



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
PACIFIC AIR FORCES

13 January 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING ON OKINAWA

FROM: 718 CES/CC

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

Ref: (a) AFI 32-6000 2.21

(b) Military Family Housing Assignment Policy for Okinawa

Encl: (1.) Pet Registration/Acknowledgement Form

1. Purpose: Establish a Joint Service Pet Policy for the ownership and control of domestic pets in all MFH areas on Okinawa.

2. Scope: This policy applies to all MFH areas on Okinawa, to include off-base housing and on-base housing (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. Three (3) 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. Pets are not allowed in the elevators.

(1) Accommodations will be made for eligible service members, civilian personnel, and dependents, including Recovering Service Members, who become residents of government-controlled housing and have a requirement for a service dog. Service dogs with appropriate certifications from an accredited organization will not be counted against the three (3) pet limit.

(a) An accredited service dog organization is a non-governmental organization that raises, trains, certifies, and provides service dogs to qualified service members, and that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International, the International Guide Dog Federation, or any other service dog accrediting organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) Accredited service animals may ride in the elevators at the towers.

- (c) Service members must register their service dogs with their installations and ensure that proper service dog identification is clearly displayed.
- (d) Residents with service animals are required to adhere to all installation policies regarding the care and control of their pets. Residents will be responsible for any damages and injuries a service dog may cause.
- (e) Animals that are not certified service dogs or military working dogs are considered to be pets, to include emotional support animals or therapy animals. Emotional support and therapy animals are treated differently under the law than service dogs.
- 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 DSN 966-7593.
- c. All MFH residents will be required to complete the Pet Registration/Acknowledgment 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, potbellied pigs, monkeys, arachnids, dangerous/poisonous snakes, and 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 is allowed in MFH, ownership should be kept to a minimum to ensure a healthy and clean home environment.
- f. Service members will be placed into MFH in accordance with the MFH Assignment Policy for Okinawa (Ref b) regardless of pet breeds.
- g. Pets that inflict serious injury to people or other pets; 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 and/or removed from MFH:
 - (1) Unprovoked barking, growling, or snarling when approached by people
 - (2) Aggressively running or charging a fence line when people are present
 - (3) Biting or scratching people, or attacking other pets
 - (4) Getting free from a house, fenced/enclosed area, or leash
- 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 three-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 the pet owner. For example, pet sitting arrangements cannot result in dogs being kept on the fourth floor or above of tower buildings. Pet sitting will also not authorize residents to exceed the three pets 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 tower elevators and should not congregate 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 | 634-2475 |
| (2) Foster Animal Control | 645-7442 |
| (3) Kinser Animal Control | 637-3500 |
| (4) Courtney Animal Control | 622-9608/9609 |

n. All personnel living off-base must comply with the policy as well as Japanese laws. All dogs must be registered to the municipality in which its residing in and obtain a rabies vaccination tag. Dogs must wear the registration and vaccination tags at all times. More information regarding dogs residing off-base can be found at each municipality office. Failure to comply with local regulations may result in penalties under Japanese law.

4. Pet Control and Ownership: Residents must also comply with the following policy guidance as it relates to 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 possesses the physical strength to handle the pet in any situation. Voice commands for an untethered/unleased pet are not considered control.

c. Pet owners must immediately pick up animal waste/excrement from grounds areas and bag prior to putting in trash.

d. Pet owners must maintain current immunizations on all pets.

e. Any damages caused by pets in MFH will be at the expense of the service member. Damages will be identified during the prefinal and final inspections prior to moving out.

f. When maintenance is being requested, all pets must be secured/under control for the entire duration when maintenance personnel are working on the property. This includes, but is not limited to: putting pets in a secure room that will not be opened, placing the pets outside within a fenced in area, or having the pet leashed while maintenance personnel are working.

5. Pet Violations and Removal: 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 Civil Engineer Group Commander with input from the Camp Commanders, 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). 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.

6. Conclusion: We recognize pets are an important part of family life and our goal is to ensure a safe environment for our MFH residents. If you have questions or need assistance concerning this policy, please contact the Military Family Housing Office at 634-0582.



AKIRA B. NERVIK, Lt Col, USAF
Commander, 718th Civil Engineer Squadron