

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
Legislative Update - May 11, 2012
Appropriate forwarding is appreciated

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is proposing to amend federal regulations to require federal licensing and inspection of many home hobby breeders.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) unit currently regulates large-scale commercial breeders who sell animals at wholesale or for research. Hobby breeders selling directly to the public at retail are exempt from federal regulation. Since consumers have access to the breeders in direct sales, small retail breeders are regulated by local government.

The USDA has currently under fire for lax enforcement of existing law. Last year Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin introduced in the US Senate the Durbin-Vitter "Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act" (PUPS) to require federal licensing and inspection of many home hobby breeders. As the PUPS bill has become stalled in congress, HSUS and others are attempting to obtain the same results by having the agency amend regulations without

need of new legislation. The text of the proposed new rules will be published in the Federal Register next week but is broader than the PUPS bill. The proposed new regulations include all small animal species, including cats, and regulate catteries who sell even one kitten outside of their home if they have over 4 breeding females. (Of course, since this is a regulation and not a law that limit could be lowered even more.)

The CFA Legislative Group is aware of the proposed new federal regulations and is working on our response. Joan Miller is preparing on an article about this USDA/APHIS proposal and background information for the CFA Newsletter out on Tuesday. We will be providing guidance for letters to the USDA as soon as possible. Updates, links to sample letters and other information will be on the CFA website legislate alerts page as they are developed.

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