

APHIS Animal Care Stakeholder Update: Inspection Guides Now Available

March 23, 2007

The Animal Care (AC) program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) continuously evaluates its programs and policies in an effort to improve all facets of its operations. As part of this overall effort, AC has developed a Resource Guide for Exhibitor Inspections and has revised the Research Facility Inspection Guide. These are both now available online on our website.

The Exhibitor Inspection Guide is written specifically for our AC personnel. An exhibitor refers to a person who maintains certain warmblooded animals for display or public performance. Exhibitors include, among others: circuses, zoos, animal acts, drive-through wildlife parks, photo shoots and marine mammal displays.


Similarly, the Research Facility Inspection Guide is provided for our AC personnel. Some items of note in the updated version of this Guide:

- Protocol Review, Inspection Procedures (pg. 6.3.12) includes additional guidance for inspectors to ensure APHIS-approved "multiple major survival surgery" stipulations are being met.
- Annual Report, Content (pg. 14.1.3) includes examples for inspectors on facility reporting of unusual circumstances, including unexpected pain/distress or animal incidents.
- Personnel Qualifications (pg. 16.2.2) includes inspection aids for assessing training programs.
- Electronic Communications (pg. 18.8.1) includes the criteria that must be met in order for the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) to conduct its activities via electronic communication systems. These criteria have been developed in conjunction with National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). (See <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-06-052.html>)

Please feel free to review the Exhibitor Inspection Guide provided online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/eig.shtml and the Research Facility Inspection Guide online at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/rig.shtml.

Also note that AC has recently updated its stakeholders list to include organizations we believe would be interested in receiving information from our program. If you have received this email and do not wish to receive future notices, or if there is a more appropriate address you would like these updates to be sent to, please e-mail us at: ac_stakeholders_update@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,



Chester Gipson, DVM
Deputy Administrator