



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON WIESBADEN
UNIT 29623
APO AE 09005-9623

AMIM-WBG-ZA

4 March 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR Members of the United States Army Garrison-Wiesbaden (USAG-WI) Community

SUBJECT: USAG Wiesbaden Command Policy Letter #77, Pet Policy

1. References.

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 24 August 2012.
- b. Army in Europe (AE) Supplement 1 to AR 420-1, 20 November 2008.
- c. AR 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, 29 August 2006.
- d. AR 40-5, Preventive Medicine, 12 May 2020.

2. Purpose.

- a. Define USAG Wiesbaden's policy and responsibilities for members of the community regarding pets.
- b. Establish policies and procedures which will promote safe, secure, healthy, harmonious, and cooperative community living.

3. Applicability. This policy applies to all persons within the USAG Wiesbaden community who own or care for pets in Government controlled housing.

4. Policy. Installation residents have the right to be free from disease, menace, noise, and waste caused by animals. Violators of this policy are to be reported to the Military Police (MPs) at the time of discovery and are subject to administrative actions including loss of pet privileges. The MPs will respond to the incidents and determine what actions are required to immediately mitigate the situation and to issue citations, if required.

a. All personnel assigned to USAG Wiesbaden owning pets, regardless of the species or where they live, must register those pets at the Wiesbaden Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) within two (2) weeks of arrival to Germany, or within two (2) weeks of acquiring the animal, if acquired during the tour.

b. All members of USAG Wiesbaden are responsible for maintaining and controlling pets for which they are responsible. Personnel residing in Army Family Housing (AFH) are restricted to the number of pets described below and must adhere to the requirements and responsibilities of ownership detailed in references above and Host Nation laws. If personnel or their

AMIM-WBG-ZA

SUBJECT: USAG Wiesbaden Command Policy Letter #77, Control of Pets

dependents are unable to adhere to the requirements and responsibilities, they may lose their privilege to maintain an animal in AFH.

c. All residents of AFH owning or keeping animals are responsible for all damages to government or private property caused by their pets.

5. Authorized number of pets. USAG-WI residents are authorized to have pets in AFH in any one of the following combinations: 1) three small pets, 2) two small and one medium, 3) two small and one large, 4) two medium, one medium and one large, or 6) two large.

a. Small dogs are those less than or equal to 30 pounds or 14 kilograms, such as Chihuahua; Bichon Frise; terriers; Shih Tzu; Pomeranian; or Pug. For this section, cats are classified as small pets.

b. Medium size dogs are those 31 to 54 pounds or 15 to 24 kilograms, such as Basset Hounds; Cocker Spaniel; Beagle; or Bulldog.

c. Large dogs are those greater than 55 pounds or 25 kilograms, such as Labrador; Golden Retriever; German Shepherd; Husky; or Mastiff.

d. Upon request, registered service animals will be exempt from the total number of pets allowed. Resident must provide appropriate service animal documentation for exemption. Furthermore, should a request for a service animal above the maximum number of pets be approved, no new request would be required in the event a pet dies or is rehoused. Emotional support pets will count against the total number of pets allowed.

6. Prohibited Animals. Contact the Veterinary Treatment Facility for detailed information on prohibited dogs and Host Nation requirements. Animals not permitted in AFH include, but are not limited to, the following as these are not considered household pets: all rodents, ferrets, all snakes and lizards, potbellied pigs, chickens, tarantulas, scorpions, frogs, etc.

7. Public Nuisance. Owners whose animal(s) are found to be a public nuisance may be required to remove them from AFH at the owner's expense. Public nuisance includes, but is not limited to: excessive barking/howling, an animal collected as a stray more than two (2) times in a six (6) month period, causes of destruction of government or other personal property, etc.

8. Animal bite/scratch incidents and revocation of pet privileges.

a. Pets that are known to bite will be muzzled and kept on a short leash, no longer than six (6) feet, to ensure proper control of the animal, when outdoors. An adult Family member will walk aggressive animals in order to better maintain control and better avoid an incident. Animals which habitually bite, scratch, attack, or otherwise threaten people without provocation are a menace and will not be allowed in government facilities. A severe incident is cause for removal of the offending animal, regardless if there are no prior incidents.

AMIM-WBG-ZA

SUBJECT: USAG Wiesbaden Command Policy Letter #77, Control of Pets

b. If an animal bites another animal, the owner(s) will notify the MPs immediately. Both owners will then contact the VTF at the earliest possibility---ideally within twenty-four (24) hours to schedule a bite quarantine examination.

c. If an animal bites or scratches a human, the human will go to the Medical Treatment Facility (MTF), if during business hours, or the local emergency room (ER) if after MTF hours depending on the severity of the injury. If seen at the ER, the person should notify the MTF the next duty day. The MTF will generate a bite-scratch report and notify the VTF of the incident per AR 40-905, paragraph 4-2c(5). The VTF will contact the owner of the animal, if possible, and schedule an appointment for a bite quarantine examination.

d. If, at the bite quarantine examination, it is determined a higher level of quarantine is necessary, the animal will be transported to a local German quarantine facility and will be quarantined at the owner's expense.

e. Where applicable, if the owner fails to report to the VTF, the Unit Commander or First Sergeant will be notified and will direct the owner to report to the VTF with the offending animal.

f. All animal bites will be entered on the daily blotter.

g. Any person or animal bitten by a stray animal should seek medical/veterinary attention immediately. Incidents involving strays will be reported to the MPs who will immediately attempt to locate the stray animal and will coordinate with the Directorate of Public Works (DPW), VTF, and local authorities for capture and quarantine.

9. Control of Pets.

a. Leashes, including retractable leashes, will not be over 16 feet long. Pets will always be kept on a leash when outside the owner's quarters, unless in the fenced yard of the owner's quarters or a designated play area---i.e., a dog park. Any privately owned animal that is allowed to roam without restriction will be treated as a stray animal. Stray animals are defined as an uncontrolled animal that is homeless and ownerless.

b. Unauthorized pet locations. Pets of any kind are not allowed on designated playgrounds or historical monuments. Balconies are unauthorized unless the owner or a responsible custodian is with the animal. Pets must also remain at least 20 meters from schools and bus pick-up/drop-off areas.

c. Owners will pick up pet excrement immediately and dispose of it properly when out with the pet. Owners will ensure excrement does not accumulate in their yards. Pets will not be allowed to relieve themselves inside buildings, on balconies, on playgrounds, or on walkways.

d. At no time will pets be left unattended in government quarters for extended periods of time without coordinating for proper care. Owners are responsible for planning for the care of the pet when gone for an extended period to include TDY, deployment, or leave. If pets are left temporarily unattended in a vehicle, the owner is responsible to ensure there is sufficient fresh air and an acceptable air temperature.

AMIM-WBG-ZA

SUBJECT: USAG Wiesbaden Command Policy Letter #77, Control of Pets

e. The breeding of pets on government property is prohibited. More than one litter per year is considered a commercial enterprise. Offspring kept longer than six (6) months count against the total number of pets authorized above. Construction of kennels is prohibited.

f. Pets will be fed only in the resident's quarters or fenced-in yards and not on landings, balconies, or stairwells. Pets should not be left outdoors at night. Pets will not be locked in a spare room in any house or apartment, storage room, or building common areas. Outdoor housing for pets is prohibited.

g. Electronic shock collars (E-Collars) used to train/discipline or exercise a pet are prohibited.

h. Tail docking and ear cropping of pets for purely cosmetic purposes is prohibited. Declawing is restricted unless extreme circumstances exist, and the procedure is medically warranted. Some breeds of hunting dogs, which meet various requirements, may be allowed to have their tails docked.

10. Abandonment of pets is a violation of this policy. Owners that abandon their pets are responsible for all costs incurred by the government in relation to the transfer, care, custody, and final disposition of the animal. Additionally, those owners may be subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

11. Report improper control of pets to the MPs. Where applicable, copies of formal complaints will be provided to the owner's commanding officer for necessary action.

12. Animal Welfare.

a. Pet owners are responsible for the humane treatment of pets in their care and shall provide adequate shelter, nutrition, medical care, and companionship for their pets. Inhumane or abusive treatment of animals is prohibited.

b. A sanitation inspection (Health and Welfare) will be conducted on any house or apartment alleged to be substandard with cleanliness, odorous, or in which a pet has apparently been abandoned. Entry into the quarters will be in the presence of the sponsor or an adult Family member, unless immediate entry is required.

c. The feeding and/or sheltering of abandoned or stray animals is strictly forbidden. A stray animal is defined as any domestic animal that is not under the control of an owner. Personnel who provide food and/or shelter expose themselves and the community to health and safety risks. Personnel should not approach stray or abandoned animals. Personnel should call the MPs and report any stray or abandoned animals located on the installation.

13. Dead Animals. If a pet passes away in AFH, contact the VTF for disposal options. Depending on the method chosen by the owner, the VTF may charge for disposal of the animal. Burial of the animal on a military installation, to include housing areas, is prohibited. If you find a dead animal, contact DPW for disposal instructions.

AMIM-WBG-ZA

SUBJECT: USAG Wiesbaden Command Policy Letter #77, Control of Pets

14. Keep in mind that German law imposes liability on the animal owner or keeper for damages to public or private property and personal injury caused by the pet, whether the animal is in the owner's possession, lost, or abandoned. Liability insurance for pets may be purchased. If you choose to purchase insurance, it is recommended to have the insurance policy reviewed by the USAG-WI Legal Assistance Office.

15. Proponent. The proponent for this memorandum is the USAG Wiesbaden DPW Housing Division, DSN 548-4402 or CIV 0611-143-548-4402.

DAVID W. MAYFIELD
COL, MI
Commanding