DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC

OCT 29 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING ON OKINAWA

FROM: 18 WG/CC
MCIPAC/CG

SUBJECT: Joint Service Pet Policy for All Military Family Housing (MFH) on Okinawa

Ref: (a) AFI 32-6001_AFGM2
(b) III MEF/MCIPAC 10570.1
(c) KABI 31-101

Encl: (1) Pet Registration Form

1. Purpose: Establish a Joint Service Pet Policy for the ownership and control of domestic pets in all MFH areas on Okinawa. Dogs used to assist handicapped personnel are exempt from this policy.

2. Scope: This policy applies to all MFH areas on Okinawa, to include Kadena Air Base, O'Donnell Gardens, Chibana, Plaza, Sada, Chatan, North Foster Towers, Kishaba Terrace, Camp Lester, Camp Kinser, Camp Courtney, and Camp McTureous.

3. General Policy Information:

a. Two domestic pets, defined as a cat, dog or a combination, are allowed in single dwelling units, duplexes, multiplex units and towers. In tower buildings, cats are allowed on all floors; however, dogs are only allowed on the first, second and third floors.

b. All pet owners, regardless of military or civilian service affiliation, must ensure their dogs and cats are properly registered with the Base Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) within 3 days (72 hours) of arrival or acquisition. All dogs and cats must be micro-chipped. For more information, contact the VTF at 959-1300.

c. All MFH residents will be required to complete the Pet Registration Form prior to assignment to MFH or within 15 days of local purchase, adoption or acquisition of a pet (Encl 1). Documentation of the pet's registration with the VTF must also be provided to the housing office with the completed MFH Pet Registration Form.

d. Except as provided in paragraph 3.e below, farm animals, ferrets, reptiles, rodents, hedgehogs, skunks, rats, raccoons, squirrels, pot bellied pigs, monkeys, arachnids, dangerous/poisonous snakes, other wild or exotic animals are prohibited in MFH.

e. Caged animals, such as hamsters, guinea pigs, rabbits, gerbils, birds, turtles and aquarium fish are allowed in MFH. While there is no limit to the number that are allowed in MFH, ownership should be kept to a minimum to ensure a healthy and clean home environment.

f. In accordance with references (a) and (b) to this memo, certain dog breeds are prohibited in all MFH areas on Okinawa. The following list combines the restricted breeds identified in the Air Force Instruction (Ref a) and the Marine Corps Order (Ref b):

(1) Pit Bull (full or mixed breed), to include American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Bull Terrier or English Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

(2) Rottweiler (full or mixed breed)

(3) Canid-wolf hybrid (full or mixed breed)

(4) Doberman Pincher (full or mixed breed)

(5) Chow (full or mixed breed)

Note: In the absence of formal breed identification, the predominant dog breed on a valid Veterinary Health Certificate or Rabies Certificate will be used.

g. Other breeds/individual dogs that inflict serious injury; cause death; fails a temperament test; demonstrates or known to demonstrate a propensity for dominant or aggressive behavior or exhibit any of the following types of behaviors can be prohibited in or removed from MFH:

(1) Unprovoked barking, growling or snarling when approached by people

(2) Aggressively running or charging fence line when people are present

(3) Biting or scratching people

(4) Getting free from fenced/enclosed area and chasing people

h. Operating a non-profit temporary shelter, adoption service, commercial type kennel, or selling animals in MFH is prohibited. A litter can only remain in MFH for 9 weeks after birth. Supporting local rescue adoption services, such as the Okinawan-American Animal Rescue Society (OAARS), does not constitute a reason to exceed the maximum two-pet rule.

i. Dogs left temporarily outside must be in a fenced/enclosed area. The use of chains or other tethering devices to provide unattended control is prohibited in a non-fenced/enclosed area. When left outside, dogs must have access at all times to adequate food, water, and shelter.

j. Proper arrangements must be made for the care of domestic pets/caged animals when departing the home for more than 12 hours. Domestic pets (dogs/cats) and caged animals are not allowed to be left on any balcony unattended. Pets may never be left outside unattended during Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness (TCCOR) 1, Caution (1C) through TCCOR 1 Recovery (1R). Inhumane treatment of any animal is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

(1) Failure to provide adequate food, water, shelter or veterinary care.

(2) Beating, torturing, or mutilating any animal.

(3) Willfully poisoning, killing, or injuring an animal.

k. Pet sitting is limited to 30 days and only allowed in housing designated for pet owner. For example, pet sitting arrangements cannot result in dogs being kept on the fourth floor or above of tower buildings. The housing office must be notified if pet sitting will exceed the 30-day limitation due to deployment, extended TDYs; or emergency situations. Pet sitting will also not authorize residents to exceed the two pet per household limitation.

l. To avoid potential conflict with other residents and to ensure a safe and healthy environment, domestic pets (dogs or cats) and caged animals are not permitted in housing elevators and should be refrained from congregating in common areas (hallways, multi-purpose rooms, etc) of tower buildings, unless transiting inside or outside. Additionally, pets must remain under strict control of their owners while in exterior common areas such as picnic areas or playgrounds and must be handled in a manner that gives deference to other users without accompanying pets.

m. Under no circumstances should MFH residents feed or house stray animals without complying with this policy's registration/immunization requirements. Stray animals should be reported to the proper authorities as indicated below:

(1)	Kadena Animal Control	634-0203
(2)	Foster Animal Control	645-7441
(3)	Kinser Animal Control	637-3500
(4)	Courtney Animal Control	622-9690/9608

4. Grandfathered Waiver:

a. Each properly registered prohibited dog for which a waiver was granted may remain grandfathered in MFH until the member's tour rotation date, the member departs military family housing, or such time as it has been found to be a dangerous or vicious dog by failing a temperament test, as administered by a Veterinarian or Karing Kennels. Residents granted a grandfather waiver will not be allowed to acquire more of these types of dogs. Grandfathered waivered pets must depart MFH with the member upon tour completion and will not be transferred to another owner who resides in MFH.

5. Pet Control and Ownership: Residents must also comply with the following policy guidance as it relates to the pet control and pet ownership:

a. To maintain a safe and healthy quality of life in military family housing, pet owners must maintain control of their pets at all times. Residents are responsible to ensure pets/animals do not disturb or annoy neighbors by excessive barking, howling or leaving excrement on other lawns.

b. When taken outside, dogs must be on a leash, harness or in a carrier at all times and under the strict control of an individual that possess the physical strength to handle the pet in any situation. Voice commands, for an untethered/unleased pet, are not considered control.

c. Immediately pick up animal waste/excrement from grounds areas and bag prior to putting in trash.

d. Maintain current immunizations on all pets.

6. Pet Violations and Removal:

a. Violation of any provision in this policy, by the sponsor, family member(s), or guest(s) may result in the removal of pet(s)/animals or termination of MFH. Residents will be issued tickets or notices when found to be in violation of this policy. Removal of the pet and/or termination of residency in MFH will be at the discretion of the 18th Wing Commander with input from the Camp Commanders, 18th Civil Engineer Group Commander, 18th Mission Support Group Commander; Base Animal Control, Security Forces, Provost Marshal and/or Veterinary Treatment Facility. Violations of this policy that result in removal from MFH or removal of the pet, will be at the owner's expense and may result in the loss of overseas housing allowance (OHA).

b. Any dog inflicting serious injury; death; creating a nuisance; or serious hazard is subject to seizure and removal from MFH. Coordination will be made with Animal Control, Security Forces and/or the Provost Marshal for the removal of any pet in violation of this policy. A temperament test, administered at the dog owner's expense by a Veterinarian or Karing Kennels, may be required in determining whether a pet should be permanently removed or remain in military family housing.

c. Licensed kennels or adoption facilities operating on Kadena will not adopt out any prohibited pets to residents of MFH.

7. Conclusion: We recognize pets are an important part of family life and our goal is to ensure we integrate the policies of the various Services on Okinawa to provide a safe environment for our MFH residents. This policy gives due consideration to families already in place and those that will arrive in the near term, allowing attrition of prohibited breeds already in place and ensuring personnel already programmed for assignment to Okinawa have a smooth transition. If you have questions or need assistance concerning this policy please contact the Military Family Housing Office at 634-0582.

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