Welcome to USDA Animal Care

Every day, attending veterinarians across the country provide care to animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act. We appreciate your skill and dedication.

Our partnership with attending veterinarians is a critical component of the inspection process and key to our success in assuring humane care and treatment. That’s why we are dedicated to building and maintaining a strong and lasting partnership.”

Betty Goldentyer, DVM
Deputy Administrator
Animal Care, USDA
The Vital Role of Attending Veterinarians to the Success of Facilities Regulated under the Animal Welfare Act

What All Attending Veterinarians NEED to Know
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<th>Goals</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<td>➢ Define the relationship of the attending veterinarian (AV) with</td>
<td>➢ Introduction to USDA Animal Care and the Animal Welfare Act</td>
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<td>USDA APHIS Animal Care</td>
<td>➢ Define the role of the AV and what a regulated person or business must</td>
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<td>➢ Have an understanding of the AUTHORITY of the AV under the Animal</td>
<td>do to be compliant under the Animal Welfare Act</td>
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<td>Welfare Act</td>
<td>➢ Explain how to write a compliant Program of Veterinary Care for a</td>
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<td>➢ Build knowledge on the various topics found on our new AV website</td>
<td>regulated facility</td>
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<td>➢ Discuss how being an AV might impact your professional practice</td>
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<td>➢ Review the new requirements for dogs</td>
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<td>➢ See the various ways to reach out to USDA Animal Care</td>
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What are the benefits to being an Attending Veterinarian?

• A trusted voice in the community
• Improving an industry
• New experiences
• Advancing public health
• Expanding animal welfare
USDA APHIS Animal Care

- Animal Care is an APHIS program responsible for:
  - Animal Welfare Act (AWA)
  - Horse Protection Act
  - Emergency programs
- Examples of licensed or registered facilities under the AWA
  - https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/LRAssistant/s/
- We conduct inspections of facilities that are licensed or registered under the AWA
Do I qualify to be an Attending Veterinarian?

- Graduate of an AVMA accredited veterinary school; OR
  - Certificate issued by AVMA Education Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates; OR
  - Equivalent formal education as determined by the APHIS administrator
- Training and/or experience in the care and management of the species being attended to as the veterinarian
- Be given authority by the regulated facility to provide veterinary care for the animals
Do I have to be Licensed and Accredited?

- The AWA doesn't specifically require either in order to serve in the role of the attending veterinarian.
- The attending veterinarian may need to be licensed to give rabies vaccines and dispense medication or to be accredited to sign health certificates for the movement of animals.
- If an otherwise qualified veterinarian is serving as an attending veterinarian for a facility, other veterinarians can be delegated to perform these tasks under the attending veterinarian’s oversight.
What if I don’t have experience with all the animals at a facility?

- Identify and consult with veterinarians who have expertise with these species
- Identify and consult with specialists
- Employ additional veterinarians
What are my client’s responsibilities for providing adequate veterinary care under the AWA?

- Hire an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements
- Provide the attending veterinarian authority
- Establish and follow programs of adequate veterinary care
- Perform daily observation of all animals
- Provide appropriate facilities and equipment for adequate veterinary care
What does it mean to have authority at a regulated facility?

- The attending veterinarian must have the appropriate authority to:
  - Ensure adequate veterinary care
  - Oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use
- The duties performed by the attending veterinarian to ensure compliance with the regulations are ultimately the responsibility of the licensee, and the licensee must provide the attending veterinarian with adequate authority to carry out his/her functions

BE THE AUTHORITY!
How to Fill Out the Program of Veterinary Care
Animal Care provides forms for your convenience

Form 7002
For all animals

Form 7002A
For dogs

Your own form or document is also acceptable
First! Download form (7002 or 7002A) to your computer

Save the file

THEN begin to fill out the form
Form 7002 can be filled out by the licensee or the veterinarian – but the attending veterinarian **must** oversee and approve the Program of Veterinary Care!

Frequency of visits is determined by the veterinarian

List additional vets or special instructions here
List frequency of vaccination: if not enough room, attach a page

List sampling and treatment for all parasites

If the licensee will perform euthanasia, list specific drugs, doses and methods

Suggested topics for the husbandry program can be added in here

**Not enough room? Attach a page!**
If the boxes on the form are too small for all the information requested, attaching another document meets the requirement for documentation of the topics listed:

Sometimes not all items apply to the licensee; these are suggested topics to discuss:

There may be special information to note about certain species here; it’s okay to enter N/A if it doesn’t apply!
If you’ve listed this information in an attachment already you do not have to repeat it here.

Different species may have different instructions for emergency care or additional veterinarians involved in their treatment; this is a good place to note that.

It’s a good idea to note if there are special instructions for euthanasia in case of emergency on the PVC.
# Wildlife Adventures Vaccination Program

**Wildlife Adventure**  
Licensee St, Town, State, Zip  
Phone Number

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>1/1/2021</th>
<th>Animal Locations:</th>
<th>Drive through and petting zoo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Annual vaccine</th>
<th>Hoofcare</th>
<th>Parasites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antelope</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>MX injectable dewormer annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camellid</td>
<td>CD&amp;T, WNV, EWT</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>MX injectable dewormer annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervidae</td>
<td>CD&amp;T, Virus 6</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>MX injectable dewormer annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>Virus 7, Bac 7, SBAC</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>MX injectable dewormer annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equine</td>
<td>WNV, EWT, EHV4/1</td>
<td>8 wks</td>
<td>MX gel oral dewormer annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep/goat</td>
<td>CDT, RV</td>
<td>quarterly</td>
<td>MX dewormer oral quarterly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Some fallow and elk done once a year, some antelope and sheep only twice a year due to stress. Blood and stool collected depending on individual animal condition.

- African porcupine: none
- NA Porcupine: none
- Patagonian Cavy: none
- Potbellied Pig: BAC 5, RV  
  Hooves trimmed at annual physical exam
- Coati undu: RV
- Ringtail Lemur: none  
  RV if exposure is possible
- Sugar Glider: none
- Rabbits: none  
  May change if RHV in state
- Hedgehog: none
- Serval: FVRCP, DHLPP, RV, Fel L  
  Training for voluntary injections
- Hyena: FVRCP, DHLPP, RV
- Black Bear: WNV, RV, DHLPP  
  Training for voluntary injections
- Fox: DHLPP, RV
- Wolfdog: DHLPP, RV  
  Monthly HW prevention, topical flea prevention

**NOTE:** List may be updated if veterinary recommendations change.
**A Written Program of Veterinary Care is REQUIRED for all dogs.**

Form 7002A provides additional space for canine specific program details.

This form is provided for your convenience.
An Exercise Plan is **REQUIRED** for all dogs

Form 7013 is provided for convenience; you may use your own format, if preferred

Some vets only include items in the checked box; others will add more instructions

A facility’s exercise plan for dogs must be documented and approved by the attending veterinarian. Signing the exercise plan is a convenient way to document approval.
An Environment Enhancement Plan is **REQUIRED** for all nonhuman primates

Form 7050 is provided for convenience; you may use your own format

Each section has the regulatory requirement at the top

Prompts are provided based on common methods used to meet the requirement

ALL boxes do not need to be filled to meet the requirement
Can licensees help provide basic veterinary care?

- Many attending veterinarians will teach licensees how to administer medications and vaccinations, and some have instructed licensees on methods to humanely euthanize animals.

**Euthanasia** (def.): *means the humane destruction of an animal accomplished by a method that produces rapid unconsciousness and subsequent death without evidence of pain or distress, or a method that utilizes anesthesia produced by an agent that causes painless loss of consciousness and subsequent death.*
Standardized treatment protocols

All treatments for veterinary problems **must** be approved by the attending veterinarian. Standard protocols may be used to instruct and authorize licensees to treat common conditions in advance.

- Examples: minor wounds with topical medications, ear infections with specific drugs, deworming protocols
- Some veterinarians will add an entire ‘vet book’ of approved treatments and standing orders for the licensee to use
- Including pictures of common conditions with the written instructions can help licensees correctly recognize problems
- It is helpful to include instructions for when to call the attending veterinarian **before** starting treatment
- It is **essential** to ensure the licensee understands when to ask for help, and what to do if treatment doesn’t work
Canine Care Topics

Dental Care
• Canine Periodontal Disease
• Monitoring for Periodontal Disease in Dogs
• Preventive Care for Periodontal Disease in Dogs

Skin & Coat Care
• Coat Care: Preventing Matted Hair
• Identifying Healthy and Unhealthy Skin in Dogs
• Common Skin Disorders in Dogs

Parasite Prevention
• Heartworm Disease in Dogs
• Intestinal Parasites in Dogs
• Flea Control for Dogs

Behavioral Development
• Maternal Stress and Puppy Development
• Early Rearing Environment
• Socialization

care topics are also available for other species
Required elements for the program of veterinary care

- Availability of appropriate personnel, facilities, and equipment
- Methods to prevent and control disease, including emergency care
- Daily observation of all animals to assess health and well being
- Guidance to personnel involved in the care and use of animals
- Adequate pre-procedural and post-procedural care
What is the Attending Veterinarian’s role in the inspection process?

• Are attending veterinarians required to be present for USDA inspections?
  
  **No**; however, it provides opportunity for in-depth discussions between the USDA inspector, the attending veterinarian, and the licensee or registrant.

• One of the most important components of our inspections is ensuring facilities are carrying out attending veterinarians’ directions and providing them with sufficient authority to maintain adequate care and welfare of the animals.
  
  Unless directions are already written down, inspectors may need to speak with the attending veterinarian.
Liability: Will citations hurt my license?

• The Animal Welfare Act grants the USDA authority over regulated facilities. **Animal Care does not have the authority to pursue action against attending veterinarians**

• While facilities may be subject to penalties or other sanctions for failing to comply with the Animal Welfare Act or Regulations, the attending veterinarian will not
Could my medical records become public information?

Possibly, but not usually

- Any records that the USDA has in its possession may become publicly available through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).
- Inspectors will review a facility’s written program of veterinary care and any associated medical records during an inspection, but generally the records remain in the possession of the facility and/or veterinarian.
- One exception is if a potential compliance issue is identified. In this case, supporting documentation may be copied to document the issue.
What are the new rules for dogs?

A written Program of Veterinary Care is required for all dogs and must include:

- **Scheduled visits** by the attending veterinarian not less than once every 12 months.
- Complete ‘head to tail’ **physical exams** on all dogs not less than once every 12 months.
- **Sampling and treatment for parasites**, including fleas, worms, coccidia, giardia, and heartworm.
- **Vaccination schedules** for contagious and deadly diseases including rabies, parvovirus, and distemper.
- **Preventive care program** to ensure healthy and unmatted coats, properly trimmed nails, and clean and healthy eyes, ears, skin, and teeth for their dogs.

Medical records are also required:

need to include identification, records of routine husbandry (such as vaccinations and preventive medical procedures, testing, or treatments), and a description of any clinical veterinary issues.
New Rule
Common
Q&As

Does the attending veterinarian have to be the one to administer the vaccines?

Is rabies vaccination required for indoor kennels?

What if a dog has had reactions in the past to vaccines?

Is heartworm testing/sampling/prevention required for indoor kennels?

If a dog had a physical exam done by a veterinarian other than the attending veterinarian does that count as a 12-month exam?
Does the attending veterinarian have to be the one to administer the vaccines?

- **No**, if the attending veterinarian is comfortable with the facility staff administering vaccinations. Some states require that a licensed veterinarian be the one to administer the vaccine.

Is rabies vaccination required for indoor kennels?

- **Yes.** A rabies vaccination schedule is required regardless of housing.

What if a dog has had reactions in the past to vaccines?

- **An attending veterinarian can exempt an individual dog** due to medical reasons.

Is heartworm testing/sampling/prevention required for indoor kennels?

- **Dogs are required to be sampled and treated** in accordance with a schedule approved by the attending veterinarian for parasites including heartworm. Prevention is not required but recommended.

If a dog had a physical exam done by a veterinarian other than the attending veterinarian does that count as a 12-month exam?

- **Yes**, the attending veterinarian can delegate his/her responsibilities to another veterinarian to conduct the physical exams as long as all relevant information is provided to the attending veterinarian.
How Can I Contact USDA APHIS Animal Care?

USDA INSPECTOR ASSIGNED TO THE FACILITY

SUPERVISORY ANIMAL CARE SPECIALIST FOR YOUR STATE
(SEE RESOURCES)

CUSTOMER SUPPORT EMAIL AT ANIMALCARE@USDA.GOV OR CALL (970) 494-7478.

FILING A COMPLAINT ON AC WEBSITE (SEE RESOURCES)
Summary

• Introduction to USDA APHIS Animal Care and the Animal Welfare Act
• Defined the role of the attending veterinarian and what a regulated person or business must do to be compliant in providing adequate veterinary care under the Animal Welfare Act
• Explained how to write a compliant Program of Veterinary Care for a regulated facility
• Discussed how being an attending veterinarian might impact your professional practice
• New requirements for dogs and the common Q&As
• Ways to reach out to Animal Care
Additional Resources:

Animal Care Website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare

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


Animal Care Aids: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/caw/at_caw_animal_care_aids


Thank You . . .

For more information visit:
www.aphis.usda.gov/animalwelfare/av

. . . & Questions