



THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

August 15, 2012

The APHIS comment period has ended... now what?

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 rule was published in the Federal Register and a period allowed for public comment.

The comment deadline ended but **the fight is far from over.**

This proposal is not yet adopted as a final rule. APHIS notes that: "Once the comment period closes, APHIS will consider all comments received and, if warranted, will revise the rule in response to those comments." At the conclusion of the review APHIS may adopt the original proposal or withdraw it or make revisions. The process of reviewing all of the comments received may take weeks or even months. This rulemaking process may take more new turns. The fight is far from over.

Like all federal agencies with rule-making authority, APHIS is subject to oversight by the legislative and executive branches of government. **Now is the time to contact your elected federal representatives to tell them you OPPOSE the rule and ask them to help convince APHIS to withdraw it.**

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.

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.
- 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

What you can do NOW:

Contact Your Congressional Representatives and Senators. They need to know about the detrimental consequences of this proposed APHIS rulemaking. Ask your Representative and Senators to urge the USDA/APHIS to withdraw Docket No. APHIS-2011-0003. Contact by email or have several club members meet with a key local office staff person.

To find your House Representative -

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find>

Enter your zip code. On the Representative's website you will see contact information, the email procedure and an appointment scheduler's email address and/or phone number.

To find your two Senators –

<http://www.senate.gov>

Enter your State; then on each Senator's website find the email procedure and locate the local office nearest you for scheduling a meeting.

You can also drop in to the district office and talk with staff members. Take a copy of the [CFA Comment Letter](#). This can be attached to a letter from your club. Staff members have a big influence on Representatives and Senators. This is a good opportunity for cat fanciers and clubs to initiate contact and educate them.

For more information and updates:

Visit www.CFA.ORG/alerts.htm

Or Email legislation@cfa.org

