



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

U.S. NAVAL STATION
PSC 1005, BOX 25
FPO AE 09593-1000

NAVSTAGTMOINST 6242.1B
N4
22 Sep 11

U.S. NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA INSTRUCTION 6242.1B

From: Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay,
Cuba

Subj: GUANTANAMO BAY DOMESTIC ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 6401.1B
(b) MCVS-SEA-JG-SOP AN-06 for Bite/Scratch Reports
and Rabies Prevention

1. Purpose. To promulgate regulations governing the introduction, care, and control of domestic animals onboard U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba (NAVSTA GTMO). Ownership of domestic animals is important to the morale and recreation of NAVSTA GTMO residents. Keeping domestic animals is a privilege granted by NAVSTA GTMO Commanding Officer. As such, the keeping and ownership of animals are subject to regulation and restriction consistent with the mission and good order of the installation, as well as the safety and security of its inhabitants. This instruction shall not interfere with the authority of NAVSTA GTMO, NAVSTA GTMO Security, NAVSTA GTMO Veterinarian, or other competent military, environmental, or health authorities to take immediate action to control, remove, and if necessary, destroy any animal that poses a threat to public safety and well being. This instruction covers entry of all breeds of domestic animals, though some breeds may require a temperament exam before authorization. Additionally, it includes the time requirement for Health Certificates to be completed before transferring from NAVSTA GTMO.

2. Cancellation. NAVSTAGTMOINST 6242.1A

3. Applicability. This instruction applies to all personnel at NAVSTA GTMO. For the purpose of this instruction, "domestic animals" includes any animal, fish, bird, reptile, or amphibian kept as a pet or livestock. This instruction applies to animals owned or leased by the United States Government that are kept as mascots, controlled by Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, and Military Working Dogs (MWD).

Violation of this instruction shall result in administrative action and may terminate the offender's right to maintain pets on NAVSTA GTMO. Violations may also result in disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) or in the case of persons not subject to UCMJ action, removal and debarment proceedings.

4. Responsibility

a. The NAVSTA GTMO Veterinarian shall:

(1) Register and maintain records of all domestic animals required to register as directed in this instruction.

(2) Advise NAVSTA GTMO Security of any known violation of this instruction and assist in any case of suspected animal abuse or neglect.

(3) Provide stray animal identification and limited shelter services in support of the animal control program.

(4) Act as the quarantine enforcement authority for all animal bite or scratch incidents occurring on NAVSTA GTMO. Notify NAVSTA GTMO of such incidents when recommendation is made for termination of the owner's rights to maintain pets on NAVSTA GTMO.

b. The NAVSTA GTMO Security Officer shall:

(1) If necessary, assist in contacting Public Works trouble desk for all problems with domestic and wild animals, including strays, nuisances, and suspected cases of abuse or neglect.

(2) Respond to all animal control issues, and obtain all relevant information for documentation in the Security blotter report.

(3) With the professional advice and assistance of the NAVSTA GTMO Veterinarian, investigate complaints of animal abuse and neglect.

(4) Investigate reported violators of this instruction, and complete Incident Complaint Reports for documentation of said violation.

c. The NAVSTA GTMO Security Officer shall: Respond to all animal control issues including apprehension and removal of stray and wild animals; deliver such animals as required for identification and/or medical treatment to the NAVSTA GTMO Veterinarian.

5. Introduction of Domestic Animals

a. Domestic animals authorized entry. Only dogs or cats may be transported to the station and maintained as pets in government quarters. No other animal species are authorized entry. All dog breeds are acceptable, however canine hybrid species (i.e. wolf hybrids) are expressly forbidden. Ornamental fish are authorized with the consent of the NAVSTA GTMO Housing Activity.

b. Health Certificate requirement. All animals entering or departing NAVSTA GTMO must be accompanied by a Health Certificate, issued by an accredited veterinarian and valid for the date(s) of the animal's transportation. Animals transported to NAVSTA GTMO without a valid Health Certificate are subject to quarantine at the owner's expense.

c. Introduction limits. Each military member and each U.S. Government or contractor employee during a single and continuous tour of duty at NAVSTA GTMO will be limited to not more than two domestic animals. The two domestic animals may be introduced simultaneously or at different times, but only two animals are allowed per sponsor. The sponsor must have appropriate NAVSTA GTMO housing assigned and confirmed before the animal(s) may be brought on board. For the purpose of this instruction, "a single and continuous tour of duty" means a tour of permanent duty or employment at one of the commands or organizations aboard NAVSTA GTMO, or with a contractor providing services to NAVSTA GTMO.

6. Animal Registration

a. Owners will register their animals with the Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) within 14 calendar days of the pet's arrival or acquisition; including transfer of ownership for animals already residing on NAVSTA GTMO.

b. To register, animal owners must present proof of the following: Current vaccinations, identification microchip implantation, and Health Certification issued by an accredited veterinarian valid for the animal's transportation to NAVSTA GTMO. If the vaccination status of an animal is unknown or no proof of vaccination(s) can be provided, the vaccination(s) must be repeated. Animals transported to NAVSTA GTMO without a valid Health Certificate are subject to quarantine at the owner's expense.

c. Animals born on NAVSTA GTMO must be registered by eight weeks of age.

d. Any transfer of animal ownership/registrations must be made in person with all parties present. Formal transfer must be accomplished within 14 calendar days of the new owner's acquisition of the animal.

e. The VTF will provide all services necessary to meet registration requirements at a reasonable cost to the animal owner.

7. Keeping of domestic animals

a. Control. Animals must be kept under proper control at all times. Proper control is defined as confining an animal in an adequately fenced-in area or cage or ensuring the animal is on a leash at all times while outdoors. Unsupervised animals should be restrained adequately to restrict them to the perimeter of the owner's assigned quarters. While restrained, the animal must not interfere with the public right of way (i.e. sidewalks, driveways, etc.). Individuals responsible for controlling the animal must be physically capable of providing such control. Animals involved in human bite incidents or attacks are considered not adequately controlled, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the incident or whether the incident was provoked.

b. Care. Owners must provide reasonable and responsible measures for the general health, safety and well-being of their pets. Owners will provide wholesome food, free from contamination and of sufficient quality to maintain the animal's good health. Animals will be fed daily (depending on the species) and only from or in clean receptacles. Water that is safe for human consumption will be made frequently available and in plentiful quantity.

If kennels or other types of enclosures are used, they must be large enough to allow for normal movement and to maintain health and comfort. Kennels must provide enough room to allow the animal to stand fully erect, stretch out flat on its side, lay down with space in front of the head and behind the tip of the tail, and be able to turn around easily. All standards as set by the Code of Federal Regulations apply. Shelters must be provided for animals when kept outdoors for extended periods, and they must provide adequate protection from the sun, heat, and blowing wind. Drainage and ventilation must be adequate to maintain proper health. All parts of the shelter and bedding must be cleaned or replaced as often as necessary to maintain a healthy and sanitary environment. Sanitation and cleaning of the animal's living areas, both indoor and outdoor, will be performed at least daily. This includes the removal of old food, any trash, and all feces. In addition, owners are required to remove any feces deposited by their animal on yards, sidewalks or paths.

c. Facilities. Domestic animals may be kept in family housing units and single family contractor housing only and are not permitted in the following areas:

- (1) Facilities serving or distributing food.
- (2) Hospital or dormitories.
- (3) Temporary Lodging Quarters (BEQ, BOQ, Navy Lodge, etc.).
- (4) Civilian or contractor barracks.
- (5) Swimming Pools or Fitness Centers.
- (6) Any area where animals may constitute a hazard to health or property.

EXCEPTION: Service Dogs, where required, have unrestricted access to all areas as long as they are controlled. MWD have unlimited access to all areas as required for performance of official duties. Ornamental fish are authorized in the dormitories, BEQ, BOQ and civilian or contractor barracks.

d. Restrictions

(1) No more than two domestic animals may be housed in any single family or contractor housing unit.

(2) Breeding of domestic animals is prohibited. Furthermore, any commercial profit derived from such breeding disqualifies the owner from receiving further government-afforded veterinary care per reference (a). Animal owners may not engage in the selling, bartering, or transferring of any animal offspring for consideration or compensation.

(3) Indigenous wildlife species may not be kept as pets, mascots, or harmed or molested in any way; including the Cuban Rock Iguana, Hutia (banana rat), and all snakes including the Cuban Boa, Cuban Parrot, and any other introduced or native wildlife species. Aquarium fish and small reptiles such as lizards may be kept as pets, but sale of such animals is strictly prohibited.

e. Vaccination requirements. Animal owners must maintain current vaccinations for their pets as prescribed by the NAVSTAGTMO Veterinarian.

f. Animal identification. Pet microchips are required as a definitive means of animal identification. In addition, rabies vaccination tags must be worn on all dogs and cats when outside the limits of the owner's domicile.

g. Animal abuse. No person may wrongfully abuse or mistreat any animal that is aboard NAVSTA GTMO. For the purposes of this instruction, animal abuse is considered the intentional or willful infliction of physical harm upon an animal. Violation of this subparagraph shall result in permanent revocation of the abuser's privilege to keep domestic animals aboard NAVSTAGTMO, and may also result in criminal prosecution of the abuser under the UMCJ, or debarment.

8. Aggressive Animals

a. Owners of animals involved in reported human bite or scratch incidents will be subject to the following actions:

(1) First incident: The incident will be documented in the animal's record, but no administrative or judicial action will be taken, unless the attack is of a severe and vicious nature (see 8.a.(2)).

(2) Second incident: The NAVSTA GTMO Veterinarian shall notify NAVSTA GTMO and recommend that the owner's privilege to maintain pets on NAVSTA GTMO be terminated. Such recommendation may be made after the first reported bite if it is of a severe and vicious nature.

(3) If substantiated evidence supporting the aggressive nature of an animal exists without documented attack incidents, and the animal is determined to pose a threat to public safety, the animal will be removed from NAVSTA GTMO.

b. Animal owners must comply with any and all quarantine requirements imposed as a result of a human being bitten or scratched. Reference (b) allows the station veterinarian to determine whether in-home quarantine or in-clinic confinement is appropriate.

9. Enforcement

a. Investigation of complaints. All complaints regarding domestic or wild animals, including reports of strays, nuisances, animal abuse, or neglect will be investigated by NAVSTA GTMO Security, with the assistance of the Veterinarian, as required. Because there is a high correlation between both animal abuse or neglect, and child abuse or neglect, the Family Advocacy Representative shall also be informed of all substantiated complaints of animal abuse or neglect in households that include children.

b. Impoundment and claim. Animals may be apprehended and removed at any time to protect the animal's health, welfare or safety, if any of these circumstances occur: the animal is roaming unrestrained (stray animals); quarantine is required; the animal is causing a nuisance of any kind; or the animal poses a threat to public safety. All impounded animals will be transported to the VTF for identification, holding and treatment as required.

c. NAVSTA GTMO review and action. The Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) shall be responsible for reviewing all Incident Complaint Reports submitted by NAVSTA GTMO Security, to include any supporting documentation from NAVSTA GTMO Veterinarian, and any other information that relates to an alleged violation of this instruction. After a complete review, the SJA will then make recommendations to NAVSTA GTMO for appropriate action, to include administrative and/or disciplinary action.

d. Final action by NAVSTA GTMO. Upon receipt of the SJA recommendation, NAVSTA GTMO shall take final action on the case. NAVSTA GTMO has sole authority for final action. If the pet owner's privileges are revoked or suspended, the owner shall make arrangements to remove the animal from NAVSTA GTMO within seven working days following the final action. Failure to comply with the final action will result in formal action against the military member, government employee, or civilian contractor.

e. Compensation. Any enforcement action taken as a result of a violation of this instruction, to include the surrender or relinquishment of any domestic animal, shall be without compensation by or from the United States Government, or Department, Agency, Organization, or Subdivision thereof, or from any officer, employee, agent, or contractor thereof. Compensation of any and all expenses relating to a violation of this instruction will be the sole responsibility of the person or persons charged. Failure to remit any outstanding charges that are related to a case, can, and will be, collected via garnishment of wages.


K. R. HIBBERT

Distribution:

Electronic only, via NAVSTA GTMO Website or portal
<https://www.webaccess.usnbgtdmo.navy.mil>
<https://cnicgateway.cnic.navy.mil/ws/seGTMO/default.aspx>