cost of damages done to the rectory by his pet.

The food and care of pets which a priest keeps are the responsibility of the individual priest himself. It shall not be the responsibility of parish staff or substitute priests to care for or feed the pet. This is beyond their job description.