

Atsugi's Kennels take care of base's pets

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NAVAL AIR FACILITY ATSUGI, JAPAN- In December of 2010 Naval Air Facility (NAF) Atsugi moved its kennel facility from Naval Support Facility Kamiseya to the base.

The new location of the kennel makes it easier for the workers and volunteers of the kennel to maintain it and keep it in the top shape it can be. The new location is more convenient for the owners of the pets on Atsugi.

"It's easier for me to go check up on it and maintain it," said Terry Williams, Outdoor Recreation Manager and Kennel Supervisor. "Most of the customers are very happy its here now because most of them live on this base."

The new kennel has more space for the pets than the previous one on Kamiseya. It can hold up to 10 dogs and 4 cats at one time. The facility only provides services for cats and dogs and cannot provide care for any other types of animals.

Do to the size of the kennel it does not provide an on scene veterinarian but in case of emergency's U.S. Army Camp Zama has vets available.

"We are strictly a boarding kennel and we don't have any veterinarian services here," said Williams. "So say like a dog is getting sick we then would have to call the vet and take them over there."

Even though the vets are mostly called for emergency cases only, they do come and check on the facility to make sure it maintains its proper hygiene cleanliness and hygiene standards.

The kennel tries to keep its maximum 30 day stay for pets at the facility so that the animals don't go through a depression phase and the workers can keep the pet on a stable and healthy diet. Owners with pets on special diets will need to provide the facility with the specialty food item when they drop the animal off.

At the NAF Atsugi kennel, the workers make sure to get the dogs outside for daily walks and exercise.

“We make sure that we take the dogs out twice a day,” said Williams. “To use the bathroom and walk the animals around the yard in back so that they aren't stuck inside all day.”

The kennel provides grooming services such as washing the animals, cleaning the pet's ears and combing of the hair to keep the animals in a healthy condition.

For more information on about NAF Atsugi's kennel call 264-5366 or 011-81-467-63-5366.