



## PETS ON FORT Benning, GA FACT SHEET



Residents and Soldiers on Fort Benning, Georgia are permitted to own pets for companionship and recreation. However, all residents and Soldiers must comply with AR 40-905, MCoE Reg. 40-905, MCoE Reg. 210-5, state law, federal law, and their Villages at Fort Benning residential lease. Owners should be familiar with all rules and regulations regarding pets. Violation of any provision of installation policy on proper control of pets may cause exclusion of a pet from post, loss of pet ownership privileges, loss of on post housing, and other forms of reprimand. This fact sheet highlights some of the most common rules and regulations but is not a comprehensive restatement.

### **I just PCS'd to Fort Benning, what should I do?**

**Register your pet!** All dogs and cats must be registered before signing for quarters and must be registered annually. If you acquire a new pet, they must be immediately registered or if they are a puppy before they are 90 days old. Owners must provide the VETCEN with a copy of your pet's immunization records. All dogs and cats must be microchipped at the owner's expense. Attached to this fact sheet you will find the Fort Benning Pet Registration form which you will turn into the VETCEN. If you live in on-post family housing, contact the Villages at Fort Benning for additional information on their policies and procedures.

### **But I'm living off-post, does this still apply to me?**

If you live off-post, make sure to comply with all local laws and regulations. For example, if you live in Columbus you must register your pet yearly with the city. Even if you live off-post, you can register your pets with the VETCEN which will allow you to schedule treatment, yearly exams, vaccinations, and other services.

### **I'm leaving Fort Benning, what should I do?**

All owners are required to clear the VETCEN prior to their final clearance off Fort Benning. Medical records for the pet will be given to the owner prior to their departure.

### **What animals can I have on Fort Benning?**

Only horses, dogs, cats, and small caged animals (such as domestic rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, birds, and fish) may be kept on this installation. Persons can own a maximum of **two** pets in family housing (excluding small caged animals).

Prohibited animals include poisonous animals, wild animals, livestock (except horses), and animals which can transmit rabies but for which no quarantine period is known (such as foxes, coyotes, wolves, wolf hybrids, coy-dogs, bats, raccoons, skunks, ground hogs, beavers, otters, opossums, bobcats, cougars, mongooses, and monkeys). Aggressive dog breeds are not permitted on post, with the exception of veterinary services for treatment.

## **What vaccines do my pet(s) require?**

Owners must properly register, immunize, and administer year-round antiparasitic to their pets. All rabies vaccines must be administered by a licensed veterinarian (per Georgia (OCGA 31-19) and Alabama (Al. Code 3-7A-2) code).

- Dogs: rabies, canine distemper, infectious canine hepatitis, canine parvo virus, leptospirosis, Bordetella, and parainfluenza virus.
- Cats: rabies, panleukopenia (feline distemper), rhinotracheitis, and calici virus.
- Horses: rabies, equine encephalomyelitis, West Nile virus, and streptococcus equi. The following are recommended: tetanus, equine influenza, and rhinopneumonitis.

## **Where can my pet(s) go on-post?**

Pets are permitted in family housing (not to exceed two animals), dog-parks, and leashed while walking in certain areas on-post. Pets are prohibited in unaccompanied housing, public buildings not intended for pets, youth sports fields, school grounds, golf courses, swimming pools and their enclosures, food handling establishments, Post Exchange facilities, and medical treatment facilities.

## **My pet is lost on-post, what happens to captured strays?**

Captured animals will be held in confinement at the Stray/Adoption Facility on-post. Proof of pet ownership is required to have your pet returned to you. The animal must be claimed within three working days. Pet owners responsible for two or more stray impounds will be subject to possible pet exclusion or loss of ownership privileges.

## **What about dog bites and scratches on post?**

All privately-owned animals must be under the control of the owner at all times. No animal shall be allowed to snap, growl, snarl, jump on, or otherwise threaten persons without provocation. Aggressive animals which cause unprovoked harm to any person or animal or are involved in two provoked bite / scratch incidents may be immediately removed from post.

All bites/scratches are considered emergency cases and must be treated at the emergency room and there must be a bite/scratch report conducted. The Owner must surrender the animal for examination and quarantine to the Veterinarian. If the pet is not voluntarily surrendered, it will be apprehended by DES animal control.

**If you have any questions concerning this fact sheet or to schedule an appointment, please call the Fort Benning Legal Assistance Office at 706-545-3281/3282.**



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