

APHIS Publishes an Updated Animal Care Resource Guide

March 21, 2011

APHIS' Animal Care program has created an updated Animal Care Resource Guide. This guidance document, which contains the program's policies, was developed primarily for Animal Care field inspectors but it will also be provided to the regulated community. It clarifies, interprets and provides examples of how regulated entities can comply with existing Animal Welfare Act regulations or standards.

This new Resource Guide can be found on March 25, 2011, on our website at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animalcare>.

In 2007, APHIS designated the Animal Care Resource Guide as a significant guidance document, pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget's "Final Bulletin for Agency Good Guidance Practices" (72 FR 3432-3440), in order to increase the quality and transparency of agency guidance practices. Information about APHIS' significant guidance documents and the agency's guidance practices is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/guidance>.

In keeping with the good guidance practices outlined in OMB's bulletin, Animal Care reviewed the Resource Guide and published it in the Federal Register. Animal Care received public comments, including recommendations that the program issue, reconsider, modify or rescind specific policies. The program has always given due consideration to formal and informal comments received from the public regarding the guide, and in this instance we incorporated changes into the new guide.

The table on the following two pages outlines the significant changes made to the Animal Care Policy Manual. The effective date for implementing the updated policies is March 25, 2011. Questions regarding the policies and the implementation of the policies may be submitted to the appropriate field inspector, regional office for your state or to the Animal Care program staff officers at our headquarters in Riverdale, Md.

The forgoing revisions and updates to the policies in the Animal Care Resource Guide help to ensure greater consistency with the OMB bulletin. These changes also help to ensure that the policies properly describe and interpret our statutory and regulatory authorities and make the policies easier to read and understand. Based on the comments we received from the public on Regulations.gov and information gathered from stakeholder presentations at industry and interest group meetings, we believe the changes to the policies are clear and understandable. Overall, we expect that the revised policies will be well-received by our stakeholders and other interested members of the public.

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Summary of Changes to the Policies – Animal Care Resource Guide

Listed below are: 1) the policies in the previous Animal Care Resource Guide, initiated on July 17, 2007; and 2) a summary of the changes incorporated into the current, revised Animal Care Resource Guide, published on March 25, 2011.

Policy Number	Title	Current Policy
Policy 1	Denial of AWA License Applications	Eliminated from Guide. Incorporated into Section 2.11 and 2.12 with a regulation change in 2004.
Policy 2	Submission of Traveling Exhibitor Itinerary	Policy 2. No change.
Policy 3	Veterinary Care	Policy 3. Added section on declaw/defang to put published AC policy into one document. Adjusted Health Records section to accommodate ongoing regulation proposal.
Policy 4	Use of Leased Animals by Licensees	Eliminated from Guide. Included in Section 2.6 of regulations.
Policy 5	Licensing of Exotic Animal Auction Markets	Policy 5. New title is “Regulation of Wild/Exotic Animal Auctions Under the Animal Welfare Act”.
Policy 6	Space and Exercise Requirements for Traveling Exhibitors	Policy 6.
Policy 7	Group Classifications for Nonhuman Primates	Policy 7. New title is “Brachiating Species of Nonhuman Primates.”
Policy 8	Guidelines for the Confiscation and Destruction of Animals	Eliminated from Guide. Extensive instructions to inspectors and RO included in Inspection Guides and other guidance.
Policy 9	Barrier Facility, SPF Colony Inspection	Eliminated from Guide. Extensive instructions to inspectors and RO included in Inspection Guides and other guidance.
Policy 10	Licensing and Registration of Producers of Antibodies, Sera and/or Other Animal Parts and Pregnant Mare Urine (PMU)	Policy 10. New title is “Specific Activities Requiring a License or Registration.”
Policy 11	Painful Procedures	Policy 11. New title is “Painful and Distressful Procedures.”

Policy 12	Consideration of Alternatives to Painful/Distressful Procedures	Policy 12.
Policy 13	Microchip Implants	Policy 13. New title is “Animal Identification.”
Policy 14	Major Survival Surgery, Single vs. Multiple Procedures	Policy 14. New title is “Major Survival Surgery, Dealers Selling Surgically-Altered Animals to Research.”
Policy 15	IACUC Membership	Policy 15. New title is “Institutional Official and IACUC Membership.”
Policy 16	Dealers Selling Surgically-Altered Animals to Research	Combined with Policy 14.
Policy 17	Annual Report for Research Facilities	Eliminated from Guide. Extensive instructions to inspectors and RO included in Inspection Guides and other guidance and mailed annually to stakeholders.
Policy 18	Health Certificate for Dogs, Cats, and Nonhuman Primates	Policy 18.
Policy 19	Tattoo Identification for Dogs and Cats	Eliminated from Guide. Combined with Policy 13 Animal Identification.
Policy 20	Identification of Puppies Less Than 16 Weeks of Age	Eliminated from Guide. Combined with Policy 13 Animal Identification.
Policy 21	Control of Tuberculosis in Regulated Elephants	Moved to Policy 1. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 22	Necropsy Requirements	Moved to Policy 4. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 23	Criteria for Licensing Hoofstock Dealers	Moved to Policy 8. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 24	Adequate Enclosures for Flying Species and Aquatic Species	Moved to Policy 9. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 25	Proper Diets for Large Felids	Moved to Policy 16. New title is “Proper Diets for Nondomestic Felids.”
Policy 26	Regulation of Agricultural Animals	Moved to Policy 17. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 27	Capture Methods for Prairie Dogs	Moved to Policy 19. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 28	Licensing Sales of Dead Animals	Moved to Policy 20. Moved for numbering consistency.
Policy 29	Farm Animals Used for Nonagricultural Purposes	Incorporated into Policy 17.