

by Joshua Weinstein - KSN

PET POLICIES & ASSISTANCE ANIMALS:

The New Normal for Community Associations

Among the many impacts the coronavirus pandemic has had on daily lives, two trends that have become part of the “new normal” include pet adoption and remote work.

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), nearly one in five American households “acquired a cat or dog since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis” (<https://www.asPCA.org/about-us/press-releases/new-asPCA-survey-shows-overwhelming-majority-dogs-and-cats-acquired-during>).

When it relates to working from home, organizations assessed in-office staffing to address public health policies and social distancing. As lockdowns have been lifted and employers are reevaluating their business needs, the shift to remote and hybrid work has accelerated.

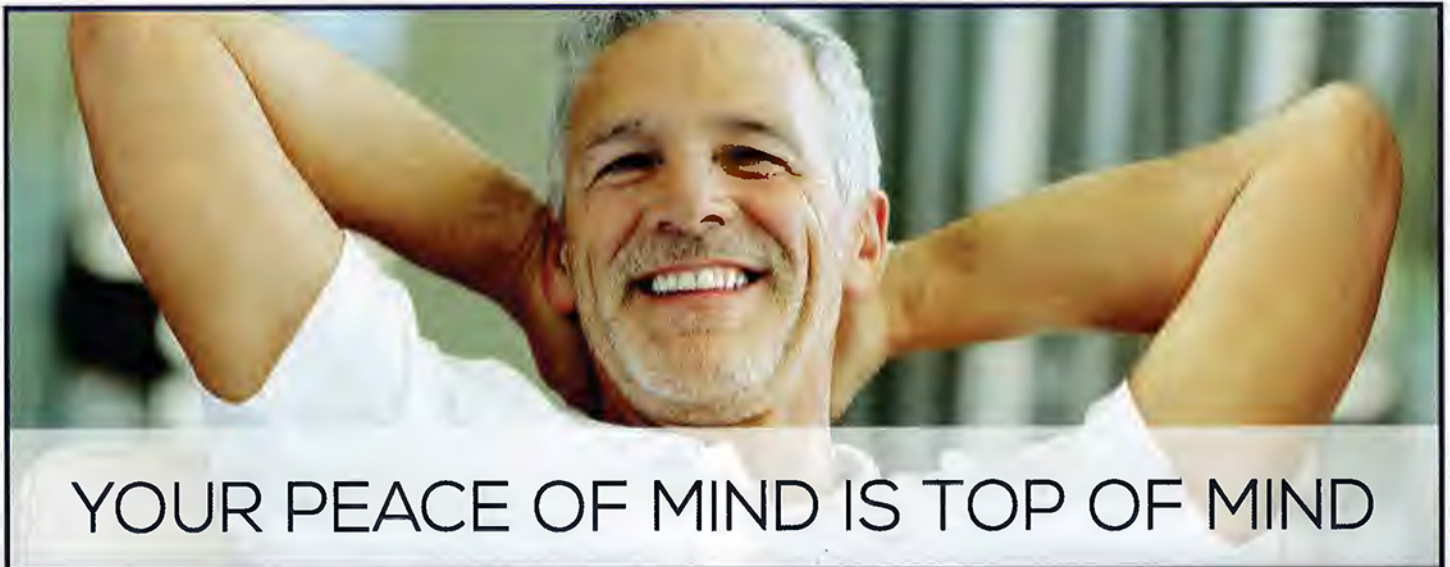
How do these two specific and significant lifestyle changes impact condominium, homeowner (HOA), and townhome community associations?

Now that more condo and single-family homeowners have become remote workers and pet owners compared to pre-pandemic levels, property managers and board members should be aware how to legally address pet policies, emotional assistance animals, and service animals.

Pet Policies

Community association rules and enforcement are detailed in the association's governing documents. These documents include:

- Bylaws
- Declaration and/or Covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&Rs)
- Rules and regulations



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