

APHIS Seeks Public Comment on the Animal Care Policy Manual

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) animal care (AC) program is undertaking a review of the existing *Animal Care Policy Manual* and welcomes public comment. APHIS will be accepting public comments through Nov. 16, 2007.

The policy manual is a guidance document developed primarily for AC field inspectors, and it is also provided to entities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). It clarifies, interprets and/or provides examples of how to comply with existing AWA regulations or standards.

APHIS has designated the *Animal Care Policy Manual* a significant guidance document pursuant to the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) "Final Bulletin for Agency Good Guidance Practices" (72 FR 3432-3440). In order to increase the quality and transparency of agency guidance practices, OMB established policies and procedures for the development, issuance and use of significant guidance documents. Information about APHIS' significant guidance documents and the agency's guidance practices is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/guidance>.

In keeping with the good guidance practices outlined in OMB's bulletin, APHIS is seeking public comment on the manual, including recommendations for adding, changing or rescinding any policy that it contains. The AC program has always given due consideration to comments received from the public regarding the policy manual but is doing so now in a more formal manner.

The *Animal Care Policy Manual* may be viewed on the Regulations.gov Web site (www.regulations.gov). It will be available for public review and comment through Nov. 16. All comments received by that date will be given due consideration.

To learn more about the AC program's policies and the activities that it regulates, please visit the APHIS Web site at

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/index.shtml.

To add or remove a name from this update, please send an e-mail to:

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