

8. CONTROL: This section applies to all service animals and/or pets on Columbus AFB:

- a. Owners must control their animal at all times with a leash while outdoors. Owners will keep their animal from threatening or injuring any person or other animal, destroying property, or otherwise creating any type of public nuisance or disturbance.
- b. Reports of prohibited dog breed violations will be directed to Columbus Lowndes Animal Control (662-329-5723) to secure and remove the animal from Columbus AFB. (Exception: Service animals are not limited by breed. Refer to 5.d. of this policy.)
- c. Reports of animals running loose, being a public nuisance, displaying hostile or confrontational behavior, and/or showing signs of aggression shall be directed to the Columbus Lowndes Animal Control to secure and remove the animal from Columbus AFB. If the incident occurs in Privatized Housing; Hunt Family Housing will also be notified.
- d. Reports of animal abuse and/or neglect will be directed to the Columbus Lowndes Animal Control for investigation.
- e. If an animal behaves in an unacceptable manner and the owner fails to control the animal, the IC shall be notified. The IC will review the incident and may direct the animal to be removed from Columbus AFB permanently and/or may issue administrative actions to the sponsoring member.



- f. If an animal causes a serious incident such as non-provoked chasing, growling, biting, attacking, or otherwise jeopardizing the well-being of humans or other domestic animals, the offending animal will be removed from Columbus AFB permanently.
- g. In the event of a dog bite, call 911 and/or seek medical attention immediately.
- h. IAW the Mississippi State Department of Health, any person owning an animal (regardless of vaccination status) which has bitten an adult or child shall immediately surrender such animal to the Columbus Lowndes Animal Control or a Veterinary Office, to be kept for the period of time in which the symptoms of rabies will or will not become evident. The owner shall be responsible for the cost of internment of the animal.

**For more information,
please contact the
Military Housing Office
at
662-434-2840**

Columbus AFB Service Animal and Pet Policy



July 2022

1. **PURPOSE:** This policy provides guidance for managing domestic animals in Temporary Lodging Facilities (TLFs), Unaccompanied Housing (UH), and providing oversight for Privatized Housing (PH), as well as, base access and control.

2. **AUTHORITY:** The Installation Commander (IC) has authority over installation access, control and domiciling for all domestic or wild animals that are not Service Dogs or Military Working Dogs, including pets, emotional support animals, therapy animals, and service dogs in training.

3. **PETS IN TLF AND PRIVATIZED HOUSING:**

- a. Pet owners are solely responsible for their animals at all times.
- b. Animal cruelty, neglect, abandonment, etc. will not be tolerated for any reason.
- c. Pet owners residing in PH will sign and abide by lease agreements.
- d. Residents may not board dogs of any breed that are deemed “aggressive” or “potentially aggressive.”
- e. Pets must be secured with leashes and under positive control while outdoors except when in fenced areas.
- f. 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.
- g. Residents may not board exotic or farm animals.
- h. Pet owners are responsible for the removal and disposal of their animals waste at all times and in all areas of the base.
- i. Residents shall not operate a commercial kennel or boarding facility.

4. **MILITARY WORKING DOGS (MWD):** MWDs are not pets and are not covered under this policy. MWDs are regulated IAW DAFI 31-121, *Military Working Dog Program*. For general safety and liability purposes, personnel, regardless of position, rank or experience, shall not pet MWDs.

5. **SERVICE ANIMALS:** For more service animal guidance refer to ADA.gov, DAFI 36-2710, Equal Opportunity Program, DoDI 1300.27, Guidance on the Use of Service Dogs by Service Members, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and/or the Fair Housing Act.

- a. DoDI 1300.27 provides specific guidance for service members with service animals.
- b. Federal agencies are required by law to provide reasonable accommodations to qualified employees with service animals.
- c. Under the 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.
- d. Service animals are working animals, not “pets”.
- e. Service animals are dogs only, and can be any breed and/or any size.
- f. Individuals with disabilities will not be refused access to a facility based solely on the breed of their service dog.
- f. Service animals are not required to be certified, licensed, registered, or professionally trained and are not required to wear any kind of ID indicating they are a service animal.
- g. Animals whose sole function is to provide comfort or emotional support do not qualify as service animals.

h. Residents in Columbus Family Housing with service animals are required to register the service animal with Hunt Housing.

i. Service animals are required to be up -to-date on immunizations and required to wear a collar or harness with a current rabies tag attached.

j. A service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times.

k. Individuals with disabilities may bring their service animals in to all areas of Air Force facilities where members of the public, program participants, clients, customers, or invitees are allowed.

6. **OFF-LIMIT LOCATIONS:** Pets are not allowed in:

- a. Official duty locations
- b. Intramural fields
- c. Playgrounds

7. **VISITING/TEMPORARY SERVICE ANIMALS and PETS:** Owners of visiting and/or temporary service animals and/or pets shall adhere to all applicable guidance while on Columbus AFB, as well as, all other pertinent federal, state, and local laws.

