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**Aerospace Medicine**

**PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES OF ANIMALS**



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This implements AFD 48-1, Aerospace Medicine Program. This instruction establishes a method of control for all privately owned animals on Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. It applies to all individuals possessing pets on base or in family housing areas.

**SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:**

This revised DAFBI 44-101 clarifies procedures undertaken following an animal bite incident and the requirements for rabies vaccination. The revised edition also establishes a new policy for testing for heart-worm disease. A \* indicates revision from previous edition.

**1. Terms Explained**

- 1.1. Privately Owned Animals/Pets. Animals owned by individuals and maintained as companions or for personal enjoyment and recreation. This does not include animals intended for commercial use or profit.
- 1.2. Sponsor. The individual responsible for the family housing unit, even if that individual is not the owner.
- 1.3. Veterinary Treatment Facility. (SGV or VTF) VTF is located in building 643.
- 1.4. Stray animals. Any privately owned animals running loose on base or in family housing areas.

**2. General**

- 2.1. No pets other than dogs, cats, fish, pet rodents (hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, mice and rats), or caged birds may be maintained in base housing. Wolf, wolf-hybrids, ferrets and other wild animals are not allowed as pets in base housing. No person shall bring into the state of Delaware, possess, sell or

exhibit any live wild mammal or hybrid of a wild mammal or live reptile not native to or generally found in Delaware without first securing a permit from the Department of Agriculture. The Department of Agriculture may exempt such mammals and reptiles that do not represent a significant threat to community interests.

2.2. All dormitory personnel will obtain prior approval to maintain pets, except fish, in dormitory rooms. Submit requests through squadron commanders and 436th Medical Group/SGV to 436th Support Group Commander.

2.3. All dogs and cats maintained in base housing must be registered with the VTF within ten days of occupancy in government quarters or as the animal becomes three months of age. Delaware State law also requires all dogs over six months of age must be licensed. Sponsors must present proof of vaccination history and a current copy of the rabies certificate for each pet to the VTF or the animal must be presented to the VTF to receive current vaccinations in order to be registered. The VTF will issue a number controlled rabies vaccination tag and/or number controlled base registration tag. The sponsor attaches the tag to a collar or harness which will be worn by the animal at all times when outside.

2.4. All dogs and cats maintained in base housing should be implanted with an identification microchip.

2.5. No more than three dogs or cats in any combination will be allowed in each housing unit. If more than three animals are acquired by birth, remove the excess number from the quarters within a reasonable time, not to exceed twelve weeks, after birth. Exceptions must be requested in writing, clearly indicating that no nuisance will be created and that no commercial use is intended. Submit requests through 436th Medical Group/SGV to Support Group Commander.

2.6. Normally pets having three documented complaints against them for being a nuisance (running loose, barking, etc.) within six months period are removed from base housing, by order of the Support Group Commander. Pet owners may appeal this decision through the Support Group Commander.

2.7. Animal abuse cases are reported to the Security Forces who will investigate and when necessary will refer the case to the Kent County SPCA. The following are examples of abuse:

2.7.1. Not supplying adequate shelter, food, water and health care.

2.7.2. Leaving animals unattended in vehicles, except as specifically exempted at the Fam Camp.

2.8. Privately owned animals are not authorized in any building on Dover AFB except government quarters and the VTF, building 643 without prior approval from the Support Group Commander. Animals that are bona fide disability assistance animals (i.e. seeing eye dogs) are authorized to be on Dover AFB with the individual they are trained to assist.

2.9. Military or family members bitten or scratched by an animal should report to the 436th Medical Group for treatment. Individuals not authorized care at the 436 Medical Group should obtain care from a health provider of their choice.

2.10. All animal bite incidents are reported to the Security Forces Law Enforcement Desk. In all cases of unprovoked attacks, the sponsor is cited for failure to comply with this regulation. DD Form 1569, Incident/Complaint Report, is forwarded to the individual's commander for appropriate action.

### **3. Responsibilities**

3.1. The sponsor will:

- 3.1.1. Register all dogs and cats with the VTF as per para 2.3.
- 3.1.2. Terminate registration of dogs and cats before termination of government quarters, transfer of ownership, or upon the death of the animal. The sponsor will retrieve medical records of animals provided service by the VTF upon permanent change of station (PCS) or estimated time of separation (ETS).
- 3.1.3. Make sure pets are under control at all times. Dogs and cats will be chained, penned, or on a leash at all times when out of doors. Pets secured to a stationary object by a leash or chain will not have access to roadways, public driveways, parking lots, sidewalks or playgrounds. Do not use trees and utility poles to attach chains or leashes. When walking the pet, the leash will not be more than six feet in length. Exercising voice control is not permitted as a method to control the animal. When a child under ten has an animal outside they must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.
- 3.1.4. Make sure that barking that is annoying to neighbors does not occur.
- 3.1.5. Make sure that unspayed female pets are kept in isolation when in heat.
- 3.1.6. Be liable for all damages to real or personal property or injury to individuals caused by their pets actions.
- 3.1.7. Maintain their assigned yards in a sanitary manner regularly removing any feces. They will also remove any feces their animal leaves on sidewalks, streets, playgrounds, common use areas or other people's yards as a result of being taken out of the sponsor's yard.
- 3.1.8. Make sure all dogs and cats are properly immunized and checked for parasites. Sponsor makes sure expenses are paid, in accordance with the following requirements:
  - 3.1.8.1. Dogs:
    - 3.1.8.1.1. Rabies. Vaccinated at three months of age, revaccinated in one year and at least every three years after that with a three year licensed rabies vaccine.
    - 3.1.8.1.2. Canine Distemper, Infectious Canine Hepatitis, Parainfluenza, Parvovirus and Leptospirosis. Vaccinated with at least two doses prior to five months of age and annual revaccination.
    - 3.1.8.1.3. Heartworm examinations are required every two years. Treatment of any animal that tests positive will be at the owner's expense.
    - 3.1.8.1.4. Intestinal parasites. Annual fecal exams are required. Treatment of any animal that tests positive for intestinal parasites will be at the owners expense.
  - 3.1.8.2. Cats:
    - 3.1.8.2.1. Rabies. Vaccinated at three months of age, revaccinated in one year and at least every three years after that with a three year licensed rabies vaccine.
    - 3.1.8.2.2. Panleukopenia, Rhinotracheitis and Calicivirus. Vaccinated with at least two doses prior to five months of age and annual revaccination.
    - 3.1.8.2.3. Intestinal parasites. Annual fecal exams are required. Treatment of any animal that tests positive for intestinal parasites will be at the owners expense.
  - 3.1.8.3. Notify the VTF if a pet is involved in a bite/scratch of any individual or involving

another animal. If a human is involved in the bite/scratch and the pet has a current rabies vaccination, then a 10 day home quarantine will be instated, if the animal is not current on rabies vaccination it will be vaccinated at the end of the 10 day quarantine. The pet on home quarantine is under strict supervision by the sponsor under conditions set forth by the VTF. The pet is also required to have a physical exam for the initiation and release from quarantine. During the physical exam for release from quarantine, all vaccinations are updated as necessary. Animals with expired or no rabies vaccination which have been exposed to a stray or wild animal will be euthanized and tested for rabies or a strict 6 month quarantine as defined by the Delaware State Public Health Office will be instated. If the animal is not presented as required, the Security Forces will be contacted to have the pet removed from government quarters and turned over to the Kent County SPCA for the remainder of the quarantine period. The sponsor is responsible for any expense incurred if an outside agency is involved.

3.2. The 436th Security Forces Squadron will:

3.2.1. Attempt to capture and turn over to the Kent County SPCA any animals running loose on base housing areas, or notify the Kent County SPCA to do so.

3.2.2. A copy of the blotter entry will be sent to the Base Housing Officer when stray animals are captured and/or when complaints are received and the sponsor can be identified by the Security Forces Administration Flight.

3.3. The Family Housing Management Office will:

3.3.1. Maintain a list of complaints received on each sponsor assigned government quarters.

3.3.2. Notify the Support Group Commander through the Base Veterinarian when three incidents have occurred within a six month period involving the sponsor's animal(s).

3.3.3. Make recommendations on banning pets from government quarters and/or termination of a sponsor from government quarters.

3.4. The Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) will:

3.4.1. Maintain records on all pets registered in government quarters.

3.4.2. Conduct physical examinations on all animals on home quarantine.

3.4.3. Notify the proper civilian health authorities of bite or scratch cases when ownership of the animal cannot be identified or when the incident occurs off base.

3.4.4. Provide advice and technical assistance to the Security Forces and base Civil Engineer upon proper animal capture and control procedures.

3.4.5. Make recommendations to the Support Group Commander on matters pertaining to animals, as required.

3.4.6. Notify the 436th CES/CEH of all animals registered through the VTF.

3.5. Entomology will provide services for collecting and destroying all dead animals and/or capturing and controlling all wild animals found on Dover Air Force Base with support from the Security Forces and the VTF.

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Commander