DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, DC

MAY 11 2012

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) MCBJO 10570.1
(c) KABI 31-101

Encl: (1) Pet Registration Form
(2) Grandfathered Pet Waiver Form

1. Purpose. Establish a Joint Service Pet Policy for the ownership and control of pets in all MFH areas on Okinawa. A grandfathered provision will remain in effect for 60 days after the date of this memorandum for personnel already assigned to MFH on Okinawa. Dogs used to assist handicapped individuals 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 and second 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 three days (72 hours) after 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 after 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 may be used to establish a presumption of a dog's breed.

g. Other breeds/individual dogs that inflict serious injury; cause death; fail a temperament test; demonstrate or are 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 are prohibited. A litter can only remain in MFH for nine 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 two domestic pet limit in MFH.

i. Dogs left temporarily outside must be in a fenced/enclosed area when in areas accessible to the general public, to include side streets near quarters. The use of chains or other tethering devices to provide unattended control is prohibited in a non-fenced/enclosed area accessible to the general public. 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 owners. For example, pet sitting arrangements cannot result in dogs being kept on the third 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. Non-temporary 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. <u>Grandfathered Pet Waiver Process</u>

a. Within 60 calendar days after the effective date of this policy, all current MFH residents with domestic pets must complete the Pet Registration Form (Encl 1). Regardless of any previous "Grandfathered" waiver pursuant to Ref (b), those residents with any of the restricted dog breeds must also complete the Grandfathered Pet Waiver Form during this 60-day timeframe

(Encl 2). All completed waiver forms must be taken to the VTF for validation and returned to the housing office.

b. All projected new arrivals to Okinawa must indicate pet ownership on their housing application. To give due consideration to families who are inbound to Okinawa, effective 1 Oct 12, there will be no further waiver opportunity for restricted dog breeds. Families arriving on Okinawa before this date will need to follow registration and waiver policies as described above. As a reminder, housing assignments are made in accordance the July 2009 Mandatory On Base Housing Policy, the approved Live Where You Work matrix, and current on base availability in the military member's grade and bedroom entitlement category are the primary considerations when making housing assignments. Personnel arriving on Okinawa after 1 Oct 12, with a restricted dog breed, will be placed in MFH, if available, and must make alternate arrangements for their domestic pet as it will not be permitted to reside in MFH with them. The presence of a restricted dog breed will not, even if permitted at a previous assignment, be a basis for approval to reside off base, if MFH is available in the member's grade and bedroom entitlement category. Newly arriving families need be mindful of this policy and plan accordingly.

c. Each properly registered restricted dog breed for which a waiver was granted may remain grandfathered in MFH until the member's tour rotation date, the member departs MFH, or such time as the restricted dog 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 grandfathered pet waiver will not be allowed to acquire more of these types of dogs. Breeding domestic pets is also prohibited. Grandfathered waivered domestic pets must depart MFH with the member upon tour completion and will not be transferred to another owner who resides in MFH.

d. Pets in previously designated pet friendly towers (Building 4513, Camp Courtney and Building 868, Camp Kinser) will be grandfathered until their tour rotation date. Residents with dogs above the second floor must submit a Grandfathered Pet Waiver Form (Encl 2) and all other residents must submit the Pet Registration Form (Encl 1). Residents on the third floor or above of these buildings will not be allowed to acquire additional dogs in MFH after the effective date of this policy.

5. Pet Control and Ownership

a. To maintain a safe and healthy quality of life in MFH, 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 and not within a fenced/enclosed area, dogs must be on a leash, harness, or in a carrier at all times and under the control of individuals possessing the physical strength to handle them in any situation. Voice commands for untethered/unleased pets 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. While residents may be issued tickets for minor violations of provisions in this policy, by the sponsor, family member(s), or guest(s), significant violations which endanger the safety or welfare of personnel or property, may result in the removal of pet(s)/animals or termination of MFH. Removal of any pet and/or termination of residency for any violation of this policy in MFH off Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, facilities and areas will be at the discretion of the 18th Wing Commander with input from the 18th Civil Engineer Group Commander, the 18th Mission Support Group Commander; Base Animal Control, Security Forces, the Provost Marshal and/or the Veterinary Treatment Facility staff. Removal of any pet in MFH and/or termination of residency for any violation of this policy in MFH on Marine Corps Base, Camp Smedley D. Butler, facilities and areas will be in accordance with Ref (b), as applicable, and the Installation Commander with input from the 18th Wing Commander, the 18th Civil Engineer Group Commander, the 18th Mission Support Group Commander; Base Animal Control, Security Forces, the Provost Marshal and/or the Veterinary Treatment Facility staff. 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 domestic 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 and restricted dogs 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 restricted dog 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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