

New pet policy established for Army housing

Dianne Borges, Balfour Beatty Communities

New pet policy established for Army Privatized Housing

March 19, 2009 -- Recently, a universal Pet Policy for military families has been developed so that as families relocate, they can evaluate their moving options when transferring from one installation to another as well as maintain a level of consistency that will assist them when making their housing decision.

The partners evaluated input from residents, past experiences with animals in residential developments (both on-post and off), insurance implications for liability as well as the standard apartment community pet policies obtained from off-post apartment communities. The policy identifies aggressive breeds as well as pets that are prohibited to board on post.

"Our number one priority is to provide a safe, family-friendly living environments for the resident families and children who live on post," stated Heidi Puente, Community Manager for Balfour Beatty Communities, "as well as allow families to plan accordingly if they have certain breeds as pets."

The aggressive or potentially aggressive breeds of dogs that have been identified in the Pet Policy are Pit Bulls (American Staffordshire Terriers or Staffordshire Bull Terriers), Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers, Chows and wolf hybrids. This will also extend to other dogs not listed that demonstrate aggressive behavior.

"We understand that people with visual, hearing and physical disability may keep certified service dogs and nothing in this policy will hinder full access to the homes or common areas by anyone with a disability who may have one of these breeds for that purpose," said Puente.

However, if a resident currently living in privatized housing has a prohibited pet at the time the policy went into effect, they may keep the pet until they vacate, if there are no pending complaints related to the pet's behavior and they have executed a pet addendum with the appropriate information when they signed their lease or when they acquired the pet. This grandfather exception will terminate when the resident moves from the installation they resided at when the policy was instituted.

In addition, residents may not board exotic animals, including reptiles, rodents (other than hamsters and guinea pigs), ferrets, hedgehogs, skunks, rats, raccoons, squirrels, pot bellied pigs, monkeys, arachnids, or any farm animal.

"We understand that no policy can address every possible situation, but we have provided standards that families can evaluate when making a decision about housing and ownership of certain pets," added Puente.

For more information, contact the Community Management Office at 717-243-7177 or consult Frequently Asked Questions posted at www.carlislebarrackshomes.com under Forms and Guides.

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