DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BELVOIR
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FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5928

AMIM-BVG-ZA (210-20) AUG 13 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR US Army Fort Belvoir Personnel

SUBJECT: Fort Belvoir Policy Memorandum #14, Domestic Animals on Fort Belvoir

1. REFERENCES:

a. Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, Army Policy – Domestic Animals on Army Installations, 16 August 2018.

b. Army Regulation (AR) 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, 29 August 2006.

c. The Villages at Belvoir, Resident Responsibility Guide, 30 September 2021.

d. Title 40, United States Code, Section 3103, Admission of guide dogs or other service animals accompanying individuals with disabilities.

e. Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 35, Nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in state and local government services.

2. PURPOSE. To provide policy for domestic animals on Fort Belvoir.

3. APPLICABILITY. This policy applies to the Fort Belvoir military installation. This includes all types of Fort Belvoir housing and lodging, including Army-owned, privatized, leased and lodging. This policy applies only to privately-owned animals, specifically pets owned by Service Members, Government employees, and contractors, including all Family members and visitors. This policy is not intended to address control of Department of Defense (DoD)-owned animals, e.g. Military working dogs, Government-owned (Non-Department of Defense) animals, or Non-Appropriated Fund-owned animals such as horses.

4. BACKGROUND. This policy is generated from federal law and a uniform Army policy (reference 1.a.) and establishes minimum standards for domestic animals on Fort Belvoir. This policy provides for the safety and welfare of all individuals on Fort Belvoir.

5. POLICY.

a. General:

(1) The Garrison Commander has authority over installation access for all animals, other than service animals. Animals are not permitted in public and federal buildings except those designated for their use and care.

(2) Prohibited Dogs. Residents, employees, contractors, or visitors may not bring on the installation any dog of a breed (including a mixed breed) that is deemed aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous. For purposes of this policy, aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous breeds of dogs are defined as Pit Bulls (American Staffordshire Bull Terriers or English Staffordshire Bull Terriers), Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers Chow, and wolf hybrids. This prohibition also extends to other dogs that demonstrate a propensity for dominant or aggressive/dangerous behavior as indicated by any of the following types of conduct:

(a) Unprovoked barking, growling, or snarling when people are present.

(b) Aggressively running along fence lines when people are present.

(c) Biting or scratching people or attacking other pets.

(d) Escaping confinement or restriction to chase people.

In the event of a limited authorization to bring a prohibited dog onto the installation (for example to receive veterinary services), the dog must be muzzled and leashed at all times while on the installation.

(3) Prohibited Species. It is prohibited to bring any exotic, wild, or farm species onto Fort Belvoir unless an official purpose exists. Examples of exotic, wild, and farm species include but are not limited to the following: exotic fish and reptiles such as alligators, electric eels, monkeys, piranhas, puffer fish, sharks and snakes; wild animals and birds such as ferrets, foxes, hedgehogs, raccoons, rats, skunks, squirrels, owls, ostriches, and falcons, and farm animals and fowl such as potbellied pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, and geese. Prior written approval by the Garrison Commander is required to bring exotic, wild, or farm species onto the Installation for official purposes.

(4) Service Animals. The installation access restrictions in paragraphs 5.a.(2). and 5.a.(3). do not apply to service animals. A "service animal" means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability." Service dogs are protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and may accompany their handler in every public environment, including restaurants, grocery stores, and medical facilities. A service dog may be any breed or size. Department of Justice guidelines implementing the service dog provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act expressly prohibit exclusion of a service dog "based on assumptions or stereotypes about the animal's breed or how the animal might behave." If, however, a particular service animal behaves in an aggressive/dangerous manner, as

stated in 5.a.(1). (a)-(d), the animal may be barred from the installation at the direction of the Garrison Commander:

(a) The acquisition and use of a service animal by a service member on duty is governed by Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1300.27. Service member requests must be made through their chain of command and approved pursuant to DoDI 1300.27.

(b) The use of a service animal in the workplace by a federal civilian employee requires an approved reasonable accommodation to do so.

(c) Service animal presence within Alexander T. Augusta Military Medical Center facilities may be further restricted by Defense Health Agency policy. Patients and visitors should check with their provider or the information desk.

(5) Emotional support animals. Emotional support, therapy, comfort, or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

(6) Leashes. Dogs and cats are to always be kept on a leash and under the owner's supervision and control when outside the home, yard, or designated dog park. Leashes will not be longer than 6 feet when fully extended.

b. Fort Belvoir Family Housing.

(1) Fort Belvoir Privatized Family Housing. This policy applies to Privatized Family Housing. Residents of Privatized Housing are limited to three total animals, including dogs, cats, fish, guinea pigs, hamsters, and birds (reference 1c). The privatized housing owner, after consultation with the Garrison Commander, is authorized to grant exceptions to The Villages at Belvoir Pet Policy, after considering the needs of the animal owner/resident, impact to neighboring residents, the expense of additional wear and tear on the dwelling unit, any prior approved waivers, and if any of the animals are claimed by the animal owner to be a service animal, assistance animal, companion animal, emotional support animal, activity animal, or therapy animal. Accommodation of emotional support animals under the Fair Housing Act is within the discretion of the Garrison Commander. Restriction of aggressive breeds may be further outlined in the privatized owner occupancy policy. In addition, the privatized housing owner may also charge animal-related fees (both refundable and non-refundable) as stated in the resident lease.

(2) Fort Belvoir Leased Family Housing. This policy applies to Leased Family Housing.

c. Unaccompanied Housing (UH). Fort Belvoir UH. UH residents are prohibited from keeping animals in their building. However, a UH resident may be authorized to keep a service dog.

d. Fort Belvoir Lodging.

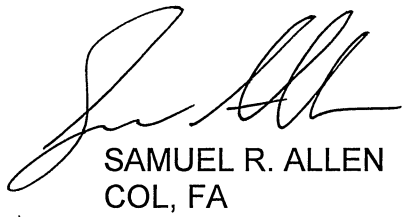
(1) This policy applies to on-post lodging. Animals allowed in lodging will only reside in designated pet-friendly rooms.

(2) This policy applies to Privatized Army Lodging.

6. VIOLATIONS. The Garrison Commander has discretion for consequences due to violations of this regulation. Each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and consequences may include a warning letter, revocation of the owner or sponsor's privilege to maintain pets on Fort Belvoir, or a bar to the installation. These penalties may be in addition to fees or remedies provided by a housing tenant's lease.

7. This policy is effective immediately. Unless an animal demonstrates a propensity for dominant or aggressive/dangerous behavior as indicated in paragraph 5.a.(3), current housing residents who are boarding a domestic animal prohibited by this policy may continue to board the animal until they vacate the Privatized or Army owned housing they are residing in on the effective date of this policy.

8. PROPONENT. The Garrison Command Administrative Office is the proponent of this policy at 571-515-2046.



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Commanding