

**PETS AND MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING ON OKINAWA**

***Care for your pets, and leave them in the United States until after you arrive and know whether your assigned quarters allows them!***

Since 1 August 2009, all inbound, accompanied military personnel have been required to live on-base if Military Family Housing (MFH) units are available that meet mandatory assignment standards. The Air Force's 18th Wing Commander, Kadena Air Force Base, is the Executive Agent for MFH on Okinawa and assigns MFH based upon the available MFH unit inventory and the mandatory MFH policy. Together, the Executive Agent for MFH on Okinawa and Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Camp S. D. Butler, determine which MFH units meet mandatory assignment standards. The MFH criteria for meeting these standards include, but are not limited to: (1) age; (2) condition; (3) size; (4) configuration; and (5) last renovation date.

"Pet-friendly" MFH is limited, and military personnel should not bring their pets to Okinawa until after learning whether they are assigned to a pet-friendly MFH unit. Due to the significant number of available tower (i.e., apartment-style) MFH units versus other types of MFH units (single, duplex and multiplex), families with pets must anticipate being offered tower MFH units. Many pets are prohibited in most tower MFH units, and pet ownership is not a reason for refusing MFH.

Military personnel with pets who refuse MFH housing because of pet ownership may elect to properly dispose of their pets or live off-base without receiving Overseas Housing Allowance. When making these decisions, however, military members should consider that their "out-of-pocket" off-base rental and utilities costs would typically run between \$2,000~4,000 per month. They should also consider that returning an unaccompanied pet dog or cat back to the United States as cargo may cost around \$2,500.00.

Temporary Lodging Allowance (TLA) is a an entitlement intended to partially reimburse military personnel for expenses incurred while occupying temporary lodging and expenses for meals obtained as a direct result of using temporary lodging. The TLA entitlement is significant, but it stops when MFH is properly offered and refused based on pet ownership. Any loss of TLA may compound military personal "out-of-pocket" expenses.

The Marine Corps Housing Management Manual, MCO P11000.22, Chapter 5, and the Marine Corps Bases Japan Order for registering and controlling domestic animals, MCBJO 10570.1, [https://ww1.mcbbutler.nmci.usmc.mil/g1\\_administrativesupport/Directives/MarineCorpsBase/BO%2010570.1B%20REGISTRATION%20AND%20CONTROL%20OF%20PETS.pdf](https://ww1.mcbbutler.nmci.usmc.mil/g1_administrativesupport/Directives/MarineCorpsBase/BO%2010570.1B%20REGISTRATION%20AND%20CONTROL%20OF%20PETS.pdf) generally prohibit Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and canine wolf hybrids aboard Marine Corps Bases Japan. Due to the propensity for dominant or aggressive behavior, these prohibited breeds, plus

Doberman Pinschers and Chows, are not allowed in tower MFH units at any time.

Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, and canine wolf hybrids present an unreasonable risk to the health and safety of personnel in family housing areas and shall not be imported to Japan. In addition, military members and civilians residing on Marine Corps Bases Japan shall not acquire them.

A prohibited "Pit Bull" is any dog that is an American Pit Bull Terrier, an American Staffordshire Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, or any dog displaying the majority of physical traits of any one or more of the above breeds, or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics which substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club, the United Kennel Club for any of the above breeds.

A prohibited "Rottweiler" is any dog displaying the majority of physical traits of the Rottweiler breed or any dog exhibiting those distinguishing characteristics which substantially conform to the standards established by the American Kennel Club, the United Kennel Club for the Rottweiler breed.

A prohibited "canid wolf hybrid" is an animal that is the progeny of a dog and a wolf (*Canis lupus* or *Canis rufus*), an animal that is advertised or otherwise described or represented to be a wolf hybrid, or an animal that exhibits primary physical and/or behavioral wolf characteristics. In the absence of formal breed identification (e.g., certification by a civilian organization such as the American Kennel Club), a determination of "majority breed" or "canid-wolf hybrid" will be made by qualified personnel with appropriate accreditations to determine the breed.

In the absence of formal breed identification (e.g., certification by a civilian organization such as the American Kennel Club), a determination of "majority breed" or "canid/wolf hybrid" will be made by qualified personnel with appropriate accreditations to determine the breed. The predominant dog breed identified on a valid Veterinary Health Certificate (e.g., MDJ OP Form 2209) establishes a presumption of a dog's breed.

A dog owner's intentional misrepresentation of a dog's breed may result in the withdrawal of registration privileges pursuant to paragraph 5a(9) of MCBJO 10570.1. For further detailed information, contact your Okinawa Command Point of Contact or your sponsor.

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