

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON JAPAN UNIT 45006 APO AP 96343-5006

USAG JAPAN POLICY 40-24-02

AMIM-JNP-H (420-10a)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Control of Pets and Stray Animals on United States Army Garrison Japan

1. REFERNCES:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 40-3, Medical Dental, and Veterinary Care.
- b. AR 40-905, Veterinary Health Services.
- c. AR 420-1, Army Family Management.
- d. AR 735-5, Relief of Responsibility and Accountability.
- 2. PURPOSE. This regulation provides policy, guidelines responsibilities and instructions on the housing and control of registrable pets, registration and deregistration of pets, animal neglect and/or abuse, nuisance animals, and other general policies relating to Privately Owned Animals (POA). This regulation does not apply to Military Working Dogs.
- 3. APPLICABILITY. This U.S. Army Garrison Japan (USAG Japan) Policy applies to all personnel bringing animals onto USAG Japan installations for any reason, including those who reside in USAG Japan government owned or leased quarters.
- 4. DEFINITIONS. For the purpose of this directive, the following terms will apply:
- a. POA. Dogs, cats, ferrets, birds, and domestically bred pets of the rodent family such as hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, etc. This term may be expanded to include fish and reptiles, provided they are not capable of inflicting serious injuries or are otherwise designated as dangerous. This includes stray animals lost, abandoned, or claimed by known owners. This does not include exotic or non-domestic species or animals, to include squirrels, bats, Tanuki, or species designated as wildlife.
- b. Registrable animals. Normally, only dogs and cats are registrable. However other animals may be specified "registrable" on a case-by-case basis as recommended by the Intallation Veterinarian with oversight from the Garrison Commander (GC) and Provost Marshal (PM).

- c. Supporting Installation Veterinarian. The military veterinarian at the U.S. Army Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) that supports the installation/housing area concerned.
- d. VTF. The veterinary medical facility operated by the U.S. Army Public Health Command on the military installation.
- e. Dangerous Animals. Any animal whose behavior indicates that the animal is inherently capable of inflicting major or serious injuries. The USAG Japan GC, designated representative, or the supporting Installation Veterinarian, in consultation with a Veterinary Behaviorist, may designate an animal as dangerous based on its past actions or the potential poisonous/vicious nature of the animal.
- f. Exotic pets. Includes, but are not limited to, nonhuman primates (monkeys, apes, etc.), non-domesticated dogs and cats (such as wolves, foxes, dingoes, and ocelots), most reptiles (such as snakes, lizards, and snapping turtles), spiders, scorpions, dangerous birds (raptors), dangerous fish (piranha and sharks), and/or any other feral or wild animals not considered to be a common pet (companion animal). These species will not be kept as pets.
- g. Domestic farm animals. Includes, but are not limited to, pot-bellied pigs, miniature horses, goats, chickens, ducks, rabbits, and other similar types of animals. These species will not be kept as pets.
 - Stray. An animal that is not under the immediate physical control of its owner.
- i. Feral Animal. Any animal that has returned to the wild state and is free-roaming without identifiable ownership.
- j. Quarantine. Confinement of an animal in an officially designated facility or location.

5. GENERAL.

a. Pets are an integral part of many households. With the privilege of owning a pet comes the responsibility not only to protect and properly care for the pet, but also to preserve and protect the safety and welfare of the community. It is the policy of this command that private property rights are subordinate to the public right to be safe and free from nuisances.

- b. Violations of this policy will result in administrative filings, financial liabilities, or disciplinary actions. Such actions include removal of the pet(s), bar of the pet(s) from the installation financial liabilities for damages caused by the pet(s), or the loss of the privilege of living in government quarters.
- c. All sponsors acquiring or importing a registrable pet will read and understand this regulation and other regulations regarding the control of pets.
- d. Escorted guests are prohibited from bringing any animals onto the installation. Exceptions are limited to authorized personnel residing off post bringing registered animals to the VTF, and those individuals that have documented service animal requirements.

6. HOUSING AND CONTROL.

- a. Personnel who violate this USAG Japan Policy or who knowingly bring a domestic or other non-authorized pet to Japan will be subject to removal from, or denial of, government quarters. Other administrative actions, such as tour curtailments, early return of family members, or loss of access to U.S. installations may also be considered.
- b. Occupants of government quarters are prohibited from owning and housing exotic pets or domestic farm animals within their government quarters. Occupants must consult with Army Family Housing (AFH) counselors to determine what pets are legally allowed to share Family Housing Quarters and special directions concerning occupancy standards.
- c. Pet ownership is authorized in AFH. The number of pets will be limited to two per household and all pets must be registered with the VTF. Two (2) pet combinations include two cats, two dogs, or one cat/one dog. A waiver must be obtained from the GC to have more than two pets in a household. Failure to obtain a waiver prior to having more than two animals in the household will lead to the removal of the additional pet(s) and/or disciplinary/administrative action. Personnel who exceed the pet limitation due to temporary circumstances ("pet sitting") must notify the Housing Office prior to the start date so that records can be annotated and adverse actions avoided.
- d. Due to the limited transportation space available and possible travel restrictions during emergency events requiring evacuation from Japan, waivers must include detailed plans on the disposition of extra pets, should these events occur. In addition, only dogs and cats will be evacuated with the family during emergency departures. For

all other pets, the owner is required to have a prearranged and documented plan for short and long-term care. Housing must deem this plan acceptable and receive concurrence from the installation veterinarian. Additionally, all dogs and cats will be required to maintain the requirements, as outlined in paragraph 7a(7), to facilitate reentry into Japan following an emergency departure or evacuation from Japan. Abandonment of pets is not an option and may result in disciplinary action. Owners are required to have detailed plans on the disposition of all pets as part of the Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) packet.

- e. Aquariums are allowed, but may only contain fish and must not exceed 20 gallons in size.
- f. Pet ownership in Unaccompanied Housing (UH), to include Senior Leaders Quarters (SLQ), is prohibited. The only exception to this policy is for units that have a unit mascot (such as a dog). It is the Chain of Command's responsibility to ensure that the mascot animal receives proper housing and care. Exceptions can be made for small aquariums containing fish (not to exceed 20 gallons in size) in UH.
 - g. Pet ownership in Towers.
 - (1) No dogs are authorized in Tower 743, to include pet sitting.
- (2) Tower 1050 is authorized to have dogs on floors 1 to 3. Balconies are not to be used as a pet relief area or as a kennel.
 - (3) Cats are allowed in all AFH quarters.
- h. Pet owners are responsible for any damages their pets may cause to government property. Damages are assessed in accordance with (IAW) AR 735-5. Cleaning and damage fees will be identified by an inspector from the Housing Office and shall be paid immediately following the pre-termination inspection.
- i. Sponsors are responsible for cleaning outside areas used by their pets and the proper disposal of solid waste. Fecal droppings must be picked up and will be disposed of in sealed plastic bags (preferably double bagged), in garbage receptacles. Unbagged waste will not be placed in garbage receptacles.
- j. Pets will be maintained in a clean environment with nutritious food offered daily. Potable water will be provided at all times. Pets are not allowed to be permanently maintained outside and must have regular access to indoor shelter.

- k. Pet owners are responsible for ensuring that their pets do not disturb the peace and tranquility of Family Housing. Pets should not be a nuisance to others. Housing Office staff will investigate any complaints due to excessive noise, foul smells, and diseased or aggressive animals. More than two complaints from neighbors will be viewed as a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in Section 6a.
- I. Pets shall not be left alone in quarters overnight. Owners will make arrangements for the care of their animal when they will be away for an extended period of time.
 - m. Pets of any type will not be left alone in a car.
- n. Any sign of disease or insect infestation, to include fleas, ticks, lice, etc., will be promptly reported to the VTF as applicable.
- o. Pets may be tied within the confines of the sponsor's quarters, but should not be able to reach sidewalks or play/common areas. Restraint methods will not endanger the animal's well-being, nor pose a hazard or threat to humans and other animals in the quarter's proximity. The animal must not restrained longer than 2 hours or be tied in such a manner that it may become tangled or wrapped.
- (1) All chains, collars, doghouses, and feeding utensils will be kept clean and in good repair. Approval must be obtained from the Housing Office on the placement of any purchased or constructed outside doghouse/shelter.
- (2) Pets are restricted to areas immediately adjacent to Family Housing buildings and are not allowed in the Family Housing playgrounds and gazebo areas.
- p. When taken on a walk, pets must be on a leash and accompanied by an individual 12 years of age or older that is capable of controlling the animal under all circumstances. Voice command, shock collars, and wireless fences will not be a substitute for a leash. It is the owner's responsibility to control the animal, not the citizen's responsibility to avoid the animal. Sponsors are financially liable for damages caused by the pet(s).
- (1) Dogs are allowed to relieve themselves only in designated pet parks or green spaces. All fecal matter must be picked up immediately and properly disposed of in waste receptacles. Pet owners are responsible for obtaining pet waste disposal bags. Pet waste disposal bags may be obtained at the Self-Help Stores.

- (2) Pets are not allowed in swimming pool enclosures, Exchange facilities, bowling lanes, commissaries, dining facilities, athletic fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, on parade grounds, theaters, troop billets, clubs, or in any facility where food is stored, prepared, or served, unless the animal is a certified service dog with the appropriate documentation and prior approval by the GC.
- (3) Dogs that habitually bite or nip will be muzzled when taken outside. A serious bite or attack incident will be reviewed by the USAG Japan GC to determine whether a dog will be removed from the installation. The animal will be mandatorily quarantined for a 10-day period before the decision is made on whether to remove an animal. The owner of the animal is responsible for any expenses incurred during the quarantine period.
- (4) Cats must be primarly maintained indoors and will not be allowed to roam the installation. Cats must be kept under positive control of the owner at all times to ensure they do not bite, scratch, or otherwise injure or damage people or property.
- q. Feral and/or stray animals will not be fed by installation residents or employees. No feral or wild animals will be kept as pets on the installation.
- r. Maintaining pets for commercial purposes for sale or profit in government quarters is prohibited. This includes animals used for breeding purposes. Veterinary Services will not be provided in support of commercial operations that breed or raise animals for sale or profit.
- s. Owners are responsible for disposal of dead pets. The VTF may assist with mortuary arrangements at the owner's expense during normal business hours. All animal deaths must be reported to the VTF within 1 business day.

7. REGRISTATION AND DEREGISTRATION.

- a. All Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) status personnel are required to register registrable pets as defined in paragraph 4b.
- (1) All registrable animals will be registered with the installation Veterinarian no more than 3 working days after the pet's arrival with, or acquisition by, a SOFA member. Personnel who live in government housing are required to notify the installation Housing Office of pet ownership within the same 3-day timeframe.
- (2) Upon pet registration, the owner will supply animal health records, complete a sponsor information form, and agree to the VTF Client Policies. The VTF will then

initiate a medical record for the pet and provide information regarding immunizations, parasite preventation, and quarantine requirements. An initial quarantine appointment will also be made at this time if not already scheduled.

- (3) Per SOFA agreement, all newly arrived pets whose owners have listed a Military Installation as the quarantine location must be examined by the Installation Veterinarian within 72 hours of arrival to Japan. Animals will then be assessed every 30 days for the duration of quarantine, not to exceed 180 days. A final quarantine examination will be completed no more than 5 business days following the animal's quarantine completion date as list on the Magisterial District Judge (MDJ) Form 270.
- (4) All animals are required to be properly immunized IAW United States Army Veterinary Medical Standardization Board Vaccination Guidelines (VMSB) and local requirements. If the immunization status of the animal does not meet these requirements, arrangements must be made to properly immunize the animal. The cost of the immunizations will be at the owner's expense. Registration must be renewed every 12 months at the time of an annual wellness exam.
- (5) In accordance with Japan Rabies Law, all dogs must be vaccinated for rabies annually with a killed or recombinant product. Annual vaccination is required, even if the given vaccine is labeled with a 3 year duration. Cats can be immunized for rabies every 1 or 3 years at the discretion of the attending veterinarian. All animals must be microchipped with an International Standards Organization (ISO) compliant microchip prior to receiving a valid rabies vaccine.
- (6) All dogs will be tested for heartworm infestation annually and maintained on heartworm prevention with dewormer year round. Cats must be tested for parasites and/or dewormed at least annually.
- (7) Florescent Antibody Virus Neutralization (FAVN) tests will be renewed every 2 years to facilitate re-entry into Japan following an emergency departure or evacuation from Japan. All owners will be required to maintain an Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) packet for each pet, to include valid Rabies Vaccination Certificate (DD Form 2208 or equivalent), blank Veterinary Health Certificate (DD Form 2209), Florescent Antibody Virus Neutralization-Office International des Epizooties (FAVN-OIE) Rabies Antibody Test results form (Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory (FADL) Form D-132A), immunization record, and blank Evacuation Cage Card. Applicable documents available to the VTF will be supplied to the owner at every pet's annual wellness visit.

- b. Deregistration will be accomplished in the event an animal registered at the VTF dies, is sold or given away, and as part of the normal clearing procedures. The original owner is legally and financially responsible for all costs associated with final disposition of any unclaimed or abandoned pet and will be subject to disciplinary action if balances are not paid. Ownership and legal responsibility will only be transferred when the animal is officially registered in another person's name at the VTF. Both the original and new owner must do this in person.
- c. Individuals not residing on USAG Japan will be required to comply with the registration requirements of local Japanese authorities. Rabies vaccinations and certificates (DD Form 2208) from the VTF are authorized for meeting local Japanese laws, as long as they are maintained annually per regulation. Pets not properly registered, residing both off and on the installation, will not be authorized veterinary services.
- d. Pets not properly registered, restrained, or vaccinated against rabies as required by appropriate directives, and all stray animals on USAG Japan will be captured and/or impounded by Directorate of Public Works (DPW) personnel and subject to the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) stray animal policies. Pet owners will be responsible for all costs associated with impoundment of their animal(s). Stray or abandoned animals and animals without identifiable ownership will be confined for a minimum of 3-working days. After 3-working days, the animal will be either adopted or euthanized at the discretion of the veterinarian.

8. ANIMAL NEGLECT AND/OR ABUSE.

a. No person on any USAG Japan installation may, by intentional act or disregard, cause physical pain, fright, suffering, or death to any animal. Cases of abuse, neglect, or disregard of any animal will be reported to the appropriate authority as soon as possible. Animal neglect and abuse is strictly prohibited and will be subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) (for military personnel) or other disciplinary/ administrative action.

b. Suspected incidents.

(1) All personnel are encouraged to report to the supporting Installation Veterinarian or Military Police (MP) personnel any instance where animal neglect and/or abuse is suspected.

- (2) Upon receipt of a report, a team consisting of a Veterinary Corps Officer (VCO) and MP personnel will investigate.
- (3) If, in the opinion of the VCO, an animal has been neglected or abused, the animal may be impounded immediately and the sponsor will be instructed on proper animal care. The sponsor's future right to keep a pet remains subject to re-inspection by the team. Additionally, other pets in the same household may be subject to immediate removal at the VCO's discretion. The VCO will file a report for the GC and sponsor's commander and a copy will be maintained in the animal's veterinary treatment records. These actions will be in addition to routine MP actions concerning violations of USAG Japan policies.
- (4) While under a neglect/abuse investigation, new animals will not be permitted to be added to the household.
- (5) Upon recommendation of the Veterinarian and/or PM, any sponsor, determined to have owned an exotic, dangerous, or nuisance animal that has been barred from the installation, may be denied the privilege of keeping any pets.

ANIMAL BITES OR SCRATCHES.

- a. When an animal bites or scratches a person, prompt efforts should be made to identify, apprehend, and medically exam the animal involved. The owner(s) of the animal(s) involved in an animal bite/scratch incident must cooperate with the U.S. military authorities to carry out required quarantine procedures.
- b. The U.S Army Veterinary Services (VS) or BG Crawford F. Sams, U.S. Army Public Health (PH) personnel who first become aware of an incident will immediately report the bite/scratch to the counterpart medical authority (VS or PH) and the installation MP. All bite/scratch victims who are U.S. personnel will visit their local Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) for treatment and initiate a Department of Defense Form 1241 (Report of Animal Bite-Potential Rabies Exposure).
 - c. Local Nationals are encouraged to visit their physician for appropriate care.
- d. The animal will be placed under the observational control of the Installation Veterinarian or an other designated animal quarantine facility. Observation will be for a period of not less than 10 days from the bite/scratch incident IAW AR 40-905. The animal may be placed under home quarantine at the discretion of the Installation Veterinarian

- e. If the animal dies or is euthanized while in quarantine, the Installation Veterinarian will remove the appropriate specimen and send the tissue to the Food Analysis and Diagnostic Laboratory (FADL) IAW the applicable provisions of AR 40-905 and Technical Guide (TG) 361.
- f. U.S. miliary medical officers, the Installation Veterinarian, and other interested parties will meet quarterly on a Rabies Advisory Board (RAB) to discuss all animal bite/scratch incidences and the state of rabies on the installation.
- g. The PMO, USAG Japan, will maintain records of complaints made against pets. All bite/scratch incidents will be forwarded to installation Veterinary Services for inclusions in the animal's record.
- h. Veterinary Service personnel will notify the GC of any animal involved in three or more incidents regardless of the degree of seriousness or any single incident of a particularly aggressive nature. Such animals may be declared dangerous or a nuisance by the GC on the advice of the Installation Veterinarian. The GC may bar the animal from the installation.

10. DANGEROUS ANIMALS.

- a. In accordance with Army policy, residents, employees, contractors, or visitors may not bring on any installation, any dog of a breed (including a mixed breed) that is deemed aggressive/dangerous. For the purposes of this policy, aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous breeds of dogs are defined as any of the following, to include breed mixes:
- (1) Pit Bull Terrier (American Staffordshire Bull Terrier or English Staffordshire Bull Terriers).
 - (2) Rottweilers.
 - (3) Doberman Pinschers.
 - (4) Chows.
 - (5) Wolf Hybrids.
 - (6) Tosa-Inu.

- (7) Bandog (Mastiff).
- b. This prohibition also extends to other dogs that demonstrate a propensity for dominant or aggressive/dangerous behavior as indicated by any of the following types of conduct:
 - (1) Unprovoked barking, growling, or snarling when people are present.
 - (2) Aggressively running along fence lines when people are present.
 - (3) Biting or scratching people or attacking other pets.
 - (4) Escaping confinement/restriction or propensity to chase people.
- c. If a service member has authorization (for example, to receive veterinary services) to bring onto an installation a dog breed that fits the above description of an aggressive/dangerous or potentially aggressive/dangerous dog, the dog must be muzzled at all times while on the installation.

11. ABANDONMENT.

- a. Under no circumstances will any pet be abandoned either on or off military installations. Pet abandonment under any circumstance will subject the owner to appropriate administrative/disciplinary action.
- b. If the sponsor is unable to provide the necessary care or if the sponsor is transferred from the installation, the sponsor must make proper arrangements for the disposition of the pet. All stray animals not claimed within 3 working days will be considered abdandoned.
- c. Stray animals found at USAG Japan facilities will be controlled by DPW Pest Control Personnel. If the animal is not claimed within 3 working days, the animal will be considered a stray. The animal will then be subject to euthanasia or entered into the Pets Are Worth Saving (PAWS) adoption program at the discretion of the attending veterinarian. Animal control is the responsibility of the owner and fines and/or Provost Marshal Office (PMO) action may be taken for violations.
- d. If a pet owner is responsible for two or more stray impoundments, the Installation Veterinarian will notify the GC for possible action concerning exclusion of the pet and/or loss of pet ownership privileges.

- 12. NUISANCE ANIMALS. Any animal allowed to roam free, defecate in neighbors' yards excessively or continuously, or be allowed to disrupt trash containers will be considered a nuisance animal. The GC may declare a pet a nuisance at his/her discretion. When a pet is declared a nuisance, the owner will be required to take immediate action to remove the pet from the facility or installation. Pets will not be abandoned on military facilities or the installation.
- 13. OFF POST PETS. Personnel authorized to reside off post will abide by the respective building, unit, owner, or landlord's policy on pets, as well as all Japanese Laws. All pet owners are expected to be good neighbors and be considerate of other residents of the community. All SOFA members are required to register their pet(s) at the installation VTF, whether living on or off the installation.

14. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES.

a. A violation notice will be issued by the Housing Office and/or PM to anyone found to be in violation of any part of this policy. The following tables list examples of violations, definitions, and disciplinary actions.

VIOLATION	COMPLAINT	EXAMPLE	DEFINITION	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Minor	Noise	Excessive barking	Barking sustained for 5 minutes or longer	No.1. Warning via email No.2. Written Warning No.3. Loss of Pet No.4. Loss of Pet Privileges No.5. Loss of AFH
Minor	Minor property Damage	Small damages to dwelling unit, public property	Damages to AFH, public property	No.1. Written warning, pecuniary charges. No.2. Loss of Pet No.3. Loss of Pet Privileges No.4. Loss of AFH
Minor	Pet waste	Not picking up pet waster	Pet waste not cleaned/ discarded	No.1. Warning via email No.2. Written Warning No.3. Loss of Pet No.4. Loss of Pet Privileges No.5. Loss of AFH

Table 1: Minor Violations and Disciplinary Actions

AMIM-JNP-H (420-10a) SUBJECT: Control of Pets and Stray Animals on United States Army Garrison Japan

VIOLATION	COMPLAINT	EXAMPLE	DEFINITION	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Minor	Loose pet	Unsupervised pet, running loose, not leashed	Pets running loose, not leashed	No.1. Written warning No.2. Loss of Pet No.3. Loss of Pet Privileges No.4. Loss of AFH

Table 1: Minor Violations and Disciplinary Actions (Continued)

VIOLATION	COMPLAINT	EXAMPLE	DEFINITION	DISCIPLINARY ACTION
Serious	Attack	Attack on human or other animal	Dog bite, cat scratches	No.1. Loss of Pet No.2. Loss of AFH
Serious	Major property damage	Large damage to dwelling unit, public property	lling unit, public AFH, public	
Serious	Non-registered pets	Unregistered pet	Pet not registered with VTF	No.1. Loss of Pet No.2. Loss of AFH
Serious	Loose pet	Loose, diseased animal imposing threat or fear	Unregistered, diseased animal	No.1. Loss of Pet No.2. Loss of AFH
Serious	Excessive pets	More than 2 registered/unregistere d pets	Willful violation to obtain more than 2 pets	No.1. Loss of Pet No.2. Loss of AFH
Serious	Restricted Breed	Possession of restricted breed	Willful violation by misstating breed or obtaining restricted breed (registered or unregistered)	No.1. Loss of Pet No.2. Loss of AFH

Table 2: Serious Violations and Disciplinary Actions

AMIM-JNP-H (420-10a)

SUBJECT: Control of Pets and Stray Animals on United States Army Garrison Japan

- b. Violations of this policy should be reported to the USAG Japan Housing Office, MP, or the area Civilian Misconduct Officer for further action.
- 15. SUPERVISOR, FACILITY MANAGER, BUILDING CUSTODIAN AND HOUSING TENANT RESPONSIBILITIES.
- a. The DPW notification of uncontrolled animals that have been observed in or around their facilities.
- b. Report stray animals by contacting the DPW Service Desk at Defense Switched Network (DSN) 263-4613 or from mobile phone at 046-407-4613.
- 16. This USAG Japan Policy supersedes USAG Japan Command Policy 40-23-02, 23 October 2023, and will expire when superseded or rescinded.
- 17. The proponent for this policy is the Chief, Housing Management Division, DPW at DSN 263-3441.

MARCUS S.HUNTER COL, SF Commanding

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