

INFORMATION PAPER – PETS

Pets are only authorized in Army Family Housing (AFH) per guidance below. Pets are not authorized in Unaccompanied Housing.

Residents of AFH are responsible for maintaining and controlling their pets. Pet owners will be held liable for loss or damage caused by their pets. Residents are granted the privilege of having an animal based on their ability to meet responsibilities. This privilege may be withdrawn if either of the following is true:

- The pet is a threat to the health or safety of personnel or becomes a nuisance.
- The pet owner fails to meet his or her responsibilities with respect to pet care.

The Garrison Commander has the authority to revoke the privilege to have pets in Government housing regardless of the number of warnings a pet owner receives.

No more than two dogs or cats, or combination thereof, are authorized per dwelling unit. Other domestic pets that are typically in cages (including birds, goldfish, and hamsters) may be kept in AFH. Exotic and wild pets (for example, snakes, skunks, raccoons, opossums, foxes, ferrets, monkeys) normally found in a zoo are prohibited.

Owners must register their cat or dog with the post veterinary clinic within two 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 (e.g. constant barking that disturbs others, failure to pick up excrement or allowing them to relieve themselves in unauthorized areas) or menace. Animals that habitually bite, scratch, attack, or otherwise threaten people or other domestic pets 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.

HN laws typically impose liability on the animal's owner or keeper for damages to public or private property and personal injury. Liability insurance for pets is recommended.

Breeding pets for the purpose of financial gain 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.

Pets must not be allowed to relieve themselves inside buildings, balconies, at or around playgrounds, in the immediate vicinity of walkways, or within 50 feet of Family housing buildings. Pet owners will clean up excrement from their pets immediately and dispose of it properly. Building coordinators may designate pet-walk areas that building residents who are pet owners will be responsible for maintaining.

Pets must not be:

- Allowed in laundry rooms.
- Left on balconies unattended.
- Housed or locked in attics, basements, or storerooms in Government-controlled housing.
- Kept in fenced playgrounds where children may congregate.
- Tied to stair railings, radiators, pipes, shrubbery, or trees.

Residents and others must report complaints of improper control of pets to the Military Police (MP). MP officials will investigate complaints and, when appropriate, send an MP report to the garrison commander for action.

A sanitation inspection (health and welfare) may be conducted on any housing unit alleged to be substandard in cleanliness, smell, or where a pet has apparently been abandoned. Entry into the quarters must be in the presence of the sponsor or an adult Family member unless immediate entry is required to prevent damage to or destruction of Government property or risks the health and welfare of the animal.

Owners who abandon their pets are subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or HN law and are responsible for all costs incurred by the Government on the transfer, care, custody, and final disposition of the animal. Before pet owners leave for an extended absence (for example, temporary duty, deployment, leave), they must make arrangements for the care of their pets. Pets must not be left unattended in quarters for an extended period of time and no more than 10 hours. Leaving pets unattended for more than 10 hours could be construed as neglect.

Pet owners in Germany will comply with local laws regarding “fighting dogs”. These animals are prohibited and are not authorized in Government-controlled housing. Contact the Vet Clinic at 09802-83-3180 for more details.

Animal Attacks. In most cases, the cause of aggressive attacks by pets resulting in injury or death are because the pet was unleashed, has a history of attacking other animals, or is being walked by individuals lacking the strength to stop the attack. Report improper control of pet complaints to your Stairwell/Building Coordinator or the Housing Office. Incidents involving attacks of people or other animals must be reported directly to the Military Police.

Contact the USAG Ansbach Housing Division at DSN 467-3415 for questions.