DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FORT BLISS
11685 SERGEANT MAJOR BOULEVARD
FORT BLISS, TX 79918

AMIM-BLG-ZA (200-5a1) 05 November 2025

POLICY MEMORANDUM #24

SUBJECT: Animal Control Policy

1. References:

a. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 28, Part 35, Section 35.104, Service Animal Authorized by the American Disabilities Act of 1990.

b. Chapter 45 in Title 42 of the U.S. Code, U.S. Fair Housing Act of 1998.

c. AR40-905/SECNAVINST 6401.18/AFI 48-131, Veterinary Health Services, 29 September 2006.

d. Memorandum, Subject: Pet Policy for Privatized Housing under the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) Privatization Program, 05 January 2009.

e. Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) Technical Guide No. 37, Integrated Management of Stray Animals on Military Installations, December 2016.

f. Memorandum, ASA (IE&E), Subject: Army Policy Domestic Animals on Army Installations, 16 August 2018.

g. Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4150.07, DoD Pest Management Program, 26 December 2019.

h. Fort Bliss Resident Guide, Fort Bliss Family Homes (FBFH), June 2021.

i. Pet Addendum, Fort Bliss Resident Guide, FBFH, July 2021.

2. Purpose. To establish local policy and procedures governing possession and control of domestic animals and exotic, wild, or farm species on Fort Bliss, Texas and to ensure the safety and welfare of all personnel on the installation.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all Soldiers, Family members, Department of Defense (DoD) Civilians, contractors, and others who work on, reside on, or visit Fort Bliss. This policy is not intended to address control of DoD-owned animals, e.g., Military Working Dogs (MWDs), or Government-owned (non-DoD) animals.

4. Policy.

a. General.

(1) Soldiers, Family members, DoD Civilians, contractors, and 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. All animals brought on the Installation must be registered with Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) and Family Housing. 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, Chows, Presa Canario (Canary Mastiff), and wolf hybrids. This prohibition also extends to other dogs that demonstrate 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.

(2) The installation access restrictions in paragraphs 4.a (1) above do not apply to service animals and emotional support animals. Department of Justice (DOJ) guidelines implementing the service dog provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) expressly prohibits exclusion of a service dog "based on assumptions or stereotypes about the animal's breed or how the animal might behave." Under the Fair Housing Act (FHA), pets who serve as assistance animals, which includes emotional support animals, are excluded from breed restrictions. However, if a particular service animal or emotional support animal behaves in a manner, as stated in 4.a (1) (a)-(d), the animal may be barred from the installation, at the direction of the Garrison Commander (GC).

(3) Service animals and emotional support animals each serve their specific purpose and have different requirements. It is important to note that a service animal and an emotional support animal is different from a regular pet. Service animals are dogs trained to do a specific task for their owner, and the most common example is a guide dog. An emotional support animal is a companion prescribed to those with a disabling mental disability. These animals often help individuals deal with symptoms related to their mental disability, such as anxiety, depression, and certain phobias. An emotional support animal must go through a process, which involves the pet owner getting approved from a licensed mental health professional or a medical doctor.

(4) Due to the fact that an emotional support animal does not need to be specifically trained to perform a service, and that the emotional benefits from the animal living in the home are what qualify the animal as an assistance animal, a letter from a licensed mental health professional or medical doctor is needed to classify the animal as an emotional support animal. A copy of that letter must be submitted through the FBFH Community Manager for privatized housing, and through the Installation Safety Office (ISO) that does not relate to privatized housing.

(5) Service animals and emotional support animals must wear identification when in public areas, and the owner must use the approved type of service or support animal identification on their animal.

(6) Dogs that are brought temporarily onto the installation (for example to receive veterinary services or stay at Temporary Lodging) that are not service animals or emotional support animals and fit the above description of an aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous dog, must submit an exception to policy (ETP).

(7) All ETPs must be submitted through the ISO. The GC is the approval authority. The process may take up to 30 days and does not constitute an independent justification from the extension of Temporary Lodging. Exceptions can be denied, and permission may be revoked at any time, including incidents where the animal demonstrates aggression. If an ETP is granted, the owner must carry the approved ETP documentation with them and must always muzzle the dog while on the installation in public places. Contact the ISO for more information on ETPs.

(8) Bringing or keeping any exotic, wild, or farm species on Fort Bliss for other than official purposes is not authorized. 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, pufferfish, sharks, and snakes; wild animals and birds such as mongoose, ferrets, foxes, hedgehogs, raccoons, rats, skunks, squirrels, owls, ostriches, and falcons; and farm animals and fowl such as pot-bellied pigs, goats, sheep, chickens, ducks, peacocks, and geese. Prior written approval of the GC is required to bring exotic, wild, or farm species onto the installation for official purposes. No exotic, wild, or farm species will be considered as an emotional support animal or service animal.

(9) Unsupervised animals on Fort Bliss displaying aggressive, threatening, or dangerous behavior will be reported to the Fort Bliss Consolidated Dispatch at (915) 744-2115.

(10) No person will abandon animals on or outside the installation.

(11) Tenants will not raise, or breed animals housed on Fort Bliss for consumption or commercial purposes. Breeding or allowing the breeding of stray or feral animals is strictly prohibited.

(12) Harboring, boarding, watering or feeding of wild animals, farm animals, and exotic animals as defined in 4.a (8) inside or outside of any Fort Bliss facility is prohibited.

(13) Feeding or watering of stray or feral animals is prohibited unless conducted as part of a Fort Bliss authorized animal control program.

(14) Animals of any type are not allowed in Unaccompanied Housing (UH) facilities.

(15) Reporting of stray or wild animals will be addressed through the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) Service Order Desk at (915) 642-5477.

b. Privatized Family Housing.

(1) Tenants of FBFH must comply with this policy to the maximum extent practical. In addition, all FBFH tenants must adhere to the FBFH Housing Resident Guide. Tenants of FBFH are limited to two (2) dogs, two (2) cats, or one (1) dog and one (1) cat. FBFH is authorized to waive the dog and cat limit after considering the needs of the animal owner/tenant, 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, emotional support animal, activity animal, or therapy animal. Further restriction of aggressive breeds and animal-related fees may be determined by FBFH and included in FBFH occupancy policy and tenant lease.

(2) Harboring, boarding, watering or feeding of wild animals, farm animals, and exotic animals as defined in 4.a (8) is strictly prohibited inside or outside of FBFH homes.

c. Registration, microchip, control, and care of pets. Pet owners of cats and dogs residing in privatized housing, kept on, or visiting the Installation must ensure that their animals:

(1) Are registered with Fort Bliss VTF.

(2) Are registered with the FBFH Community Center if residing, kept, or visiting in FBFH.

(3) Are current on all required immunizations, including rabies for cats and dogs; distemper, hepatitis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza (Bordetella and canine influenza vaccines may be recommended in certain situations) for dogs; and rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia, and calicivirus for cats (feline leukemia may be recommended in certain situations). Pet owners are responsible for providing proof of current vaccinations upon

request. Failure to comply may result in penalties or restrictions as outlined in the community guidelines. Vaccines administered in Mexico are not acceptable.

(4) Have an identification microchip implanted under the skin which provides an identification number used to locate the registered address and owner should a pet become lost or abandoned.

(a) The microchip must be identified with the actual owner of the pet and a legal residential address. Use of a general, non-specific place of residence, an address that is not the residence of the owner, or an address that is not the residence for the pet is prohibited.

(b) If a pet does not have a microchip, the Fort Bliss VTF must inform the pet owner of this policy.

(c) Upon notification by Fort Bliss VTF, the pet owner is required to comply with this policy. If corrective action is not taken by the pet owner, the GC will take appropriate administrative action, which may result in termination of pet privileges.

(5) All pets must always wear pet collars with identification and current rabies tags.

(6) Pet owners are required to always have control of their pets. All pets must be appropriately leashed or appropriately restrained when in common areas, designated pet areas or public areas and able to be immediately contained within a pet carrier or cage. Pets must not be left tied and unattended, or unleashed and allowed to roam freely and at will anywhere outside of a fenced area or common areas. Dogs may be allowed off leash when contained within dog parks on the installation or at home. Owners must ensure that their pets are unable to escape from a fenced area or housing unit.

(7) Pet owners are required to address their pets' waste promptly and responsibly within their own yards and in their homes. Pet owners or caretakers should carry appropriate waste disposal material and ensure the proper disposal of their pets' waste in designated receptacles while in common areas, designated pet areas or public areas.

(8) All pets will be maintained in a humane manner. Pet owners are required to provide adequate shelter for their animals to ensure their comfort and well-being from heat, cold, sun, and rain while pets are kept outside for short periods of time; the shelter should be appropriately sized for the pet, providing enough space for movement and comfort, maintain a high level of sanitation where pets are housed; provide adequate quantities of food and water; will not leave pets unattended inside motor vehicles; arrange for pets to receive care when pet owner will be away from home longer than 10

to 12 hours. Failure to comply may result in penalties or restrictions as outlined in the community guidelines.

d. Control of stray and feral animals on Fort Bliss.

(1) Tenants are strictly prohibited from harboring, providing food, water, or shelter to stray, feral, or wild animals.

(2) Individuals will not tamper with damage, or otherwise destroy exclusion measures designed to keep cats and other pests from entering buildings and structures.

(3) Capture, trapping, and handling of stray domestic animals will be carried out by DPW, an appropriately licensed Federal/State entity, or private contractor.

(a) Humane control and trapping techniques will be employed for control of stray animals.

(b) Individuals will not tamper with, damage, or otherwise destroy any traps set out for animal control, nor will any individual release any animal that has been captured with a trap.

(4) All personnel, visiting, living, or working on Fort Bliss will:

(a) Ensure that personnel are informed of this policy.

(b) Notify DPW through the Service Order Desk at (915) 642-5477 for the capture and removal of stray or feral dogs, cats, or other animals that have been observed in or around their facilities.

(c) Ensure that personnel do not provide food, water, or shelter to stray, wildlife or feral animals, or tamper with traps placed to capture these animals.

(d) If an individual continues to disregard this policy after being asked to stop such unauthorized behavior, the issue will elevate up the individual's chain of command for appropriate disciplinary action.

(e) Facility managers and building custodians are responsible for inspecting and maintain their respective facilities to avoid harboring of wild and feral animals. Animal exclusion measures that become unserviceable should be noted and prioritized for repair.

(f) Notifying FBFH of violations to this policy when found within housing areas will be addressed through FBFH Community Center at (915) 564-0795 during business hours or after hours at blissleasing@bbcgrp.com.

(g) Public Affairs. Employees (to include Soldiers and Civilians) who are contacted by members of the media about this policy, or any other issue involving Fort Bliss or the Army, should notify the Public Affairs Office (PAO) as soon as possible. PAO personnel serve as the authorized individuals responsible for disseminating the release of information within the Army. They also play a crucial role in coordinating with the media, which involves addressing inquiries and arranging and facilitating interviews. The PAO is located at Bldg. 15, Slater Road and can be reached at (915) 568-7002.

5. Penalties. The provisions in this policy memorandum are punitive. Personnel subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) who fail to comply with the requirements of this policy memorandum are subject to punishment under the UCMJ, as well as to other adverse administrative action. Civilians are subject to discipline as specified in the United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Failure to comply with this policy will, in addition to the above administrative or punitive action, require pet owners, caretakers, feeders, or other individuals to be held responsible for all costs incurred by other parties as a result of care and maintenance provided for an animal, or due to animal-related damages; and may result in impoundment or removal of pets and loss of the privilege to have pets in FBFH housing on Fort Bliss or termination of FBFH quarters. FBFH and the GC retain authority to require the removal of any animal from FBFH quarters and the Installation. Some actions could also confer criminal liability pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

6. Implementation of this policy is shared by the DPW, the Directorate of Emergency Services (DES), the ISO, the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), the PAO, FBFH, and Fort Bliss VTF.

7. This policy is effective upon signature and remains in effect until superseded or rescinded. A copy of this policy will be posted on all official bulletin boards and official websites and made available upon request.

8. The point of contact for this policy is the DPW – Environmental Division at (915) 568-3782. The point of contact for the Service Order Desk is the DPW – Business Operations & Integration Division (BOID) at (915) 568-8864.

//Original Signed//
MICHAEL V. SOYKA
COL, AR
Commanding

Encl
Rabies Treatment