



Exclusively Afghans



Quick note from the editor:

Please send me pictures, fun articles, legislative issues, and other fun things that you can think of to put in the newsletter to jujant04@yahoo.com

Thanks! Hope you enjoy – see you next year!!

Officers:

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH:

Above: Photo for NOVEMBER Trying to stack a herd of new babies. Photo by Doug Korus.

Left: Photo for DECEMBER Tori and Neko endure the christmas torture. Both dogs are loved by Julia Callaghan. Photo by Julia Callaghan



For the love of Afghans

How the Afghan Hound became Scented

There must be folks out there who don't know this legend, so if I have your indulgence and you have the time I will tell you the story once again. I will tell the legend of why some

Afghans carry a haunting odor with them for life. Science being science will likely have a much more cut and dried answer to this question, but for me, being among those fortunate enough to experience this wonder... I'll take the legend...

This is a story of a Princess, wonderful hounds, a very deep love and a promise kept.

It happened long ago, and very far away. Far away over the seas, over the mountains and valleys to a land called Afghanistan. Afghanistan borders on the country of China. It is a land of sharp crags, steep cliffs, and deep gullies. The soil is hard to till. It is also a land of stark beauty, a fiercely proud people and the ancestral home of our beloved Afghan Hounds.

A very long time ago, as we measure time, the Kingdom was ruled by a great Khan. Each day the Khan mounted his horse and rode out to meet with his people and see to their needs. He was much loved throughout his Kingdom because he had such a caring heart.

Each day his daughter Farrah rode by his side. She was a beautiful child, large dark eyes and braided black hair that hung to her waist. The people loved Farrah as they loved her father. Her eyes always laughed. Her hands always reached out in friendliness. Though she was young, she was learning the lessons of her father's example very well.

Farrah had another great love in her life, the magnificent dogs that ran beside them each day on their rounds. These beautiful hounds filled her heart with joy and they returned her love a hundred times over. Every day the Princess would pluck sprigs of Jasmine, which grew on the hillsides. Then, she would tuck a sprig under the collar of her most favored. Jasmine was Farrah's special scent, it filled the air with it's musky and mysterious odor. She told her father how much it seemed to belong to the Afghan Hound. These dogs, in whose eyes you could see the reflection of hundreds of years gone by. Her father always explained to her how wise they were. When they were set on the hunt, following the hawk that led them until their prey came into their far seeing eyesight, they had to think for themselves. Racing over the mountain sides and deep gullies there was none who could keep up with them. Her father agreed that they were truly dogs of great mystery.

Princess Farrah grew to be a beautiful young woman. On days when her father was unable to ride out among his people, Farrah and her hounds went in his place.

As Farrah had grown, the people had only learned to cherish her more. They would call out greetings to her and wave as she rode by. She would quietly listen to any problem that was brought to her and she would take it to her father so that he could apply his wisdom and create an answer. Wherever the princess went, whether riding across the mountainside or strolling through the palace, she was accompanied by her beloved dogs. A head was never far from her hand. She would reach out and stroke this noble creature and this caring was always returned. A gentle rub of a head against her leg or if sitting, her touch would be acknowledged by a gentle breath of air across her neck as a dog placed his head on her shoulder.

Time passed and the princess was to be wed. Her husband to be was a handsome young prince from a neighboring kingdom. Like the Khan, the Prince too was a good man. He respected his people and admired their hard work and dedication to their land. As was the custom of their land, it had been decided long ago that these two would marry. From childhood he had heard Farrah's name. He had learned that she was beautiful and kind. He knew also that she was intelligent, she understood her people. He loved her deeply for all of her qualities, long before he met her.

Wedding preparations took over the palace. Even the dogs caught the excitement. They barked, jumped and ran with joy. Sprigs of Jasmine were everywhere. The beautiful and mysterious aroma filled the palace. Servants moved with light steps. No chore was too difficult or too tiring to be carried out. The wedding garments were ready. The palace sparkled. Tables were laden with food and guests were beginning to arrive from far away kingdoms. It was a magical time.

Suddenly the joy ceased. The palace was hushed. The Princess was ill. It struck without warning. One day she was laughing and dancing and the next she could not rise from her bed. The Princess' beloved dogs sensed that this was very serious. On silent paws they moved around her. Each in turn took his place at her side and pushed against her hand with his head. Farrah's treasured female, heavy with whelp, never left the foot of her bed, her head lay gently across the princess' legs.

The Khan was overcome by an all-encompassing sadness. The light that filled his life was fading. He sat on one side of her bed, the Prince on the other. Two powerful men, totally devastated by what was happening. Two powerful men, totally unable to do anything to stop what seemed to be inevitable. Their princess was leaving them and time was short.

Farrah opened her eyes and clasped the hand of her father in one hand and that of her Prince in the other. She pressed them to her cheeks and they could feel the warmth of her tears.

"I must leave you now," she said, her voice was soft and weak, "but I will come back to you and you will know that I am here".

How could this be? The two men looked at one another.

Again the halting whisper, "believe me when I say, you will know that I am with you".

How could she be back with them and how could they know? They shook their heads. It is the fever, their eyes seemed to say. And then she was gone.

Great sadness filled the palace. Servants moved so quietly they appeared to glide over the floor. The laughter and joy so vibrant only days ago, was replaced by crushing sorrow.

It was only a few days after her passing that Farrah's favorite lady let it be known that her time to deliver had arrived. Ahmed, the trusted master of the dogs, was ready. Nothing must happen to this wondrous animal. All must go well. The puppies began to make their way into the world and as they did, Ahmed realized that something astounding was happening. He must get the Khan and the Prince. Immediately he arose and ran down the hall, calling for them to, "come, come quickly".

The two men followed the servant in haste and yet with great foreboding. Cautiously they approached the doorway. As they did, an all too familiar scent filled their nostrils; it was the scent of Jasmine. It could not be. The servants had removed all traces of Jasmine after the Princess died. There was none to be found anywhere within the palace walls. But the scent was here, in this room. Slowly, the two men approached the mother and her babes. The scent became stronger. They looked at one another in astonishment. They reached down and raised a small wiggling puppy. There it was...on the puppy's head, the scent of Jasmine.

Astonishment filled their faces. Now they knew. Now they understood. They had no doubts at all. The Princess had kept her promise. She was here. She had rejoined them.

Today, when a litter of Afghan Hounds is born, sometimes there is, hovering over them, around them and with them the scent of Jasmine. For those fortunate enough to experience this marvelous phenomenon, they too will know that the Princess has once again kept her promise.

News...News...News...

Sandy Nelson is the trophy chair for the 2014 Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc. National Specialty show to be held in Belton, Texas on October 19 - 22 2014. Sandy would be happy to accept any donation. However, Janet Williams and Sandy each donated items to be used in a drawing for those who donate a certain amount to the trophy fund. Go to the AHCA web site for pictures of the items donated and the particulars of the drawing, or contact Sandy. The AHCA site www.afghanhoundclubofamerica.com.

On Nov 1st 2013 Al and Rich celebrated their wedding. Starting with a surprise by John and Lynn LaBahn that included a limo that came and picked them up, brought them to the courthouse and all around town afterwards. Al and Rich met 15 years ago.

Rich and Al



The Lure coursing committee met on December 14th to discuss lure coursing and CAT event dates for the year 2014. In attendance and enjoying the large (death-by) chocolate cake was Lynn LaBahn, Lorene French, Sandy Nelson, Al Saiko, Rich Hanson, Vicki Fagre-Stroetz, Anna Tyler, Janet Williams, and Julia Callaghan. Event dates will be available as soon as fields and dates are confirmed.



NEW REGULATION OF INTERNET PET SALES

Recently, APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) modified the definition of "Retail Pet Store" in the AWA (Animal Welfare Act). Under the modified definition, Internet pet sales are being regulated for the first time.

Which dog breeders are affected by the new rule?

- those breeders who sell dogs as pets, not for hunting, security, breeding, or other purposes, **and**
- who maintain more than four breeding females on their property, **and**
- whose buyers are not all physically present to observe the animals prior to purchase and/or to take custody of that animal after purchase.

What must the affected dog breeders do to comply with the new rule?

- newly regulated breeders must obtain a license, **and**
- have a system to identify their animals, **and**
- keep certain records, **and**
- meet standards for facilities and operations, **and**

- meet standards for animal health and husbandry, and transportation.

According to APHIS, the cost of a license for breeders affected by the rule is based on 50% of gross sales during the preceding business year. As an example, if 50% of gross sales is more than \$500 but not more than \$2,000, the annual cost of a license is \$70. ID tags for dogs cost from \$1.12 - \$2.50 each. It is widely understood that most home breeders maintain their facilities and provide veterinary care well above the minimum standards of the AWA. *Accordingly, the burden for most newly regulated breeders is the cost of licensing, animal identification, and record keeping. Note: On December 16, 2013 a lawsuit was filed seeking an injunction against implementation of the rule, based on many concerns, including speculation that costs of compliance will substantially exceed APHIS' estimate.*

WHY DID APHIS CHANGE THE RULE?

It is the job of APHIS to assure that all pets sold at retail are monitored for health and humane treatment. APHIS has operated under the theory that the buyer in the face-to-face sales transaction is the lynch-pin to such monitoring. In other words, the buyer can monitor health and humane treatment by observing

the animal before deciding whether or not to make the purchase. The new rule is an alternate scheme to monitor for health and humane treatment where the buyer cannot play that role because the Internet sales transaction is "sight-unseen".

ATTACHMENT

Please see the attached APHIS Q & A FACTSHEET for more information and answers to most questions.

Vicki Fagre-Stroetz

APHIS**Factsheet**

Animal Care

December 2013

Questions and Answers: Retail Pet Store Final Rule

Q. What is the Animal Welfare Act?

A. Passed by Congress in 1966, the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) sets general standards for humane care and treatment that must be provided for certain animals that are bred for commercial sale, exhibited to the public, used in biomedical research, or transported commercially. The AWA does not apply to coldblooded animals or to farm animals used or exhibited for agricultural purposes. People licensed under the AWA must provide their animals with adequate housing, sanitation, nutrition, water, and veterinary care. They must also protect their animals from extreme weather and temperatures.

Q. Why are you changing the definition of a retail pet store in the regulations written to support enforcement of the AWA?

A. Over the years, APHIS has received increasing complaints from the public about the lack of monitoring and oversight of the health and humane treatment of dogs and other pets sold sight unseen—often over the Internet. Our primary goal is to ensure that people who sell pets at retail sight unseen are regulated under the AWA, so that these animals can be monitored by our Agency for their health and humane treatment. To do that, we revised the definition of “retail pet store” in our regulations to bring the animals involved in these “sight unseen” transactions under regulation so that they receive basic standards of care. We also provided greater regulatory latitude for certain types of small breeding operations consistent with this change.

Q. How many comments did you receive on the proposed rule?

A. The proposed rule to amend the definition of a retail pet store was published on May 16, 2012, and included a 60-day public comment period. At the request of stakeholders, the comment period was extended an additional 30 days and closed on August 15, 2012. During the 90-day comment period, we received more than 210,000 comments:

75,584 individual comments and 134,420 signed form letters. We also received 213,000 signatures on petitions submitted by organizations supporting or opposing the proposed rule. We reviewed every comment we received and, based on stakeholder feedback, we made a number of changes to the final rule.

BASICS OF FINAL RULE**Q. Under the final rule, what is the new definition of a retail pet store?**

A. In the final rule, “retail pet store” means a place of business or residence at which the seller, buyer, and the animal available for sale are physically present so that every buyer may personally observe the animal prior to purchasing and/or taking custody of it after purchase. By personally observing the animal, the buyer is exercising public oversight over the animal and in this way is helping to ensure its health and humane treatment. Retailers who sell their pet animals to customers in face-to-face transactions do not have to obtain an AWA license because their animals are subject to such public oversight.

Under the AWA regulations, a “retail pet store” is also a place where only the following animals are sold or offered for sale as pets: dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, gophers, chinchillas, domestic ferrets, domestic farm animals, birds, and coldblooded species.

Q. Why did APHIS revise the definition of a retail pet store?

A. Improving the welfare of animals is at the core of everything we do in our Animal Care program. This particular revision fulfills a commitment APHIS first made in response to an Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit recommendation. The OIG audit found that more than 80 percent of sampled breeders were not licensed under the AWA because they sold pets over the Internet and claimed “retail pet store” status. As a result, the OIG found that these breeders were not being monitored or inspected to ensure their animals’ overall health and humane treatment, which led to some buyers receiving unhealthy pets—especially dogs. In its 2010 report, the OIG recommended that such operations should not enjoy “retail pet store” status, and the resulting exemption from consumer oversight and APHIS inspection. This final rule achieves what the OIG suggested. It also fulfills APHIS’ commitment made in response to a “We

the People" petition to the White House.

The previous regulatory definition of "retail pet store" was developed more than 40 years ago. It was meant to include traditional pet stores, hobby breeders, and other retail businesses where customers could personally observe an animal for sale prior to purchasing and/or taking custody of it. Such establishments were not regulated under the AWA because it was assumed that customers were providing public oversight. By revising the definition of "retail pet store" to require retailers engaging in sight-unseen sales to be regulated, we are bringing more pet animals under the protection of the AWA. We are also ensuring that the definition of "retail pet store" within our regulations is consistent with the AWA.

Q. How will the final rule affect traditional retail pet stores?

A. The final rule will not affect traditional retail pet stores. These "brick and mortar" stores will continue to be exempt from Federal licensing and inspection under the AWA just as they have been. However, traditional retail pet stores that also sell animals sight unseen must be licensed and inspected.

Q. Why is it important for a buyer to observe an animal personally before taking custody of it?

A. Personal observation of an animal is an important way that a buyer can evaluate the health and humane treatment of the animal. This requirement is implicit in the AWA itself and was implicit in the original definition of "retail pet store" in our regulations; the final rule makes it explicit.

Q. If I require buyers to submit a nonrefundable deposit/payment on their puppy before they come and physically pick the puppy up, am I required to be licensed?

A. No. If the buyer is able to physically observe the puppy or animal prior to the sale or taking custody, you are not required to be licensed.

Q. If a person cannot personally observe an animal before buying it, can someone else stand in?

A. Yes. The intent of the rule is to ensure animals for sale are viewed by a USDA inspector or the buyer prior to purchase. We are aware that due to location, health or other issues, it may be difficult for some people to physically be able to take custody of their animal, and we understand the need for an intermediary buyer or agent to act in the stead of the final buyer. This may be a family member or

friend. This person may differ from the ultimate owner of the animal but cannot be a commercial carrier or intermediate handler.

Q. Does the use of video or other electronic means to view pets for sale constitute a "face-to-face" transaction?

A. No. The buyer, seller, and the pet available for sale must all be physically present at the time of purchase or before taking custody of the animal in order to meet the definition of a "face-to-face" transaction and remain exempt from licensing. Photos, webcam images, Skype sessions or other electronic means of communication are not a substitute for the buyer or their designee personally observing the animal.

Q. Do sellers who breed pets at their residences have to allow buyers into their homes in order to be considered a retail pet store?

A. No. The regulation allows for sales to take place at any location agreed upon by the seller and the buyer. This could be a home but it could also be another mutually agreeable location.

Q. Does this rule mean that no puppies/kittens/small exotic pets can be sold over the internet?

A. No. Breeders with five or more breeding females only need to obtain a USDA license in order to continue selling their animals sight unseen over the internet. These breeders may also advertise and sell their animals on the internet without a USDA license as long as the buyer is able to physically observe the animal prior to the sale or taking custody.

Finally, breeders with four or fewer breeding females selling their animals over the internet do not need to be licensed by USDA.

Q. Does this rule mean that no rabbits, guinea pigs, (domestic pocket pets) etc... can be sold over the internet?

A. No. Breeders of rabbits or small pocket pets who have less than \$500.00 in sales per year are not required to be licensed with the USDA and may sell their animals sight unseen. These same breeders who have more than \$500.00 in sales per year and choose to sell their animals sight unseen, may continue to do so as long as they obtain a USDA license.

Q. If I advertise on the Internet, but buyers pick up their pets in person, do I need to be licensed?

A. No. The final rule does not prevent breeders from advertising animals for sale over the Internet, as long

as the buyers see the animals face-to-face during the purchase or prior to taking custody of their pets. This model does not require a USDA license.

Q. Can I continue to ship my dogs under the new regulation?

A. Yes. The new regulation doesn't prevent anyone from shipping animals to buyers in other locations. It does, however, require breeders to become licensed if they maintain five or more breeding females (dogs, cats, or wild/exotic pocket pets), sell the offspring of these animals as pets, and ship the pets sight unseen. Breeders with four or fewer breeding females may continue to ship their animals sight unseen without a license.

RESCUE GROUPS AND POUNDS

Q. How will the final rule affect rescue groups that participate in off-site adoption events?

A. People who engage in face-to-face transactions at a place other than their premises, which include off-site adoption events, are considered to be subject to public oversight. As a result, they do not need to obtain a license.

Q. What does the final rule mean for State, county, or city owned and operated pounds, and shelters, as well as humane societies and other organizations that operate under a contract with those jurisdictions?

A. The final rule has no effect on these entities. These agencies and organizations are not regulated under the AWA as long as all of their activities are under the jurisdiction of the municipality, township, city, county, or state.

WORKING DOGS

Q. Does this final rule bring working dogs sold at retail under regulation?

A. No. Working dogs are generally understood to be dogs that are not sold for use as pets but for purposes such as hunting, breeding, and security. Dogs sold at retail for these purposes do not come under regulation under the AWA.

Q. Does APHIS specifically define working dog in its regulations?

A. No. The term generally refers to a dog that is being sold for a specific purpose, such as herding, guarding, hunting, breeding, racing, sledding, security, service, therapy, etc. Dogs sold at retail to be used only for these types of purposes are exempt from regulation under the new rule, which applies to dogs sold and raised as pets. However, if a breeder

regularly sells some dogs as working animals and others as pets and they have five or more breeding females and engage in sight-unseen transactions, they will need to obtain a USDA license.

Dogs that participate in agility, flyball, and weight pull competitions are primarily marketed as pets and anyone selling these animals and meeting the criteria for breeding females and sight-unseen sales would need to obtain a USDA license.

Q. Will APHIS require working dog breeders to be regulated if they occasionally sell an animal as a pet that has proved unsuitable as a working dog due to birth defects, poor temperament, or other flaws?

A. Individuals who intend to breed and sell dogs at retail as working dogs may occasionally raise a dog that lacks the characteristics that would enable it to be sold or used for its intended working purpose. As long as the individual originally intended to raise and sell the dog at retail for that purpose and the individual continues to market his or her dogs for that purpose, the individual could sell the individual dog at retail without needing to be regulated by APHIS.

RABBITS, FARM ANIMALS, AND COLDBLOODED SPECIES

Q. How does the final rule affect rabbit breeders who raise rabbits for food, fur, or preservation of bloodlines?

A. The final rule does not change our regulation of breeders who sell rabbits or other animals for use as food or fiber (including fur). Anyone selling animals only for food or fiber is exempt under the AWA. People selling rabbits at retail for breeding purposes (such as preservation of bloodlines) are not regulated.

Q. Will children who raise rabbits as part of a 4-H project have to be licensed under the final rule?

A. No. 4-H participants who sell their rabbits for food or fiber (including fur) or in face-to-face transactions at county fairs, rabbit shows, and other agricultural exhibitions do not have to be licensed.

Q. What will this rule mean for domestic farm animals and coldblooded species?

A. As is the case for rabbits, normal farm-type operations that raise, buy, and sell animals only for food and fiber (including fur)—as well as businesses that deal only with fish and other coldblooded animals—are exempt from regulation.

BREEDING FEMALES

Q. Why are you now allowing people to keep up to four breeding females without having to be licensed under the AWA?

A. Under our previous regulations, we considered breeders who owned up to three breeding females (dogs, cats, or small exotic or wild mammals) to be hobby breeders, who provide sufficient care to their animals without our oversight. Based on a recent review of compliance among facilities we regulate, we believe that even with the addition of another breeding female, these hobby breeders are likely to conform to minimum AWA standards.

Q. Under the final rule, what constitutes a breeding female?

A. Only female animals with the capacity to breed are considered "breeding females." Females that an APHIS inspector decides cannot breed due to age, infirmity, illness, or other issues are not considered "breeding females."

Q. How will the four-breeding-females rule apply to breeders with a partial ownership interest in a number of breeding animals?

A. Partial ownership of breeding females is a standard practice among small-scale residential breeders. Owners (even if they only partially own the animals) with five or more breeding females on one premises would need to obtain a USDA license.

EFFECTS ON BREEDERS

Q. How many breeders will be affected by this rule? How did you come up with these figures?

A. We estimate that between 2,600 and 4,640 dog breeders, about 325 cat breeders, and no more than 75 rabbit breeders will be affected by the rule. This represents a portion of the breeders we identified through online breeder registries and by assuming that there are some additional dog breeders using remote marketing methods not included in those registries. This does not include breeders who will not be affected by the rule because they do not sell pets, because they don't have five or more breeding females, or because they sell pets face-to-face. Since a very small percentage of cats in the United States are purebred and raised by breeders—and even fewer appear to be marketed over the Internet—we assumed the number of affected cat breeders would be a small portion of those we identified. Similarly, it is uncommon for rabbit breeders to sell offspring as pets or sight unseen;

generally, rabbits are sold face-to-face at auctions, exhibits, and fairs where buyers are physically present.

The rule will also affect some currently licensed wholesale breeders. Expanding the licensing exemption from three to four breeding females could reduce the number of wholesale licensees. We expect that the number of current licensees that will fall below the exemption threshold following the implementation of this rule will be very small.

Q. What will newly regulated breeders need to do to come into compliance with this final rule?

A. Commenters on the proposed rule expressed concern about the adjustments newly regulated breeders would need to make and the possible costs they would incur. We believe, however, that the vast majority of breeders affected by the rule already maintain standards of housing, cleanliness, and care that well exceed minimum AWA standards. Therefore, these newly regulated but otherwise compliant breeders will incur minimal costs only for licensing, identification tags, and recordkeeping.

Q. How much will it cost for newly regulated breeders for licensing, identification tags, and recordkeeping?

A. For a typical dog breeder with 6 breeding females and a total of 74 dogs on the property over the course of a year, we estimate that the typical annual cost for licensing, identification tags, and recordkeeping would be between about \$284 to \$550 or from about \$4 to \$7.50 per dog.

Q. What will the costs be for newly regulated breeders who need to upgrade their facilities or change their facilities to comply?

A. We recognize some breeders will need to upgrade their facilities and/or change their operations to meet the basic AWA standards of care. Breeders have a variety of ways in which they can meet the standards; they are not overly prescriptive, nor does a breeder in most cases need to spend a lot of money to do so. Agency inspectors and personnel can answer questions in this regard and work with breeders as they make decisions regarding enclosures and related issues.

In some cases, these upgrades and changes will cost them more than the minimal costs of licensing, identification tags, and recordkeeping. Such facility and structural improvements should be one-time investments in their operations. Again, we believe that the vast majority of breeders affected by the rule already maintain standards of housing, cleanliness, and care that well exceed minimum AWA standards.

Q. Did APHIS revise its analysis of how many breeders would be regulated?

A. Based on input from commenters, we were able to revise and strengthen our analysis of the number of businesses that would come under regulation and the likely financial impacts for them. Compared with our analysis in the proposed rule, we do expect more breeders will come under regulation. However, we believe the costs for the majority of those breeders will be relatively low, and only for licensing, identification tags, and recordkeeping.

Q: Will consumers pay more for pets as a result of the final rule?

A. We believe that even if breeders' total costs of compliance are passed on to buyers, they will generally be negligible, in keeping with our analysis above. Further, costs previously borne by some consumers may now be borne by producers. For example, breeders who previously provided inadequate veterinary care or skipped vaccinations for their animals will now bear those costs.

Q. Will regulated breeders who keep dogs and cats in their homes have to put them in outdoor kennels?

A. No. Breeders may continue to raise dogs and cats along with any puppies or kittens in their homes. The AWA regulations define a "primary enclosure" to mean any structure or device used to restrict animals to a limited amount of space—which means that a home can be considered an animal's primary enclosure. If a room of a house is used as an animal's primary enclosure (for instance, a whelping room or nursery), AWA regulations and standards apply to that room. If the breeder has a kennel or cages that the animals can stay in inside the home that meet AWA standards, the breeder has satisfied the primary enclosure requirements. However, if a breeder allows their animals to have free run of the entire house, we will need to determine whether the home can house the animals within AWA standards. A number of currently licensed wholesale breeders maintain animals in their homes and meet or exceed the basic standards of the AWA.

Q. How can breeders who work outside their homes comply with unannounced inspections?

A. All animal welfare inspections, with the exception of pre-licensing inspections, are unannounced. During the pre-licensing process, the inspector will ask the breeder when they are generally available during normal business hours and try to conduct unannounced inspections during those times. An attempted inspection occurs when an inspector arrives at a facility but no one with authorization is available to accompany the inspector. In order

to conduct an inspection, an inspector must have full access to all required records as well as areas where regulated animals are kept and be accompanied by a responsible adult. If no one is available, the inspector will attempt to contact the licensee and determine if an authorized individual (someone 18 years of age or older) can arrive at their facility or home within 30 minutes. If the inspection is unable to take place, the inspector will document on the report that no authorized individual was available. The inspector will then make every effort to consult with the licensee regarding their availability and conduct the next unannounced inspection at a time when an authorized individual is likely to be present.

Q. Is a USDA license required to breed or ship animals for the purpose of preserving bloodlines?

A. No. People who sell animals at retail for breeding purposes, such as preservation of bloodlines are exempt from regulation and do not need a USDA license.

Q. I show my dogs. Do I need a license?

A. No. You do not need a license to show your dogs.

Q. If I breed and sell dogs to be shown, do I need a license?

A. Maybe. If you breed and sell dogs to be shown, have 5 or more breeding females and conduct eight unseen sales, you will need to become licensed. However, dogs that are sold exclusively for the preservation of bloodlines (i.e., breeding purpose) are not required to be licensed regardless of your business model.

Q. Why are you removing limits on the source of gross income from the licensing exemption for people who breed certain species and derive no more than \$500 in annual sales?

A. This change gives breeders of rabbits, guinea pigs, and certain other animals the ability to sell those animals at retail (subject to the \$500 annual gross income limit written into the AWA) and still remain exempt from AWA licensing and inspection requirements.

Q. Why isn't the \$500 limit on gross income sales being adjusted for inflation?

A. A number of commenters said that given inflation, the \$500 limit on gross income sales is too low; others said it was too high. However, this limit on gross income is set in the AWA itself, and changing the limit would require Congressional action.

LICENSING INFORMATION**Q: How will USDA identify breeders who may need to be licensed?**

A: APHIS will use various methods to access publicly-available information to identify and inform those individuals who may need an AWA commercial breeding license. These methods include evaluating customer complaints against breeders and Internet retailers, as well as reviewing the marketing and promotional materials of breeders and Internet retailers. In addition, we will review public information available online to identify sellers that potentially meet the definition of commercial breeder in the AWA. By viewing publicly available information, APHIS can educate individuals about the AWA, and if needed, assist them with obtaining licenses. This will ensure that all animals that should be covered by the AWA will receive humane care and treatment.

Q. What is the timeline for compliance?

A. The [final rule](#) took effect on Nov. 18, 2013, and we are encouraging all breeders who think they may need to be regulated to request and complete a license application. Once you have submitted a completed application, it may take some time before a pre-licensing inspection is conducted at your facility. Breeders who proactively complete applications for licensure may continue to conduct regulated activities while waiting for our inspectors to conduct the pre-licensing process.

Q. What happens if a breeder doesn't pass their initial pre-licensing inspection?

A. Once a breeder has submitted their completed application, they will be contacted by their assigned inspector. This in-depth phone conversation provides an opportunity for the applicant to discuss their facility or animal housing areas with their inspector. The inspector will then explain the entire pre-licensing process and help the applicant understand the AWA regulations and how to comply based on their individual situation. This will enable the applicant to make any needed changes to their facility or home in advance of their initial pre-licensing inspection.

The 1st pre-licensing inspection will be scheduled at a mutually agreed upon date and time. Once that inspection has occurred, the applicant will not be able to conduct regulated activities until their license is issued. If the inspector identifies areas requiring improvement, the applicant will have two more scheduled opportunities within a 90-day period to demonstrate compliance. Our inspectors will make

every effort to promptly re-inspect a facility or home once a breeder believes they have achieved full compliance with the AWA requirements. If a breeder fails to achieve compliance within the 90-day period, they must wait 6 months before re-applying for a license and cannot conduct regulated activities.

Q. If I am licensed by my State Department of Agriculture, do I still need to be licensed with USDA?

A. You are required to comply with the AWA as well as state and local laws.

Q. If I already have a USDA animal welfare license, but I also sell some animals sight unseen, do I need to get another USDA license?

A. No. If you already have a USDA license, you are already inspected by a USDA inspector.

Q. Does a breeder need to maintain their USDA license even if some years their activities don't meet the threshold for licensing?

A. USDA licenses are renewable on an annual basis. If a breeder is no longer conducting regulated activities, they can decide not to renew their license. However, if a breeder cancels or fails to renew their license and later needs to reapply, they will have to go through the full pre-licensing process again.

Q. What happens if USDA receives an animal welfare complaint about a facility?

A. If APHIS receives an animal welfare complaint from a concerned citizen or organization, an inspector will be assigned to follow up and will conduct an inspection to determine the validity of the complaint.

Q. How can I request a license application packet?

A. You may request a license application packet electronically at the following link: <https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/ApplicationKit.nsf/application?OpenForm> or contact your respective regional office (Eastern Region at 919-855-7100 and Western Region at 970-494-7478) for assistance. A map of the states covered by each region is available at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/acorg.html.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bragg!

Congratulations to MBIF Traveling to Geneva FC, SC on earning her Field Champion title with three 5 point majors! She also won Best In Field at the ASFA Region 5 Invitational held in Oklahoma in November. She is bred by Bonnie Schulz and Vick Fagre-Stroetz, she lives with Brad and Kathy Nelson.



From left to right: Judge Dean Wright, Kathy Nelson, "NeVe", Brad Nelson.



Congratulations to CH. Inisfree Sirea' Duet Imperious Mother of Dragons for taking Best of Breed on October 25th and October 27th in Sioux Falls! Khaleesi also has 2 majors and 11 points toward her Grand Championship. She is bred by Anna Tyler, Cynthia Byington, Louise Paulson and Lorene French. She lives with Barb and Dave Plum.



Congratulations to CH. Inisfree Sira'e' Duet's Crystal Blue Persuasion for receiving a 4 point major to finish his Championship at only 17 months of age on November 9th in Winona, MN. Also Sunday November 24th in Minneapolis, MN Blue was Select Dog for his first 4 point major toward his Grand Championship under Judge Whitney Coombs. Blue is bred by Anna Tyler, Cynthia Byington, Louise Paulson and Lorene French. He lives with Lorene French.

Congratulations to GCH. Sirae' Inisfree's Baby's Got Bling got Best of Opposite to finish her Grand Champion title on November 9th in Winona, MN. Also on November 24th in Minneapolis, MN Lizzie was Best of Opposite under Judge Whitney Coombs Lizzie is owned by Louise Paulson, Anna Tyler, Cynthia Byington and Lorene French. She lives with Louise Paulson.



A Big Congratulations to GCh. DC Inisfree's Superior Majic CD, RN, SC. Rio received a Versatility award from the Afghan Hound Club of America this year(2013) for being a Conformation Champion, a Field Champion, and achieved an Obedience title.

Congratulations from Sandy Nelson to CH. Rustic Mahali It's All In The Game who was Best of Breed on October 12 in Urbana, OH. He was also Select Dog on October 13th in Urbana, OH.

Congratulations from Sandy Nelson and Sue Medure to CH. Mahali Arriva Red Hawk who was Best of Breed October 5th under Judge Mrs. Linda M. Riedel. ChaChi was also Select Dog on October 6th under judge Murrel Purkhiser.

Congratulations from Barb Plum and Anna Tyler to CH. Inisfree Sirea' Duet Imperious Mother of Drangons who wa Select Bitch on Saturday October 5th under Judge Mrs. Linda M. Riedel.

Congratulations to CH. Inisfree Sirae' Vision Blue Mist Duet" who was Winners Bitch and Best of Winners to finish her Championship at 18 months exactly on November 23rd in Minneapolis, MN under Judge Terry Stacy. Misty is bred by Anna Tyler, Cynthia Byington, Louise Paulson, and Lorene French. She lives with Crystal Gaddison.

Congratulations from Pam Ristau and Anna Tyler to Inisfree Sirea' Duet Leave it To Chance who won Winners Dog Saturday on October 5th under Judge Mrs. Linda M. Riedel. Chance also took Select Dog on Sunday Oct 6th under Judge Mrs. Murrel Purkhiser.

Congratulations to GCh. Rustic Mahali It's All In The Game who finished his Grand Champion title on December 1st at the Ingham County KC show under Judge Patricia Taylor. Bingo is owned by Sandy Nelson, Eileen Wolfe, and Lynne Shanzle. He was bred by Eileen and Lynn Wolfe. Bingo is owned by Lindsey Cook.

Until we meet again...



My life changed for the better when I met “Majic Inimitable”, known as JR. He was a survivor of the Chandler rescue in Indiana in 2010. He came to me as a hospice case, and I was prepared to love him and let him go. However, he had other plans. Although his body was nearly broken, his spirit and mind were good as gold, and he never looked back. We treated everyday of our three years together as a special gift with all the love, leisure, and joy he had been lacking.

Recently, it became evident that his body, which had been through so much, was beginning to fail. He finally told us he was tired and ready to go. So on November 19th, 2013 we helped him pass from this life, cradled in my arms. He was 14 years old.

He was my Treasure, my Gentleman, my Mr. Wonderful. JR Junebug, you deserve every every sun-filled day, and all my love.

A thousand thanks are due to those who aided in his initial rehabilitation . Thanks are also owed to Anna Tyler, who was the GTCACHC Rescue Chair at that time. She believed my home was the right home for JR, and worked miracles to get him here.

With love,

Meredith Sobota (with Andrew Sobota; plus, Prince, Keifer, Indi and Opal)

Condolences to Sue and Phillip Medure on the unexpected loss of Ch. Mahali Arriva Red Hawk. 1/4/2008 - 11/11/2013. ChaChi lived with Sue and Phillip Medure, and was owned by Sue Medure, Sandy Nelson, David Cooley, and James Prosapio.



Things to keep your hound busy

Lure coursing is a performance event developed in the early 70's by Lyle Gillette and other California sighthound fanciers who hunted jackrabbits in the open field, which risked the harm caused by barbed wire fencing. They invented lure coursing as a safer, more controlled sport for sighthounds that would recreate the physical requirements of open field coursing, allowing them to continue testing the functional abilities of their sighthounds. The hounds chase plastic bags on a course laid out to simulate escaping game.

In 1972, they started the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA) and invited other sighthound fanciers from across the nation to join the organization, with its democratic structure and centralized method of keeping hound records. AKC instituted the Lure Coursing tests and trials in July, 1991.

The ASFA lure coursing titles achievable: After a hundred points for placements, as well as taking at least two firsts, or two seconds and a first, a sighthound earns its Field Championship (FCH) title.

With four first placements and another three hundred points, the hound earns a Lure Courser of Merit (LCM) title. Subsequent LCMs are earned in the same manner.

If a hound is entered in the Veterans Stake, there are special titles that can be attained. The requirements are that the hound begins with no points carried over from other titles.

A Veteran Field Championship (VFCh) is earned by accumulating 75 points from placements, as well as taking at least two firsts, or two seconds and a first, a sighthound earns its Veteran Field Championship (V-FCH) title. Veteran Lure Courser of Merit: The ASFA shall recognize and make appropriate awards to those

hounds who have attained the ASFA Veteran Field Championship, and who, after receiving the championship, continue to compete and receive four first placements with competition and 200 more points, which must be in the ASFA Veteran stake. Hounds who shall have attained said number of placements and points shall be known as Veteran Lure Courser of Merit (V-LCM). When a hound completes the V-LCM title it may continue to compete for additional titles in the Veteran stake. After receiving an additional four first placements with competition and an additional 200 points, the title of V-LCM 2 shall be awarded. This process will be indefinitely repeatable for V-LCM 3, 4, and so on.

AKC titles that can be achieved are: The Junior Courser; the dog runs solo and is required to run at least a 600 yard course with four turns under two different judges. For the Senior Courser test the dog must be eligible to run in the Open Stake by virtue of having a Junior Courser title; must run with at least one other dog and must earn a qualifying score at four AKC tests under at least two different judges. To earn the Master Courser test the dog must earn 25 qualifying scores in the Open, Open Veteran or Specials Stake and have a Senior Courser Title. In the lure coursing Trials the dogs can earn a Field Championship (FC) by accumulating 15 points with at least two first place wins of three points or more under two different judges or judging panels and at least one point must be earned in competition with at least one hound of the same breed.

Once a dog has earned an FC, they may continue to compete in order to earn a Lure Courser Excellent title (LCX). They must accumulate an

additional 45 Championship points at which time they receive the LCX title. If they wish to continue to compete, they can continue to accumulate Championship points in increments of 45 and earn additional LCX levels, i.e. LCX II, LCX III, LCX IV, etc.

Hounds are normally run in trios, in yellow, pink, and blue colors. Judges assess performance based on each hound's abilities, identifying hounds by their blanket color. The hounds run a preliminary course and a final course, and then may run for Best of Breed. Finally, the Best of Breed run for Best in Field, as an optional stake. The hounds are scored by the following criteria:

In AKC:

Overall Ability - 10 Points
Follow - 10 Points
Speed - 10 Points
Agility - 10 Points
Endurance - 10 Points

TOTAL - 50 Points

In ASFA:

Follow - 15 Points
Enthusiasm - 15 Points
Agility - 25 Points
Speed - 25 Points
Endurance - 20 Points

TOTAL - 100 Points

Breeds able to do lure coursing:

Afghan Hound, Basenji, Borzoi, Greyhound, Ibizan Hound, Irish Wolfhound, Italian Greyhound, Pharaoh Hound, Portuguese Podengo Pequeno, Rhodesian Ridgeback, Saluki, Scottish Deerhound, Whippet.

SOURCES: [HTTP://CLASSIC.AKC.ORG/EVENTS/LURE_COURSING/](http://CLASSIC.AKC.ORG/EVENTS/LURE_COURSING/)
[HTTP://WWW.ASFA.ORG/COURSING.HTM](http://WWW.ASFA.ORG/COURSING.HTM)