

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Fire Chief's General Order

NUMBER: 14-02

February 28, 2014

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



SUBJECT: Domestic Animals and Working Dogs in MCFRS Stations, Facilities, and Vehicles

At times, MCFRS personnel may bring animals into stations or facilities. These visits may be for the purposes of outreach/education, a work partner, or for casual interaction with fellow MCFRS personnel.

"*Domestic animals*" are defined as "any types of various animals, including dogs, cats, birds, or reptiles, domesticated so as to live and breed in a tame condition."

Service dogs used by MCFRS members to assist with specific disabilities, including vision, hearing, seizures, or other medical conditions, will follow the guidelines for *domestic animals*. In this FCGO, domestic animals and service dogs will be referred to as "*pets*".

A "*working dog*" is defined as "a canine supported by MCFRS for the purpose of search and rescue, explosives detection, or other duties."

Effective immediately, all personnel must comply with the parameters below regarding ***pets*** and ***working dogs***.

- ***Pets*** are ***prohibited*** in MCFRS stations, facilities, and vehicles **after 2300 hours**.
- While in MCFRS stations or facilities, ***pets must be leashed or in a kennel***.
- Pets may be brought to MCFRS station or facilities ***only for brief visits***.
- Pets are ***prohibited*** in MCFRS facility kitchens, locker rooms, and sleeping areas.
- Personnel must obtain the approval of the career/volunteer station officer or facility manager ***before*** a pet enters a MCFRS station or facility.

- Personnel who bring pets to MCFRS stations or facilities are responsible for cleaning up after the pet, **including both the interior and exterior areas of the station.**
- If any personnel assigned to the MCFRS station or facility are allergic to the pet, that pet is **prohibited** from entering that facility.
- Pets are not allowed on or in moving MCFRS vehicles **except** during community outreach events, as approved by the unit officer, and assigned support and staff vehicles.

Personnel who own/handle **Working Dogs** must follow these parameters.

- Working dogs **must** have a **designated kennel area** that **must be climate-controlled.**
- Working dogs are **prohibited** in MCFRS station or facility kitchens, locker rooms, and sleeping areas.
- The working dog owner/handler is responsible for providing all necessary kennel or support equipment.
- The working dog owner/handler is responsible for cleaning up after their dog, **including both the interior and exterior areas of the station.**
- If any personnel assigned to the MCFRS station or facility are allergic to the working dog, the station officer or facility manager must be notified immediately so alternative arrangements can be made.
- Working dogs **must be secured/belted** while on or in an MCFRS vehicle.

For additional information, please contact the Operations Division Chief @ 240-777-2464

