



# The Time is Meow

## Encourage more private landlords to allow pets

### Why it matters

Increasing numbers of people now rent their homes. Yet many tenants are denied the chance to own a cat, simply because their landlord will not allow pets. Worse still, cat-friendly housing is in such short supply that many owners have to make the heart-breaking decision to rehome their much-loved pet if they move into rented accommodation. 'No pets' policies are especially unfair on vulnerable people and those who rent alone, whose cat may be a great source of companionship.



### What the government can do

1. **Update the government model agreement clauses on pets** for assured short-hold tenancies in England to encourage more landlords to allow well-behaved pets.
2. **Signpost tenants to tools and information which will help prove they will be responsible cat owners and reliable tenants** – for example, Cats Protection has a template Pet CV that tenants can use: [www.cats.org.uk/private-tenants](http://www.cats.org.uk/private-tenants)
3. **Hold a government round table with stakeholders in the private rented sector** to share best practice and ensure pet-friendly policies work for both landlords and tenants.
4. **Raise awareness with organisations such as landlord and letting agent associations** to encourage use of new pet-friendly model clauses.

**Landlords not allowing pets is one of the top five reasons cats are given to Cats Protection for rehoming.**

Eleven-year-old Pushak was handed into the charity's National Cat Adoption Centre in Sussex for rehoming because her owners were moving into a rented property which didn't allow pets.

Cats Protection's research shows that currently, a third of landlords in England don't actively choose to ban pets, but either follow letting agents' advice or use a standard template<sup>1</sup>.

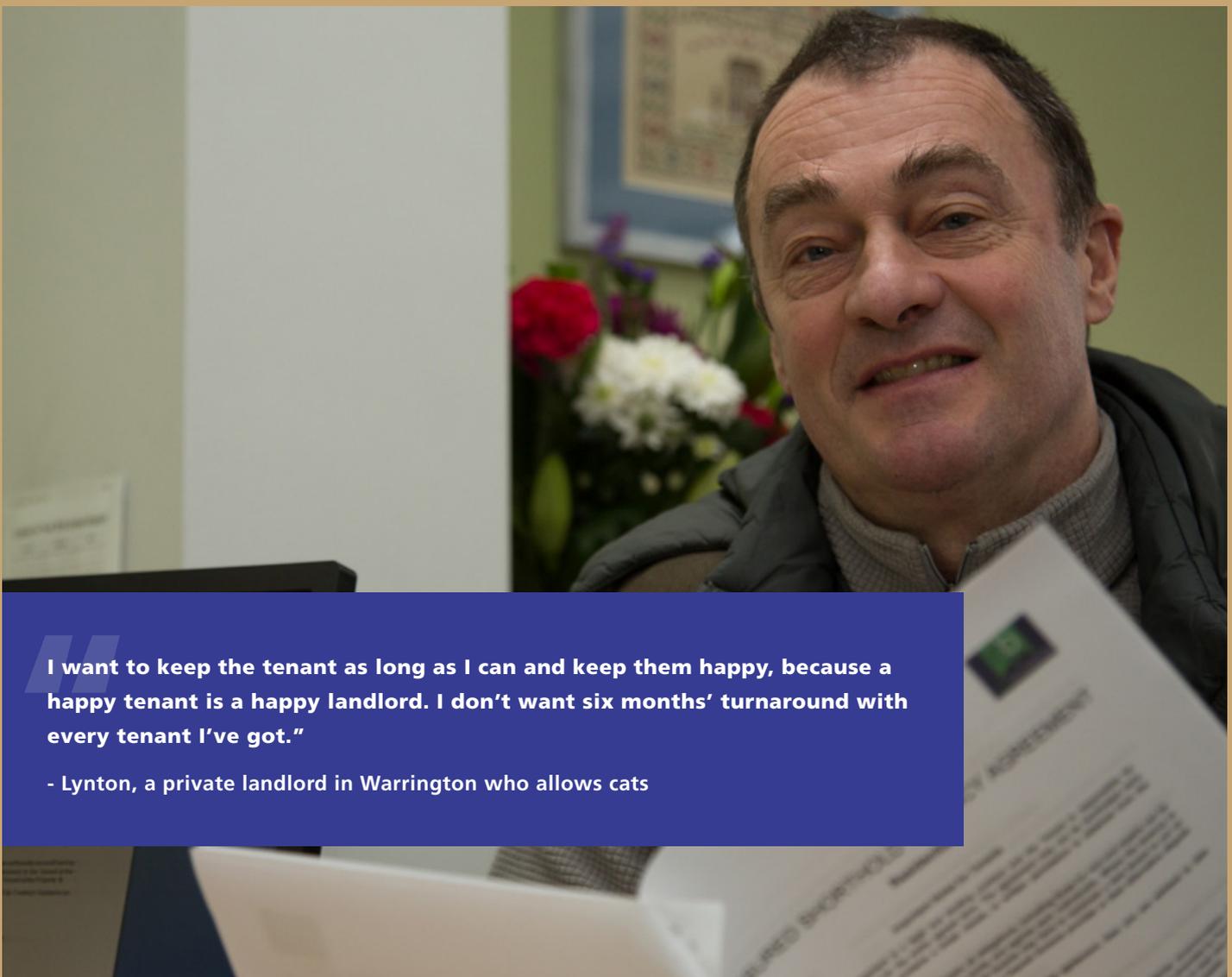
Turn over to read Lynton's story



## The benefits

1. Cats Protection's research shows 95% of private tenants in England who have been able to own a cat report a positive impact on their lives, with benefits such as improved mental health, companionship and happiness<sup>1</sup>.
2. Landlords who allow cats report that such tenants are often much more likely to settle, stay for longer and be reliable payers. Having longer term tenants avoids additional tenant search fees or losing income while a property is vacant<sup>1</sup>.

Landlords want to protect their investment, and research shows cats rarely cause any issues. 74% of cat-friendly private landlords in England report no problems at all from cats in their properties<sup>1</sup>.



**I want to keep the tenant as long as I can and keep them happy, because a happy tenant is a happy landlord. I don't want six months' turnaround with every tenant I've got."**

**- Lynton, a private landlord in Warrington who allows cats**

For further information about our advocacy work visit  
[www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow](http://www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow) or email [advocacy@cats.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@cats.org.uk)

<sup>1</sup> The Status of Cat Ownership in the UK Rental Market, YouGov on behalf of Cats Protection, 2018