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US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
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AMIM-BVG-ZA

8 August 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR US Army Fort Belvoir Personnel

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

1. REFERENCES.

- a. SAIE Policy - Domestic Animals on Army Installations 16 August 2018.
- b. Army Regulation (AR) 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, 29 August 2006.
- c. Villages at Belvoir Resident Responsibility Guide 1 Sept 2022.
- d. Title 40, U.S.C., Section 291, Admission of Guide Dogs Accompanied by Blind Masters, 2 January 2001.

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

3. APPLICABILITY. This policy applies to all types of Fort Belvoir housing and lodging, including Army owned, privatized, leased and lodging. This policy applies only to privately owned animals, specifically those pets owned by Service Members, Government employees, Contractors, including all Family members and all 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 (NAF-owned animals) such as horses.

4. BACKGROUND. This policy is generated from a uniform Army policy and establishes minimum standards for domestic animals on Fort Belvoir. This policy provides for the safety and welfare of all individuals on Fort Belvoir by providing the Garrison Commander the flexibility to tailor domestic animal policies to comply with their specific requirements. This policy incorporates the existing pet policy for Army privatized housing (reference 1.a.) and applies it to other types of housing to provide Service Members and Families more predictability with regard to where they house their pets as they move to different installations.

5. POLICY.

- a. General.

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1) The Garrison Commander has authority over installation access for all animals, other than service dogs.

2) Residents, employees, contractors, or visitors may not bring on any 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.

3) It is unauthorized to bring any exotic, wild, or farm species onto Fort Belvoir for other than official purposes. Examples of exotic, wild and farm species include but are not limited to the following: exotic animals, 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) The installation access restrictions in paragraphs 5.a. (3) and 5.a. (4) do not apply to service animals. A "service dog" is any dog trained to assist and meet the needs of its disabled handler, as implemented by the guide dog regulations established under Title 40, U.S.C., Section 291. A "therapy dog" is any dog that is trained to meet the needs of others, such as in a nursing home, hospital, schools, and a variety of other settings. There are dogs that do multiple jobs as both service dogs and therapy dogs. Service dogs are protected under the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act and may accompany their handler in every public environment. Some of those areas are restaurants, grocery stores, medical facilities, official buildings and courts. Therapy dogs do not have the same access rights as service dogs. A service dog can be any breed or size; however, a therapy or emotional support animal must abide by the prohibited animal restrictions. Department of Justice guidelines implementing the service dog provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act expressly prohibits

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exclusion of a service dog “based on assumptions or stereotypes about the animal’s breed or how the animal might behave.” However, if a particular service animal behaves in an aggressive/dangerous manner, as stated in 5.a. (3) a-d, the animal may be barred from the installation at the direction of the Garrison Commander.

5) If a Service Member has authorization to bring onto the installation (for example to receive veterinary services) a dog that fits the above description of an aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous dog, the dog must be muzzled at all times while on the installation.

b. Fort Belvoir Family Housing.

1) Fort Belvoir Privatized Family Housing. Privatized Family Housing must comply with this policy to the extent practical. Also, residents of Privatized Housing are limited to three dogs, three cats, or a combination of dogs and cats not to exceed three dogs and cats in the home. The privatized housing owner is authorized to waive the dog and cat limit 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 dogs or cats are claimed by the animal owner to be a service animal, assistance animal, companion animal, emotional support animal, activity animal, or therapy animal. 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).

1) 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.

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6. 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.



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Commanding