



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION  
POSTAL SERVICE CENTER BOX 8003  
CHERRY POINT, NORTH CAROLINA 28533-0003

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AIR STATION ORDER 10570.1S

From: Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point  
To: Distribution List

Subj: PET CONTROL REGULATIONS

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 6401.1B  
(b) ASO 6220.2D  
(c) ASO 6240.8D

Encl: (1) Pet Control Regulations

1. Situation. Possession of an animal or pet aboard Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point is a privilege extended by the Installation Commander. This privilege is subject to revocation by the Installation Commander or his designated representative as set forth in this Order.

2. Cancellation. ASO 10570.1R.

3. Mission. To provide regulation enforcement in order to control animals and pets, and to formally establish procedures for pet control aboard MCAS Cherry Point.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. To ensure the safety of all personnel aboard MCAS Cherry Point while promoting responsible pet ownership.

(2) Concept of Operations. See enclosure (1).

b. Coordinating Instructions. See enclosure (1).

5. Administration and Logistics. Questions pertaining to the content of this Order should be directed to the Security and Emergency Services Directorate, MCAS Cherry Point.

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to MCAS Cherry Point, its subordinate and tenant commands, and all personnel visiting or residing in Atlantic Marine Corps Communities housing.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.

TRAVIS L. POWERS  
Acting

DISTRIBUTION: A

Pet Control Regulations

1. Definitions. When questions arise as to which category a particular animal belongs, the Station Animal Control Officer will make the final determination.

a. Pet Owner. A pet owner is any person owning, keeping, or harboring an animal aboard MCAS Cherry Point. The service member, or lease signer responsible for an assigned base housing residence, shall be deemed the owner of any pet owned, kept, or harbored aboard the Air Station by any authorized person residing in the service member's quarters.

b. Farm Animals. Farm animals include all animals that are normally used as work animals and those which are kept for the production of food. Farm animals include, but are not limited to chickens, pigs, cows, donkeys, etc., and are prohibited aboard the Air Station. This does not apply to horses kept at the Air Station Saddle Club, but they must comply with the requirements found in reference (a).

c. Exotic Animals. Exotic animals include non-native animal species that are rare or unusual and are not commonly thought of as pets. Exotic animals include, but are not limited to, tarantulas, monkeys, pythons, etc. Exotic animals are prohibited aboard the Air Station.

d. Wild Animals. Wild animals include, but are not limited to, species such as raccoons, deer, foxes, squirrels, opossum, etc. Owning or harboring a wild animal aboard the Air Station is prohibited.

e. Snakes. All breeds and species of snakes fall into the categories of "Wild" or "Exotic" and are prohibited from being kept as pets aboard the Air Station.

f. Feral Animals. Feral refers to any domestic animal that has reverted to a wild state and is living in undeveloped areas of the Air Station. Feral animals will be removed from the Air Station by the Animal Control Officer. No person aboard this Air Station will attempt to care for or feed feral animals.

g. Animal Nuisance. Any animal that obstructs reasonable or comfortable use of property. An animal may be deemed a nuisance if it:

(1) Habitually or repeatedly barks in such a manner or to such an extent that it disturbs others.

(2) Interferes or obstructs persons engaging in exercise or physical activity.

(3) Defecates on the lawn of quarters not occupied by its owner and which the pet owner does not immediately remove.

h. Dangerous Animal. A dangerous animal is defined as any animal that the Cherry Point Veterinary Office or the Air Station Animal Control Officer determines to represent an unacceptable risk to the safety and tranquility of the Air Station and its personnel. If a pet is deemed dangerous, it will be prohibited from the Air Station. This determination can be made at any time and can be based upon such things as:

(1) Unusually aggressive or threatening behavior such as lunging, attempting to attack or bite another person or animal without being provoked.

(2) A substantiated history of demonstrating aggressive or threatening behavior. For example, past history of biting or attacking other animals or people and intentionally inflicting severe bodily harm.

2. Pet Registration. All dogs and cats will be registered with the Air Station Veterinary Office and the Animal Control Officer within 10 working days after the owner is assigned quarters or acquires a new pet. The following steps must be completed during the registration process:

a. Furnish proof of current rabies inoculation. In the case of pets that are less than four months of age, this information will be furnished before the animal reaches the age of five months. No dog or cat over four months of age shall be owned, kept, harbored, maintained, or cared for aboard the Air Station unless it has been inoculated against rabies. The inoculation tag should be securely affixed to the pet's collar. All dogs and cats must be revaccinated every three years.

b. Identification Tag. An identification tag with the pet's name, owner's contact numbers and address is required to be affixed to the pet's collar.

c. Microchips. Owners of dogs and cats are required to microchip their animals for permanent identification. Proof of microchips must be provided at the time of registration. The Station Veterinarian can provide this service at the expense of the pet owner.

3. Spaying or Neutering. There is no requirement for dogs or cats to be spayed or neutered, but owners are strongly encouraged to pursue this procedure for their pet. Owners of pets which have reproductive organs intact must maintain awareness of the risks of unwanted pet pregnancies. Pets that are "in heat" can induce unwanted behavior in other pets, which includes increased aggression.

4. Pet Limitations. Family housing residents are limited to no more than two dogs, or two cats, or one dog and one cat. Further limitations on pets include:

a. Pets are not permitted inside the Bachelor Officer Quarters (BOQ), and Bachelor Enlisted Quarters (BEQ). This section does not apply to Military Working Dogs (MWDs).

b. Pets are not permitted inside the Naval Health Clinic, Transient Enlisted Quarters (TEQ), club facilities, or Marine Corps Exchange activities. This section does not apply to Military Working Dogs (MWDs) and service animals assisting the physically handicapped.

c. Although small caged/aquarium housed animals do not count against the two pet limit, no one shall own, keep, harbor, maintain, or care for an abundance of these animals as to create an unhealthy risk to the occupants. In all cases, the Animal Control Officer will make the final determination if an owner has violated this section.

d. There are no limits to the size of fish aquariums kept in family housing. All aquatic aquariums must be properly cared for with proper filtration or water changes as to prevent unsanitary conditions. The Animal

Control Officer will make the final determination if an owner has violated this section.

e. Pet sitting is not authorized if there are already two pets at the residence and the animal in question must be properly registered aboard the Air Station. The military member or lease signer of the residence will be held responsible for violations of this section.

5. Prohibited Dog Breeds. The following breeds or any dog containing a mix of the following breeds are not permitted aboard the Air Station, unless being transported to and from the Station Veterinary Office for medical treatment.

- a. American Pit Bull Terrier.
- b. American Staffordshire Terrier.
- c. Rottweiler.
- d. Wolf Hybrid.

6. Exceptions. Service Animals on the Prohibited Dog Breeds list that have been assigned to an individual living or employed on MCAS Cherry Point may receive an exemption if the below criteria has been met.

- a. The animal has been approved by the American Disabilities Act (ADA).
- b. The animal is used to support a physical disability.
- c. The exemption has been authorized by the Installation Commander via the Station Inspector's Office.

7. Pet Control. The following rules regarding pet control must be adhered to at all times.

a. When the owner or responsible representative is training, walking, or playing with a pet, the pet must be kept under positive control. Positive control means that the pet must be under immediate physical control of its owner or the owner's representative. Pets must be on a leash at all times when outside unless confined inside a fenced yard.

b. Pets may be left outside in fenced yards and unattended for short periods of time (two hours or less) with proper food, water, and shelter available. Pets will be confined in fenced yards at the rear of the dwelling only. Pets will not be left unattended inside enclosed porches for any amount of time.

c. The pet owner or designated representative will provide the animal with adequate food, water, shelter, and veterinary care at all times. If a person has reason to believe that an animal is being treated inhumanely, they may file a complaint with the Air Station Animal Control Officer who will investigate all alleged cases of inhumane or inadequate treatment.

d. Owners will clean up after their pet(s) and will be responsible for any repairs from damages to their quarters or lawn, including backfilling lawn holes. Owners that walk or run their pets are required to carry trash bags or

other devices to immediately pick up their animal's waste should they defecate anywhere outside their yard.

e. Breeding animals in Family Housing at any time, for any purpose, is strictly prohibited.

f. Animals shall not be abandoned aboard the Air Station for any reason. If the owner has to move and cannot take their pet with them, it is their responsibility to make sure they find it another home or turn it into a local shelter. The Animal Control Officer can provide assistance in turning pets over to local shelters but will not assist in the rehoming of any animal.

g. Animals will not be left unattended in vehicles at any time for any reason. Violation of this section can at times constitute animal abuse/neglect. The Animal Control Officer will determine if the violation of this section has met the abuse/neglect threshold.

h. Animals will not be tied to a stake, tree, post, light pole, etc., for any extent of time.

i. Electric invisible dog fences are not permitted aboard the Air Station.

j. Electric invisible style leashes are not permitted for use aboard the Air Station.

8. Pet Control Violation Penalties. All violations of this Order will be adjudicated on the individual merits of each case using the following guidelines:

a. First Violation. A Pet Investigation Report will be completed and filed with the Animal Control Officer.

b. Second Violation. A "Letter of Caution" will be issued to the owner.

c. Third Violation. The Director of Security and Emergency Services will issue a "Letter of Intent to Revoke Pet Privileges". Upon receipt, the pet owner will have five working days to submit an appeal to the Station Inspector. If no appeal is submitted and/or approved, the pet owner will remove all of their pets from the Air Station and provide written proof of removal to the Animal Control Officer.

d. Warnings. The Animal Control Officer may issue written warnings in minor cases with the intent to educate the pet owner of the violation.

9. Immediate Revocation of Pet Privileges. Severe violations of pet control will result in the immediate removal of the animal from the Air Station and the revocation of the owner's pet privileges. Severe violations include but are not limited to:

a. An animal maliciously attacking another person or animal with intent to cause serious bodily harm or any animal the Animal Control Officer or Station Veterinary Officer determines to present a substantial risk to the safety of residents aboard the Air Station.

b. Neglect and abuse of the animal by the pet owner.