



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON RHEINLAND-PFALZ
UNIT 23152
APO AE 09067-3152

IMRP-ZA

22 JUL 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR All Personnel Working or Living within the United States Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz (USAG RP) Footprint

SUBJECT: Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) on Stray and Feral Cat Control

1. References.

- a. AR 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 12 Feb 08, with RAR 002, 24 Aug 12.
- b. AE Suppl. 1 to AR 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 20 Nov 08.
- c. AR 40-905/SECNAVINST 640 1.1B/AFI 48-131, Veterinary Health Services, 29 Aug 06.
- d. AE Reg. 27-9, Misconduct by Civilians, 22 Nov 11.
- e. AFPMB Technical Guide No. 37, Integrated Management of Stray Animals on Military Installations, 25 May 12.

2. Purpose. The purpose of this SOP is to:

- a. Provide guidelines for the reduction of stray/feral cat populations within the United States Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz (USAG RP) installations.
- b. Prevent injury or disease to DoD personnel.

3. Scope. This policy applies to all personnel living or working in the USAG RP area of responsibility.

4. Definitions. Stray cats are defined as cats that were once domesticated but were abandoned, lost, or ran away. Feral cats are descendants of domesticated "pet" cats that have returned to the wild. Stray and feral cats often form colonies in a particular location around a common food source, such as a dumpster, open garbage dump, or where people offer handouts.

5. Implications on human health. Feral/stray cats raise concerns that include the effect on wildlife in the ecosystem and their potential to carry and transmit diseases to humans through biting and scratching. Potential diseases include but are not limited to rabies, plague, ringworm, internal and external parasites, toxoplasmosis, bartonellosis (formerly

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known as cat scratch fever), allergies to cat hairs, and secondary bacterial infections. Feral cats living in close association with humans can also damage buildings, contaminate supplies, and kill birds and other wildlife. Parasites such as fleas are often a problem in areas inhabited by cats.

6. Procedure. In an effort to reduce the garrison's health risk from contact with feral/stray cats, the following rules apply:

a. The abandonment of cats on USAG RP installations is strictly forbidden.

b. Stray/feral cats that are NOT a risk and do NOT represent a hazard, cause property damage, create a public nuisance, and do NOT involve human intervention, will be allowed to travel about in installation grounds. Prohibited human intervention includes, but is not limited to, feeding and building of shelters.

c. Stray/feral cats that are a potential risk, represent a hazard, cause property damage, create a nuisance, or otherwise pose a potential conflict for humans will be regulated, controlled, and humanely relocated in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

d. Upon request, stray/feral cats will be captured with life traps and brought to a veterinarian by the DPW pest control contractor. The veterinarian will determine whether the cat can be neutered/spayed and released to the capture site, can be offered for adoption, or must be humanely euthanized.

e. Installation residents and employees are prohibited from leaving unattended food or water on installation grounds for feeding cats. The practice of leaving foodstuff outdoors attracts undesirable wild and feral species that in turn creates a health risk. Any food found outside an installation building will be promptly removed and disposed of.

f. All trash dumpsters in which food may potentially be disposed of are to be kept clean and covered at all times.

g. Installation residents and employees are required to comply with all aspects of this SOP and are responsible for reporting incidents of non-compliance to the respective Site Managers who, in turn, will notify the DPW POC.

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h. Any person identified to violate any part of this SOP will be informed of the "No Feeding Policy" and the incident will be reported to either their chain of command or the Civilian Misconduct Office, as appropriate.

7. Point of contact for this policy is The USAG RP DPW Operations and Maintenance Division Chief, Heinz-Werner Rudolf, at DSN 541-4793.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vance J. Klosinski', written in a cursive style.

VANCE J. KLOSINSKI
COL, SF
Commanding