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

Pets are an important part of the older person’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 wellbeing 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 older person will be discussed and established where possible.

The following documents are a resource bundle to guide, assess and manage companion pets in residential aged care homes. 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, older person and RACF)
2. Pet Accommodation and Care Agreement (completed older person, guarantor and RACF)
3. Companion Animals in Health Care Guide
4. The Companion Pet Risk Assessment Pathway
5. Cat Care Plan (completed by veterinarian, older person and RACF)
6. Dog Care Plan (completed by veterinarian, older person 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. Older Person Capability assessment (completed by GP, Physiotherapist/OT, older person and RACF)