
Subject: **Tattoo Identification of Dogs and Cats** **Policy #19**

References: 9 CFR, Part 2, Sections 2.50(a)(1) and (e)(iii)

History: Replaces REAC Memorandum 430 dated July 20, 1992.

Justification: This policy is to clarify the procedure used in approving tattoo identification of dogs and cats for dealers under the authority of the Animal Welfare Act.

Policy: Each licensee who wishes to use a tattoo to identify his/her animals will be assigned a code for identification to include the type of business (Class A or Class B) and the State in which he/she is licensed. Examples of the system are as follows:

Class A dealer from Maryland: MDAA through MDAZZ
Class B dealer from Maryland: MDBAA through MDBZZ

In addition to the dealer's code assigned, the dealer will be required to add the necessary numbers to uniquely identify each animal. Dealers of purpose-bred dogs and cats sold only for research purposes may have special tattoos approved by the Administrator.