

March 2015

Using Cage Cards to Identify Puppies and Kittens and/or Satisfy Recordkeeping Requirements

The Animal Welfare Act regulations require USDA-licensed breeders and dealers to keep records on all dogs and cats in their possession [section 2.75 (a) (1)]. For puppies and kittens under 16 weeks of age, USDA Animal Care allows breeders and dealers to maintain these records on APHIS Form 7005 (Record of Acquisition of Dogs and Cats on Hand) or on cage cards placed on the animals' primary enclosure.

Question. How should I group the puppies/kittens in order to use cage cards?

Answer. The animals must be maintained in distinct litters rather than co-mingled, and they must be housed in the facility where they were born.

Question. Where should I locate the cage cards?

Answer. Cage cards must be attached to the outside of the enclosure containing the puppies/kittens.

Question. If I use cage cards solely for identification purposes, what information should they include?

Answer. A cage card used solely for puppy/kitten identification – not for inventory purposes – must contain the following:

- the letters “USDA”
- the licensee’s USDA certificate number
- a unique number identifying each puppy/kitten

See Example A at the end of this tech note.

Question. If I use cage cards solely for identification purposes, what other recordkeeping paperwork should I maintain?

Answer. You must use APHIS Form 7005 to maintain puppy/kitten inventory records, as required by section 2.75(a)(1) of the Animal Welfare Act regulations.

Question. If I use cage cards for identification *and* inventory recordkeeping, what information should they include?

Answer. A cage card used for identification *and* inventory recordkeeping must contain:

- the letters “USDA”
- the licensee’s USDA certificate number
- a unique number identifying each puppy/kitten
- description of the animals – including sex, breed, color and distinguishing markings
- acquisition information such as:
 - dam’s information

- date of animal's birth
- date of disposition
- date of animal's death or euthanasia

See Example B at the end of this tech note.

Question. Can cage cards contain additional information?

Answer. Cage cards may contain any additional information that the licensee feels necessary. However, in order for the cage cards to fulfill the USDA regulatory requirements, they must contain the appropriate information listed above – depending on whether the cards are being used solely for identification purposes or for both identification *and* inventory recordkeeping purposes.

Question. How long should I retain cage cards after being used?

Answer. Cage cards must be retained for one year after use [Animal Welfare Act regulations, section 2.80 (a)].

Question. At what age of the puppies/kittens should I start using cage cards for them?

Answer. All puppies/kittens are required to be identified and inventoried at all times, so you should create a cage card for each animal as soon as you can – preferably one or two days after each animal's birth.

Note to licensees: *If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask your USDA inspector, who serves as a willing resource for you on matters relating to the Animal Welfare Act and its associated regulations.*

Additional Information

For general inquiries, contact:
USDA Animal Care
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737
E-mail: ace@aphis.usda.gov

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Example A
(cage card used solely for identification purposes)

USDA	
99-A-0000	
USDA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	NOTES
11-08	
11-09	
11-10	
11-11	

***** **EXAMPLE ONLY** *****



Example B
(cage card used for identification and inventory purposes)

DAM IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION				USDA		
MICROCHIP 12345678DD				99-A-0000		
USDA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE OF BIRTH	SEX	BREEDOR TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF ANIMAL (Color, Distinctive Marks, Hair, Tail, Tattoos, etc.)	DATE REMOVED OR SOLD	DATE DIED OR EUTHANIZED (Specify)
11-08	4/1/11	M	Cocker Spaniel	Black with white toes	XXXXXX	4/2/11 Died
11-09	4/1/11	M	Cocker Spaniel	Black with white spot on nose	6/8/11	
11-10	4/1/11	F	Cocker Spaniel	Black Merle	6/8/11	
11-11	4/1/11	F	Cocker Spaniel	Black solid	Kept for breedingstock	

***** **EXAMPLE ONLY** *****