



Federal Update: USDA/APHIS Proposed Rule Advances

AKC Federal Informational Update: USDA/APHIS Rule Impacting Small/Hobby Breeders Advances For Executive Review

(Friday, May 03, 2013) http://www.akc.org/press_center/article.cfm?article_id=4987

The AKC has learned that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has completed a full review of all public comments on proposed changes to federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations affecting “Retail Pet Stores and Licensing Exemptions”. A final version of the rule has now advanced to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for further review and possible changes ahead of publication as a final rule by USDA. Typically, it takes 30-90 days for the OMB to review a final rule before it is returned to the USDA. Once a rule is published, there is generally a period of months before any changes to existing law are implemented.

No information about the contents of the final rule is available at this time. The AKC continues to express strong concerns to members of Congress and the USDA about the May 2012 proposed rule change. AKC will continue to provide updated information on the status of this rule and possible action to be taken as additional information becomes available.

Background

The AKC remains extremely concerned about the May 2012 proposed change to AWA regulations that would require all who own more than four “breeding females” and sell even one animal “sight unseen” to be regulated as a commercial breeder and subject to federal commercial breeder licensing, regulation and inspections requirements. The term “breeding female” is not defined in this rule, so it is unclear how USDA or even breeders themselves would determine who falls under these regulations. The term also includes multiple species (including cats, dogs, and other small mammals).

The AKC believes that the USDA’s “one size fits all” regulations are not in the best interest of all dogs, responsible breeders, or puppy buyers. It is unreasonable and virtually impossible for many small hobby breeders to comply with the strict kennel engineering standards that were designed for large commercial operations.

For more information on this proposal, including AKC’s formal comments on the proposed rule, links to the AKC petition in opposition to the rule, fact sheets and frequently asked questions, visit AKC’s USDA/APHIS Regulations Resource Page.

Next Steps

The public comment period regarding the proposed rule closed in August 2012. Once again, AKC thanks the over 70,000 individuals who signed AKC's petition in support of small hobby breeders, and the many individuals, clubs and organizations who also commented on the many problems with the proposed rule. No information about the contents of the final rule is available at this time. However, AKC will continue to provide updated information and possible action to be taken when additional information on the contents of the final rule becomes available.

AVMA Study Identifies Excess Workforce Capacity

11 to 14% underutilization of US veterinary services projected through 2025

By R. Scott Nolen, News Department, AVMA Publications Division

Approximately 12.5 percent of veterinary services in the United States went unused last year, according to a new AVMA study. The study further projects double-digit underutilization of veterinary labor over the next decade.

The demand for veterinary services in 2012 was sufficient to fully employ just 78,950 of the 90,200 veterinarians currently working in clinical and nonclinical settings, resulting in an underuse of services equal to the labor of 11,250 veterinarians, study results show.

Moreover, the nation's veterinary services capacity is likely to be underutilized by 11 to 14 percent through 2025, or the equivalent of an underemployment of as many as 12,300 veterinarians annually.

The U.S. Veterinary Workforce Study offers a measure of excess capacity in the veterinary profession, a condition in which demand for veterinary services is less than the available supply of those services at prevailing prices. On April 23, the AVMA released its final report on the study, which found excess capacity highest among equine practices, followed by small animal practices, food production practices, and mixed animal practices.

Michael Dicks, PhD, director of the AVMA Veterinary Economics Division and a study consultant, said excess capacity is present in every industry and is necessary to meet surges in demand. "What we don't know is the optimum level of excess capacity for veterinary medicine, that is, meeting the demands of society and the profitability of the practice," Dr. Dicks said. "Thus, it is difficult to say for certain from the current measure of excess capacity what this means about the health of the veterinary industry."

Researchers explain they modeled the sensitivity of the supply projections to changes in underlying assumptions regarding the number of veterinarians trained, work patterns, and retirement patterns. Under every scenario, they saw the supply projections exceed demand through 2025.

A former agricultural economist, Dr. Dicks cautioned against reading too much into the finding that 12.5 percent of veterinary services were unused. "The estimate's not really saying that there are 11,250 veterinarians who can't find work. What it is saying is that a majority of private practitioners don't feel like their capacity to provide services is being fully utilized," he said.

Full report at link: <https://www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/x130601.aspx>

Pet Cancer Awareness Month

AKC Canine Health Foundation Marks Pet Cancer Awareness Month with Public Awareness and Fundraising Campaign

04/30/2013. **Pet Cancer Awareness Month** begins tomorrow, and throughout the month of May the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) will provide news and information to help dog owners better understand treatment options and cutting-edge research in the field of canine cancer.

According to research published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* in 2011, approximately 30% of older dogs succumb to cancer. "All dogs, whether mixed breed or purebred, are at risk for developing cancer," said Dr. Shila Nordone, CHF Chief Scientific Officer. "Our goal during Pet Cancer Awareness Month is to provide dog owners with information about ongoing research studies that are working to find better treatments for our dogs," said Nordone.

Since 1995 CHF has funded nearly \$9 million in canine cancer research. This research has provided breakthroughs in treatment options and diagnosis, and has helped scientists study cancer at the cellular level -- allowing veterinarians to diagnose cancer earlier and treat it more effectively. CHF-funded research has a broad impact, extending beyond dogs to having application to human cancer diagnosis and treatment.

The public awareness and fundraising campaign runs May 1 - 31 and uses social media and online outreach, podcasts and website features to promote not only CHF-funded research, but information on different types of canine cancer, care for dogs with cancer and other cancer-related health resources. The podcasts release schedule and topics are:

- Wednesday, May 1: CHF Cancer Research, with Dr. Shila Nordone, CHF Chief Scientific Officer
- Thursday, May 9: Cancer Stem Cells, with Dr. Tim O'Brien, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine
- Thursday, May 16: The Future of Canine Cancer Research, with Dr. Bruce Smith, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine
- Thursday, May 23: What to Expect During Your Visit to the Canine Oncologist, with Dr. Rachel Reiman a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine with a specialty in Oncology
- Thursday, May 30: Hemangiocarcinoma Research, with Dr. Jaime Modiano, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine

Dog owners and dog lovers are encouraged to take part in the Foundation's goal to help raise funds for canine health research through two special honor and memorial gift programs. [The Celebration Wall](#) is a special online photo gallery in memory of much loved dogs. This memorial is a fitting tribute for dogs that have died from cancer or another disease.

Heroes for Health Research pages are custom-built personal donation webpages. Pages can be created for any canine hero – whether it is a dog battling cancer or a dog that has been a great companion. Participants are encouraged to invite family and friends to donate to their page.

Contributions raised through the Celebration Wall and Hero for Health Research will help CHF advance the health of all dogs by funding sound, scientific research to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/news/akc-canine-health-foundation-7.html>

Urban Chickens

The trend of keeping chickens in urban and suburban settings is growing throughout the U.S. Here are some examples of backyard chickens in the Charlotte Region. The City of Charlotte and Davidson are two examples of local jurisdictions that allow chickens within specific guidelines.



This month Raleigh residents show off their urban flocks during the annual **Tour de Coop**.

Photos and descriptions for each of the 21 coops on the 2013 tour are available online. Full addresses for each coop will be available on the morning of the tour, either via an emailed ticket (for those who purchase a ticket online by Friday, May 17) or by getting a ticket at one of the ticket locations on the day of the tour.

This unique "Parade of Combs" features hens and coops tucked into the gardens of your friends and neighbors. All tour proceeds benefit Urban Ministries of Raleigh. The 2013 tour will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

For more information visit the Tour de Coop website:

<http://www.tourcoop.com/>

POP-NC Spay/Neuter Service Closing

Over the past nine years, Pet Overpopulation Patrol (POP-NC) performed nearly 30,000 spay/neuter surgeries in the Triangle area. A low-cost spay/neuter clinic on wheels, POP assisted low-income pet owners in remote areas, including senior citizens on voucher programs. Most of the animals the group sterilized were pets; a small percentage were feral.

The mobile clinic was founded in 2004 by Dr. Wendy Royce. She, three vet technicians and another surgeon worked 12–15-hour shifts, performing 30–35 procedures per day, often traveling beyond the Triangle to reach pet owners in rural areas. Traveling to different locations each of which presented unique challenges regarding access to electricity, water, bathroom facilities, and food for team members, contributed to high turnover rates.

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program (SNAP-NC), the alternative low-cost mobile clinic in the area, will cover three of POP's former locations in Orange, Caswell and Person counties.



North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (NCRAOA) is a statewide organization of animal owners and professionals dedicated to animal welfare, responsible animal ownership, and maintaining the rights of responsible citizens to breed and own animals. NCRAOA, a 501(c)3 organization, provides education and information to the public and supports reasonable and humane animal welfare laws. Permission granted to copy and distribute NCRAOA News and Views in its entirety as is.

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