

Headquarters
Fort Knox
Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121-5520
14 May 2009

*Fort Knox Reg 40-12

Medical Services

CONTROL OF PRIVATELY-OWNED ANIMALS (POA)

Summary. This regulation pertains to the proper care and control of animals on the installation. Responsibilities are outlined in the applicability statement below. Specific mention is made of disciplinary actions and fees owners are subject to if they fail to control their POA.

Applicability. This regulation applies to all personnel residing on Fort Knox who maintain animals on the installation.

Suggested improvements. The proponent of this regulation is the Office of the Chief, Fort Knox Branch Veterinary Services, Ohio Valley District, Veterinary Command. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) through channels to Ohio Valley Veterinary Command, Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC) (MCVS-ATA-K), Fort Knox, KY 40121-5520.

1. Purpose. To delineate responsibilities for proper care and control of animals on the installation.

2. General. Control and proper care of all animals maintained at Fort Knox are necessary to protect the health of this command.

a. All animals maintained within the confines of Fort Knox are included in this directive. No more than two animals as POA, per household, are permitted (reference 3a(15) of this regulation). Permission for their presence is a privilege granted by the Garrison Commander.

b. Dogs, cats, and small caged POA not exclusively forbidden below, may be kept on the installation if owners comply with this directive. Horses and ponies may be stabled, but only females or immature and gelded males will be allowed in the installation stable compound per established stable regulations and bylaws that include required vaccinations and blood tests. Ferrets may be kept on post as long as they are kept indoors, have appropriate vaccinations, and registered with the Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF).

c. Skunks, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, and other wild animals, including venomous snakes, reptiles, insects, and piranha fish, are not acceptable as POA and will not be

*This regulation supersedes Fort Knox Reg 40-12, 10 October 2001.

maintained on the installation. Permission is required in writing from the Knox Hills Project, post veterinarian, and Garrison Commander for maintenance of more than two domestic animals or other species as POA.

d. The privilege of keeping a privately-owned animal is dependent upon its continued ability to live harmoniously within the military community. The right of personnel residing on post to be free from nuisance, trespass, and menace of POA is paramount to the privilege of keeping POA. The Garrison Commander, at his/her discretion, may withdraw the privilege of maintaining POA.

3. Responsibilities.

a. Animal owners.

(1) May bring or maintain animals on the reservation only when permission is granted by the Garrison Commander through provisions of this regulation.

(2) Must have animals registered at the VTF, Bldg. No. 1068, 192nd Tank Battalion Road, in the name of their military owner or sponsor. A 14-day grace period dating from the time of POA arrival on post will be allowed for registration. At the time of registration, evidence of current vaccinations and micro-chipping to provide permanent identification will be required. There will be no charge for registration unless vaccinations or other services are rendered. Newborn animals will be registered and vaccinated for rabies at 3 months of age. Older, unvaccinated animals or animals with outdated vaccinations will be vaccinated and micro-chipped at time of registration. If not micro-chipped, animals may be denied access. Registration expires when the rabies vaccination expires. Type of vaccine to be used and frequency of revaccination will be per AR 40-905. Vaccinations for animals are administered at the VTF during scheduled clinic hours or may be obtained from a licensed civilian veterinarian. Immunizations will be at the owner's expense.

(3) Will ensure dogs and cats wear a collar or harness with the current Fort Knox registration tag attached while outside the owner's quarters. All other registered animals, such as caged POA and horses, will have proof of registration maintained at the VTF. Owners are responsible for controlling their POA. They will be leashed when outside unless in a secure, fenced area. Privately-owned animals will not be tied to trees, shrubs, or where they interfere with pedestrian traffic, clotheslines, or mail delivery. They are not permitted in common use areas such as playgrounds or baseball, softball, and parade fields. Animal waste will be promptly removed by the POA owner. Electric dog fences are specifically prohibited. When tied in a stationary place, the leash/chain must be at least 5 feet in length.

(4) Ensure any animal that has bitten a human or other animal in an unprovoked manner is restrained to avoid any reoccurrence.

(5) Be pecuniarily liable for damage or injury to property, persons, and public buildings.

(6) Ensure animals are fed, watered, and cared for humanely. Cruel or injurious abandonment and neglect are prohibited. Animals will have access to water at all times; fed on a daily basis; protected from wind, rain, and snow; provided separate shelter (if animal is maintained outdoors, carriers are not authorized as shelters for those animals) that is large enough for the POA to stand and turn around freely and easily cleaned; and provided adequate medical care, when required. The owner will be responsible for medical costs. Proper disposition of animal waste is the owner's responsibility. In the event that animals defecate on public walkways, streets, and yards not assigned to the owner, the owner will remove it immediately. Owners will remove animal waste from stables, runs, and assigned quarters daily and more frequently, as necessary, to control such nuisances.

(7) Ensure animals remain under their direct supervision and control at all times and measures are employed to prevent them from attacking personnel; becoming a menace or nuisance (to include prolonged barking or whining); or following/interfering with troops, parades, vehicles, or bicycles. Owners will make arrangements for care or disposition of their POA while temporarily absent and before departing for another permanent station. Animals will not be abandoned on the reservation.

(8) Ensure that female POA in heat are kept confined, except while exercising, on a leash under the direct supervision of a mature person.

(9) Assist in obtaining immediate medical attention for individuals bitten, scratched, or injured by their POA. Victims of animal bites/scratches should seek medical attention at the hospital emergency room.

(10) Deliver any animal involved in biting or scratching a human, whether the incident is provoked or not, to the VTF. Delivery will be made at the earliest practicable time and, in any case, by the next normal duty day. Animals may be quarantined for a period of 10 days at the VTF. Home quarantine may be used by the post veterinarians at their discretion, provided full cooperation in all phases of the procedure is adhered to by the owner.

(11) Ensure that transient animals entering the reservation for specific events, such as shows, carnivals, hay rides, etc., are limited to the areas provided for their event. Health certification and other animal health/zoonotic disease programs will be formulated by the veterinarian, as required.

(12) Animals will not be permitted in public buildings, swimming pools, sports areas, tennis courts, golf courses, parade grounds, or public gatherings except for animal shows. An exception to this will be made for guide dogs for the blind, military working dogs, and service dogs for the handicapped.

(13) Notify the VTF immediately before departure from Fort Knox or upon change of ownership of an animal so that registration may be kept current.

(14) Permit, at owner's expense, necessary tests, diagnostic and treatment procedures, quarantine, biological, and medication for their animals maintained at or confined in the stable or VTF.

(15) Generally, the maximum number of POA per quarters is two. However, a common sense approach to this limit must be taken. For example, this number would not normally apply to small fish or other very small indoor POA (caged mammals such as hamsters and gerbils). Conversely, more than two mid- to large-size dogs per quarters are generally not acceptable given the density of most quarter's areas. Females with litters will be regarded as one until the litter is old enough to be separated from the mother. Owners wishing to maintain greater than two POA must submit a request, in writing, through the Knox Hills Project and post veterinarian, to the Garrison Commander.

(16) Promptly dispose of deceased POA. Small animal carcasses will be taken to the Fort Knox landfill, located on Baker Road, and placed in a dumpster, as directed by the refuse contractor. The dumpster will be transported off post for disposal in a state permitted contained landfill. Horses and other large animals may be released to a commercial rendering company as arranged by the owner per state statues and regulations. Garbage cans and dumpsters will not be used as receptacles for animal bodies. Animal bodies will not be abandoned.

b. Provost Marshal.

(1) Apprehend, on the reservation, an injured, uncontrolled, destructive, vicious, and rabies-suspected animals and deliver them to the VTF for disposition. A logbook, provided by the quarantine facility, will be properly filled out on each animal that is placed in the quarantine facility. It is imperative the following minimum data be provided: date, military police number, and animal description, to include sex, color, and approximate breed. If tagged, the tag number should be indicated.

(2) Enforce the removal of POA by the owner when POA privileges have been withdrawn.

(3) Assist animal owners, when required, to transport animals to the VTF for observation or quarantine as rabies suspects following the occurrence of an animal bite incident.

(4) Expeditiously deliver dead bodies of animals, considered to be rabies suspects, to the VTF. The heads, which are submitted for laboratory examination, should not be damaged in the process of collecting, transporting, or handling. The bodies will be placed in the refrigerator (not the freezer) provided at the VTF.

(5) Collect and dispose of dead deer found on the installation.

(6) Identify, through reports, nuisance animals (i.e., stray, vicious, abused, etc.,) and forward copies to the post veterinarian and Garrison Commander for review and recommended action. The Knox Hills Project will receive an information copy of incidents.

c. Chief, Veterinary Services.

(1) Provide recommendations to the Commander, MEDDAC, and Garrison Commander regarding the disease potential of animal species, behavioral characteristics, and suitability of specific animals granted or denied permission to be maintained on Fort Knox.

(2) Provide immunizations, registration of animals, issuance of vaccination certificates, and Fort Knox immunization tags.

(3) Conduct the veterinary portion of the rabies quarantine of individual animals on the installation following bite incidents or in the event of an outbreak of rabies in animals on or near the installation.

(4) Kennel and care for stray dogs and cats. If unclaimed within 3 duty days, the animal may be adopted by a new owner or euthanized. Other animals will be cared for and disposed of at discretion of the post veterinarian.

(5) Perform necropsies on animals that are destroyed or die on the installation when indicated.

(6) Cause severely injured, suffering, comatose, or intractable wild or domestic animals to be euthanized when deemed necessary. Government-owned animal euthanasia will be performed per AR 40-905. Euthanasia will be performed in a humane manner. It is authorized on the military installation without the owner's consent under the conditions listed above.

(7) Collect and maintain military police reports of nuisance residential animals. The post veterinarian will review these records on each reported incident, provide recommended action, and forward those needing corrective action to the Garrison Commander. The Garrison Commander will approve and execute corrective action.

d. Organizations assigned post police duties.

(1) All deceased small, wild animals and deceased abandoned, stray, unowned, and unidentified small domestic animals will be taken to the Fort Knox landfill, located on Baker Road, and placed in a dumpster, as directed by the refuse contractor. The dumpster will be transported off post for disposal in a state permitted contained landfill. Each organization is responsible for daily police of their area, as designated on the post police map. Unusual or multiple deaths will be brought to the attention of the post veterinarian before disposition of the animal bodies.

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(2) The Knox Hills Project is responsible for reporting deceased small animals in the residential common-use areas. These animals will be collected and disposed of properly.

(3) The owner will collect and dispose of deceased large animals. Burial is not allowed on the installation, and large animals cannot be put in dumpsters.

4. Vaccination and Registration.

a. Diseases.

(1) Rabies is a highly fatal, communicable disease of animals which is transmissible to humans. Vaccination of animals against rabies at Fort Knox is mandatory under this regulation and AR 40-905.

(2) Canine Parvo Virus is a highly contagious disease between puppies and unvaccinated young dogs that causes a severe bloody diarrhea from which few animals recover.

b. The VTF will administer vaccinations against rabies at Bldg. No. 1068 on a regular scheduled basis for a nominal fee. Canine Parvo Virus vaccine is available as an individual vaccination; however, it is conveniently mixed in a single injection for vaccination against Distemper, Leptospirosis, and Canine Parainfluenza.

c. Registration is accomplished at the VTF by presenting a current vaccination certificate and micro-chip to provide permanent identification of the animal. At this time, a new certificate will be completed and a Fort Knox rabies tag issued. There is no charge for registration if all items are current. If the animal owner does not have proof of required/current vaccinations and micro-chip, VTF personnel will administer the required vaccinations and implant the micro-chip for a nominal fee. A copy of the rabies vaccination certificate will be maintained at the VTF as proof of registration. Upon expiration of the rabies shot, registration expires. The expiration date may be found on the vaccination certificate, and the year of expiration is engraved on the rabies tag.

d. Lost Fort Knox vaccination (registration) tags can be replaced free of charge by presenting the current rabies vaccination certificate at the VTF.

5. Animal Care Clinic.

a. An animal outpatient clinic will be conducted on a regular basis by appointment only, with the exception of emergencies, where lack of immediate care would result in undue suffering or endangerment of life or limb of the animal. Emergency care is subject to availability of the veterinarian and is not provided for POA after duty hours. Hours of clinic operation are posted on the front door of Bldg. No. 1068 and will be updated, as needed.

b. Scope of operation. The following services will be provided:

(1) Services, including vaccinations, will be limited to animals belonging to military personnel or their Family members. Services will be denied for individuals who maintain breeding animals or are in the business of raising animals for profit.

(2) Veterinary care and treatment of POA is limited to diagnosis, treatment, vaccination for control of zoonotic diseases, physical examination before shipment, and first aid. A limited number of elective surgeries will be allowed at the discretion of the veterinary corp officer, and boarding will not be provided.

(3) Emergency treatment for POA will consist of stabilizing the animal for treatment at off-post veterinary facilities. Emergency service is not available for POA during off-duty hours.

(4) Animal owners must show proof as military members or authorized Family members and pay the assessed cash charges for supplies, biologicals, equipment, and rations expended in the care, treatment, or quarantine of their POA. A service charge will be assessed at each cash transaction to cover professional services. This fee is currently set at \$2 per visit. An initial boarding fee of \$25 for the first day and \$5 for each additional day will be charged to owners of animals apprehended as strays upon return of their POA. Payment is due upon receipt of services or when an animal is released from the stray facility.

(5) Veterinary personnel will conduct random spot checks to ensure animals are registered, current on vaccinations, and micro-chipped.

6. Neglected, Abused, or Vicious Animals.

a. Report of stray animal. All reports of strays will be brought to the attention of the Garrison Commander. The POA owners will be verbally instructed by the post veterinarian's office at the time they retrieve their POA of potential consequences of future incidents.

b. Report of bite incidents. Any dog bite incident where the animal is determined to be a community hazard by the post veterinarian or Garrison Commander may result in the loss of POA privileges. A cautionary warning may be given before the loss of privileges, but, depending on the seriousness of the hazard, no prior warning letter is required.

c. Refer to post housing policy for restrictions of aggressive or dangerous breeds.

d. Animal Abuse.

(1) When probable cause exists to believe an animal has been abused through cruelty or abandonment (including denial of food or drink), military police have authority to remove the animal from the home or yard. A search authorization must be obtained unless there is an

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immediate threat to the life of the animal. The animal's owner may face disciplinary or administrative actions in such cases as well as prosecution in the United States Magistrate's Court.

(2) If an animal is removed from a home for abuse, the post veterinarian will review the animal's condition. If the abuse case is considered severe by the post veterinarian, POA owners will be notified that their future rights to the animal may be forfeited. In such a case, the owner will have 72 hours from the time he/she receives written notice of potential forfeiture to present matters on his/her behalf. Based on the information presented, the Garrison Commander will determine, following consultation with the post veterinarian, whether the animal will be returned to the owner.

(3) In addition to the criminal, disciplinary, or forfeiture processes described above, the Garrison Commander, in consultation with the post veterinarian, may order the denial of POA privileges in any case of animal abuse (including intentional denial of food, water, or shelter).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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