



Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

August 6, 2018

4700 River Road  
Riverdale, MD 20737

Dear Licensees and Registrants:

Please see the enclosed letter that we are sharing with attending veterinarians to provide information about our inspection responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Along with the letter, I am sharing answers to some common questions you may have about our communication with attending veterinarians. You can also watch a short video message to learn more about this new initiative: <https://youtu.be/l7dMUTaLioE>

***Why is Animal Care reaching out to attending veterinarians?***

We recognize the important role attending veterinarians play in supporting the administration of veterinary care programs at regulated facilities, and want to partner with them to support compliance with the AWA veterinary care requirements.

***What should I expect during compliance inspections?***

During an on-site inspection, our inspector reviews the facility's written program of veterinary care and also looks at the health and welfare of the animals. Sometimes, an inspector may have a question about an animal's veterinary care. For example, an inspector may need to ask about a particular treatment protocol for an animal who is ill or has been injured. If the attending veterinarian isn't present for the inspection, we're asking our inspectors to call the attending veterinarian and have a conversation about the animal's care.

***How will inspectors use the information they receive from attending veterinarians?***

We want you to be aware of our outreach to the attending veterinarian community, and our efforts to follow up with attending veterinarians, if necessary. We want to make sure you and your attending veterinarian understand the information he/she provides on your behalf will help us ensure the animals are receiving adequate care in accordance with their guidance. The enclosed letter provides additional details. We also encourage you to share this letter with your attending veterinarian to make sure they receive a copy.

If you have any questions, please contact your inspector for more information.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Juarez