**Section 4 – PETS**

4.1. RESPONSIBILITY. Sponsors are responsible for the behavior of their pets and must assure their pets do not become a nuisance or menace to other pets, persons, or property. Owners must ensure pets are immunized and must maintain clean surroundings and provide proper humane care for their pets. Owners displaying lack of responsibility jeopardize their privilege of having pets in Soaring Heights Communities. Any animal demonstrating aggressive behavior must be immediately and permanently removed from the housing community. To report pet neglect, abuse, biting, nuisance and destruction of property, notify the Soaring Heights Communities Housing Office 745-5024 or Security Forces at 228-3200. Soaring Heights Communities reserves the right to require removal of any animal when such reporting results in confirmation of neglect, abuse, biting, nuisance, and/or destruction of property.

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**4.2. AUTHORIZED PETS**. Authorized animals are limited to most breeds of dogs, cats, guinea pigs, domestic rabbits, white mice and white rats (from the USA), and caged birds or fish in bowls or aquariums. No more than 2 pets (besides those in cages or aquariums) per household are allowed, with the exception of puppies and kittens up to 8 weeks of age. Unauthorized animals include any animal that is banned by state and federal laws. In addition, the following animals are unauthorized:

Wild, exotic, or undomesticated animals (e.g., forest/jungle beasts, potbellied pigs, or other wildlife. Raccoons, opossums, skunks, groundhogs, bats, squirrels, wolves, coyotes, and wild carnivores. Poisonous reptiles or large constrictor-type snakes

Hoofed animals, except when kept in a designated base area and which qualify as a riding, draft, or show animals.

Pit bull breeds of dogs (American pit bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American Staffordshire bull terriers, etc.) and Rottweilers. Any dog which is a percentage of pit bull or rottweiler, up to half-breed dogs of these types are also prohibited. The inbred aggressive nature of these breeds creates a safety hazard. Residents who were assigned to family housing prior to publication of this Resident Guide will be grandfathered from this policy. However, residents who were assigned to family housing prior to publication of this Resident Guide must be in compliance with Davis-Monthan AFB Housing Policy as it relates to pets.

**4.3. LICENSE/REGISTRATION/IDENTIFICATION.**

**4.3.1. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION.** All dogs over 4 months of age must be registered with the base Veterinary Clinic in Building 2712. If you plan on taking your pet off-base to a local park or city facility then you need to have your dog licensed with the City of Tucson. The Base Veterinary Clinic can assist you in registering your pet with the City. As applicable, the dog must wear a collar with an attached City dog tag. Licenses must be renewed on or before expiration date. Applications for licenses may be obtained from the Arizona Humane Society or any Satellite City Hall. Register all dogs and cats with the Veterinarian Treatment Facility (VTF) within 10 working days of arrival on base.

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**4.3.2. CAT AND DOG IDENTIFICATION MICROCHIP**. Owners of dogs and cats on base are strongly encouraged to have an American Veterinary Identification Device (AVID) microchip implanted under the skin of their pets. This device will assist in returning lost animals to their proper owners. The implant serves as a worldwide identification system and is especially beneficial for military personnel who relocate often. The Base Veterinary Clinic in building 2712 can perform this procedure. For appointments or questions, call the clinic at 228-3529.

**4.4. CONTROL OF PETS**. Dogs must be confined to the home or in a fenced yard. At no time may pets be chained or otherwise attached to trees, bushes, or any building, structure, or appurtenance. When dogs are outside the owner’s yard for any purpose, they must be leashed and at all times under control of the owner or another person capable of controlling the animal. Animals other than dogs and cats must be kept in cages or tanks at all times.

**4.5. BREEDING/COMMERCIAL USE**. Breeding of any animal for commercial use is strictly prohibited. Spaying/neutering is strongly encouraged; however, if this is not agreeable, homes must be found for any litters produced, prior to the 8-week age. At no time past the 8-week age will there be more than 2 pets in a household.

**4.6. ANIMAL FECES/HEALTH HAZARD**. All animal owners or their representative (if the owner is away from Davis-Monthan AFB) are responsible for the daily removal and sanitary disposal of pet feces from yards and/or common areas and neighboring yards. All animal feces within the interior of the quarters shall be picked up immediately and litter boxes cleaned regularly. Animal feces in owner’s yards must be removed on a daily basis. Violations of this requirement constitute a health hazard and will be dealt with accordingly. (See paragraph 3.1 and 3.1.6.)

**4.7. FEMALE DOGS AND CATS**. Female dogs and cats in heat must be confined inside the owner’s home or garage. Being in a fenced yard does not constitute confinement. If the owner chooses not to confine the dog or cat, it must be kept at a place off the installation. Female dogs and cats in heat will not be tied or kept in cages or pens outside the owner’s quarters, nor will they be allowed to run loose. They may be let outside to relieve themselves, but must be under the direct scrutiny and control of the owner at all times.

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**4.8. STRAY/LOST ANIMALS**. Contact Pima County Animal Control to pick up stray or lost animals. Stray animals will be kept for a period not to exceed 24 hours, and then will be turned over to the Humane Society or to a local rescue program if available (i.e. Save a Feline from Euthanasia (S.A.F.E.) )

**4.9. NUISANCE/VICIOUS ANIMALS**. Owners may be directed to permanently remove any animals displaying unprovoked vicious behavior such as lunging at people, continuous growling, biting, fighting, etc. Such removal will be at the owner’s expense. Repeated instances of animal misbehavior/lack of control on the part of the owner will jeopardize the privilege of pet ownership for the duration of residence in Soaring Heights Communities. Any animal that barks, bays, cries, whines, howls, or makes any other continual unreasonable noise is considered a nuisance. Residents can purchase training collars through a veterinarian to prevent these noises.

**4.10. ANIMAL BITES**. All incidents of animal bites must be reported immediately to Security Forces at 228-3200 and to Soaring Heights Housing Office at 745-5024. The Veterinary Clinic should also review the incident to determine whether the animal should be quarantined.

**4.11. PET SITTING**. Residents may accept the responsibility of watching pets for a neighbor, friend, or coworker in their own home if the additional pets do not bring the total household pets to more than two. By doing so, the pet sitter is accepting full responsibility and liability for the animals as noted above. All violations, fines, and police incident reports involving the animal will be issued to the animal sitter, not the owner, during the sitting period. Animals may not be left alone in a home, garage, carport, or back yard for more than 12 hours without pet sitter attention.