**Pet Life at (*Aged Care Provider*) – introductory letter**

Pets are an important part of the resident’s wellbeing and lifestyle programs at (*insert Aged Care Provider*).

(insert *Aged Care Provider*) is pet friendly, we understand the mental and physical benefits of continuing the companionship between an older person and pet when moving into residential care.

While there are many benefits there are also risks, so to ensure all the safety and well being of all a series of reviews and assessments are required to be completed to determine the suitability of the co- residence.

Sadly, it is acknowledged that co-residence may not be possible in all circumstances, however ways for ongoing contact (e.g. visits, photographs) with the pet and resident will be discussed and established where possible.

The following documents are a resource bundle to guide, assess and manage pets in residential aged care facilities. The documents are for review and completion prior to a pet residing at (insert *Aged Care Provider*).

The bundle includes:

1. Pet suitability Application (completed by veterinarian, resident and RACF)
2. Pet Accommodation and Care Agreement (completed resident and RACF)
3. Companion Animals in Health Care Guide
4. The Companion Pet Risk Assessment Pathway
5. Cat Care Plan (completed by veterinarian, resident and RACF)
6. Dog Care Plan (completed by veterinarian, resident and RACF)

The following two assessments are Veterinarian and GP, Physiotherapist/OT lead and are also required to be completed.

1. Veterinary Health and Behaviour/Temperament Assessment (completed by Veterinarian)
2. Resident Capability assessment (completed by GP, Physiotherapist/OT, resident and RACF)