

Cat Fanciers' Association -- FACTSHEET

PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO OWN PEDIGREED CATS

OPPOSE Proposed Amendments to the Animal Welfare Act Regulations – “APHIS-2011-0003”

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and its inspection service (APHIS) have proposed amendments to the AWA regulations that change or eliminate existing exemptions for breeders selling cats, dogs and other animals directly to the public. The comment deadline is **August 15, 2012**.

Please **TAKE ACTION** to **OPPOSE** the rule. Ask them to **WITHDRAW** APHIS-2011-0003 !

The proposed rule would have a devastating impact on rescue groups and hobby breeders.

Hobby breeders and rescue groups (other than government shelters) who sell pets directly to pet buyers would no longer be exempt from federal licensing and inspections. Only those who sell to buyers who physically enter a place of business or residence to observe the animals available for sale would be exempt. Shipping a single kitten to a long time friend or transferring a kitten to a pet buyer at a cat show would mean federal regulation.

All pedigreed cat breeds are rare, and valuable breeding programs will end.

You may lose the option of owning the pet of your choice.

Commercial breeders who sell to pet stores are already licensed and inspected by APHIS.

The USDA, for 40 years, has focused on regulating large commercial facilities selling pets through the wholesale business trade. The proposed rule would add thousands of dog and cat breeders and would overwhelm the APHIS inspectors

CFA's views:

- The USDA says the purpose of this new rule is to regulate Internet sales of puppies. Remote selling of pets, through magazine ads, has been common for decades. The Internet has actually improved the quality of information and communication between buyers and sellers.
- There is no need to expand regulation to include hobby breeders of pedigreed cats or rescue groups placing cats. Less than 0.5% of cats are obtained through Internet/online contact according to the American Pet Products Association (APPA) 2010 National Pet Owner Survey. This includes rescue cats obtained through Internet websites like Petfinder.com. Only 2% of owned cats are obtained from breeders of pedigreed cats.
- APHIS inspectors are familiar with large, commercial facilities, not home environments. USDA standards assume separate caging in sterile environments. They all but prohibit carpet and furniture in areas occupied by the cats and dogs! The AWA is unsuited to hobby breeder and rescue situations where the pets run free in the home. Home based rescue and foster care may face zoning and local restrictions if they become a federally regulated activity.

The outcome is critical! Our action is vital!

CFA's Position:

- USDA should continue to regulate wholesale breeders who are in business and sell (primarily dogs) to pet stores and brokers.
- USDA should continue to exempt hobby breeders and rescue groups who exclusively sell their pets directly to the ultimate buyer.
- The USDA should not attempt to regulate purebred dog and pedigreed cat fanciers who breed and raise pets on their own premises for their own enjoyment, show, for sale to other fanciers, and for whom the retail sale of dogs and cats as pets is ancillary to such activities.

Send letters to: **Docket No. APHIS–2011–0003**
 Regulatory Analysis and Development
 PPD, APHIS, Station 3A–03.8 4700
 River Road, Unit 118
 Riverdale, MD 20737–1238

Comments may also be submitted by using the [Federal e-Rulemaking Portal](#):

www.cfa.org/aphis2.htm

(Click on the "Comment Now" button upper right of page)

- You will be allowed 20 minutes and 2000 characters (about 300 + words).
- You will be asked for your name (some comments have only initials) and your City/State/Country but no further information is required. You **do not** have to provide your street address, email, phone or any other personal information.
- You can make as many comments as you like. To make another point start another comment box. Please make as many comments on as many issues as possible.
- An attached file is allowed. State your opposition in the comment box and indicate that a file is attached.
- Start your comment by stating you are **opposed to the proposed changes**. Ask for withdrawal of the proposal. Then give reasons why.
- For a sample list of reasons please review the CFA Letter Guide on the CFA Legislative Alert Page. (see link below)

For more information and updates:

Visit www.CFA.ORG/alerts.htm

Or Email legislation@cfa.org



The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed cats