

02 Apr 01

MEMORANDUM FOR PET OWNING RESIDENTS ON BEALE AIR FORCE BASE

FROM: 9 SPTG/CC

SUBJECT: Pet Care and Complaint Policy

1. This policy sets forth guidelines for processing a complaint regarding pet care and containment in the Beale Air Force Base family housing area and mobile home park.
2. The Housing Flight is responsible for investigating incidents of inhumane care or unsanitary conditions involving privately owned animals quartered on Beale AFB.
3. When a complaint is received regarding inhumane care or unsanitary conditions:
 - a. An inspector will request a written statement from the complainant and attempt to verify the condition.
 - b. If the condition is confirmed, they will issue a discrepancy notice to the resident and notify Base Veterinarian Services (9 SVS/SVBV) to make a negligence/abuse determination.
 - (1) If the determination does not warrant removal of the pet, the housing inspector will follow-up on the next inspection day and issue a second discrepancy notice if the condition remains the same.
 - (2) The Security Forces (9 SFS/SFOOP) will escort the Vet to the quarters, the Vet determines if there is bona fide abuse/neglect. If so, the owner is given 72 hours to rectify the situation. A housing inspector will follow-up; if not rectified, the animal may be removed from the installation. The resident's First Sergeant will be notified in each instance.
 - (3) If the animal has been abused and warrants immediate removal, it will be housed in the stray animal facility. During this time, the Vet will attempt to find an adoptive home. If the animal has not been adopted within seven days, it will be euthanized
4. The following are guidelines set forth by the US Department of Agriculture as the ***minimum standards for dog and cat care***. The Housing Flight, Security Forces and Base Veterinarian will use these guidelines when they investigate pet care complaints:

a. Shelter.

(1) Shelter from sunlight: There must be sufficient shade provided to allow all dogs and cats kept outdoors to protect themselves from direct sunlight.

(2) Shelter from rain or snow: Dogs and cats kept outdoors shall be provided with access to shelter to allow them to remain dry during rain or snow. This does not include pet carriers.

(3) Shelter from cold: Shelter shall be provided when the atmospheric temperature falls below 50°F. Sufficient clean bedding material or other means of protection from the weather elements shall be provided when the temperature falls below the temperature to which the animal is acclimated.

b. Chaining Dogs.

(1) Chains shall be used or attached so that they cannot become entangled with the chain of other dogs or any other object.

(2) Chains shall be three times the length of the dog, measured from the tip of the tail to the tip of the muzzle and shall allow the dog convenient access to shelter, food, and water.

(3) Chains shall not be attached to the house or a tree in any manner.

c. Feeding.

(1) Animals shall be fed at least once daily.

(2) Food shall be free of contamination, wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements of the pet.

d. Water: Clean water will be available at all times.

e. Sanitation: Feces shall be removed from enclosures/areas on a daily basis to prevent contamination of the dogs or cats contained therein and to reduce disease hazards and odors.

5. Any questions or concerns may be addressed to the Housing Flight, Facilities Section at 634-4962 or 4963.

JAMES R. BIERNESSER, Colonel, USAF
Commander