

**Electronic Posting of Inspection Reports for Research, Federal, and Veteran's
Administration Facilities (R, F, V)
Nov. 2, 2009**

Good morning.

This update is a follow-up to an announcement we made on May 13, 2009, regarding the posting of inspection reports for facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Since May 2009, Class A, B and C licensees (animal breeders, dealers and exhibitors respectively) and Class E, H and T registrants (registered exhibitors, intermediate handlers and carriers respectively) have been available online. We are now moving ahead with plans to post reports for Class R registrants (research facilities); and those we do on a courtesy basis for Class F and Class V entities (Federal agencies and Veteran's Administration facilities, respectively). Beginning 30 days from the release of this announcement – Dec. 2, 2009 – Class R, F and V reports will be available on the APHIS website.

Under the AWA, APHIS issues licenses and registers certain animal businesses and research facilities. APHIS inspectors conduct periodic inspections of these licensed or registered entities, making sure that their animal handling, cleanliness, recordkeeping practices and housing structures comply with the AWA. During these inspections, APHIS inspectors generate reports that notify a licensee or registrant if anything needs to be improved.

Inspection reports for Class R registrants are currently available to the public only through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request. APHIS Animal Care receives an average of 715 FOIA requests each year, and these Class R inspection reports have been among the most frequently requested documents.

To access all available APHIS inspection reports, please visit the APHIS homepage at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and click on **FOIA Reading Room** (a bullet item located in the light blue box on the right-hand portion of the screen). Then, click on **Lists of active licensed and registered facilities**, a bullet item located under the Frequently Requested Documents heading. Then, about halfway down that next page, click **Inspection Reports and License and Registration List**. There, you will be able to access a searchable database.

Posting the R, F and V reports is an important step in our ongoing efforts to enforce the AWA in the best and most transparent way possible. As always, we welcome feedback from our stakeholders.

Dr. Chester Gipson
Deputy Administrator for Animal Care, APHIS