



Purr-fecting your home sweet home

○ KAYLEE CRANLEY

As house styles and trends continue to change with the times, so too do the options for catering to all members of the family – pets included.

Trendsetter Homes Design and Strategy Executive Rachel Maree Smith said over the course of her career, she had observed home designs changing to better accommodate pets.

"Pet owners are now integrating their furry family members into the design, construction and interior decor of their homes," she said.

"This shift reflects a broader cultural recognition of pets' importance in the household, and a desire to provide them with comfortable and enriching living environments."

"Designing a pet-friendly home is not only about creating a comfortable and enjoyable space for them but also about enhancing the overall wellbeing and harmony of the entire family," Jonathan William Homes Project Manager and Interior Designer Jenna Athans said.

According to Ms Athans, such

design can be incorporated through built-in amenities and dedicated spaces.

"Designating specific areas for pets, such as a mudroom with built-in pet beds or a pet-friendly laundry room, helps to keep the rest of the house clean and organised," she said.

"Built-in pet feeding stations, water fountains and storage for pet supplies, such as food, toys and grooming tools, ensure they have access to their essentials while keeping the space organised.

"Pet-friendly outdoor spaces with secure fencing, designated play areas and pet-friendly plants can provide a safe environment.

"Built-in dog or cat doors in glass windows or doors will allow an easy route to the backyard."

To proof your abode against scrapes and scuffs caused by man's best friend, both Ms Athans and Ms Smith recommended using durable materials throughout each zone of the home.

Ms Athans said flooring materials such as vinyl or laminate, which were hardwearing and easy care, could withstand pet accidents and scratches.

Ms Smith echoed this sentiment, saying scratch-resistant flooring materials, like tiles or polished concrete, are essential for those with clawed companions.

"When using timber flooring, I carefully consider the timber's hardness to withstand daily wear from pets," she said. "Choosing a matte or low-sheen finish for timber will help to minimise the visible wear and tear."

Such easy-care flooring is demonstrated in several of Trendsetter Homes' custom builds such as its project in Woodlands.

When it comes to places where some pets are prone to jumping on – namely, benchtops and sofas – Ms Athans and Ms Smith had several suggestions for how to keep these areas clean, tidy and mark free.

"Materials like quartz or laminate for benchtops and furniture surfaces can withstand pets' claws," Ms Athans said.

"Leather sofas are durable and can withstand some scratching," Ms Smith said.

"They are also easy to clean and are less likely to absorb odours compared to fabric sofas.

"If you prefer fabric, microfibre or microsuede are good choices, as they're water resistant and low maintenance.

"Pet hair doesn't cling to microfibre as much as it does to other woven materials.

"If microfibre feels aesthetically limiting, look for a high-

performance commercial or synthetic material for your sofa, which are designed to be stain resistant and durable."

Even better, smart material and decor choices can also protect your pets themselves.

"Sound-absorbing materials, such as acoustic panels or thicker curtains, can help to reduce noise levels and make the home more comfortable for pets, especially during loud events or thunderstorms," Ms Athans said.

"Non-toxic paints, finishes and materials ensure their safety in case of accidental ingestion."

Ms Athans said a custom build by Jonathan William Homes at Kingsley was an excellent example of pet-friendly features.

"The clients wanted a space for their dog's bed in the laundry, built under the bench to keep the main floor clear," she said.

"They also requested a built-in dog door in the window to allow access to the backyard.

"Finally, they chose timber-look floor tiles for the main flooring to minimise scratches and ensure it would require low upkeep."

CONTACT

Jonathan William Homes
0401 383 860
www.jonathanwilliam.com.au
Trendsetter Homes, 9446 2822
www.trendsetterhomes.com.au

Designating specific areas for pets, such as a mudroom with built-in pet beds or a pet-friendly laundry room, helps keep the rest of the house clean.

NEW Homes



Louise Allan



Carla Wray

New Homes Editor Louise Allan
louise.allan@wanews.com.au
Assistant Editor Shayling Ngo
Subeditor Natalie Andrews
Cover Photo Aria by
Summit Homes

New Homes Advertising Executive
Carla Wray | 9482 3786
carla.wray@wanews.com.au
Sales Coordinator
Jackie Calladine | 9482 3119
jackie.calladine@wanews.com.au

Contact us
New Homes
The West Australian
50 Hasler Road, Osborne Park, WA 6017
Email: newhomes@wanews.com.au

For all the latest New Homes news visit: thewest.com.au/lifestyle/new-homes