



Animal Care

# Upholding the Animal Welfare Act



Protecting animal welfare continues to be a core mission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In recent years, we have expanded our approach to promote compliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by using collaborative, results-driven methods. Supporting our regulated community helps support AWA compliance—and the humane care of animals. With more than 8,000 AWA licensees and registrants and over 1 million animals to protect, this part of our work is crucial.

## WHY WORKING TOGETHER MATTERS

- ✓ **Gains faster compliance** than traditional enforcement actions
- ✓ **Improves animal welfare** by encouraging best practices that exceed standards
- ✓ **Maximizes resources** and broadens the impact of our Animal Care work

## WHAT ABOUT ENFORCEMENT?



### Collaborative methods won't work in every situation.

We'll always use **OUR ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY** when collaborative methods aren't appropriate or effective.

## HOW WE PROMOTE COMPLIANCE THROUGH CUSTOMER SUPPORT



### CUSTOMER SERVICE

**Online licensing and registration assistant** to help facilities quickly find out if they need to be licensed or registered under the AWA

**Courtesy visits** for regulated facilities seeking our help with questions about compliance or input on strategies or best practices to resolve a challenge

**Connecting with attending veterinarians** to establish partnerships for animal welfare oversight that extend beyond our inspections

**Informational aids and resources** give practical guidance to support facilities in providing the very best care to their animals



### OUTREACH

### QUALITY INSPECTIONS



**Teachable moments** bring facilities into immediate compliance and help them better understand their responsibilities

**Inspection Guide** and training exercises to ensure our inspection process is clear, consistent, and fair



## OUR APPROACH

**Compliance visits and calls** to follow up on non-compliances and give facilities personalized help with their compliance challenges

**Reminder calls** to ensure timely license renewals



### DIRECT SUPPORT

LEARN MORE: [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare)