Emerging Issues
USDA Perspective

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Emerging Issues

- Emergency Programs
- 2008 Farm Bill, New Regulations
- Random Source
- ACIS database and FOIA
- Animal Welfare Center
- AC policies
- Field staffing and inspections
Pet Evacuation and Sheltering

States are required to include evacuation of household pets in their emergency response plans.

- **APHIS is the lead for Agriculture**
- **Pet evacuation and sheltering**
- **4 Full Time Positions**
- **Recent Activities**
  - California Wildfires
  - Iowa Floods
  - Hurricanes
Contingency Plans

Docket 06-159-1

- Develop, document, and follow an appropriate contingency plan for their animals in the event of an emergency or disaster
- Include training for facility personnel
- Proposed rule published October 23, 2008......comment period ended February 20, 2009
- Comments under review
Section 14214 – Fines for AWA Violations

✓ Increases the maximum civil penalty amount to $10,000 for each violation

Section 14210 – Importation of Live Dogs

✓ Prohibits importation of dogs for resale unless the dog is in good health, has received all necessary vaccinations, and is at least 6 months of age

✓ USDA, HHS, Commerce, and DHS directed to promulgate regulations
2008 Farm Bill

Section 14216 – Study on Use of Dogs and Cats in Federally Funded Research

- NIH was asked to seek an independent review of the use of Class B dogs and cats
- USDA is required to review findings and report to Congress
- GAO conducting audit
Minimum Age Requirements for the Transport of Animals

Docket 06-024-1

• Would establish minimum age requirements for the transportation of animals other than dogs and cats

• Proposed rule - comment period closed in September

• Comments under review
Standards for Regulation of Birds
Not Bred for Use in Research

Docket 06-006-1

- Propose standards to regulate birds not bred for use in research
  - Advance Notice - 2004
  - 7,500 comments
  - Proposed rule - 2009/2010
  - Final rule (???)
  - Could result in over 10,000+ new facilities regulated under the AWA
OIG Audits

Commercial Dog Breeders

Oversight of Exhibitors
  Regulation of big cats and other dangerous animals

Horse Protection
Animal Care Information System

- Implemented March 1
- Better tracking of
  - facilities
  - inspections
  - complaints
  - animals
- Phase 2 – late 2009
  - on-line applications
Electronic Freedom of Information Act

- Frequently requested documents
- Inspection reports
- Annual Reports
- 21 day appeal period
2009 Annual Reports

- Mailed 9/15/09
- Due 12/1/09
- Will be reviewed by FOIA officials prior to being posted on website
2009 Annual Reports

• On line Reporting?

• Column E explanation
  – Procedure causing pain or distress
  – Reason drugs were not used

• Summary of IACUC approved exceptions to the regulations or standards
2009 Annual Reports

In your packet are:

• Tips
• Examples
• Column E Explanation Format
• Annual Report Checklist
2009 Annual Reports

IO Assurance Statements:
• Professionally accepted standards
• Each PI has considered alternatives to painful procedures
• Adhering to regs and standards and reporting exceptions
• Attending Vet has appropriate authority
Center for Animal Welfare

- National resource for policy development and analysis, training, science, and technology in support of the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act
- Kansas City
- 2009
Policy Manual

Executive Order 13422

• January 2007
• “Significant guidance document”
• Public comment period closed November 8, 2007
• Final draft under review
Field Staffing / Inspections

- 102 Inspectors
- 12 Field Supervisors
- 4 Field Specialists
  - Laurie Gage: Big Cats
  - Gary Goldberg: Nonhuman Primates
  - Vaughan Langman: Biophysicist
  - Denise Sofranko: Elephants
- 9,600 Licensed/Registered Facilities
  - 15,700 inspections
- 1,120 Registered research Facilities
  - 1,700 inspections
AC Website

✓ Current issues and notices
✓ AWAR, policies and other publications
✓ Lists of licensees and registrants
✓ Print forms and order forms (including app kits)
✓ Horse Protection Information
✓ Links to related sites
✓ FOIA requests and E-FOIA link
✓ File a facility complaint
✓ Pet evacuation and sheltering info
✓ Future – apply for license/registration online