

Bill 218 (Fluffy's Law) fails on Second Reading

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An attempt to force Manitoba landlords to accept pets in rental buildings has fallen through.

A bill put forward by the Liberals, which would have banned no-pet policies, failed on its second reading to get approval in the legislature Tuesday.

The leader of Manitoba's Liberal Party, Jon Gerrard, was pushing for the bill. A medical doctor, Gerrard said pets provide companionship and benefits to many people, such as alleviating mental health issues like depression.

That, in turn, brings down health costs and benefits the system, he said.

But the NDP government said there are many tenants who don't want pets in their buildings because of allergies or other concerns.

The bill was also opposed by Manitoba landlords, who said they have the right to decide whether to accept pets.

Pet owners and their supporters, who collected some 6,000 names on a petition, rallied at the legislature in Winnipeg on Saturday, demanding an end to no-pet policies at rental units across the province.

About 64 cats had to be given up by their owners and turned over to the Winnipeg Humane Society in the past three months because of the no-pet policies, according to WHS executive director Bill McDonald.

Posted on the [Winnipeg Rental Network](http://WinnipegRentalNetwork.com)

