

**REGARDING THE PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS AMENDING THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT TO BE ENFORCED BY APHIS AND THE USDA. I am a small hobby breeder of Weimaraners. I have been and continue to be very concerned about the proposed regulations and the requirements for compliance. First let me say that in no way could I be construed to be a "large-scale breeder". I have bred three litters in the past eight years—a litter of nine in 2004, a litter of eight in 2006 and a litter of five in late 2011. There has only been one instance in which I have sold a puppy to someone who has not come to my residence. In this case it was mutually beneficial to meet in the middle, and I took two puppies for the client to see. In all other cases my clients have come to my residence to pick up the puppy that I have chosen for them. I will not ship (fly) a puppy and I prefer to have people meet at my house.**

**I have spoken to a contractor to get an estimate of what it would take to bring my residence into compliance with these new regulations. He estimated that it would take upwards of \$25,000 to do the job. At the moment I have five intact females which will soon become four and one spayed female. Now two of these intact females are 7 months old. No ethical breeder will breed a female before she is two years since that is the age that must be obtained before requisite health clearances can be performed. I do not keep male dogs because of the dangers of accidental breeding. I very carefully weigh my breeding decisions before I ever undertake to have a litter. There has never been a dime of profit. This regulation will likely drive people like me out of the important undertaking of producing sound and healthy puppies of quality who can be excellent representatives of their breed. Please consider all of the unintended consequences that this ill-thought out proposal can mean.**