



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND**  
**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BELVOIR**  
**9820 FLAGLER ROAD, SUITE 213**  
**FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5928**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

IMBV-PLO

11 August 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR US Army Fort Belvoir Personnel

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

1. REFERENCES.

- a. Pet Policy for Privatized Housing under the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) Privatization Program, 5 January 2009.
- b. Department of Defense Directive 1300.27 (Guidance on the Use of Service Dogs by Service Members), 7 January 2016.
- c. Army Directive 2013-01 (Guidance on the Acquisition and Use of Service Dogs by Soldiers), 28 January 2013.
- d. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12131-12134).
- e. Army Regulation 40-58, Warrior Care and Transition Program, 23 March 2015.
- f. American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior, Position Statement on Breed-Specific Legislation, 2014.
- g. Army Regulation 600-20, Command Policy, 6 November 2014.
- h. Fair Housing Act of 1968 (FHA) (42 U.S.C.A §3601-3631).
- i. Army Policy- Domestic Animals on Army Installations, 16 August 2018.

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 establishes minimum standards for domestic animals on Fort Belvoir. This policy provides for the safety and welfare of all individuals on Fort

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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.

5. POLICY.

a. General.

1) The Garrison Commander has authority over installation access for all animals, other than service dogs (as defined in references 1.b. and 1.c.).

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), Rottweiler's, Doberman Pinschers, Chows, 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. Department of Justice guidelines implementing the service dog provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act expressly prohibits 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 a way, 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 an 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 and installation specific domestic animal policies to the extent practical. Also, residents of Privatized Family Housing are limited to two dogs, two cats, or one dog and one cat. 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 and installation specific domestic animal policies apply 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.

2) Fort Belvoir Privatized UH. Army privatized UH projects may allow domestic animals in accordance with this policy and installation specific domestic animal policies.

3) Fort Belvoir Leased UH. This policy and installation specific domestic animal policies apply to leased UH.

d. Fort Belvoir Lodging.

1) This policy and installation specific domestic animal policies apply to lodging. Animals allowed in lodging will only reside in designated pet-friendly rooms.

2) This policy and installation specific domestic animal policies apply 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 on-post or Army leased housing they are residing in on the effective date of this policy.



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Commanding