



Introductory Course for Commercial Dealers of Guinea Pigs, Hamsters or Rabbits

Part 1: Introduction to APHIS Animal
Care and the Regulatory Process



Learning Objectives

By the end of this unit you should be able to:

1. Briefly describe how USDA APHIS Animal Care is organized
2. Explain the role of Animal Care and Animal Care Inspectors in protecting the welfare of animals in breeding operations, including enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act
3. List and briefly describe the types of licenses available to animal breeders
4. Describe situations in which a license is needed, or in which a facility may be exempt from licensure



How USDA APHIS Animal Care is Organized



USDA

- Executive Branch Agency
- Mission: protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources and related issues
- Wide range of responsibilities including:
 - Animal Welfare
 - Animal and Plant Health
 - Food Inspection and Safety
 - Nutrition programs (WIC, SNAP)
 - Price supports and loans for farmers
 - U.S. Forest Service



Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

- Agency of USDA
- Promotes animal and plant health and animal welfare
- Examples of Program Units:
 - Animal Care
 - (Animal welfare, humane treatment of animals)
 - Veterinary Services
 - (Animal disease prevention)
 - Plant Protection and Quarantine
 - (Plant disease prevention)
 - Investigative and Enforcement Service
 - (Provides investigative, enforcement and regulatory support services)



Animal Care

- Experts on animal care and husbandry
- Provides leadership for determining standards of humane care and treatment of animals
- Promotes compliance with standards through education, and enforcement of animal welfare standards
- Assists states in efforts to include pets in emergency plans
- Federal resource on animal welfare issues



Animal Care: Roles

- Enforces:
 - Animal Welfare Act (AWA)
 - Horse Protection Act (HPA)
- AWA requires the humane care of animals:
 - Involved in research, teaching, testing
 - Intended for use as pets or in exhibition
 - (Zoos, shows, exhibits)

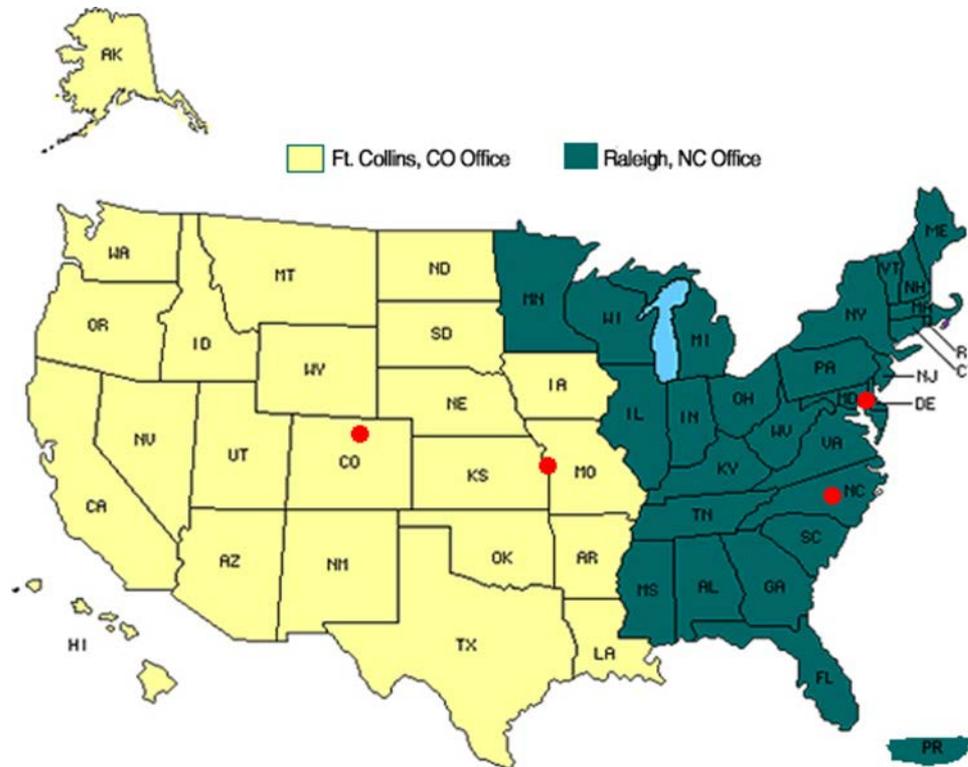
Animal Care: Organization

Headquarters: Riverdale, MD

Raleigh, NC Office

Fort Collins, CO Office

Center for Animal Welfare: Kansas City, MO

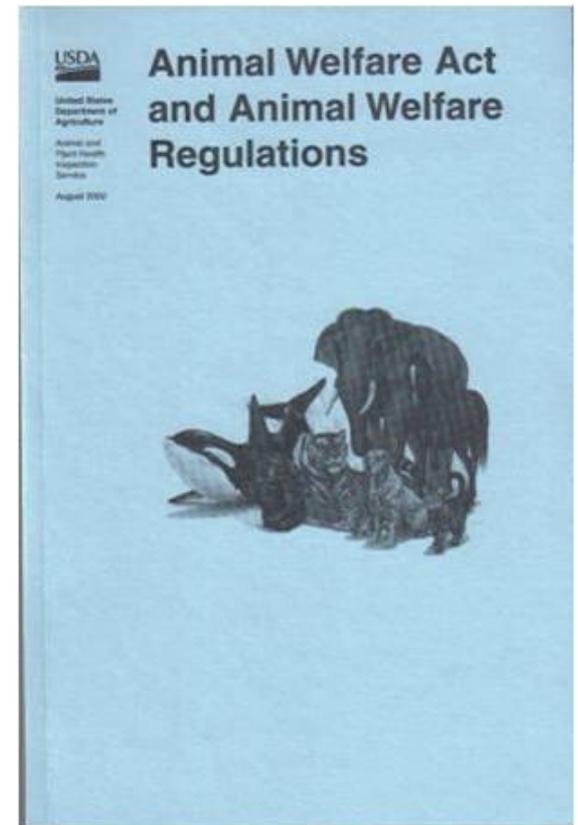




The Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act

- Regulates:
 - Transportation
 - Purchase
 - Sale
 - Housing
 - Care
 - Handling and treatment
- Animals intended for:
 - Research
 - Animal exhibits
 - Pets





AWA: History

- Animal Welfare Act
 - Passed by Congress in response to public outcry at the theft, transport, and resale of pets for use in animal research
 - Pepper the Dalmatian – magazine article

Animals Protected by AWA

- Warm-blooded animals intended as:
 - Pets
 - (Dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, and many other warm-blooded animals)
 - Laboratory research subjects
 - (Dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, rabbits, apes/monkeys, etc.)
 - Exhibited animals
 - (Zoos, circuses, educational demonstrations)



Animals Not Protected by AWA

- Farm animals raised for agricultural purposes
 - (Meat, milk, wool, etc.)
- Horses not used in biomedical research
- Mice (*Mus*), rats (*Rattus*) and birds
- Cold-blooded animals
 - (Snakes, alligators, lizards)





Enforcement

- To ensure licensed facilities follow the rules of the Animal Welfare Act, Inspectors perform:
 - Prelicense inspections
 - Unannounced compliance inspections
 - Follow-up inspections after public complaints



Investigative and Enforcement Services

- Assists in ensuring compliance with the AWA:
 - Investigates alleged AWA violations
 - Maintains investigative records
 - Gathers and shares information about violators and violations



Enforcement Measures

Enforcement measures can include:

- Confiscation or euthanasia of animals
- Cease and desist order
- Monetary fines
- Suspension or loss of a license
- Formal prosecution



APHIS Animal Care Personnel

APHIS Inspectors

- Inspectors located nationwide
- Experts in animal care and husbandry
- Formal training and a background in animal-related fields





APHIS Inspectors: Training

- Classroom training:
 - Facility inspection
 - Specialized training in recognizing pain and suffering
 - Regular continuing education on new information related to animal welfare and health

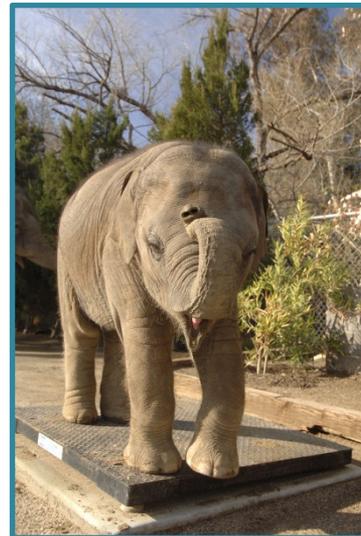


APHIS Inspectors: Training

- Continual on-the-job training to ensure fair, consistent and accurate inspections
- This may include:
 - Statistical analysis of inspection data
 - Reviews of inspection reports, activity reports enforcement requests and photographs by a supervisor
 - Additional inspections for quality assurance

Animal Care Specialists

- Special expertise and experience in:
 - Canines
 - Birds
 - Elephants
 - Marine mammals
 - Exotic cats
 - Non-human primates



APHIS Inspections: Your Responsibilities

- Ensure that:
 - The facility is in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act at all times, and is ready for visitors
 - Paperwork is correctly completed, up-to-date, and available for review by Inspectors
 - Animals' health and well-being are monitored and maintained





Non-Interference With APHIS Employees

- A licensee or applicant for an initial license shall not interfere with, threaten, abuse (including verbally abuse), or harass any APHIS official in the course of carrying out his or her duties
- Dealers, exhibitors, breeders, caretakers or researchers who interfere with the inspector's duties will be cited for failure to comply with the AWA



USDA Licensing of Facilities for Guinea Pigs, Hamsters or Rabbits



Who Needs a License

- Any person who is a dealer of certain non-dangerous pet type animals such as guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits must have a USDA license if:
 - A person derives more than \$500 gross income from the sale or negotiation of the sale of the above-listed animals to a research facility, exhibitor, dealer or pet store per calendar year



Who is Exempt from USDA Licensure

- No license needed for:
 - Persons who derive less than \$500 per calendar year from the sale of animals other than dogs and cats or wild/exotic animals
 - Retail pet stores that sell animals face-to-face according to the new Retail Pet Rule
 - (Not exempt if they sell more than \$500 worth of animals to research facilities, exhibitors or other pet stores per calendar year)
 - Person who buys, sells, purchases or transports any animals only for food or fiber (including fur)
 - Person who buys animals solely for his or her own use and enjoyment, and does not sell or exhibit them



Example No. 1

- Ann raises guinea pigs and hamsters
- She derives:
 - \$300 income per calendar year for sales of guinea pigs to research facilities
 - \$300 income per calendar year for sales of hamsters to exhibitors
- Ann requires a license

Example No. 2

- Mike raises guinea pigs and takes them to an auction for resale as pets
 - He derives \$1,500 per year from the sale
- Mike requires a license

Example No. 3

- John has 400 rabbits
 - He sells 360 for food and fiber, deriving \$3,600 per year
 - He sells 40 rabbits to a research facility for income of \$400
- John does not require a license

Example No. 4

- Mary raises guinea pigs and chinchillas for sale to pet stores
 - She derives \$300 per year from the sale of guinea pigs
 - She derives another \$300 per year from the sale of chinchillas
- Mary does not require a license



Types of Licenses



Types of Licenses Required for Guinea Pigs, Hamsters or Rabbits

- **USDA Class A**
 - Commercial breeders
- **USDA Class B**
 - Brokers and Operators of an auction sale
- **USDA Class C**
 - Exhibitors

Commercial Breeders: USDA Class A License

- Dealers whose business includes:
 - Animals born and raised on the dealer's premises in a closed colony
 - Any animals added for the purposes of maintaining or enhancing the breeding of the colony
- Most dealers of guinea pigs, hamsters or rabbits require a Class A License

Brokers:

USDA Class B License

- Dealers whose business includes:
 - The purchase and/or resale of animals
 - Arranging the sale of an animal
 - Operators of animal auctions
- Class B licensees may also exhibit animals as a minor part of their business

Examples

- Rhonda:
 - Breeds guinea pigs and rabbits on her farm
 - Sells animals every 2 weeks to George
 - Receives between \$100 and \$120
- What type of license?
 - Rhonda is a Breeder
 - Needs a Class A license
- George:
 - Visits farms every 2 weeks
 - Buys guinea pigs and rabbits from several farms
 - Delivers them to “Pet-A-Rama” pet stores
- What type of license?
 - George is a Broker
 - Needs a Class B license

Examples

- “Pet-A-Rama”
 - Pays George for the guinea pigs and rabbits he delivers
 - Conforms to face-to-face sales of pets under the New Pet Store Rule
- What type of license?
 - Exempt from licensure



Class C Licensee: Exhibitor

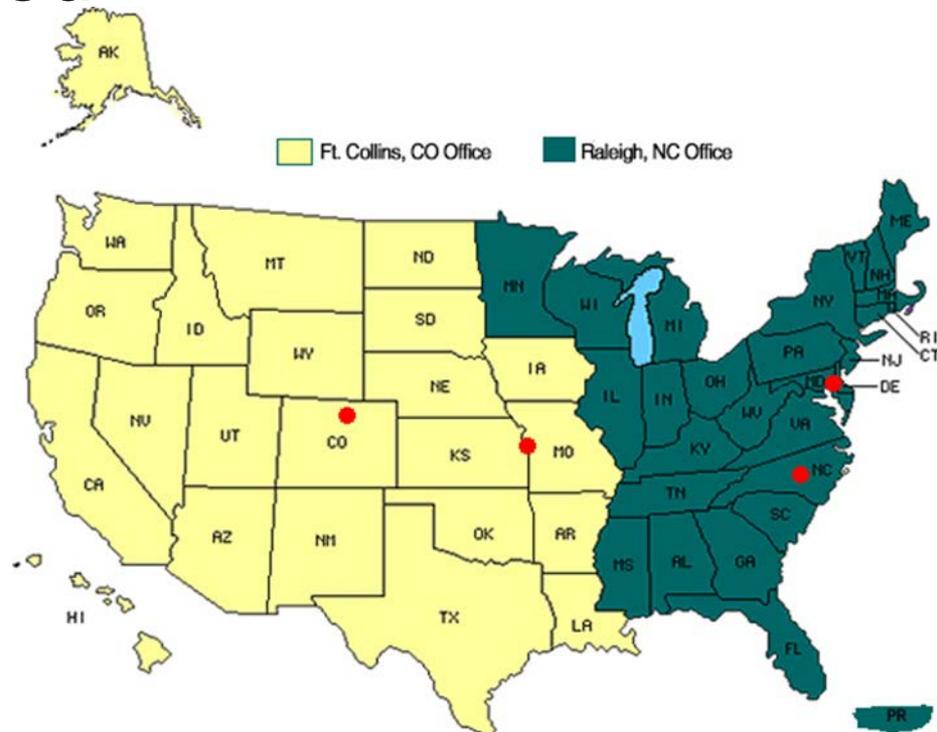
- Any person whose business involves showing or displaying animals to the public
 - Includes circuses, zoos, animal acts, and other animal exhibits
 - Exotic animal exhibits at county or state fairs ARE inspected
 - Does not include most retail pet stores, state and county fairs, rodeos, field trials, or purebred dog and cat shows



Licensure Requirements

Prelicense Application Packet

- Available upon request from the Office serving the state in which the business will be located





Prelicense Application Packet

- Contains:
 - Regulations and statutes
 - Forms
 - Instructions
 - Guidance on setting up a compliant facility
 - Checklist

Requirements: Class A and Class B licenses

- Applicant:
 - 18 years of age, or older
 - No more than one USDA license
 - Able to provide either a Social Security Number, or a Federal Taxpayer Identification Number
- Complete license application form
 - (APHIS Form 7003A)
- If applicant operates in more than one state, apply in the state that is the principal place of business

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE - OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SEND THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

LICENSE NUMBER	EXPIRES DATE	AMOUNT	DATE RECEIVED

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE
(TYPE OR PRINT)
NEW LICENSE

1. NAME OF APPLICANT AND MAILING ADDRESS (See Instructions)

2. ALL BUSINESS NAMES AND LOCATION ADDRESSES HOUSING ANIMALS (INCLUDE DIRECTIONS TO EACH LOCATION IF 2 Box not acceptable) Use additional sheet, if necessary

COUNTY: TELEPHONE NUMBER: COUNTY: TELEPHONE NUMBER:

3. IF THE APPLICANT IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP OR OTHER BUSINESS ENTITY, LIST THE ENTITY'S PARTNERS OR OFFICERS AND AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS.

4. (A) PREVIOUS USDA LICENSE NUMBER (If any)
(B) ACTIVE USDA LICENSE NUMBER IN WHICH YOU HAVE AN INTEREST:

5. TYPE OF LICENSE:
 Class A - Breeder Class B - Dealer Class C - Submitter

6. LIST YOUR 12 MONTH BUSINESS YEAR (Calendar or Fiscal)

7. TYPE OF ORGANIZATION:
 Individual Corporation Partnership
 Other

8. COMPLETELY CLASSIFY OR CLASSIFY LICENSES MOST COMPLETELY THIS BLOCK. (Class C change is shown)

9. CHECK ONLY LIST THE CHECKED NUMBER OF ANIMALS NOT YET (SPECIALLY OWNED, LOANED, OR ON-SITE AT ANYONE'S RESIDENCE) THIS BUSINESS YEAR. (See CR Section 22 and 27)

CLASS B (BREEDER) - LINE 'D' OF LINE 'C' CLASS B (DEALER) - LINE 'D' OF LINE 'C' LESS THE PURCHASE COST OF THE ANIMALS SOLD. (See CR Sections 22 and 27)	DOGS	NONHUMAN PRIMATES	RODENTS (Do not include lab rats or mice)
A. ESTIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE SOLD IN THE NEXT BUSINESS YEAR	CATS	MARINE MAMMALS	WILD EXOTIC HOOFSTOCK
B. ESTIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE SOLD IN THE NEXT BUSINESS YEAR	GUINEA PIGS	FARM ANIMALS	BEARS
C. ESTIMATE GROSS DOLLAR AMOUNT DERIVED FROM REGULATED ACTIVITIES (SALES, COMMERCIAL, ETC.)	HAMSTERS	WILD EXOTIC CANNINES	WILD EXOTIC MAMMALS (Not listed elsewhere)
D. ESTIMATE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF WHICH FEE IS BASED	RABBITS	WILD EXOTIC EQUINES	TOTAL (All animals listed in Block 2)

CERTIFICATION

I hereby make application for a license under the Animal Welfare Act (9 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) (and, where applicable, the Animal Welfare Regulations (9 CFR, Subpart F, 1.2 and 1.3)) and I certify that the information provided herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I hereby acknowledge that I understand and agree to comply with all the regulations and standards in 9 CFR, Subpart F, 1.2 and 1.3, and I certify that the application is for use of my own.

10. SIGNATURE: 11. PRINT NAME AND TITLE: 12. DATE:

APHIS FORM 7003A
AUG 2011 (Previous editions are obsolete)



Requirements: Class A and Class B Licenses

- Application processing fee of \$10.00 – due when application is submitted
- Licensing fee
 - Based upon the dollar amount of the business in one year
 - Due after passing prelicense inspection



Requirements: Class A and Class B Licenses

- Relationship with an attending veterinarian
 - Veterinarian to visit the facility regularly, recommended at least once a year
 - Program of Veterinary Care
- Program of Veterinary Care
 - Plan outlining veterinary care
 - Approved and signed by the attending veterinarian, and signed by the applicant
 - Available to show to Inspectors at all times



Conclusion

You should now be able to:

1. Briefly describe how USDA APHIS Animal Care is organized
2. Explain the role of Animal Care and Animal Care Inspectors in protecting the welfare of animals in breeding operations, including enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act
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Questions?

Acknowledgments

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