

Military Installation Booklet for Ansbach, United States Army Garrison

Pets

Moving with your pet includes researching airline requirements and quarantine restriction laws in your new location. Many airlines have requirements for size, weight, breed, number of animals, kennel construction, documentation and seasonal limitations. Small pets may be shipped on military flights, but availability and regulations frequently change. Contact your local Personal Property Office to request specific country instructions.

Shipping Pets

Policies and rules for shipping pets vary at each installation. It's important to understand the regulations, prohibitions and laws at your new installation before moving with a pet. Below, you'll find installation-specific details for registering, boarding and transporting your pet.

Licensing, Vaccinations, and Registration

You must register your pet within 30 days of your arrival in Germany. The clinic is located near the main gate of Katterbach Kaserne and provides limited services on a space available and/or appointment basis. The clinic's hours may vary based on demand and mission, so it is suggested that you call for an appointment. For a full list of services provided along with off-post Veterinary Service Providers, please review the links below.

Pet Travel and Quarantine

A health certificate is required to return your pet back to the States. This certificate can be obtained at the clinic only if the veterinarian is on site or obtain a health certificate on the local economy. Quarantines are not required in Germany. Pets must have reservations to fly to Germany. Commercial airlines charge according to the size of the pet. Space for pets is limited so contact the airlines well in advance. Space is VERY limited on AMC flights and they charge as well. An International Health Certificate is required as well as a rabies shot at least 30 days old and not more than twelve months old. Pets must be shipped in an appropriate carrier. Contact your local transportation office with questions.

Boarding

The Ansbach Veterinary Clinic and ACS can provide a listing of Off-Post Pet Boarding Facilities.

Dangerous Dog Laws

Germany has a Dangerous Dog Ordinance (DDO), placing restrictions upon the ownership of certain types of dogs. This DDO affects military personnel moving to Germany and some breeds will not be allowed into the country. The breeds affected by the new DDO vary from German state to state, but automatically included in the definition of dangerous dogs are: American pit bull terriers, American Staffordshire bull terriers or American Stafford terriers, Staffordshire bull terriers, and mixes involving these breeds. The following breeds are also regulated in some states: American Bulldog, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Bull Terrier, Bullmastiff, Mastiff, French Mastiff, Spanish Mastiff, Neapolitan Mastiff, Dogo Argentino, Fila Brasileiro, Tosa Inu, Bandogge, Kangal (Karabash), Caucasion Owtscharka, and mixes involving these breeds. The DDO also defines dangerous dogs as animals either known to be vicious, having indicated an inclination to attack game or livestock, having attacked persons, or having shown unusual aggressiveness. Breeding, reproduction, and trade of dangerous dogs is also prohibited.

Military personnel who own a dog fitting the criteria will be required to register with local German authorities, permanently mark the dog with a tattoo or microchip, muzzle and keep the dog on a leash when in public unless cleared by a temperament evaluation. This evaluation will test whether a dog is aggressive or non-aggressive; however the test is not compulsory. The choice is left to the owner to either have the dog permanently wear a muzzle or take the evaluation test. Dogs that pass this temperament evaluation are freed of the requirement to wear a muzzle. A German police dog handler and federal veterinarian will perform temperament evaluations. There is no cost for registering dogs; however, there are costs to permanently mark and evaluate dogs, which the owner will have to pay.

In the event that a dog does not pass the temperament evaluation, German officials will determine what measures must be taken. At a minimum, such dogs must be muzzled and kept on a leash while in public. For aggressive dogs, the officials could determine that liability insurance, impounding, neutering, or even destruction are necessary.

Supporting Army Veterinary Treatment Facilities (VTFs) will assist military owners of "dangerous dogs" in registering and scheduling behavioral evaluations. Owners should contact their local VTF within two weeks upon arriving in Germany or after obtaining a dog.

Military personnel moving to Germany should weigh the requirements of the German DDO and owner responsibilities for dogs that fit the criteria in paragraph 2 when making a decision to bring such dogs with them.

Pets in On-Post Housing

Residents of Army Family housing (AFH) are responsible for maintaining and controlling their pets in accordance with AE Supp 420-1, Appendix DD .

Restrictions and responsibilities in AFH:

No more than two dogs or cats, or combination thereof, are authorized per dwelling unit. Other domestic pets (including birds, goldfish, and hamsters) may be kept in AFH. Exotic pets (for example, snakes) are prohibited.

Owners must register their cat or dog with the post veterinary clinic within 2 weeks after acquiring the pet or the arrival of the pet at their permanent station. The owner must present evidence of the pet's current vaccinations at the time of registration, maintain a vaccination record, and update required vaccinations as necessary. Vaccinated animals will receive rabies tags that must be worn by the animal at all times.

Sponsor and their spouses will ensure that pets are controlled so they do not become a public nuisance or menace. Animals that habitually bite, scratch, attack, or otherwise threaten people without provocation are a community health menace and will not be allowed in Government-controlled housing or facilities. A severe incident (for example, an animal attacking an individual) is cause for removal of the offending animal, regardless of the absence of prior incidents.

Pet owners residing in AFH are subject to host nation (HN) laws governing the treatment of pets. HN law and Army in Europe policy prohibit inhumane and abusive treatment of animals. Inhumane and abusive treatment is defined as any act or omission whereby an animal's physical or psychological wellbeing is compromised unnecessarily. Punishment for violation of HN law may be in the form of fines or removal of the pet from the owner's possession. In cases where owners are negligent in pet care or supervision, immediate action will be taken to have the pet removed from the area.

Breeding pets and the construction and maintenance of kennel-type operations are prohibited in Government-controlled housing. When outside the owner's quarters, animals must be kept on a leash and accompanied by an individual capable of controlling the pet. Children under the age of 12 without adult supervision are considered incapable of controlling pets.

Dogs and cats must not be allowed to relieve themselves on balconies, playgrounds, or within 50 feet of Family housing buildings. Pet owners will clean up excrement from their pets. Building coordinators may designate pet-walk areas that building residents who are pet owners will be responsible for maintaining.