

## 5.3 PESTS & INFESTATION

If the client's home environment is not regularly cleaned then this could result in build-up of waste materials and dirt. In extreme cases these conditions can attract pests and vermin and it is entirely possible that this could result in a pest infestation which easily promotes the spread of infection.



The likelihood of pest infestation can be minimised through regular cleaning, ensuring that foodstuffs are properly stored, and by prompt disposal of waste and cleaning up of food spillages, and wherever possible these practices should be incorporated into the list of care duties for the client. This will, of course, be subject to the client's approval. If you feel that the general environment of the client's home poses a significant health risk to the client and / or the Agency's care staff then you must report this to your supervisor. In extreme cases, you have the right to refuse to work in a potentially infectious environment and this could lead to withdrawal of the care service (see section 4.4).

## 5.4 PETS

People living on their own will often have pets for company. You may actually be asked to feed or "walk" the pet as part of your care duties! However, you have the right to expect that any pets in the client's home do not present a significant risk to you. Apart from being an abundant source of potential infection many pets can actually present a real danger. It is therefore reasonable to expect that any dangerous pets are kept out of the vicinity when you are working at the client's home, and this will have been agreed with the client when the contract for care was agreed. Being exposed to dangerous pets can be another reason for withdrawal of the care service (see section 4.4).



## 5.5 DISPOSAL OF WASTE



To avoid unnecessary infection hazards at the client's home it is important to ensure that as far as possible, household refuse is properly disposed of in a timely manner. Refuse should be put into black plastic bags where these are available, or straight into dustbins. According to the client's wishes you should avoid putting out bags of rubbish until the day of collection so as not to attract pests and vermin.