**[*insert AFC name*] Pets in a Residential Home Policy**

**(applicable if pets are visiting or residing in home)**

**Effective Date:** [*insert date here*]

**Purpose:** The purpose of this pet policy is to promote a harmonious living environment for all while ensuring the well-being of both persons-served and animals. By establishing clear guidelines and expectations for pet ownership, this policy aims to foster responsible pet ownership, mitigate potential conflicts, maintain property values, and uphold the safety, cleanliness, and tranquility of the premises.

**Scope:** This policy applies if pets are visiting or residing at [insert AFC name here] and to all staff members and persons-served at [*insert AFC name here*]. This policy provides guidelines for pet ownership and care.

**Definitions:** A pet, for the purposes of this policy, refers to any domesticated animal kept for companionship or pleasure within the residential premises. This includes, but is not limited to, dogs, cats, birds, fish, hamsters, guinea pigs, and other similar small mammals or reptiles. Excluded from this definition are service animals as defined by applicable laws, including but not limited to those trained to assist individuals with disabilities. Any ambiguity regarding whether an animal falls within this definition shall be determined at the discretion of the [*insert AFC name here*].

**Policy:**

1. **Preventive Measures:** 
   1. Rules and regulations regarding animal ownership for the city, county, and state in which the home is located must be followed.
   2. All animals must have current vaccination records, rabies, and routine veterinary care. Veterinary medical records may be requested from the pet owner.
   3. All persons residing at the home should approve of the pet being in the home and suffer no discomfort due to its presence.
2. **Applicability and Responsibility:** 
   1. No pet that is suspected of being aggressive or destructive to property will be allowed on the premises. Any pet which becomes a threat will be removed from the home.
   2. No pet shall be mistreated, either by abuse or neglect, at the residence. Neglect or abuse will be cause for removing the pet from the residence and may be cause for persons-served dismissal.
   3. If the pet is owned by a staff member, the care of pet must not intrude on the care or supervision of the persons-served in the home.
   4. Pet owner is solely responsible for the maintenance and costs related to the upkeep of the pet to insure it receives proper standard care and humane treatment.
   5. Pet owner is responsible for proper disposal of pet waste and keeping their environment in a condition that does not cause noticeable order.
   6. Pet owner is responsible for keeping the animal properly leashed or restrained within and outside of the residence.
   7. Pets should not disrupt the peace and quiet of the residence. Excessive barking, aggressive behavior, or other disturbances are not acceptable.
   8. Any pet causing infestation or damage to the building, grounds, or flooring will be considered the complete responsibility of the pet owner.
3. **Compliance:** 
   1. Violation of any terms within this policy will result in immediate dismissal of the pet from the residence.
   2. All personnel at [*insert AFC name here*] are expected to adhere to this policy and comply with its provisions at all times.
4. **Statement:**

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the pets in a residential home policy. By signing below, I agree to adhere to the procedures outlined in this policy and understand the importance of ensuring the safety and well-being of persons-served.

**Print Name: Signature:** **Date:**

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