



## AKC Government Relations Legislative Alert

June 2012

### Proposed Federal Regulations Threaten Small Breeders and Hobbyists!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed new regulations that would create harsh and unintended consequences for responsible fanciers and hobby breeders in this country. ***We need your help to send the clear message to USDA that harsh, unreasonable regulations are not in the best interest of dogs or puppy buyers and threaten the future of purebred dogs in the United States!***

#### Summary:

The proposed regulations state that anyone with more than four “breeding females” that sell even one animal sight unseen would be regulated as a commercial breeder and subject to federal standards and inspections. This includes any time a buyer does not come to the breeder’s premises and see the animal in person – even if the buyer and seller have a previous, accepted arrangement (for example – having a friend deliver the puppy, arranging the purchase of another puppy based on an existing relationship, or acquiring a puppy as part of a co-ownership arrangement).

The term “breeding female” is not defined, so it is unclear how the USDA or breeders themselves could determine exactly which animals would be considered breeding animals and who would be subject to USDA oversight. The term includes multiple species – including cats, dogs, and small mammals. Therefore, a dog breeder might own only one intact female dog (along with other species) and still be subject to USDA commercial breeder regulations if they sell a single puppy off their premises.

The AKC believes that the USDA’s “one-size-fits-all” regulations are not in the best interest of all dogs, responsible breeders, or puppy buyers. It is also unreasonable and virtually impossible for responsible hobbyists to comply with regulations designed for large, commercial operations.

#### How You Can Help:

- **Sign the AKC’s Petition** – Visit [akc.org/petition](http://akc.org/petition) and join the tens of thousands of Americans who have signed the petition in support of the AKC’s position and responsible breeders. This petition, which will be submitted with the AKC’s formal comments to the USDA, will demonstrate the immense number of people who are concerned about this issue. *The petition must be signed by July 15.*
- **Submit Comments Directly to the USDA’s Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS)** – Visit [akc.org/GovernmentRelations](http://akc.org/GovernmentRelations) to view more information on the proposed regulations and find the link to submit comments. This will educate APHIS on exactly how this proposal will impact responsible breeders and dog owners. *Comments must be submitted by July 16.*

***Both actions are important in helping us send a powerful, clear message to APHIS on this issue!***

Visit the AKC Government Relations USDA/APHIS Regulations Resource page at [akc.org/governmentrelations](http://akc.org/governmentrelations) for more detailed information, frequently asked questions and other helpful resources.

**Update current as of June 25, 2012**

For more information and the latest developments, contact  
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