

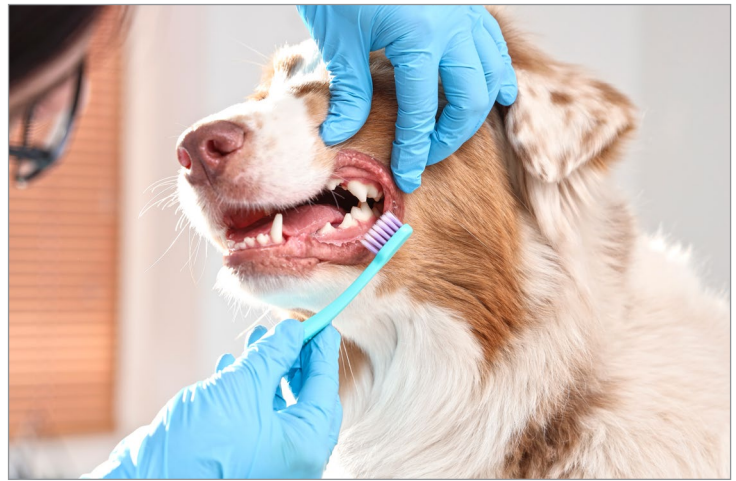
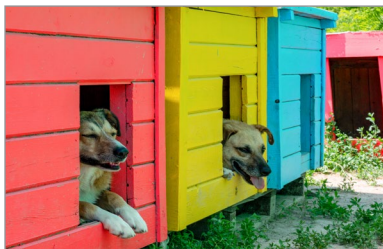


Animal Welfare Act Compliance for Dog Breeders

When you comply with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), you protect the health and wellbeing of your dogs and your business. Humane, professional animal husbandry practices help prevent disease and injury, and improves animal welfare. Consistent compliance also reduces the risk of enforcement actions and builds trust with customers. Here's what you need to know to comply with the AWA.

How to Stay Compliant

- **Follow your Program of Veterinary Care.** Always adhere to your attending veterinarian's written guidance.
- **Schedule annual physical exams.** Each dog should be examined by your veterinarian at least once a year.
- **Prevent parasites.** Collect samples regularly to check for parasites and provide preventive treatment as directed by your veterinarian.
- **Vaccinate against contagious diseases.** Rabies, parvovirus, and distemper are required.
- **Practice regular grooming and hygiene.** Care for eyes, ears, teeth, skin, haircoat, and nails to keep dogs healthy.
- **Keep your dogs safe and secure.** Maintain buildings, pens, and yards in good repair.
- **Provide proper shelter and climate control.** Ensure housing and heating and cooling systems keep dogs comfortable and safe during weather extremes.
- **Feed your dogs high-quality food.** Maintain health and good body condition with the right amount of nutritious food.
- **Ensure constant access to fresh drinking water.**
- **Keep accurate records.** Ensure all paperwork is current and that all dogs are properly identified.



USDA Can Help

- **Contact your USDA inspector.** They are a valuable resource for questions and compliance support.
- **Review your inspection report.** If your inspector documents a noncompliant item on your inspection report, discuss it with them to get suggestions on how to achieve full compliance.
- **Visit the [Animal Welfare Resources](#) page.** Access Aids, Tech Notes, and other guidance documents designed to help licensees comply.
- **Stay informed.** The Animal Care website offers updates on education and outreach opportunities and regulatory and policy changes.

Additional Resources

Staying compliant with the AWA helps protect your dogs, your business, and your reputation. We're here to support you with practical tools and guidance. Explore more resources—including those listed below—at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal-welfare-resources/animal-care-aids:



- [Canine Periodontal Disease](#)
- [Coat Care: Preventing Matted Hair](#)
- [Common Skin Disorders in Dogs](#)
- [Identifying Healthy and Unhealthy Skin in Dogs](#)
- [Daily Observations: Physical Health](#)