

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**

[Docket No. 03-010-1]

Big Cat Symposia; Animal Care**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This is a notice to animal exhibitors, dealers, transporters, researchers, animal protection groups, industry groups, and other interested persons that we are holding a series of educational symposia to present current information on the care and maintenance of exotic big cats. This notice provides the agenda for the symposia, information on the location and dates of the first two symposia, and general information on subsequent symposia.

DATES: The first symposium will be held in Fort Worth, TX, on Wednesday, March 26, 2003. The second symposium will be held in Las Vegas, NV, on Wednesday, April 30, 2003. Each symposium will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Preregistration is requested for both symposia. Parties wishing to attend may preregister by e-mailing ACE@aphis.usda.gov or by calling the Animal Care headquarters office at (301) 734-7833. The preregistration deadline for the Fort Worth meeting is March 1, 2003; for the Las Vegas meeting, the deadline is April 1, 2003.

On-site registration will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on the day of each symposium.

ADDRESSES: The symposia will be held at the following locations:

1. Fort Worth, TX: Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1701 Commerce Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, (817) 335-7000.
2. Las Vegas, NV: Sam's Town Hotel, 5111 Boulder Highway, Las Vegas, NV 89122, (800) 897-8696.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information on the agenda of the symposia, contact Dr. Barbara Kohn, Senior Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7833. Dr. Kohn may be contacted by e-mail at ACE@aphis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing a series of educational symposia on the care and maintenance of exotic big cats. The symposia will give Animal Care an opportunity to disseminate information on various topics that are key to the

successful management and handling of exotic big cats. The symposia will be held in various geographical locations to facilitate attendance by regulated parties that maintain these animals.

The first symposium will be held on Wednesday, March 26, 2003, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Fort Worth, TX, and the second symposium will be at Sam's Town Hotel, Las Vegas, NV, on April 30, 2003. We plan to hold similar symposia at some time between October 2003 and January 2004 in the Midwest, Washington, DC, and Florida.

The symposia have been developed to provide current information and ideas on a variety of topics. Each symposium will follow the same agenda, with possible minor modifications. The symposia will start with general sessions, followed by breakout sessions allowing more interaction between speakers and attendees. The agenda for these symposia is:

- 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m.—Registration.
 8:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.—General Session.
 Welcome.
 Nutrition.
 Veterinary Care and Tranquilization.
 Transportation.
 New Training Methods.
 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.—Lunch Break.
 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m.—Concurrent Breakout Session #1.
 Explaining APHIS Regulations.
 Nutrition/Zootrition.
 Heat Budgets and Shade (avoiding overheating and overcooling).
 2:45 p.m.–4:15 p.m.—Concurrent Breakout Session #2.
 Training.
 Transportation Issues.
 Fixed Exhibit Enclosure Design.
 4:15 p.m.–5:00 p.m.—Questions and Answers; Closing.

Notices of these symposia are being sent to current Animal Welfare Act licensees with exotic big cats. This notice is also available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac>, the Animal Care web site. Copies of a brochure containing the information in this announcement can also be requested by calling the Animal Care headquarters office at (301) 734-7833 or by e-mailing a request to ACE@aphis.usda.gov.

Please note that these symposia are being held to provide and disseminate information on the care and maintenance of big exotic cats under the Animal Welfare Act. There will be no opportunity at these symposia to submit formal comments on proposed rules or other regulatory initiatives.

Preregistration

Preregistration is requested by calling the Animal Care headquarters office at

(301) 734-7833 or by e-mailing Animal Care at ACE@aphis.usda.gov and providing your name, number of attendees, phone number, and e-mail address or other contact address. This information is needed so we may inform registrants in a timely manner if any changes are made to the schedules of the symposia. Please preregister for the Fort Worth symposium by March 1, 2003, and for the Las Vegas symposium by April 1, 2003.

Travel and Lodging Information

All attendees are responsible for their own travel and lodging. No rooms have been reserved for attendees at the symposium hotels or any other hotels.

Done in Washington, DC, this 11th day of February, 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 03-3837 Filed 2-14-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Forest Service****Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee****AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee will meet in Ketchikan, Alaska, April 8, 2003. The purpose of the meeting is to provide orientation to Advisory Committee members, and to discuss potential projects under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 8, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center Learning Center (back entrance), 50 Main Street, Ketchikan, Alaska. Send written comments to Ketchikan Resource Advisory Committee, c/o District Ranger, USDA Forest Service, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan, AK 99901, or electronically to jingersoll@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jerry Ingersoll, District Ranger, Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, (907) 228-4100.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The meeting is open to the public. Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the