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PET CONTROL



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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive 48-1, Aerospace Medical Program. It establishes procedures and requirements to control pets on Hickam AFB. This instruction applies to all units assigned, attached, or associate to the 15 AW, including US Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard Units and their personnel.

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

This instruction replaces 15 ABWI 48-104, Pet Control, 19 June 1997. This revision defines the base policy on stray or abandoned animals and on dangerous animals. Other changes to text are made for clarification of the meaning of this regulation.

1. References.

- AFJI 48-131, *Veterinary Health Services*
- AFI 31-201, *Security Police Standards and Procedures*
- AFI 31-202, *The Air Force Military Working Dog Program*
- AFI 34-248, *Child Development Centers*
- AFI 34-276, *Family Childcare Programs*
- 15AWI 36-6002 *Unaccompanied Housing Management*

2. Terms.

- 2.1. Pet. Any animal being housed, cared for, or kept as part of a household.

- 2.2. Registerable Age. Any animal above the age of 8 weeks.
- 2.3. Stray. Any animal that is loose on base with or without identification and current rabies tag.
- 2.4. Unusual Pet. Any animal not commonly kept as a pet such as wildlife, fowl, swine, subhuman primates, etc. The Base Veterinarian will create a list of common pets and he/she may ultimately determine whether or not a particular animal shall be considered an unusual pet.
- 2.5. Abandonment. The act of allowing, leaving or placing a pet outside a household in an unauthorized manner, either deliberately, negligently, or through failure to notify the veterinary clinic of a transfer of ownership.
- 2.6. Acronyms. For the purpose of this instruction, VTF means Veterinary Treatment Facility, HHS means Hawaiian Humane Society, 15 CES means 15th Civil Engineering Squadron, and 15 SFS means 15th Security Forces Squadron.

3. Control of Pets.

- 3.1. It is prohibited to own or keep unusual pets (without authorization) or more than two pets of registerable age. Exceptions to this policy include puppies and kittens under 8 weeks of age and pets that are confined to a cage or aquarium (such as birds, rabbits, mice, rats, guinea pigs, turtles, frogs, lizards or aquarium fish). Unusual pets are not permitted on base without the Wing Commander's written permission. Any breeding of animals (intentional or unintentional) is prohibited. Raising of animals for food or sale is prohibited.
- 3.2. Pet owners must maintain their pets in a responsible manner including, but not limited to, providing adequate shelter, shade, food and fresh water, clearing feces from yards, preventing damage or destruction of government property, and controlling the amount of noise made to avoid disturbing other base residents. Pets are not allowed to roam freely outside the residence under any circumstances.
- 3.3. Animal abuse and neglect is not permitted. Animal abuse and neglect includes, but is not limited to, failure to provide adequate shelter, shade, food and fresh water, failure to provide a healthy and wholesome living environment, failure to provide adequate grooming or bathing, failure to provide veterinary medical care when ill or injured, failure to keep indoors, and the use of excessive physical force. Incidents of animal abuse or neglect should be reported to 15 SFS. If animal abuse or neglect is confirmed after investigation, the pet may be forfeited to the HHS. The HHS, in coordination with the 15 SFS, may be allowed on base to investigate cases of abuse and neglect for potential prosecution in accordance with Hawaii state law.
- 3.4. Owners will keep their pets indoors at their residence or exercise them on a leash. Dogs may be allowed outdoors confined to a secure fenced yard without a leash. Dogs may be left tethered outdoors in an unfenced yard for up to 1 hour as long as fresh water and shade are accessible and the tether is not more than 8 feet in length. Dogs or cats may not enter sports playing fields, picnic areas, beach areas, or other recreational areas. Owners will immediately remove and properly dispose of their pet's feces from any site on base.
- 3.5. Seeing eye dogs, service dogs, and military working dogs are the only dogs that may enter public buildings or food facilities where food is sold, processed, served, or stored.

3.6. Unit commanders have the authority to allow dormitory residents to keep pets in their rooms. This allowance is limited to aquarium fish and up to two small caged birds. Dogs, cats, other small animals, and unusual pets are not permitted in dormitories under any circumstances.

3.7. The feeding or caretaking of stray or feral cats or dogs is not allowed.

3.8. Horses are not allowed to reside on Hickam Air Force Base.

4. Control of Zoonotic Disease.

4.1. Immunization for rabies is mandatory for dogs and cats and other pets as determined by the Base Veterinarian. Rabies vaccinations are valid for one or three years, depending on previous vaccination history of the pet.

4.2. All dogs are required to be vaccinated for leptospirosis on an annual basis. The only exception to this policy is in the case of a dog that is known to have had a prior severe allergic reaction to the vaccination. Exceptions will be allowed only when approved by the Base Veterinarian.

4.3. All dogs and cats will be tested for intestinal parasites once annually by means of fecal examination performed by a licensed veterinarian. If a pet is found to be positive for intestinal parasites, treatment is mandatory. It is the owner's responsibility to provide a fecal sample for testing once annually to the veterinarian of their choice. The results shall be provided to the VTF and the VTF shall maintain a record for as long as that pet is kept on base.

4.4. All immunizations, laboratory tests, medications, and supplies are at the expense of the pet owner.

4.5. Any Child Development Center (CDC) or military service member applying for family day care must obtain a health certificate from the Base Veterinarian for all pets maintained in the CDC or household, respectively. Aquarium fish are exempt from this requirement. Pets must be found to be free from contagious, infectious, or zoonotic disease prior to issuance of a health certificate.

5. Microchipping.

5.1. All dogs, cats, and rabbits that reside on Hickam AFB are required to have a universally readable microchip implanted under their skin for identification purposes. AVID or HomeAgain microchips comply with this requirement.

5.2. The VTF will verify implantation and annotate the microchip identification number in the pet's record prior to rendering any services. The VTF will provide microchipping services at a reasonable cost to the pet owner. The VTF will provide scanning of previously implanted microchips at no charge.

6. Registration.

6.1. All dogs and cats living on base must be registered within 10 working days of arrival on base. Registration of puppies and kittens under the age of 8 weeks may be postponed until they reach registerable age.

6.2. How to Register a Pet.

6.2.1. A pet is considered registered when the owner provides a current name, address, telephone number, name of pet, proof of rabies vaccination, and proof of microchip implantation to the VTF. In turn, the VTF will provide a numbered rabies tag to the pet owner at no charge.

6.2.2. If a pet has not been vaccinated before, the VTF will provide a rabies vaccination at a reasonable cost to the pet owner. When a pet is vaccinated against rabies for the first time, the VTF will complete a rabies vaccination certificate and provide a numbered rabies tag to the pet owner. The VTF will provide a copy of the rabies certificate to the owner for their records and keep a computerized record of the rabies vaccination and rabies tag number on file at the VTF. The owner is required to keep the rabies tag on the pet at all times.

7. Nuisance.

7.1. Pets that bite, scratch, attack people or other pets, create disturbances by excessive barking, or behave in such a way as to disturb the peace are considered a nuisance. Nuisance animals may be reported to 15 SFS. See Section 11, Violations, for Reporting Procedure for 15 SFS in Response to Nuisance Barking.

7.2. Reporting of Animal Bites (Animal Bites to Humans). The State of Hawaii and the U.S. Military do not require animal bite reporting for bites occurring in Hawaii. Animal bite exposures that occur outside the State of Hawaii or at the Animal Quarantine Station will be reported by the VTF.

7.3. Handling of Stray and Feral Animals.

7.3.1. The 15 SFS will advise base residents that captured stray animals should be surrendered directly to the HHS. If the animal cannot be captured, the 15 SFS retains sole authority to allow the HHS entry to the base for capture of stray animals.

7.3.2. The VTF will advise base residents that captured stray animals should be surrendered directly to the HHS. The VTF will cooperate fully with the HHS to identify animals and facilitate the return of pets to their owners by searching the VTF computer database for a numeric match to the animal's rabies tag number or implanted microchip number.

7.3.3. No organization within the 15AW will authorize, fund or carry out activities that are likely to cause the introduction or spread of feral non-native domesticated species.

7.3.4. 15 CES will monitor and maintain a program for the control or eradication of feral non-native domesticated species with the involvement of professionally trained animal control organizations such as the HHS, USDA, or other agency as determined by 15 CES. 15 CES will provide a quarterly update on the status of feral animal population control to the Wing Commander with a copy to the Base Veterinarian.

7.4. The Wing Commander may order the removal of any animal from the base.

8. Abandonment. Any service member who commits an act of abandonment is subject to punitive action as described in Section 11, Violations. A service member may be held responsible for the actions of his or her dependents. If a pet is no longer wanted for any reason, it is suggested that the owner surrender the animal directly to the HHS, a pet adoption agency, or transfer the pet to a new owner. If the new pet owner is a resident of Hickam AFB, the animal must be re-registered at the veterinary clinic, under the new owner's name, within 10 days of transfer of ownership.

9. Injured, Ill, or Dead Pets. Owners of injured, ill, or dead pets are responsible for their care or disposal. The VTF will not routinely provide emergency care or hospitalization for pets. The VTF will not routinely euthanize pets, stray animals, or dispose of dead animals. Owners of an animal that has died should contact a civilian veterinarian or the HHS for disposal of their pet's remains.

10. Injured, Ill or Dead Stray Animals. The 15 SFS may allow the HHS to enter the base to capture or pick up injured or ill stray animals. The VTF will provide humane euthanasia for severely injured or ill stray animals in which there is no hope for recovery and the relief of animal suffering is indicated. The 15 CES will be responsible for disposal of dead stray animals found on base.

11. Violations.

11.1. If a pet owner is found in violation of this instruction, the individual will be notified by either the 15 SFS or Base Housing of the violation. If the individual fails to comply with this instruction, the Wing Commander has the option to remove the individual from base housing. The Wing Commander retains the authority to order the removal of the individual or their pet from the installation at all times. Because a pet is considered personal property of the owner, any confiscation of said property must be conducted under the authority of the 15 SFS. However, the 15 SFS may enlist the assistance of a professional civilian animal control agency such as the HHS to assist in capture and disposition of the animal when needed.

11.2. Any service member or their dependents who are in violation of this instruction may be subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and/or may be fined for violation of the following:

11.2.1. Endangered Species Act of 1973 - \$50,000 fine and one year imprisonment,

11.2.2. Lacey Act of 1900 - \$20,000 fine and one year imprisonment,

11.2.3. Executive Order 13186 of January 10, 2001, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds,

11.2.4. Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999, Invasive Species,

11.2.5. Hawaii State Law - \$2,000 fine and up to one year imprisonment, and

11.2.6. Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice – Failure to obey order or regulation.

11.3. Procedure for 15 SFS in Response to Nuisance Barking.

11.3.1. If the Security Forces are contacted for nuisance barking, the SFS will instruct the complainant to make contact with the owner of the pet and resolve the problem at the lowest level of intervention. Should this not resolve the problem, and the complainant has made the effort to contact the owner of the pet, the SFS will complete the following actions:

11.3.1.1. On the first call-out the SFS will listen to the general area where the complaint was made for the barking dog. If they hear nothing, they will make contact with the complainant and the owner of the canine (if possible) and advise them of their findings. SF will also check the Field Interview Card database to verify whether or not SF has previously responded to the owner's residence about an animal nuisance call.

11.3.1.2. On the second call-out within a 24-hour period, the SFS will again listen to the general area where the complaint was made for the barking dog. If they hear nothing, they will

make contact with the complainant and owner (if possible) and fill out a 15 AW Form 0-99, Field Interview Card. If the SFS determines the canine is a nuisance they will contact the owner, request they quiet their canine, fill out the Field Interview Card and notify the pet owner's First Sergeant or Unit Commander.

11.3.1.3. Should the SFS be called out a third time in a 24-hour period for the same canine and it is determined the canine is a nuisance, the SFS will complete an AF Form 3545, for failure to control pet. The report will be forwarded to the pet owner's unit commander and the 15th Mission Support Group Commander for eviction consideration.

11.3.1.4. On the second or subsequent incident of failure to control a pet, the 15 SFS Reports and Analysis Section will forward the reports to the Mission Support Group Commander for either removal of the pet or resident from the installation.

12. Dangerous Animals.

12.1. If an animal bites, scratches, or attacks another person or pet, this incident may be reported to the 15 SFS for further investigation. If the pet is determined to pose a threat to the safety of base residents, the 15 SFS may make a recommendation to the Wing Commander that the animal be removed from the base. The 15 SFS, the Base Veterinarian and the Wing Commander, with the Wing Commander retaining the ultimate authority on the disposition of the case, will jointly evaluate each case. The outcome will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

12.2. If the 15 SFS determines that the animal involved in the incident was provoked, the 15 SFS may charge the individual involved for inciting the aggressive behavior. For the purpose of this instruction, the word provoked is defined as causing an animal to respond in an aggressive or undesirable manner through direct or indirect stimulation.

13. Designation of Responsibility and Authority. The following paragraphs assign areas of responsibility and authority for pet control issues on Hickam AFB.

13.1. The VTF will retain responsibility and authority over pet control as it pertains to routine veterinary care and services, the prevention of zoonotic disease, reporting of animal bites, control of pets in public areas, pet microchipping, pet registration, pet abandonment, and general oversight of any base policy regarding pets.

13.2. The 15 SFS will retain responsibility and authority over pet control as it pertains to investigations of animal cruelty or abuse, nuisance calls, or any other issue that can only be resolved through the intervention of the 15 SFS.

13.3. Base Housing will retain responsibility and authority over pet control as it pertains to the safe-keeping and administration of the residential properties on Hickam AFB (family housing and dormitories).

13.4. 15 ADS Public Health will retain responsibility and authority over pet control as it pertains to the protection of the public health on Hickam AFB and the military community it serves.

13.5. Any pet control issues not specifically addressed in the above paragraphs will be resolved through the cooperative efforts of the above organizations or other organizations as designated by the Wing Commander.

RAYMOND G. TORRES, Colonel, USAF
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