

UNITED STATES ARMY

USAG-J Reg 40-650

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, JAPAN
UNIT 45006
APO AREA PACIFIC 96343-5006

USAG-J Regulation
No. 40-650

29 November 2004

MEDICAL SERVICES
Housing and Control of Pets

Issue of further supplements to this regulation
by subordinate commanders is prohibited.

1. REFERENCES.

a. AR 40-905, Veterinary Health Services, 16 August 1994.

b. USARJ Reg 40-650, Control of Communicable Diseases of Privately Owned Animals, 30 April 2001.

2. EXPLANATION OF TERMS. For the purpose of this directive, the following terms will apply:

a. Privately owned animals. Dogs, cats, ferrets, (in accordance with (IAW) Ref b.) birds, and domestically bred pets of the rodent family such as hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, etc. This term may be expanded to include fish and reptiles provided they are not capable of inflicting serious injuries or designated as dangerous.

b. Registrable animals. Normally, only dogs, cats, and ferrets are registrable. However, other animals may be specified "registrable" by the Installation Commander upon recommendation of the supporting Installation Veterinarian and Provost Marshal.

c. Supporting Installation Veterinarian. The veterinarian at the U.S. Army Veterinary Treatment Facility that supports the installation/housing area concerned.

d. Dangerous Animals. Any animal inherently capable of inflicting major or serious injuries. The Installation Commander, his designated representative, or the supporting Installation Veterinarian may designate an animal as dangerous based upon the actions or proclivities of that animal.

This regulation supersedes 17th ASG Reg 40-650, 18 June 2002

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3. PURPOSE. This regulation provides policy and instructions on the housing and control of registrable pets, registration and deregistration of pets, animal neglect and/or abuse, nuisance animals, and other general policies relating to privately owned animals.

4. GENERAL.

a. It is recognized that many community members desire to have pets. With the privilege of owning a pet; however, comes the responsibility not only to protect and properly care for the pet, but also to preserve and protect the safety and welfare of the community. It is the policy of this command that private property rights are subordinate to public right to be safe and free from nuisances.

b. The provisions of this regulation are directive in nature and U.S. personnel may face disciplinary/administrative actions for violations. Violations may result in the loss of the privilege of living in government housing to include bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQ)/bachelor officer's quarters (BOQ).

c. All sponsors acquiring or importing a registrable pet will read and understand this regulation and other regulations regarding the control of pets.

5. HOUSING AND CONTROL.

a. The number of registrable pets will be limited to a total of two per household in family quarters. Pets are not allowed in the BOQ/BEQ, and high-rises according to USAG-J Policy 39, paragraph 5m. A waiver must be obtained from the Garrison Commander to exceed this number of pets. Those in family quarters with three registered pets before 18 June 2002 will be exempt from this requirement.

b. Nonhuman primates (monkeys, apes, etc.) or any other feral or wild animals will not be kept as pets.

c. Pets are not permitted in transient billets. Personnel arriving or departing who own pets may kennel them in the Camp Zama kennel on a space available basis at their own expense, or utilize off post facilities.

d. Sponsors are responsible for cleaning outside areas used by their pets. Sponsors can be held pecuniarily liable for any damage done to government-owned property by their pets. Owners must clean up waste left by a pet during a walk on a leash. Fecal droppings will be disposed in sealed plastic bags (preferable double bagged), which will be placed in garbage receptacles. Unbagged waste will not be placed in garbage receptacles.

e. Pets will be maintained in a clean environment with nutritious food offered daily. Potable water and clean shelter from the weather e.g., sunlight, rain, snow, and extreme temperatures should be provided at all times. Shipping crates are not an adequate substitute for proper housing.

f. Pets may be tied within the confines of the sponsor's quarters but should not be able to reach sidewalks or play areas. Restraint procedures will not endanger the animal's well-being nor pose a hazard in the quarters proximity.

(1) If kept outside, the pet's area will be policed daily to prevent a buildup of trash and fecal material.

(2) Animals will be moved frequently enough to prevent filthy conditions and/or damaging government property.

(3) All chains, collars, doghouses, and feeding utensils will be kept clean and in good repair.

g. Any continuing spread of severe disease or insect infestation, to include fleas, ticks, lice, etc., will be promptly reported to the Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) or Directorate of Public Works (DPW) as applicable (See USARJ Reg 40-650).

h. Pets are not allowed in swimming pool enclosures, on parade grounds, picnic or playground areas, or in any facility where food is stored, prepared, or served unless the animal is a seeing-eye dog accompanying a blind person.

i. Pets must be leashed or caged when outdoors in dependent housing areas. If the pet is taken outside the sponsor's quarters, it must be accompanied by an individual capable of controlling it under all circumstances. Cats must be controlled in the same manner to ensure it does not bite, scratch, or otherwise injure or damage people or property.

j. Feral and/or stray animals will not be fed by installation residents or employees. Food for pets housed outside quarters should be limited to quantities that will be consumed by the pet at each feeding leaving no residual that will attract feral or stray animals.

k. Maintaining pets for commercial purposes for sale or profit in government quarters is prohibited.

6. REGISTRATION AND DEREGISTRATION.

a. All registrable pets as defined in paragraph 2.b. will be registered with the Installation Veterinarian within five days after arrival/acquisition of the pet on the installation. Animal will be registered at the VTF, building 1042, during regular duty hours. Registration consists of initiating a medical record, ensuring vaccinations are current, and implanting a microchip for permanent identification. If the immunization status of the animal does not meet installation requirements, arrangements must be made to properly immunize the animal. Animals microchipped at previous installation or by civilian veterinarians will not need to be remicrochipped if the chip is readable by the VTF's scanner. The cost of the immunizations and microchip will be at the owner's expense. Registration must be renewed annually and takes place at the time of the annual rabies vaccination.

b. Deregistration will be accomplished in the event an animal registered at the VTF is sold or given away, and as part of the normal clearing procedures. The original owner is legally and financially responsible for all costs associated with final disposition of any unclaimed or abandoned pet. Ownership and legal responsibility will only be transferred when the animal is officially re-registered in another person's name at the VTF. Both the old and new owner must do this in person.

c. Requests for exception from microchipping will be routed through the Installation Veterinarian to the Garrison Commander for approval/disapproval.

(1) The Installation Veterinarian is the approval authority for waivers.

(2) The Garrison Commander is the appeal authority for waivers.

d. Individuals not residing on a US Army Garrison, Japan (USAG-J) Installation will be required to comply with the same registration requirements as listed in paragraph 6.a. in order to receive veterinary care and services from the Camp Zama VTF. Pets not properly registered, residing both off and on the installation, will not be authorized veterinary services.

e. Pets not properly registered, restrained, or vaccinated against rabies as required by appropriate directives, and all stray animals on USAG-J installations, will be captured by Installation Military Police personnel and impounded at either the VTF or Boarding Facility. Pet owners will be responsible for all costs associated with impoundment of their animal(s). Stray or abandoned animals and animals without identifiable ownership will be confined for a minimum of three working days to allow owners sufficient time to reclaim their animals. After three working days, the animal may be either adopted or euthanized at the discretion of the veterinarian.

7. ANIMAL NEGLECT AND/OR ABUSE.

a. Animal neglect and abuse is strictly prohibited. Care of animals which does not meet a reasonable humane standard as determined by the supporting Installation Veterinarian will be considered animal neglect or abuse. Any cruel or unnecessarily harsh treatment will be considered abuse.

b. Suspected Incidents:

(1) All personnel are encouraged to report to the supporting Installation Veterinarian or to Military Police personnel any instance where animal neglect and/or abuse is suspected.

(2) Upon receipt of a report, a team consisting of a Veterinary Corps officer and Military Police personnel will investigate.

(3) If, in the opinion of the veterinarian, the animal(s) is/are neglected or abused, the animal(s) may be impounded and the sponsor instructed by the veterinarian on proper animal care, with the sponsor's future right to keep a pet subject to reinspection by the team. These actions will be in addition to routine Military Police actions concerning violations of USAG-J directives.

(4) While under a neglect/abuse investigation, no new animals will be added to the household.

(5) Personnel determined by the Garrison Commander to be guilty of animal neglect or abuse may be permanently or temporarily denied the privilege of keeping a pet on the installation. Any sponsor determined to have owned a dangerous or nuisance animal that has been barred from the installation or euthanized by order of the Garrison Commander, may be denied the privilege of keeping any pets. The circumstances of the complaints will be used to determine the recommendation of the Veterinarian, Provost Marshal, and the Garrison Commander.

8. DANGEROUS ANIMALS. The Provost Marshal's Office, USAG-J, will maintain records of complaints made against pets. A pet involved in three bite/scratch incidents, regardless of the degree of seriousness, may be declared dangerous or a nuisance. However, a pet involved in any bite or scratch that breaks the skin or an attack that indicates a particularly aggressive nature may be declared dangerous after reviewing the circumstances. Where no other measures will satisfactorily protect the community, the Garrison Commander may order a dangerous animal euthanized after giving notice to the sponsor. A hearing is held no earlier than three days after the notification. The owner will be given the option to ship the animal off the installation instead of euthanizing, if proof of arrangements to ship the animal out of Japan to an area where

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adequate care and control are available. This must be accomplished within one week of notice of pending euthanasia actions. A waiver may be requested in writing to the Camp Zama Veterinary Services if this time requirement cannot be met. In any bite/scratch incident, the USA Veterinary Services or US Army Medical Department Activity, Japan (USAMEDDAC-J) personnel who first become aware of the incident will immediately report the incident to the Military Police. In all cases in which a pet is ordered destroyed, the sponsor will immediately remove the pet from the facility or installation. Sponsors may transfer the pet to the USA Veterinary Impoundment Facility where it will be euthanized. Pets may be given to Japanese persons but only after warning of the pet's prior involvement in bite/scratch incidents. Under no circumstances will any pet be abandoned either on or off military installations.

9. NUISANCE ANIMALS. Any animal allowed to roam free, defecate in neighbors yards, continuously bark at all hours of the day or night, or be allowed to get into trash containers will be considered a nuisance animal. The Garrison Commander may declare a pet a nuisance at his discretion. When a pet is declared a nuisance, the owner will be required to take immediate action to remove the pet from the facility or installation. Pets may be given to Japanese families but will not be abandoned on military facilities or installation.

10. OFF POST PETS. The housing of pets in off-post private rentals will be at the discretion of the occupant and the owner of the property. Military personnel residing off-post with pets must comply with all local and national Japanese requirements.

11. The proponent for this regulation is USAMEDDAC-J, DSN: 263-3537 and HQ, Japan District Veterinary Command, DSN: 263-7901.

(MCJA/MCVS-PAJ)

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