



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON  
BLDG 237, B AVE, P.O. Box 105021  
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

14 July 16

IMNT-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: United States Army Garrison, Fort Irwin Policy #5, Control of and Care for Privately Owned Animals on Fort Irwin.

1. PURPOSE. Establish an installation pet control policy on Fort Irwin.
2. APPLICABILITY. This policy applies to all personnel on Fort Irwin.
3. PUNITIVE POLICY. This policy letter constitutes a lawful order issued by the Commander, United States Army Garrison, and Fort Irwin. Violations of this policy may result in punitive action against Service Members under the Uniform Code of Military Justice and adverse administrative action against both Service Members, civilians (including contractors), and Family members on the installation.
4. REFERENCES.
  - a. DA Policy Letter, Pet Policy for Privatized Housing Under the Army's residential Communities Initiative (RCI) Privatization Program, 5 January 2009.
  - b. San Bernardino county development code – Chapter 84.04 animal keeping, private kennels.
  - c. California Legislature – Food and Agricultural Code Division 14, Chapter 9 sections 31601-31683 and section 122331.
5. BACKGROUND.
  - a. Maintaining privately owned animals (hereinafter "pets") on the installation is a privilege, not a right. Exercising and retaining this privilege depends on the animals' ability to live harmoniously within the community.
  - b. The Garrison Commander is tasked with maintaining the morale, welfare, and discipline on the installation and has the inherent authority to take action necessary to avert danger or threats to the morale, welfare, and discipline of the installation. In accordance with this mission and authority, the Garrison Commander may direct the permanent removal of any animal from the installation if the animal is a threat to the health and safety of persons and/or other animals or is a public nuisance.

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c. In conjunction with California law, specific dog breeds will not be restricted from the confines of Fort Irwin except as provided in Section 122331 of the California Health and Safety Code, no program regulating any dog shall be specific as to breed. Fort Irwin, acting as a municipality within California, has not declared any specific breeds as potentially dangerous or vicious based solely upon the breed of the dog. The Privatized Housing company has the right to make as a condition of their lease and restrictions they deem appropriate for the safety of the community or to reduce liability risk. Pursuant to policies established across the military by the collective privatized housing companies, certain breeds have been banned – consult your lease for further details.

## 6. POLICY.

a. All pets must be registered at the Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) within 10 days of acquisition or arrival at Fort Irwin. Larger pets such as horses, mules or goats which will be boarded at the MWR-run private stable, must be current on all vaccinations and will be initially quarantined prior to being boarded at the stables. As outlined in the Fort Irwin VTF SOP, privately owned horses must have current vaccinations, current Coggins testing (a required annual test for Equine Infectious Anemia), and a health certificate before arriving on post. These requirements are in place to protect the health of the government owned horses assigned to the 11ACR Horse Cavalry Detachment and other horses stabled at the private stables. These requirements are non-negotiable and will be enforced. Failure to properly prepare horses for these requirements may result in the horse being turned away from the installation and boarded at the owner's expense at an off post facility. Coordination for bringing larger animals to Fort Irwin is conducted through the Fort Irwin VTF and the private stable. Smaller pets such as rabbits, hamsters, fish or birds need not be registered. Exotic pets such as ferrets, reptiles or other less common animals are prohibited.

b. The breeding or raising of animals for commercial purposes and/or profit is prohibited on the installation.

c. All personnel on Fort Irwin, including visitors, must adhere and comply with the following requirements:

(1) Comply with all applicable state, federal and local laws and all installation specific requirements associated with the ownership, registration, control and vaccination of pets. (Reg: San Bernardino county development code Chapter 84.04 animal keeping)

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(2) May not possess or board on the installation any dog that is deemed "aggressive or potentially aggressive" unless the dog is a certified military working dog that is being boarded by its handler. For purposes of this policy, "aggressive or potentially aggressive" dogs are defined as dogs that demonstrate a propensity for dominant or aggressive behavior towards humans or other dogs as indicated by any of the following types of conduct: (Reg: DA Policy Letter, Pet Policy for Privatized Housing Under the Army's residential Communities Initiative (RCI) Privatization Program, 5 January 2009, California Legislature – Food and Agricultural Code Division 14, Chapter 9 sections 31601-31603)

- (a) Unprovoked barking, growling, or snarling at people approaching the dog;
- (b) Aggressively running along fence lines when people are present;
- (c) Biting or scratching people; or
- (d) Escaping confinement or restriction to chase people.

d. Tenants of privatized housing that were boarding prohibited pets prior to the issuance of DA Policy Letter, Pet Policy for Privatized Housing under the Army's residential Communities Initiative (RCI) Privatization Program, 5 January 2009, will be "grandfathered" and may continue to board the pet until they vacate privatized on-post housing unless the pet demonstrates a propensity for dominant or aggressive behavior. As landlords, under current California law, Michael Management Service (MMS), may disallow a dog based upon breed. Personnel choosing to reside in on-post housing should consult their lease and must comply to remain tenants in Army Family Housing.

e. Pets must be kept under control at all times by a leash held by a person. The only exception is if the pet is secured inside of the owner's residence, fenced-yard, vehicle (accompanied by person), or travel cage. Should the pet find itself outside one of the above mentioned secured areas, the owner will be held responsible for failing to keep control of the pet.

f. All animals that are found not under the immediate control of the owner will be taken to the appropriate holding facility (the MP station, VTF or DPW Animal Control) and processed.

(1) First Offense. The VTF will verify proper animal requirements of shots, microchip and registration and inform the Fort Irwin Police Department as to whether the animal is in compliance with Garrison policy. The Fort Irwin Police Department will issue a warning of possible future consequences for failure to comply to the owner and will notify Michael's Management Services to verify proper housing registration documentation of all pets.

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(2) Second Offense. The Fort Irwin Police Department will issue a citation for failure to control animal. In addition, the sponsor's chain of command will be notified, and the owner will receive another warning of possible future consequences.

(3) Third Offense. The Fort Irwin Police Department will issue another citation and the GC may direct the animal to be permanently removed from the installation.

g. Pet Abandonment. Sadly, there are numerous historical precedents where irresponsible and uncaring owners elect to abandon their pets when faced with an inability to provide care for their pet due to financial reasons or when preparing for an upcoming permanent change of station (PCS). This is both reprehensible and a violation of California laws (see (c. 1713, p. 3363, § 1. Amended by Stats.1999, c. 303 (A.B.1540), § 1.)). Laws governing proper treatment of domestic animals and pets can be found at: <https://www.animallaw.info/statute/ca-cruelty-consolidated-cruelty-and-penal-code-sections>.

h. Regardless of prior offenses, the Garrison Commander may direct any animal that exhibits a threat to the health or safety of persons and/or animals to be removed from the installation. While subject to the discretion of the Garrison Commander, examples of this type of animal behavior include, but are not limited to, attacking, or attempting to attack a person or another animal, or by acting in a threatening manner such as growling.

i. Animals are not allowed in public buildings except for those facilities designed for their use or care (i.e. dog park, Veterinary Treatment Facility or SGT Fuzzbuddies, etc.). Additionally, animals are not allowed at any public event, indoors or outdoors, unless the event directly specifies that certain animals are authorized. Periodically, fun runs or walks occur as events to bring the community together. For these events, dogs are always welcome as long as they are not aggressive, threatening or menacing. Certified animals, such as "seeing eye dogs," "rehabilitation dogs," and "hearing dogs" are authorized to go anywhere their owners are authorized as long as they are kept under control.

7. The proponent for this policy letter is Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) at 380-4310.



G. SCOTT TAYLOR  
COL, AR.  
Commanding

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