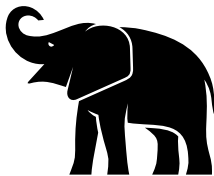
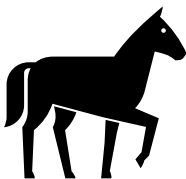




Licensing and Registration Under the Animal Welfare Act

Guidelines for Dealers, Exhibitors, Transporters, and Researchers



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint \(www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer\)](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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INTRODUCTION

Ensuring the humane treatment of animals is good business, good for animals, and is required by law under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Passed by Congress in 1966, the law seeks to ensure the humane treatment of many animals not raised for food, fiber, feathers, or eggs. It also prohibits animal-fighting ventures and the importation of under-aged, ill, or unvaccinated dogs intended for resale in the United States.

Many businesses that buy or sell warm-blooded animals, exhibit them to the public, transport them commercially, or use these animals for research, teaching, testing, or experiments, must be licensed and/or registered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Normal farm-type operations that raise, buy, or sell animals only for food, fur, and fiber, and businesses that use only fish and other cold-blooded animals are exempt by law. Rabbit, mink, chinchilla, and ratite businesses are exempt from regulation if they are intended only for food, fiber, feathers, or eggs. If any rabbits, mink, or chinchillas, are designated for use in the pet, exhibit, or laboratory-animal trade, the business is regulated, unless exempt from the licensing requirements. If any ratites are designated for use in the pet or exhibitor trade, the business is regulated. Certain other types of businesses are specifically excluded by law or exempt by regulation. Exempt businesses are not required to be licensed or registered.

This document lists the major types of regulated and exempt businesses, but it does not cover all cases. If in doubt about your status, use the Licensing and Registration Assistant on the Animal Care website ([efile.aphis.usda.gov/LRAssistant/s/](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/LRAssistant/s/)), or call or write the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care (AC) office (see page 15). AC personnel will address your questions and help you obtain a copy of the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 9, Chapter 1, Subchapter A, which gives the legal requirements for businesses regulated by the Animal Welfare Act.

If you are an owner or the person in charge of a regulated business, the law requires you to be licensed or registered with USDA. Failure to become licensed or registered is a violation of the Animal Welfare Act. Based on the information you supply, APHIS determines whether your business should be licensed, registered, or both. Licensing involves a standardized fee; registration is free. The owner, operator, manager, or Institutional Official has responsibility for knowing about licensing or registration requirements.

REGISTRATION: To obtain USDA APHIS Animal Care registration, go to our website (www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/SA_Regulated_Businesses) and complete the registration online, or complete APHIS form 7011A and submit the completed application to the Animal Care office. Upon receipt of the completed application, a registration certificate will be issued. There is no fee for registration.

LICENSURE: To obtain a USDA APHIS Animal Care license, go to our website (www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/SA_Regulated_Businesses) and complete the license application online, or complete APHIS form 7003A and submit the completed application to the Animal Care office. A three-year non-refundable license fee for all licensees (Class A, B, C) is \$120. A renewal license is needed whenever your 3-year license expires.

A NEW LICENSE (PRIOR TO EXPIRATION) IS NEEDED WHEN:

- You increase your total animals on hand at any time above the authorized number for your license. Licenses are authorized in increments of 50 animals on hand at any single point in time during licensure. While there is a maximum number of total animals that are authorized on the license, there is no approval/authorization needed for the number of animals in individual categories.
- You change ownership, location, or type of activity
- You want to acquire and use an animal type from the list below that you are not currently authorized on your license to use:
 - Exotic and wild felids (including but not limited to lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, cougars, lynx, servals, bobcats and caracals, and any hybrid cross thereof)
 - Hyenas and/or wild/exotic canids (including but not limited to wolves, coyotes, foxes, and jackals)
 - Bears
 - Megaherbivores (including but not limited to elephants, rhinoceros, hippopotamuses, giraffes)
 - Group 5 nonhuman primates (baboons and non-brachiating species larger than 33 pounds)
 - Group 6 nonhuman primates (great apes over 55 pounds and brachiating species)

Any change to a license described above be submitted to Animal Care, in writing, 90 days prior to the change taking place.

After applying for a license, you will be contacted to start the pre-license process. You must be fully compliant in order to pass a pre-license inspection and receive a license. You can receive up to 3 pre-license inspections within a period not to exceed 60 days from the day of the first pre-license inspection to correct any deficiencies. If you do not pass inspection within the 60-day period, you must wait at least 6 months before reapplying for a license. Current and new licensees can appeal the third pre-license inspection to Animal Care's Deputy Administrator if they do not pass inspection and if the appeal is submitted within 7 days of receiving the third pre-license inspection report. If the appeal is denied, it can be submitted for legal review provided that the applicant held a valid license when he or she submitted the license application, and, provided that the Animal Care Deputy Administrator received the license application 90 days before the valid license expired. Appeals for current licensees will be expedited for review. Licensees can continue to participate in regulated activities until the Deputy Administrator issues a decision on the appeal. New applicants cannot conduct any regulated activity until they have a valid license. If you operate a regulated business without a license, you may be subject to penalties and other sanctions, after notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

Maintaining a USDA APHIS AC License or Registration

The same standards of animal care apply to all licensed and registered businesses, and USDA inspectors make periodic unannounced visits to all locations where animals are held to see that regulations and standards are followed.

The Animal Welfare Act Regulations and Standards cover humane handling, housing, space, feeding and watering, sanitation, ventilation, shelter from extremes of weather, adequate veterinary care, separation of incompatible animals, transportation, and handling in transit.

REGULATED BUSINESSES

When first contacting USDA, indicate the species you possess and use for covered purposes the type of business you are in, and/or the type of business to which you sell animals. You must be licensed according to what type of activity is your predominant business. For instance, you cannot be licensed as an exhibitor if the majority of your business is selling animals. If your business falls under any of the categories of “dealers” listed below, you must be licensed by USDA.

Pet Wholesalers—Anyone buying, selling, transferring, or trading pets in commerce in wholesale channels (e.g., to another dealer or retailer) must be licensed. Some small-scale wholesalers may qualify for an exemption (see “Hobby Dealers”).

Pet Breeders—Anyone breeding pets for covered sales must be licensed unless they fall under an exemption. You must be licensed if you wholesale dogs as breeding stock to other breeders. Some small-scale breeders can qualify for an exemption (see “Hobby Dealers”).

Pet Retailers—Anyone selling pets sight unseen to buyers at retail must be licensed. However, if the buyer, seller, and animals are all together at the same time, this qualifies for an exemption (see “Retail Pet Stores”).

Laboratory Animal Dealers—Anyone buying AND selling, or trading laboratory animals (including genetically engineered or cloned animals), either directly to research institutions or through other dealers, must be licensed (except for “Hobby Dealers”). Due to Congressional direction, a Class B dealer’s license cannot be used to sell live dogs or cats acquired from random sources for use in research, experimentation, teaching, or testing. This licensing requirement includes research institutions (except State or Federal facilities) that sell or trade surplus animals to others.

Laboratory Animal Breeders—Anyone breeding and selling regulated animals for laboratory-animal trade must be licensed (except for “Hobby Dealers”).

Animal Brokers Who Do Not Take Possession of the Animals—Anyone who resales or negotiates the purchase or sale of regulated animals must be licensed unless they fall under one of the exemptions. If you are a

broker who does not take possession or control of the animal, you may not be subject to certain regulations imposed on dealers who handle animals, but you still need the same type of license.

Private Shelters and Rescues—Animal shelters operated by humane societies, non-profit organizations, and other private groups, entities, or individuals are treated the same as any other dealer. If the private shelter or group charges adoption fees or receives other monetary or in-kind compensation for their animals, then a license is needed, unless an exemption applies.

Auction Operators—Anyone who operates an auction at which regulated animals are being sold for a covered purpose, must be licensed regardless of whether the proceeds go to charity. Anyone consigning regulated animals to the auction must also be licensed as a dealer unless an exemption applies.

Non-native (Exotic) Animal Dealers—Anyone buying, selling, or trading animals that are non-native to the United States for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet, must be licensed, unless they fall under one of the exemptions. You also must be licensed if you sell domestically bred non-native animals for such regulated purposes.

Hoofstock Dealers—For anyone selling hoofstock, if the majority of sales of domesticated farm hoofstock (sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, llamas) are for regulated purposes, and more than 10 of those animals are sold for regulated purposes in a calendar year, then the seller must be licensed. Also, anyone selling more than 10 wild hoofstock (such as deer, bison, or elk) for regulated purposes in a calendar year, or one or more exotic animals (such as a zebra, hippopotami, ibex, camel, giraffe, or similar species), must be licensed.

Wild Animal Dealers—A business or individual selling wild animals for regulated purposes must be licensed, unless one of the exemptions applies. “Wild animal” means any animal which is now or historically has been found in the wild, or in the wild state, within the boundaries of the United States, its territories, or possessions. This term includes, but is not limited to, animals such as deer, skunk, raccoon, mink, coyote, fox, and wolf. If you sell any wild or exotic animals, you are not eligible to claim exemption as a retail pet store. If you do not fall under another

exemption, you must comply with standards of care for all regulated animals—not just wild or exotic animals.

Suppliers of Specimens—Anyone who sells dead animals that are regulated or who sells the blood, serum, or parts of these animals for regulated purposes (such as for research) must be licensed, unless you acquire the dead animal or parts from another licensed dealer for resale. This includes anyone that acquires a live animal and subsequently euthanizes the animal to sell for a regulated purpose. Anyone acquiring a dead dog or cat (or parts) from unlicensed sources and sells them for regulated purposes must be licensed. A license is not required for sales of pregnant mare urine; sales of animals that were dead when purchased; and sales of dogs or cats that were already dead when purchased from a USDA licensed dealer, municipal, county, or state pound/shelter.

EXEMPT BUSINESSES

Retail Pet Stores—Anyone whose entire business consists of selling, adopting, or transferring certain pet-type animals (such as dogs, cats, rabbits, pet birds, hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas, and domesticated ferrets) to pet owners in person, at a place where the seller, buyer, and animal are physically present, is exempt. However, if as part of your business you exhibit animals, you are not considered a retail pet store and should be licensed as an exhibitor. For example, you are not considered a retail pet store if you take animals outside the store for teaching or promotion, if you set up a petting display, sell wild or exotic animals, or sell regulated animals to other retailers, research institutions, exhibitors, or other animal dealers. You need to be licensed as an exhibitor if you display a wild/exotic animal that is not offered for sale inside the store.

Exemptions for retail pet stores are on an all-or-nothing basis. If you qualify for an exemption, none of your business is regulated or inspected. If you do not qualify as a retail pet store and do not qualify for any other exemption, you are a dealer, and all regulated animals are inspected.

Working Dog Dealers—A retail outlet that sells dogs for hunting, breeding, and security is excluded from requiring licensure. However, wholesale sales of these dogs requires a license.

Direct Sales—Anyone who only sells domestic pets directly to pet owners in person, at a place where the seller, buyer, and animal are all physically present is exempt, regardless of sales volume.

Hobby Dealers—Small-scale breeders and other dealers with gross sales under \$500 per year are exempt, as long as these sales do not include wild or exotic animals, dogs, or cats. If you own no more than four (4) breeding female pet animals, “exotic companion mammals,” and/or domesticated farm-type animals, and sell only their offspring, which were born and raised on your premises for pets or exhibition, you are exempt. “Exotic companion mammals” are small, non-dangerous exotic or wild mammals, such as sugar gliders, hedgehogs, degus, spiny mice, prairie dogs, flying squirrels, and jerboas. You are exempt if you sell fewer than 25 dogs and/or cats each year, which were born and raised on your premises, for research, teaching, or testing purposes or to any research facility. These exemptions do not extend to anyone acting in concert with others where they collectively maintain a total of more than four breeding females (in case of pet or exhibition sales) or produce and sell more than 25 dogs and/or cats (in the case of research).

Small-scale breeders who sell 200 or fewer small pet birds and/or 8 or fewer large pet birds that were born and raised on their premises for pets or exhibition, and who are not otherwise required to obtain a license, are exempt. Small pet birds are defined as being 250 grams or less as determined by the average adult weight of the species. Large pet birds are more than 250 grams average adult weight. This exemption does not apply to any person residing in a household that collectively sells more than 200 pet birds.

Hoofstock Dealers—Anyone selling hoofstock to game ranches or private collectors solely for breeding or agricultural purposes (such as to improve food and fiber) does not need a license. In addition, anyone who sells less than 50 percent of their domesticated farm hoofstock (sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, and llamas), or 10 or fewer domesticated farm hoofstock or wild hoofstock (such as deer, bison, or elk), for regulated purposes in a calendar year does not need to obtain a license. However, anyone selling one or more exotic hoofstock (such as zebra, hippopotami, ibex, camel, giraffe, or similar animal) must be licensed if they meet the definition of dealer.

Animal Shelters—Animal shelters that are under the jurisdiction of a State, county, or local government are exempt. The exemption covers only the shelter’s own activities. You must have a dealer’s license if you obtain

animals from shelters for resale or acquire them on contract for resale. The AWA places some restrictions on shelters, such as a specific holding period for animals before they may be sold to a dealer.

Trade-Day Sales Sponsors—Anyone arranging occasions for people to make private sales or trades of animals is exempt. The exemption holds only if the sponsor does not act as intermediary in the transaction. The buyers, sellers, and traders at trade-day sales, however, must be licensed if they meet the definition of a dealer.

Boarding Kennels—Anyone housing animals for others is exempt, except for intermediate handlers and holding facilities.

Dealers in a Nonregulated Species—There is an exemption for anyone handling only those animals not included under federal law or regulations (see Introduction). Examples of businesses not needing licensing or registration include those that handle only fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

REGULATED TRANSPORTATION REGISTRANTS

Carriers—Anyone transporting regulated animals for hire (e.g., as a common carrier or by contract or agreement) must be registered as a carrier. This includes airlines, railroads, motor carriers, shipping lines, and other enterprises, as well as anyone hired to transport animals to and from pet stores, veterinarian offices, etc., such as a pet taxi. As a carrier, all your facilities where animals are kept or held are regulated, including terminals and freight storage. You are responsible for enforcing all restrictions on animals that can be legally shipped by your customers. You also are responsible for proper crating, whether the shipper or receiver is a private pet owner, a business, an institution, or a government agency. Pets transported by their owners as carry-on baggage are not regulated.

Intermediate Handlers—Anyone taking custody of regulated animals in connection with transporting them on public carriers must be registered as an intermediate handler. This requirement covers boarding kennels that take responsibility for shipping animals or receiving them after or during shipment, as well as quarantine facilities, pet/flight nannies, freight forwarders and freight handlers.

EXEMPT TRANSPORTATION REGISTRANTS

Transporters of Nonregulated Species—There is an exemption for anyone transporting only animals not included under Federal law or regulations (see Introduction). Examples of carriers not needing licensing or registration are those restricting their services to unregulated wild animals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

REGULATED ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

If you have animals on display to the public (including television, movies, internet, social media) or conduct performances featuring animals, you must become licensed as an exhibitor, unless you fall under one of the exemptions.

Zoological Parks—Animal exhibits open to the public, regardless of compensation, must be licensed whether they are owned by states, counties, or other local governments; corporations; foundations; or private individuals. Zoos operated by agencies of the federal government are not licensed, but the animals in these zoos are inspected and are subject to these same AWA regulations and standards of animal care. Petting zoos with regulated animals must be licensed and are subject to AWA regulations. Some exhibitors may qualify for an exemption (see below).

Marine Mammal Shows—Exhibits, shows, and acts with marine mammals must be licensed. This includes public aquariums, amusement parks, and zoos. However, exhibits in which free-living marine mammals are viewed in their unconfined native habitats are exempt; examples are coastal seal rookeries or commercial whale sightseeing tours. Marine mammals include polar bears, sea otters, whales, porpoises, dolphins, manatees, dugongs, seals, sea lions, walruses, and other sea mammals that have fins or flippers. Marine mammals are protected by a separate set of standards for care and handling.

Animal Performances and Interactions—Any owner exhibiting regulated animals performing tricks or shows or interacting with the public and receiving compensation in any venue must be licensed, unless one of the exemptions applies. This includes each person owning animals performing in circuses, marine mammal shows, amusement parks, carnivals, independent animal acts, television shows, movies, internet

broadcasts, or educational exhibits. All animals must receive the same quality of housing and other care, regardless of whether the animal is currently performing.

Carnivals—Concessionaires who exhibit regulated animals must be licensed as exhibitors unless they fall under one of the exemptions. If live regulated animals are given as prizes, you must be licensed as a dealer unless you fall under an exemption. Carnivals cannot be included in the exemption of an agricultural show, such as a fair with a midway.

Promotional Exhibits—Anyone who uses regulated animals to promote or advertise goods and services must be licensed, unless one of the exemptions applies. You must be licensed even if you do promotions with only a single animal. You also must be licensed if you use animals to promote photographs or photography, except for photography of free-living animals in their unconfined native habitats, unless there is an exemption that applies.

Animal-Fighting Ventures—Assembled dogfights, bear or raccoon baiting, and similar animal-fighting ventures are prohibited by the Animal Welfare Act, with stiff penalties for convicted sponsors and promoters. Cockfights are only allowed in U.S. territories and possessions that have no law against them, and only if the birds were not knowingly acquired in interstate or foreign commerce for cockfighting purposes. Animal-fighting ventures cannot be licensed or registered under the AWA.

EXEMPT ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

Private Collections—Anyone who collects animals but does not exhibit them to the public is exempt. In most cases, private donors are considered the public.

Hobby Exhibitors—Anyone who maintains eight or fewer pet animals, “exotic companion mammals,” and/or domesticated farm-type animals for exhibition is exempt from licensing. “Exotic companion mammals” are small, non-dangerous exotic or wild mammals, such as sugar gliders, hedgehogs, degus, spiny mice, prairie dogs, flying squirrels, and jerboas. This exemption does not apply to anyone acting in concert with others where they collectively maintain more than eight of these animals or anyone exhibiting other types of animals. Anyone who maintains four or fewer raptors for exhibition is exempt from

licensing. This exemption does not apply to anyone acting in concert with others where they collectively maintain more than four raptors for exhibition.

Amusement Parks—Amusement parks not owning animals are exempt. A person owning animals that are exhibited or perform in an amusement park must be licensed as an exhibitor and must comply with AWA requirements for facilities, conditions, and situations where animals are exhibited, unless one of the other exemptions applies.

Domesticated Farm Animal Exhibits—Anyone who arranges and takes part in showing only domesticated farm-type animals at agricultural shows, fairs, and exhibits is exempt (e.g., petting zoos with cows, pigs, sheep, goats, rabbits, llamas, and alpacas, exhibits of only racing pigs, bird fancier shows, pigeon races, etc.). Also exempt are exhibitions of art portraying traditional farming and agricultural settings (such as nativity scenes with a camel and domesticated farm-type animals displayed in a barn, and traditional agricultural displays of working animals, such as reindeer pulling a sled or working on a farm). However, anyone exhibiting other regulated animals along with domesticated farm-type animals for nonagricultural purposes (e.g., camel rides at carnivals) must be licensed.

Booking Agents—Licensed Acts: Anyone booking or arranging animal acts without owning any animals is exempt. However, as an agent you should realize that the exhibitors you book must comply with AWA requirements for facilities, conditions, and situations where animals are exhibited.

Unlicensed Acts (foreign): If foreign circuses, acts, or shows enter the United States to exhibit, their U.S. agent is required to be licensed and be responsible for the show.

Purebred Dog and Cat Shows—Sponsors and participants at purebred dog or cat shows, are exempt.

Horse Shows—Trainers, owners, riders, and sponsors of horse shows are not regulated under the Animal Welfare Act. APHIS does regulate them, however, under the Horse Protection Act, which forbids the inhumane practice of making a horse sore to enhance its performance.

Rodeos—Competitive events (such as bull riding or barrel racing) featuring only farm animals and horses are exempt from both the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act. Circus-type acts performed at rodeos must be licensed unless an exemption applies.

Animal Preserves and Hunts—Game and hunting preserves and events that keep animals in the wild state are exempt. However, if you maintain special exhibits for compensation or promotional activities, you must be licensed as an exhibitor. If you sell animals to exhibits, research, or the pet trade, you must be licensed as a dealer.

Shows of Nonregulated Animals—Anyone with exhibits limited to species of animals not covered by law or regulated is exempt. Typical examples would be reptile houses, anyone who exhibits horses, donkeys, mules etc., and aquariums without regulated animals.

Falconry—Birds used in falconry or used to promote falconry are exempt.

REGULATED RESEARCH FACILITIES

Institutions using any regulated live animals for research, testing, teaching, or experimentation must register with the USDA APHIS AC as a “research facility.” If the institution is part of a larger organization, the parent organization must acquire the registration. Research facilities should make sure their institution is legally registered and all AWA regulations and standards are followed.

Included under research, testing, teaching, or experimentation are:

- Laboratory investigations into animal propagation and control; However, note that wildlife management activities are not regulated.
- Manufacture of or testing biologics for other types of animals or for humans, including biologics produced or tested for possible multispecies use (e.g., multispecies rabies vaccines).
- Development of models for human subjects or other types of animals (e.g., using calves to develop an artificial human heart).
- Training of human or veterinary medical personnel in medical methods and procedures (e.g., surgery, diagnostic techniques, anesthesia, and analgesia).
- Production of antibodies or antisera in regulated animals for other types of animals.

- Production of genetically engineered animals for regulated purposes;
- Production or study of laboratory tests—including pregnancy tests, allergy tests, and other diagnostic procedures.
- Quality-control studies—such as studies on the safety, effectiveness, durability, or other quality tests of commercial products.
- College instruction—whether for research, or education for the improvement of medical treatment techniques and methods.

Registration is required to ensure that laboratory animals are provided with care and humane treatment meeting AWA regulations and standards. The AWA regulations require the use of appropriate pain-relieving drugs unless scientifically justified to withhold. Registered research facilities and all agencies of the federal government using animals in research must submit an annual report stating how many regulated animals were housed or used in research.

State-Owned and Local Government Facilities—Public research institutions administered and/or funded by a state or local government must be registered. State-run or locally run institutions do not have to be licensed as dealers even if they sell or trade regulated animals, but they must be licensed as exhibitors if they exhibit animals.

Private Research Facilities—Private research or testing institutions must be registered as research facilities. If private institutions sell, exhibit, or trade regulated animals to others, the institutions must be licensed as animal dealers or exhibitors.

Manufacturers of vaccines, drugs, and other medicines—Manufacturers of vaccines, drugs, and other medicines must be registered as research facilities if they do research, development, or quality-control tests on regulated animals. Institutions must be registered under the Animal Welfare Act even if they have other USDA establishment licenses to produce biologics under the Virus–Serum–Toxin Act.

Teaching Institutions—Facilities involved in using live animals for teaching purposes above the secondary-school level must be registered under the Animal Welfare Act—for example, college or university medical schools, veterinary schools, biology departments, etc. However, note that wildlife management activities are not regulated.

Diagnostic Laboratories—All diagnostic laboratories using live animals must be registered.

EXEMPT RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Federal Facilities—Agencies of the federal government that do research are not required to register with USDA APHIS AC and are not inspected by Animal Care, but each federal agency is responsible for complying with all AWA regulations and standards of animal care and for submitting an annual report to USDA on the use of regulated laboratory animals.

School Laboratories—Elementary and secondary schools are exempt from registration.

Agricultural Research Institutions—Research institutions that perform work involving food, fiber, or agriculture and that use horses and domestic farm animals, including rabbits, are exempt by regulation and do not have to be registered. Such activities include but are not limited to improving animal nutrition, breeding, management, production efficiency, or improving the quality of food or fiber. Also, exempt are horses used to produce pregnant mare urine. However, if such institutions are also doing non-agricultural research, they need to be registered.

Institutions Using Only Biologic Specimens—If only dead biologic specimens are obtained, i.e., no live animals are used, an institution is exempt.

Institutions Conducting Only Field Studies—A research institution is exempt from registration if it conducts only studies on free-living wild animals in their natural habitat. However, this term excludes any study that involves an invasive procedure, harms, or materially alters the behavior of an animal under study.

Institutions Using Only Nonregulated Animals—A research institution is exempt if it uses only laboratory animals exempted by law or regulation. Examples are reptiles, fish, amphibians, birds bred for use in research, as well as rats of the genus *Rattus* and mice of the genus *Mus*, bred for use in research. Wild species of birds, rats, and mice are regulated.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you need more information about the Animal Welfare Act or your responsibilities in animal care under this legislation, please contact the Animal Care office.

Email: animalcare@usda.gov

Website: www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare

Licensing and Registration Assistant:
efile.aphis.usda.gov/LRAssistant/s/

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