

IDENTIFICATION	All regulated animals must be identified by the exhibitor. [2.50, 2.51, 2.52, 2.53, 2.54, 2.55, 2.75, Policy #13, Policy #19, Policy #20]
Species Specific	Dogs & Cats [2.50(b) & (c)] All live dogs and cats must be identified if: [2.50(b)(1), 2.50(c)(1)] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• held on the premises• purchased or otherwise acquired, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ another exhibitor➤ donation➤ from pounds/shelters➤ from breeders➤ from private individuals• sold or otherwise disposed of• removed from the premises for delivery to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ another exhibitor➤ auction sale➤ research facility➤ any person for use as a pet <p>NOTE: Dogs and cats temporarily at a facility for breeding or exhibition must be identified with an official USDA tag or tattoo.</p> <p>Personal pets used for breeding or exhibition must be identified.</p> <p>Unweaned puppies or kittens do not need to be individually identified if: [2.50(d)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• maintained as a litter with their dam in the same primary enclosure, AND• the dam has been individually identified All Species Other Than Dogs and Cats All species, other than dogs and cats, delivered for transportation, transported, purchased or otherwise acquired, or sold or otherwise disposed of must be identified at the time of delivery for: [2.50(e)(1)] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• transportation• purchase• acquisition

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sale• disposal
<p>Methods of Identification</p>	<p>Dogs and Cats</p> <p>A live dog or cat must be identified by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• official tag affixed to the animal’s neck with a collar [2.50(b)(1)(i)] (see Exhibitor Exemption below)• approved tattoo (see page 12.6.5) [2.50(b)(1)(ii)]• approved microchip (see page 12.6.6) [Policy #13] <p><i>Exhibitor Exemption for Tagging</i> [2.50(c)(2)]</p> <p>An exhibitor may identify his/her dogs or cats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• by an official tag kept on the door of the animal’s cage/run, [2.50(c)(2)(i)] AND• a record book containing: [2.50(c)(2)(ii)]<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ the animal’s tag number➤ a written description of the animal➤ a clear photograph of the animal➤ all the information required for the acquisition and disposition of dogs/cats (see Section 14.1), AND• a duplicate tag that accompanies the dog/cat whenever it leaves the facility [2.50(c)(2)(iii)] <p>A live weaned puppy or kitten must be identified by at least one of the following: [2.50(c)(1)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• official tag [2.50(b)(3)(i)]• approved tattoo [2.50(b)(3)(ii)]• plastic-type collar acceptable to the APHIS administrator [2.50(b)(3)(iii)]• cage card for puppies only [Policy #20] <p>Puppies less than 16 weeks of age are exempt from individual identification if all of the following conditions are met: [Policy #20]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the puppies remain housed at the facility where they were whelped• the puppies are maintained as a litter

- the enclosure containing the puppies is identified with the required information, such as a card cage or the collar attached to the enclosure

If an exhibitor acquires a live dog or cat which is already identified by an official method, the exhibitor may: [2.50(b)(2)]

- continue to use this identification, or
- replace the identification with his/her own official tag, tattoo, or microchip

NOTE: The exhibitor must list the old and new official identification numbers in his/her records of purchase AND the new official identification number must be used on all subsequent sales records.

Official Tag

Construction [2.51(a)]

An official USDA tag may be made of:

- durable plastic
- durable alloy, such as:
 - brass
 - bronze
 - steel
- aluminum of a sufficient thickness to assure the tag is durable and legible

Size and Shape [2.51(a)]

The tag must be one of the following shapes:

- circular-not less than 1¼ inches in diameter [2.51(a)(1)]
- oblong and flat-not less than 2 inches by ¾ inch AND riveted to an acceptable collar [2.51(a)(2)]

Contents

Each tag must have the following information embossed or stamped on it:

- the letters “USDA”
- exhibitor’s USDA license number (For a list of State and Territory Identification Codes - see page 12.6.9)
- number identifying the animal

Tag Numbers

Official identification tag numbers must be:

- consecutive and non-repetitive
- applied to the dogs/cats in as close to consecutive numerical order as possible

No tag number must be used to identify more than one animal. [2.53]

An identification tag number must **not** be used within a 5-year period following its previous use. For example, if dog #5 died on January 1, 2003, the identification #5 must not be used on another dog until after January 1, 2008. [2.51(c), 2.53, 2.55(c)]

Acquisition of Tags [2.52]

The exhibitor must obtain official tags at his/her own expense. (see “List of Commercial Tag Manufacturers” on page 12.6.10)

Lost/Destroyed/Illegible Tags

If an official tag is *lost*, the exhibitor must try to find the tag and: [2.54]

- if found, reapply the tag
- if not found:
 - affix a new tag to the animal and
 - record the new ID number on the official records

If a tag is *destroyed or becomes illegible*, the exhibitor must:

- affix a new tag to the animal and
- record the new ID number on the official records
- keep the old tag:
 - for a period of one year from the date of its removal from the animal OR
 - for longer than one year if requested by an APHIS official

Tags from Dead Dogs/Cats

If a dog/cat is euthanized or dies from other causes, the exhibitor must: [2.55]

- remove the tag [2.55(a)]

- retain the tag: [2.55(a) & (b)]
 - for a period of one year from the date of its removal from the animal OR
 - for longer than one year if requested by an APHIS official
- dispose of the tag after the required retention period [2.55(c)]

NOTE: The ID number may be reused after 5-years from the date of the death of the animal. [2.55(c)]

Collars [2.50(a)(1) & (b)(2)]

Collars must be made of materials which will not injure the animals and are generally acceptable to pet owners.

Examples of acceptable materials for collars include, but are not limited to:

- leather
- plastic
- metal chains with smooth even-sized links

Examples of unacceptable materials for collars include, but are not limited to:

- wire
- elastic
- sharp metal
- any material that would cause injury or discomfort to the dog/cat

Official Tattoo

Approval [Policy #19]

The exhibitor must request and receive approval to use a tattoo as the official form of identification (see Procedure for Obtaining a Tattoo Code sheet - page 12.6.11).

The tattoo request must be:

- in writing
- submitted to the appropriate Regional Office

Format

The exhibitor must tattoo all the dogs/cats with:

- a legible tattoo
- the assigned official tattoo code AND
- a distinctive number that individually identifies each dog/cat

NOTE: The official tattoo code will include the State in which the exhibitor is licensed and 3 more letters unique to that exhibitor. For example, a exhibitor from Maryland may have a tattoo code of MDDAA, or a exhibitor from Oklahoma may have a tattoo code of OKFZZ.

Microchip

Approval [Policy #13]

The exhibitor must request and receive approval from his/her Animal Care Inspector or appropriate Regional Office to use a microchip implant as the official form of identification.

The exhibitor should complete a “Request to Use Microchipping as a Method of Identification” sheet (see page 12.6.12) with the following information:

- manufacturer and/or model of the microchip and reader
- location of the microchip on the animals
Note: The placement must be consistent from animal to animal.
- an assurance that the following requirements will be met:
 - the microchip scanner must be readily available to the APHIS representative
 - animal identification records must indicate the microchip number, location on the animal, and the name of the microchip manufacturer
 - any animal with a microchip that goes to another USDA licensee or registrant must have an official tag/tattoo if a compatible scanner is not available at the receiving facility

The Request sheet should be submitted to the appropriate Animal Care inspector or Regional Office.

If you (the inspector) are approving the microchip request, you must:

- review the Request sheet for accuracy and completeness of information
- sign and date the sheet
- give the original signed sheet to the exhibitor
- send a copy of the signed sheet to the Regional Office

All Species Other Than Dogs and Cats [2.50(e)]

At the time of delivery for transportation, purchase, acquisition, sale or disposal, if one or more animals are confined in a primary enclosure, the animal(s) must be identified by one of the following methods: [2.50(e)(2)]

- attach a label to the primary enclosure which contains a description of the animal(s), including: [2.50(e)(2)(i)]
 - the number of animals [2.50(e)(2)(i)(A)]
 - the species of animals [2.50(e)(2)(i)(B)]
 - any distinctive physical features of the animals [2.50(e)(2)(i)(C)]
 - any identifying marks, tattoos or tags attached to the animals [2.50(e)(2)(i)(D)]
- mark the enclosure with a painted or stenciled number which is recorded in the accompanying documents or records. The documents/records must contain:
 - a description of the animals [2.50(e)(2)(ii)(A)]
 - the species of the animals [2.50(e)(2)(ii)(B)]
 - any distinctive physical features of the animals [2.50(e)(2)(ii)(C)]
- apply a tag or tattoo to each animal in the enclosure which individually identifies the animal by number or description [2.50(e)(2)(iii)]

At the time of delivery for transportation, purchase, acquisition, sale or disposal, if one or more animals are **not** confined in a primary enclosure: [2.50(e)(3)]

- each animal must be identified on a record which contains:
 - name and address of the person from whom the animal was purchased or otherwise acquired [2.75(b)(1)(i)]

- the USDA license number or registration of the person if he/she is licensed or registered [2.75(b)(1)(ii)]
- vehicle license number, and driver's license number or photographic identification card for nondrivers issued by the State and State of issuance of each if seller/donor is **not** USDA licensed or registered (see below) [2.75(b)(1)(iii)]
- date of purchase or acquisition [2.75(b)(1)(v)]
- the species of the animal [2.75(b)(1)(vi)]
- the name and address of the person to whom the animal was sold or given, if applicable [2.75(b)(1)(iv)]
- the date of sale or disposition, if applicable [2.75(b)(1)(v)]
- the number of animals in the shipment, if applicable [2.75(b)(1)(vii)]
- the record must accompany the animal(s) at the time it is
 - delivered for transportation
 - transported
 - purchased
 - sold
- the record must be kept and maintained by the exhibitor as part of his/her records

If the vehicle license number and driver's license number cannot be obtained, the record must contain:

- an acceptable reason for not obtaining this information, and
- at least two of the following:
 - social security number
 - phone number
 - directions to the premises of the seller/donor
 - official identification card number

**State and Territory Identification Codes
 National Uniform Tag Code Number**

Arranged Alphabetically				Arranged Numerically			
Alabama	64	Montana	81	10	Dist. of Columbia	56	South Carolina
Alaska	96	Nebraska	47	11	Maine	57	Georgia
Arizona	86	Nevada	88	12	New Hampshire	58	Florida
Arkansas	71	New Hampshire	12	13	Vermont	61	Kentucky
California	93	New Jersey	22	14	Massachusetts	63	Tennessee
Colorado	84	New Mexico	85	15	Rhode Island	64	Alabama
Connecticut	16	New York	21	16	Connecticut	65	Mississippi
Delaware	50	North Carolina	55	21	New York	71	Arkansas
Dist. Of Columbia	10	North Dakota	45	22	New Jersey	72	Louisiana
Florida	58	Ohio	31	23	Pennsylvania	73	Oklahoma
Georgia	57	Oklahoma	73	31	Ohio	74	Texas
Guam	97	Oregon	92	32	Indiana	81	Montana
Hawaii	95	Pennsylvania	23	33	Illinois	82	Idaho
Idaho	82	Puerto Rico	94	34	Michigan	83	Wyoming
Illinois	33	Rhode Island	15	35	Wisconsin	84	Colorado
Indiana	32	South Carolina	56	41	Minnesota	85	New Mexico
Iowa	42	South Dakota	46	42	Iowa	86	Arizona
Kansas	48	Tennessee	63	43	Missouri	87	Utah
Kentucky	61	Texas	74	45	North Dakota	88	Nevada
Louisiana	72	Utah	87	46	South Dakota	91	Washington
Maine	11	Vermont	13	47	Nebraska	95	Oregon
Maryland	51	Virginia	52	48	Kansas	93	California
Massachusetts	14	Virgin Islands	98	50	Delaware	94	Puerto Rico
Michigan	34	Washington	91	51	Maryland	95	Hawaii
Minnesota	41	West Virginia	54	52	Virginia	96	Alaska
Mississippi	65	Wisconsin	35	54	West Virginia	97	Guam
Missouri	43	Wyoming	83	55	North Carolina	98	Virgin Islands

LIST OF COMMERCIAL TAG MANUFACTURERS

METAL IDENTIFICATION TAGS

Ketchum Manufacturing Company
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846
518-696-3331
1-800-222-0460

St. Paul Stamp Works
946 University Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-228-1522
www.municipaldiv.com

National Band & Tag Company
721 York St.
PO Box 72430
New Port, KY 41072-0430
859-261-2035
fax: 1-800-261-8247
www.nationalband.com

PLASTIC IDENTIFICATION BANDS

Products International Company
2345 West Holly Street
Phoenix, AZ 85009
602-257-0141
800-521-5123

SUBJECT: Procedure for Obtaining a Tattoo Code

This is to clarify the policy and proper procedures to follow when a licensee requests a tattoo.

The tattoo identification will be assigned from the Regional Office. Each licensee who wishes to use tattoos to identify his or her animals will be assigned a code for identification to include the type of business and the State in which he or she is licensed. In addition to the dealer's codes assigned, the dealer will be required to add the necessary numbers to the tattoo to uniquely identify each animal.

Licensees having dogs or cats identified with tattoos that received prior Department approval will be allowed to retain the old tattoo identification on these animals and use the new tattoo identification on any additional animals acquired.

If you wish to continue to use tattoo identification for your animals, please write to request an assigned tattoo code for your facility. Please direct your request to:

(Name – Regional Director)
Director - _____ Region
USDA, APHIS, AC
Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact our office at (Phone No.: (Area Code _____))

Request to Use Microchipping as a Method of Identification

Name of Business _____ Name of Owner: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State; _____ Zip: _____

USDA Lic/Reg. Number: _____ USDA tattoo # (if any) _____

Microchip Information:

Manufacturer and/or Model of Microchip and Reader _____

Location of Microchip (For example: left side of neck)

* The location of the chip must be consistent from animal to Animal Care-Eastern Region

I accept and understand that:

- The microchip scanner must be readily available to APHIS officials.
- Animal identification records must indicate the microchip number, the manufacturer of the chip, and the approximate location of the microchip in the animal.
- When sold or given to another regulated facility, animals with a microchip must have an official tag or tattoo if the new facility does not have a compatible scanner.
- APHIS may revoke an approval at any time if the microchipping system is discovered to be ineffective.

Licensee/Registrant Signature _____

Date _____

Approved by APHIS Official _____

Date _____