



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON GRAFENWOEHR  
UNIT 28130  
APO AE 09114-8130

27 FEB 2012

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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISRIBUTION

SUBJECT: USAG Grafenwoehr Policy Letter #28; Pet Ownership Responsibilities

1. **Effective Date.** This policy remains in effect until superseded or rescinded.
2. **Scope.** This policy letter is applicable to all military units, commanders, and tenant organizations serviced by the USAG Grafenwoehr. USAG Hohenfels and USAG Garmisch will develop their own Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Pet Policies.
3. **References.**
  - a. Army Regulation 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 12 February 2008.
  - b. AE Supplement 1 to AR 420-1, Army Facilities Management, 20 November 2008.
  - c. Dangerous Dogs in Bavaria, JMTC Command Policy Letter 14.
  - d. Bayerische Verordnung ueber Hunde mit gesteigerter Aggressivitaet und Gefaehrlichkeit. (Translation: Bavarian State Law on Dogs with Increased Aggressiveness and Dangerousness)
  - e. VETCOM Command Policy No. C-04 – Dangerous Dogs and Animal Bite Prevention, 30 March 2010.
  - f. Army Regulation 40-905/SECNAVINST 640 1.1B/AFI 48-131, Veterinary Health Services.
  - g. Title 40, Sec 291 US Code (Admission of Guide Dogs Accompanied by Blind Masters).
  - h. Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (Animal and Animal Products).
  - i. AE Regulation 27-9 Misconduct by Civilians.
4. **Pet Authorizations.**
  - a. Each Family in Government controlled housing is authorized to keep two pets, such as dogs and cats, and a reasonable number of other small contained pets to include fish, hamsters and birds. Permission to house more than two (2) pets or pets other than those specified, will be requested in writing through the housing office as an exception to policy (ETP) for approval by the Garrison Commander.

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b. Prohibited Pets:

- (1) Barnyard animals such as cows, chickens, goats, pigs.
- (2) Exotic animals.
- (3) All poisonous animals, tarantulas, scorpions, rattle snakes, certain frogs.
- (4) Dangerous dogs, Class I - In accordance with host nation laws, the following class I

canines are prohibited from entering Germany and from residing in Government controlled quarters. Any mix breeds containing bloodlines of class I canines are also classified as class I canines. Any Soldier or DoD civilian who owns a Class I dog will remove it from Germany immediately. No exceptions will be granted. The removal will be at the owner's personal expense. Class I dogs include the following breeds:

- Pit Bull Terrier\*
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Tosa Inu
- Bandog
- Any dog mixed with any Class I dog

\*Bullterriers may not be imported into Germany from the United States or any other country. All Soldiers or DoD civilians who acquire a Bullterrier locally from a seller in Germany must fulfill the Class II dog requirements.

c. Class II dangerous dogs may be owned and brought into Germany, provided the dogs pass a temperament test at the owner's personal expense, and are certified as peaceful by an authorized German veterinarian. Any Class II dog that fails the temperament test will be considered a Class I dog and must be removed immediately. Class II dog owners must register their pets at the Public Safety and Order Office (Ordnungsamt) of their local community and with the post veterinary clinic. However, the temperament test must be completed prior to registration. Failure to register a Class II dog may result in a large fine and other sanctions (removal). Class II dogs include the following breeds:

- Alano
- American Bulldog
- Bullterrier
- Bullmastiff
- Cane Corso
- Dog Argentino
- Dogue de Bordeaux
- Fila Brasileiro
- Mastiff

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- Mastino Espanol
- Perro de Presa Canario (Dogo Canario)
- Perro de Presa Mallorquin
- Rottweiler
- Any dog mixed with any Class II dog

d. Neither appearance nor DNA testing is an accurate method to determine a dog's breed. VETCOM personnel will not determine an animal's breed for any contentious or legal purposes nor perform temperament testing for the purpose of determining the suitability or non-suitability of animals within base housing.

#### 5. **Pet Registration.**

a. All dogs and cats must be registered with the post veterinary clinic within two weeks after arrival at the sponsor's duty station. The owner must present evidence of the pet's current vaccinations at the time of registration, maintain a record and update required vaccinations as necessary. Pet owners must ensure that their dog's rabies tags are worn at all times. A copy of the registration for dogs will be provided to the housing office.

b. Owners will notify the Veterinary Treatment Facility when their pet has been removed from the installation (either through change of ownership, death or PCS).

c. Registration of a pet will expire when one or more of the required vaccinations expire, and will not be renewed until all required vaccinations are current.

d. If owners fail to register pets or maintain registration pet privileges will be terminated.

#### 6. **Pet Ownership Responsibilities.**

a. Pets will always be on a leash when outside of Government quarters. Pets in a fenced-in yard belonging to the quarters must not be left unattended; owner must be in the immediate vicinity. All pets, when outside of quarters, will be accompanied by the owner or a responsible person who is physically capable of controlling the pet. Young children under the age of twelve without adult supervision could be considered incapable of controlling the pet. Voice control measures are not acceptable.

b. Pets will be exercised (walked or run on a leash) outside of the immediate vicinity of the housing area, and a minimum of fifty feet away from residential buildings and designated playgrounds. Dogs and cats are not allowed on any community playgrounds. In case an animal is involved in an unprovoked attack or shows vicious behavior, the owner will be required to permanently remove the animal from the installation or the leased housing area. Any dog that has the tendency to attack people or other animals will be muzzled and kept on a short leash

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when outside of the quarters. Owners and victims of pets involved in biting incidents must report them to the military police. Dogs or cats observed running loose in and around housing areas must be reported to the Directorate, Emergency Services. These pets will be taken to the local German animal shelter. Unspayed female animals will be kept in isolation while in heat.

c. Pets must be controlled in such a manner so they do not become public nuisances. Excessive barking, defecating and urinating by dogs and cats on balconies, playgrounds and lawns within the immediate vicinity of Family quarters is considered to be a nuisance. Animal feces will be “scooped up” by the attending person and discarded in appropriate receptacles. Pet owners are responsible for carrying the means and supplies needed for immediate pet toileting clean up and disposal.

d. Pets will not be locked out on balconies or housed in basements, attics, storage rooms, common areas or building playrooms. Pets will not be tied to stair railings, pipes, shrubbery or trees in or around Family quarters. Pets will not be tied to any outside structures (permanent or otherwise) while unattended. At no time will pets be left unattended in government quarters for periods of time not to exceed six (6) hours with proper food and water, where they are capable of causing damage to property or injury to persons.

e. Pets will be fed only in the Soldier’s quarters or fenced-in yards and not on landings, balconies or stairwells.

f. Pets must be kept indoors at night. Construction and maintenance of kennels or other outdoor housing for pets is prohibited.

g. The breeding and raising of pets on Government property for the express purpose of profit is prohibited. More than one litter per year is considered a commercial enterprise. Offspring kept longer than six months count against the two domestic pets limit.

h. Occupants owning or keeping animals are responsible for all damages to Government or private property caused by their pets. German law imposes absolute liability on the animal's owner, which includes damage to property or injury to persons caused by a pet, whether the animal is in the owner's possession, lost or abandoned. Liability insurance is recommended for all pets.

i. Pets in the work place, P.X, Commissary, DFAC, Schools, and any other garrison facilities are prohibited to include bringing pets to sporting events or special events. This policy excludes the Veterinary Treatment Facility, and does not pertain to Military Working Dogs, other Government service animals, or guide dogs for the blind and deaf. Exemptions can be obtained for Mascots, with orders, from the Garrison Commander.

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j. Neglect and abusive treatment of animals is prohibited. Neglect and abusive treatment is defined as any act or omission whereby an animal's physical or psychological well-being is compromised. Animal maltreatment may result in disciplinary action. In cases where owners of pets are negligent in the care or supervision of their pets, immediate action will be taken to determine if it is necessary to have the Soldier and/or pet removed from Government housing.

k. Electronic shock collars used to train or exercise a pet are prohibited. E-Collars cause considerable pain, suffering or injury to the animal and falls under German animal protection laws.

l. Abandonment of domesticated pets is a violation of USAREUR Supplement to AR 40-905. Owners that abandon their pets are subject to action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and are responsible for all costs incurred by the Government for the transfer, care, custody, and disposition of the animal.

m. Pet owners must abide by the quarantine procedures required by AR 40-905/SECNAVINST 640 1.1B/AFI 48-131 and directives by Veterinary Services and Military Preventive Medicine in the event of animal bite incidents and/or disease outbreak on this garrison. Rabies is a fatal transmissible disease that can be passed to people through the bite of an infected animal. Any dog, cat or ferret that bites a person must be quarantined and observed daily for 10 days.

n. Pet owners are responsible for disposal of deceased pets. Disposal of deceased animals must be coordinated with the veterinarian facilities for the community to facilitate compliance with German laws.

**7. Pet Policy Violations/Penalties.** All community members are encouraged to help keep their buildings, sidewalks, yards and playgrounds clean of pet excrements that can create various hazards. Any individual who witnesses a violation of this pet policy should attempt to correct the violator if possible, and report any person who fails to comply with this policy to the area, building or stairwell coordinator. Military and civilians as well as Family members who fail to comply with the guidelines of this policy are subject to the following or an alternate penalty as prescribed by the Garrison Commander, depending on the facts and circumstances of the offense:

a. First offense - Letter of Warning will be issued to the pet owner through the chain of command by the Area/Building/Stairwell Coordinator.

b. Second offense - Written warning from the Civilian Misconduct Action Authority (CMAA).

c. Third offense - Up to 40 hours of community service; this violation of policy will be

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considered with any/all other UCMJ and AE 27-9 violations in deciding administrative action to be taken.

d. Fourth offense - Cause for immediately removal of the pet. Residents may also be considered for termination of Government quarters and early return of the offender Family member.

8. **Loss of Pet Privileges.** Residents may be subject to immediate loss of pet privileges if:

a. The sponsor or responsible adult owner abuses such animal or continues to violate these standards once warned in writing.

b. A dog is found to be a prohibited breed.

c. A dog physically appears to be a Class I dog, and the owner is unable to prove the dog is an allowable breed.

d. An animal is involved in an unprovoked bite or shows vicious behavior to such an extent that the Garrison Commander determines it is a danger to the community. The owner will be required to remove the animal from the installation or leased housing area immediately and/or as directed by the Garrison Commander.

e. In the event of an emergency situation or the absence of the owner, the Military Police have the authority to secure, transport, and relinquish the animal to a German animal shelter.

9. **Dog Park.** We ask that you please adhere to Posted Park Rules (On Site) in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, and to protect park resources, wildlife and other visitors. In order to help keep our parks available to pets, responsible pet ownership is essential.

a. USAG Grafenwoehr will not be held liable for any incidents. Park hours: 0600-2200 hours.

b. Parks are located at Main Post Grafenwoehr on Shiloh Avenue near building 244 and at Rose Barracks on Soldiers Road across from Little Mike Park.

c. All trash/cigarette butts/bottles/plastic containers etc. must be removed by the pet owner from the Dog Park and disposed of in your respective building's refuse bins.

d. Report any dog biting incidents to the Military Police at DSN 476-2490 or civilian 09662-83-2490.

10. **Pets in Army Lodging Facilities.** See USAG Grafenwoehr Policy Letter # 29.

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11. **Dissemination.** Leaders must disseminate this policy letter to their Soldiers and civilian employees. Furthermore, leaders must enforce this policy.

12. **Point of Contact.** The point of contact for this memorandum is the USAG Grafenwoehr Housing Manager, DSN 475-7196.



JAMES E. SAENZ  
COL, SF  
Commanding

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