



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY GARRISON FORT MEADE
4551 LLEWELLYN AVENUE
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-5000

DATE 17 2024

AMIM-MEP-O (210)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fort George G. Meade Policy Memorandum #15 Domestic and Stray Animals

1. References:

a. Pet Policy for Privatization Housing under the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) Privatization Program, 18 August 2022.

b. Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations, Energy and Environment, SAIE memorandum (Army Policy – Domestic Animals on Army Installations), 16 August 2018.

c. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §12131-12134).

d. ADA Title III Regulations, 28 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 36.

e. Army Directive 2013-01 (Guidance on Acquisition and Use of Service Dogs by Soldiers), 28 January 2013.

f. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1300.27 (Guidance on the Use of Service Dogs by Service Members), 7 January 2016.

g. AR 40-905 (Veterinary Health Services), 29 August 2006.

h. AR 200-1 (Environmental Protection and Enhancement), 13 December 2007.

i. DoD Manual 4150.07 (DoD Pest Management Program), 22 January 2020.

j. Fort Meade Integrated Pest Management Plan, 13 March 2018.

2. Purpose: To provide policy and procedures for domestic and stray animals on Fort George G. Meade.

3. Applicability: This policy applies to all areas of Fort George G. Meade to include housing and lodging. This policy applies to privately owned animals, specifically those pets owned by Service Members, Government employees, Contractors, including all

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Family members, and all visitors. This policy is not intended to address control of DoD owned animals, e.g., Military Working Dogs, Government owned (Non-DoD) animals, or Non-Appropriated Fund owned animals such as horses.

4. Background: This policy establishes minimum standards for domestic animals and animal control on Fort George G. Meade. This policy provides for the safety and welfare of all individuals on Fort George G. Meade 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 (references 1.a.) and applies it to other types of housing.

5. Definitions:

- a. Pet. Any animal kept as part of a household.
- b. Stray animal. An uncontrolled dog or cat which is homeless, lost, ownerless, or is privately owned and allowed to roam without restrictions.
- c. Abandon. To remove or allow the removal of a pet or other domestic animal from its home and leave it elsewhere with no intent to retrieve the animal, transfer ownership to another person, or directly provide for its care, so that it must fend for itself or be taken care of by others.
- d. Owner. The legal owner of a pet and the individual primarily responsible for the pet's registration, health, welfare, care, and maintenance requirements. Also, the individual responsible for any costs incurred by other parties as a result of care and maintenance provided for the pet, or due to pet related damages.
- e. Service animal. 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. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability.
- f. Assistance Animal. Assistance Animal means a service animal, an emotional support animal or any other animal that works, provides assistance or performs tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, or provides emotional support that alleviates one or more identified symptoms or effects of a person's disability.

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6. Policy:

a. Registration and Control of Pets. All cats and dogs, including service animals, residing, kept on, or visiting Fort George G. Meade for more than a total of 14 days must:

(1) Be registered with the Fort George G. Meade Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF), 2018 20th Street, Fort Meade, MD 20755.

(2) Be registered with the Residential Community Initiative (RCI) Partner if residing in or visiting Privatized Housing.

(3) Receive all required immunizations, including rabies for both cats and dogs, distemper, leptospirosis, hepatitis, parvovirus, and parainfluenza for dogs, and rhinotracheitis, panleukopenia and calicivirus for cats (feline leukemia may be recommended in certain situations).

(4) Wear pet collars with pet identification and rabies tag and be microchipped.

(5) Be under control at all times. All pets must be leashed (no longer than six feet) while in public areas and able to be immediately physically restrained or contained within a pet carrier or cage. Pets must neither be left tied and unattended nor unleashed and allowed to roam freely anywhere outside of a fenced area. Owners must ensure that their pets are unable to escape from a fenced area or housing unit.

(6) Defecate only in the owner's yard or upon other grounds only during a controlled walk or visit. Owners or caretakers must completely pick-up, tightly bag, and place feces in a garbage container daily at their residence or immediately if on grounds other than their residence.

(7) Breeding of animals (pets or stray) and the construction and maintenance of kennel-type operations are prohibited.

(8) Complaints of improper control of pets must be reported to the DPW Animal Control. Animal Control will investigate complaints and, when appropriate, send a report to the Garrison Commander for action.

b. Control of Stray Animals on Fort George G. Meade.

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(1) Individuals will not abandon animals on Fort George G. Meade or allow a pet to run at large on the Installation. Runaway or lost animals must be reported missing to the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), Animal Control within 24 hours of discovery that the animal is missing. A stray animal that is not reported missing after 24 hours in DPW custody will be considered abandoned.

(2) Providing food, water, or shelter to stray, feral, or wild animals is prohibited. Use of bait is limited to DPW Animal Control, licensed animal control personnel, and DPW Environmental approved biologists to support attracting, trapping, and removing animals.

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

(4) Cat colonies and Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programs, including the use of identification microchips in such programs, are prohibited on Fort George G. Meade.

c. Capture and Trapping of stray animals will be carried out by DPW Animal Control or Licensed Animal Control Personnel.

(1) Individuals will not tamper with, damage, or otherwise destroy any traps set out for stray, feral or wild animal control, or release captured uncontrolled cats or dogs and wild animals from traps.

(2) Stray pets, cats, and dogs with identification tags or microchips will be returned to their owners once ownership has been verified through documentation. Stray animals without identification or identifiable owners will be taken to the Fort George G. Meade Stray Animal Holding Facility for disposition.

(3) If the use of tranquilizers is necessary, the VTF will be consulted for tranquilizer operations and dosage information.

d. Service Animals, Assistance Animals, and Prohibited Breeds.

(1) In accordance with reference 1.b., the Garrison Commander has authority over Installation access for all animals, other than service animals. Service animals are defined by the ADA (reference 1.c.) as 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.

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(2) Residents, employees, contractors, or visitors may not bring on the Installation, any dog of a breed (including a mixed breed) that is deemed aggressive or dangerous, or potentially aggressive or dangerous. For purposes of this policy, aggressive or dangerous, or potentially aggressive or dangerous breeds of dogs are defined as Pit Bulls (American Staffordshire, Bull Terriers or English Staffordshire Bull Terriers), Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Chows, and wolf hybrids (a "prohibited breed"). This prohibition also extends to other dogs that demonstrate a propensity for dominant, aggressive, or 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 George G. Meade for other than official purposes. Examples of exotic, wild, and farm species include but are not limited to the following: fish and reptiles such as alligators, turtles, lizards of any kind, chameleons, geckos, iguanas, bearded dragons, electric eels, piranhas, puffer fish, sharks, and snakes, wild animals and birds such as monkeys, ferrets, foxes, hedgehogs, prairie dogs, raccoons, rats, skunks, rabbits, 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 and Fort George G. Meade Veterinary Services is required to bring exotic, wild, or farm species onto the Installation for official purposes.

(4) The Installation access restrictions in paragraphs 6.d(2), and 6.d(3), do not apply to service animals. Department of Justice regulations (reference 1.d.) implementing the service animal 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. However, if a particular service animal behaves in a way, as stated in 6.d(2) a-d, or causes substantial property damage, the animal may be barred from the Installation at the direction of the Garrison Commander.

(5) Persons seeking to bring on the Installation a prohibited breed or other animal prohibited by this policy, must notify DPW Animal Control. If not a service animal, a

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request for an Exception-to-Policy (ETP) must also be submitted. ETPs permitting animals prohibited by this policy will be limited to housing or veterinary services and may establish additional restrictions.

(6) If a resident or 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 or dangerous, or potentially aggressive or dangerous dog, the dog must be muzzled at all times while on the Installation.

e. Fort George G. Meade Privatized Housing. Privatized Housing must comply with this policy and Installation specific domestic animal policies to the extent practical. Residents of Army Privatized 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 and Installation users, the expense of additional wear and tear on real property, any prior approved waivers, and if any of the dogs or cats are claimed by the animal owner to be an assistance animal. Restrictions 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 or limit the number of pets.

f. Fort George G. Meade Unaccompanied Housing (UH) (Barracks). UH residents are prohibited from keeping animals in their building. However, UH residents may be authorized to keep a service dog, provided the requirements of references 1.e and 1.f are met.

g. Fort George G. Meade Privatized Lodging (Candlewood Suites).

(1) This policy and Installation specific domestic animal policies apply to lodging. Permissible 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.

7. Responsibilities:

a. Implementation. This policy is effective immediately and will be enforced by DPW Animal Control, DES, and the Fort George G. Meade VTF.

b. Reporting. All reports of lost or stray animals will be reported to DPW Animal Control by calling the DES non-emergency number (301) 677-6622.

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c. Capture. DPW Animal Control personnel will primarily capture or trap stray animals on Fort George G. Meade. When necessary, a DPW Environmental Division approved licensed animal control contractor may provide services.

d. Disposition. Fort George G. Meade will work with Installation and local resources to attempt to locate the owner of every stray animal. Stray animals will be confined for 24 hours to provide owners sufficient time to reclaim an animal. After this time, if an owner cannot be found, DPW Animal Control will take the animal to a local shelter.

e. Penalties. Failure to comply with pet ownership, domestic and stray animal policies, regulations, and laws will, in addition to other administrative or punitive action, require 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 on Fort George G. Meade. The Fort George G. Meade Garrison Commander retains authority to require the removal of any animal from Fort George G. Meade.


YOLANDA D. GORE
COL, AG
Commanding

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