



Animal Welfare Act

Does APHIS' New Retail Pet Rule Impact Me?

Updated April 2014

On September 10, 2013, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced it was revising the definition of retail pet store under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to ensure breeders and Internet-based businesses selling pet animals sight unseen to buyers provide their animals with humane care and treatment and are licensed and inspected by APHIS.

If you sell dogs, cats, or domestic pocket pets that are born and raised on your premises where buyers can physically observe the animals before or during purchase, you do **NOT** need a USDA license.

Also, if you sell birds, rats, mice, amphibians, and reptiles, you do **NOT** need a USDA license.

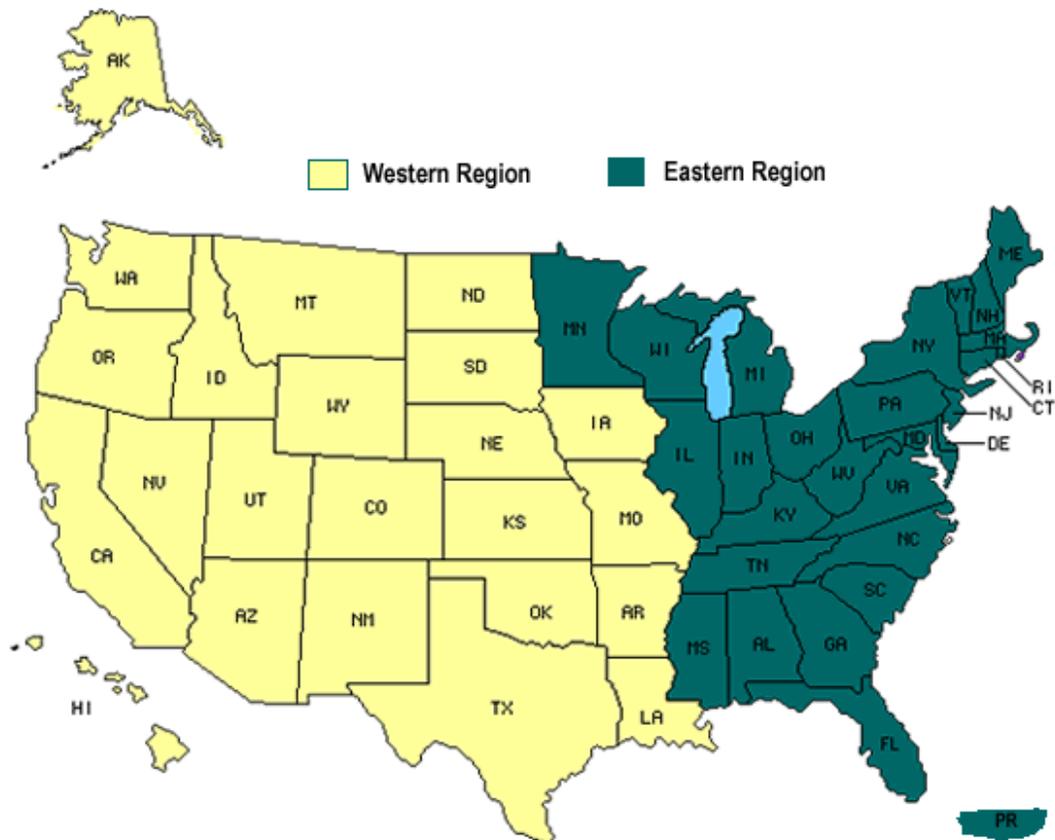
If you do not sell your animals in face-to-face transactions, you may fall under this new regulation and need a USDA license. Please use the following checklist to help make that determination.

	YES	NO
Do you have five or more breeding female dogs, cats, and/or small wild or exotic pocket pets on your premises and sell only the offspring of those animals?	You may need a license – please contact your Animal Care office. <i>(See map on page 2 for your regional office).</i>	You are NOT regulated by this rule and do NOT need a USDA license.
Do you sell rabbits or small pocket pets sight unseen and: Sell less than \$500 in gross sales each year? Sell more than \$500 in gross sales each year?	You are NOT regulated by this rule and do NOT need a USDA license. You are required to be licensed by USDA – please contact your Animal Care office. <i>(See map on page 2 for your regional office).</i>	
Do you sell working dogs (i.e. dogs used for hunting, breeding or security) exclusively at retail?	You are NOT regulated by this rule and do NOT need a USDA license.	
Are you a rescue group that only holds face-to-face adoptions with the public?	You are NOT regulated by this rule and do NOT need a USDA license.	You may need a USDA license – please contact your Animal Care office. <i>(See map on page 2 for your regional office).</i>

	YES	NO
Are you a State, county, or city-owned and operated pound, shelter, or a humane society or other organization that operates under a contract with these jurisdictions?	You are NOT regulated by this rule. These agencies and organizations are not regulated under the AWA as long as all of their activities are under the jurisdiction of the municipality, township, city, county, or state and do not fall under APHIS regulation.	You may need a USDA license – please contact your Animal Care office. <i>(See map on page 2 for your regional office).</i>
Do you sell rabbits for food, fiber (including fur) or for the preservation of bloodlines or raise rabbits as part of a 4-H project?	You are NOT regulated by this rule and do NOT need a USDA license.	
Do you sell farm animals for one or more of the following purposes: food, fiber, agricultural use, as pets?	You are NOT regulated by this rule and do NOT need a USDA license.	

If your situation requires a license from Animal Care, please click [here](#) to continue with your license registration.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your need to obtain a license or registration please contact the appropriate regional office listed below.



Western Region	Eastern Region
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