



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 5TH BOMB WING (AFGSC)
MINOT AIR FORCE BASE NORTH DAKOTA**

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MINOT AFB MILITARY PERSONNEL, CIVILIAN
EMPLOYEES, RESIDENTS, VISITORS, CONTRACTORS,
AND DEPENDENTS

FROM: 5 BW/CC

SUBJECT: Minot AFB Pet Policy

1. Pets are an integral part of many military families. In order to maintain good order and discipline, and in accordance with AFI 32-6000, *Housing Management*, paragraphs 1.2.27.31, 1.2.27.32, 2.21, and 2.22, the Air Force requires Installation Commanders to establish a service animal and local pet policy incorporating Air Force restrictions. This policy applies to all personnel accessing Minot AFB and includes but is not limited to: military members, civilian employees, residents, visitors, contractors, and dependents. All pet owners must comply with all federal and state laws, this policy, and have proof that pets are current on vaccination and registration. The Installation Commander has waiver authority regarding pets on base.

2. **RESTRICTED BREED ANIMALS:** Residents may not board dogs of any breed (including a mixed breed) that are deemed “aggressive” or “potentially aggressive,” unless the dog is a certified military working dog that is being boarded by its handler/trainer with written approval from the Defense Force Commander or approval is obtained by the Commander in writing. For purposes of this policy, and IAW AFI 32-6000, “aggressive” or “potentially aggressive” breeds of dogs are defined as a Pit Bull (American Staffordshire Bull Terrier or English Staffordshire Bull Terrier), Rottweiler, Doberman Pinscher, Chow, and wolf hybrid. In addition to those breeds, Minot Air Force Base Housing (MAFBH) prohibits the following breeds in privatized housing: Alaskan Malamute, Akita, Presa Canario (Canary Mastiff), and American Bull Dogs.

a. Prohibition also extends to other breeds of dogs or individual dogs that demonstrate or are known to demonstrate a propensity for dominant or aggressive behavior to include having the following types of behavior:

- (1) Unprovoked barking, growling or snarling at people approaching the animal;
- (2) Aggressively running along a fence line when people are present;
- (3) Biting or scratching people, and
- (4) Escaping confinement or restriction to chase people.

b. Prohibited dog breeds must receive a waiver from the Installation Commander prior to accessing the base. This includes service animals and assistance animals, to include comfort and emotional support animals, that are prohibited dog breeds. Contact the Military Housing Office for assistance with requirements for submitting a waiver request.

c. Per the MAFBH pet addendum, in the case of a dispute concerning the privatized housing owner's determination of whether a pet is a restricted breed or mix thereof, a local qualified veterinarian selected by MAFBH shall make such a determination, which determination shall be final and conclusive. Individuals assume the responsibility of pet ownership at their own risk and should confirm pets are not of a restricted breed prior to purchase or adoption.

3. EXOTIC ANIMALS: Residents may not board exotic animals such as, but not limited to: reptiles, rodents (other than hamsters and guinea pigs), ferrets, hedgehogs, skunks, rats, raccoons, squirrels, potbellied pigs, monkeys, arachnids, or any farm animal.

4. PRIVATIZED HOUSING (PH): Individuals residing in MAFBH housing will adhere to this policy and the PH owner's pet policies as stated in the PH Resident Guidelines and pet addendum regarding types and number of pets, and restricted breed animals. PH residents who violate PH Resident Guidelines, their lease, or installation policy are susceptible to losing their privilege to house animals on base, and termination of their lease by MAFBH. PH residents must register all dogs and cats and comply with pet health and identification requirements per the privatized housing Resident Guidelines and pet addendum.

a. Residents must register all pets with MAFBH at lease signing or within ten (10) days of acquiring a new pet. Pets must be registered with the installation veterinary clinic within five (5) business days of lease signing or after acquiring a new pet. All dogs and cats must be microchipped within 30 days of moving into their home. Pets that already have proof of the microchip implantation and are registered with the veterinary clinic and MAFBH are considered compliant with this policy.

b. Permitted pets include domestic animals such as dogs, cats, fish, and birds. Only two (2) dogs, two (2) cats, or one of each, are permitted per household. Fish in tanks and birds in cages count as one (1) pet. When authorized pets are outside the house or fenced patio/backyard they must be on a secured leash (not electronic collar or electronic leash). Pets must not be left tied or unattended in exterior appurtenances or unfenced yards or allowed to roam free on Minot AFB.

c. Depending upon fence type, pet disposition, or size, fence reinforcement may be advisable to ensure pets are unable to escape fenced patios and yards. Fence reinforcement is the responsibility of the resident. Contact MAFBH or the Military Housing Office (MHO) for further information about fence reinforcement.

d. Pet owners must maintain current immunizations on all pets. Dogs and cats are required to wear a collar or harness with current rabies tag attached.

(1) Dogs. Puppies will receive the canine distemper virus, canine adenovirus type 2, and canine parvovirus type 2 (DAPv) combination vaccine starting at 6-8 weeks of age, and then will

receive additional DAPv vaccinations every 3-4 weeks until 14-16 weeks of age. Puppies will receive the initial rabies vaccination no earlier than twelve (12) weeks of age, but ideally between 14-16 weeks of age. Adult dogs will receive a booster rabies vaccination one (1) year after the initial vaccination, and then every three (3) years thereafter, or as directed by the attending US Army Veterinarian.

(2) Cats. Kittens will receive the feline rhinotracheitis, calicivirus, and panleukopenia virus (FVRCP) combination vaccination starting at 6-8 weeks of age, and then will receive additional FVRCP vaccinations every 3-4 weeks until 14-16 weeks of age. Kittens will receive the initial rabies vaccination no earlier than twelve (12) weeks of age, but ideally between 14-16 weeks of age. Adult cats will receive annual/triennial rabies vaccination boosters thereafter depending on vaccine type and manufacturer's instructions, or as directed by the attending US Army Veterinarian.

e. Pet areas must be cleaned regularly to control and prevent vermin infestation. Pet feces must be picked up daily or immediately if the pet evacuates outside the patio or yard.

5. SERVICE ANIMALS: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Comfort animals are not considered service animals, even when used as part of a medical treatment plan. Documents designating any animal as a comfort animal do not fulfill this requirement.

a. Privatized Housing (PH) residents are authorized service animals in addition to the number of pets authorized in PH Residents Guidelines and pet addendum.

b. Individuals with service dogs must ensure their service dogs' proper behavior, health, and adherence to installation policy. Service dogs must be registered with the installation veterinary service and clearly display proper service dog identification. Individuals are responsible for any damage and injuries caused by the service dog. Service dogs which damage or injure may be banned from the installation.

6. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, COMFORT, AND THERAPY ANIMALS: Per the ADA, emotional support, comfort and therapy animals are not considered service animals, even when used as part of a medical treatment plan. Per the Fair Housing Act, assistance animals are not pets and do not count toward the number of authorized pets allowed to residents. Prohibited dog breeds must receive a waiver from the Installation Commander prior to accessing the base. Contact the MHO for assistance with requirements for submitting a waiver request.

7. DORMITORY PETS: Pets are limited to fish in aquariums no larger than 10 gallons, and caged pets are limited to 1 guinea pig or 2 hamsters only. All other pets are prohibited and will be removed from the dormitory room at the resident's expense. Un-caged pets are prohibited in the dorm. Pet letters are available in the Unaccompanied Military Housing (UMH) office. A completed pet letter must be on file with UMH before you purchase a pet. Your pet must be controlled in a manner that prevents damage to property, attacks on humans, and excessive noise.

They must be treated humanely, and their cages/tanks must be cleaned weekly, or more frequently if needed to control odor. Failure to maintain pet standards will result in loss of privileges to house animals on-base and/or immediate removal of the animal from base to an animal shelter.

8. STRAY & LOST ANIMALS: If stray or lost animals are found on Minot AFB, 5th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) will be the central contact agency for support and response. Upon notification, 5 SFS will notify the Minot Police Department and 5th Civil Engineering Squadron, Entomology. Based on the perception and safety of the responding SFS member, an effort will be made to contact the owners of the stray or lost animal; however, if the officer cannot contact the owners or the situation is not safe, the officer will control the scene until the Minot Police Department arrives to catch and transport the animal to an animal shelter.

a. Use of Force is authorized for all SFS members arriving on scene to prioritize the safety of the officers and members of the Minot AFB Community.

b. In the event there is a situation which responding officers deem as an animal attack, the animal will be initially removed from Minot AFB to safeguard the morale and welfare of the installation and its personnel. This removal can be waived by the 5 BW/CC or 5 MSG/CC. Additionally, 5 SFS, in conjunction with the Minot Police Department, will conduct an investigation and provide a recommendation to the 5 MSG/CC, within 24 hours, as to the circumstances of the animal attack and factors for consideration when determining if the animal will be allowed to return to Minot AFB. Staff from the Minot AFB Veterinary Clinic, preferably the primary veterinarian, will be consulted as a part of this investigation and decision making process. The findings of the investigation will be briefed to Base Legal (5 BW/JA), the MSG/CC, and MAFBH within 24 hours of the animal's removal from the installation.

(1) Owners will coordinate with the on-base veterinarian or a local off-base veterinarian for rabies testing and quarantine requirements. Owners must provide the status of this testing and subsequent testing results to Minot AFB officials, who will in turn provide any status updates and test results to victims of an animal attack.

(2) Alternate arrangements for the animal's mandatory removal from base can be coordinated through 5 SFS, which may result in owners incurring applicable expenses.

(3) Local clinics may house animals at the owner's expense and in accordance with their policies and guidelines.

(4) For any questions regarding a lost or stray animal please contact the 5 SFS Law Enforcement Desk at 701-723-3096.

9. REMOVAL OF PETS: A pet owner who violates or fails to comply with this policy letter may lose the privilege of housing a pet on Minot AFB, living in base housing, or accessing the installation with their pet. The 5 BW/CC or 5 MSG/CC may order the removal of animals from the installation or terminate on-base pet ownership privileges at any time in accordance with this policy or to safeguard the morale and welfare of the installation and its personnel. Additionally,

MAFBH may remove animals that are in violation of this policy from PH to an animal clinic/shelter, or terminate pet ownership privileges from PH for failure to obey the provisions of this policy, federal and state laws, or any other situation deemed prejudicial to good order, health, safety, discipline, morale, and welfare on the installation. Installation pet control procedures are outlined in Minot AFB Instruction 31-203, *Installation Pet Control Procedures*.

10. If you have any questions concerning this pet policy, please contact the MHO at 701-723-4661, MAFBH at 701-727-0007, 5 SFS at 701-723-3096, or MHO at 701-723-7284.

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Commander