

# BARK THE ALERT!



## *The future of dogs depends on YOU*

**We need YOUR help to send a clear message to USDA that this proposal:**

- Hurts small responsible breeders
- Does not improve the welfare of dogs
- Threatens the future of purebred dogs – and especially rare breeds – in the United States

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

- 1) Join tens of thousands of other concerned fanciers by signing AKC's online petition **by August 13** at [www.akc.org/petition](http://www.akc.org/petition)
- 2) Submit comments directly to USDA **by August 15**. Visit AKC's USDA Regulations Resource Page at [www.akc.org/governmentrelations/usda\\_aphis.cfm](http://www.akc.org/governmentrelations/usda_aphis.cfm) for more information about how you can make an impact with your own constructive comments

*Both actions are important in helping send a powerful message to the USDA on this proposal!*

## **Proposed Federal Regulations Threaten the Future of Small Breeders and Fanciers!**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed administrative changes to the Animal Welfare Act that would subject anyone who maintains more than 4 “breeding females” and sells one pet sight unseen to strict federal licensing, regulation and inspection standards as a USDA commercial breeder.

- The term “breeding female” is not defined, so no one knows who would be impacted.
- This includes any transfer where a buyer doesn't pick up the dog directly from the seller – including co-owners, long-time associates or a “puppy back” arrangement as part of a breeding agreement.
- The proposal includes multiple species – you could own only one intact female dog (along with other species) and still be subject to USDA commercial breeder regulations if you sell a single puppy sight unseen.

The USDA's “one-size-fits-all” commercial regulations were not intended or designed for small hobby breeders. It is unreasonable and virtually impossible for responsible hobbyists who keep dogs in their homes to comply with regulations designed for large commercial operations.

This is a proposed administrative change to existing law – not new legislation – so we need YOUR involvement NOW.

**Learn more about how this dangerous proposal could affect your rights and the future of responsibly-bred purebred dogs by visiting [akc.org/governmentrelations/usda\\_aphis.cfm](http://akc.org/governmentrelations/usda_aphis.cfm), calling 919-816-3720, or e-mailing [doglaw@akc.org](mailto:doglaw@akc.org).**



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**