

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Marketing and  
Regulatory Programs

Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Animal Care

# ANIMAL CARE POLICY MANUAL

May 23, 2016

### Animal Care Policy Manual

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**Subject:** Control of Tuberculosis in Regulated Elephants

**Policy #1**

**References:** Animal Welfare Act (AWA) Section 243  
9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1 Section 240.9(z)

**RESCINDED**

**History:** Replaces policy dated April 1, 1998 and previously identified as Policy #21.

**Justification:** Tuberculosis is a contagious disease that affects elephants, other animals, and humans. If left untreated or if treated improperly, it can cause death. Several elephants owned by licensed exhibitors have either tested culture positive for tuberculosis or have died due to this disease. In addition, elephants with tuberculosis can transmit the disease to other elephants, other animals, and, potentially, to humans. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Animal Care (AC) is requiring the periodic testing of all Animal Welfare Act regulated elephants. Testing will help us to identify those elephants that are infected and ensure that appropriate quarantine and/or treatment measures are instituted.

**Policy:** As part of the adequate veterinary care standard in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) animal welfare regulations, all captive elephants in the United States must be periodically tested for tuberculosis. Any animals found positive on culture will be required to undergo quarantine and/or treatment.

In conjunction with this policy, USDA, APHIS, AC is offering "*Guidelines for the Control of Tuberculosis in Elephants*", a protocol that specifies criteria for the testing, surveillance, and treatment of elephants for tuberculosis. Copies of this protocol are available from all AC Regional Offices and on the AC website at:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/sa\\_publications/ct\\_publications\\_and\\_guidance\\_documents](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/sa_publications/ct_publications_and_guidance_documents)

Licensees must either follow the recommended guidelines or provide a comparable testing and monitoring program that is consistent with AC's goals of ensuring the welfare of captive elephants and minimizing the potential spread of tuberculosis.

Any protocol other than the recommended guidelines should be reviewed and approved by AC prior to implementation. Alternate plans should be submitted to the appropriate AC Regional Office.

During the course of routine inspections, AC inspectors will review documentation that assures that elephants are being tested, and, if the animals test positive or are diseased, are treated according to the recommended guidelines or other APHIS approved protocol.

In addition, due to the possibility of humans transmitting tuberculosis to elephants, AC's guidance is that all attendants, handlers, and/or trainees who have direct contact with elephants should be tested for tuberculosis on at least an annual basis. It is the responsibility of each licensee in consultation with a physician or other appropriate medical authority to determine how this procedure should be satisfied.

**RESCINDED**

**10/16/2015**

Subject: Submission of Traveling Exhibitor Itinerary

Policy #2

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References: AWA Sections 2143, 2147  
9 CFR, Part 2, Sections 2.8, 2.125, 2.126

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History: Replaces policy dated April 14, 1997.

The licensee may provide this information to AC by any of the following methods: An1p3N2Tn elly1inform

Subject      Expired Medical Materials  
                 Pharmaceutical-Grade Substances  
                 Surgery  
                 Pre- and Post- Procedural Care  
                 Program of Veterinary Care  
                 Declawing in Wild/Exotic Carnivores and  
                 Removal/Reduction of Canine Teeth in Wild /Exotic  
                 Carnivores and Nonhuman Primates  
                 Health Records  
                 Euthanasia

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References      AWA Section 2143  
                 9 CFR, Part 2, Sections 2.31, 2.32, 2.33, 2.40  
                 9 CFR, Part 3, Section 3.110

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History:              Replaces memorandum dated May 31, 1990; November 29, 1991;

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requirements and in accordance with currently accepted standards of practice, an animal is not to be taken to an off-site location before it fully recovers from anesthesia unless justified in the animal activity proposal.

Appropriate postoperative records should be maintained in accordance with professionally accepted veterinary procedures.

### Program of Veterinary Care

#### Research facilities, dealers, and exhibitors

Establishments which do not have a full-time attending veterinarian must have a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). This Program must consist of a properly completed APHIS Form 7002 or an equivalent format. The attending veterinarian must visit the facility on a regular basis, i.e., often enough to provide adequate oversight of the facility's care and use of animals. APHIS recommends this visit occur at least annually. Records of visits by the attending veterinarians should be kept to include dates of the visits and comments or recommendations of the attending veterinarian or other veterinarians.

Washington State Department of Ecology  
3520 1st Ave, Seattle, WA 98101  
Phone: 206-462-3000  
Toll-free: 1-800-433-3333  
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APHIS Form 7002-1 (Rev. 11/94)

MCID 1vriv0.004 Tc 0.004 Tw550.004 Tc 0.004

Policies  
Veterinary Care

Animal Care Resource Guide  
Issue Date:

Subject: Necropsy Requirements

References: AWA Section 2143  
9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.33 and 2.40(b)(2)

History: Replaces policy dated October 13, 1998 and previously identified as Policy #22.

Justification: Current regulatory requirements for the performance of a necropsy are focused on marine mammals. Notwithstanding these requirements, there are times when the performance of one or more necropsies is necessary to provide adequate veterinary care for a facility by providing diagnoses of conditions, thereby allowing for adequate prevention, control, and treatment of the disease.

Policy: When warranted by circumstances including--but not limited to--the list below, and at the discretion of the attending veterinarian, regulated facilities should perform necropsies as part of providing adequate veterinary care. Similarly, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspector, in consultation with their supervisor may require a facility to perform necropsies on selected regulated animals which die (including by euthanasia) at that licensed or registered facility. Necropsy records, like other medical information, should be maintained at the facility for at least 1 year or as otherwise specified in the Animal signed by the veterinarian preparing the report.

#### Circumstances which may warrant a necropsy

- x The facility is undergoing a high death loss.
- x There are a significant number of unexplained deaths at the facility.
- x There exists a strong chance that an undiagnosed infectious disease is present at the facility (with or without potential zoonoses).
- x

For the purposes of this policy, a “necropsy” means an appropriate postmortem examination (which complies with currently acceptable professional standards) of the animal performed by or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian experienced with that species. It may include, but is not limited to, a systemic gross pathology examination (internal and external), appropriate microbiological culture and histopathology of lesions, and other indicated testing. All results should be recorded in the

Subject: Regulation of Wild/Exotic Animal Auctions Under the Animal Welfare Act Policy #5

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References AWA Section 2142

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The above listings are intended as guidance only. Persons selling animals listed in the middle column, or animals not listed may wish to contact the appropriate Animal Care regional office for guidance.

Animal Enclosures

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animals with no intention of bidding on the animals. Therefore, operators of auctions should utilize appropriate barriers and/or distance to ensure the safety of the animals and public. A sufficient number of readily identifiable attendants should be present at all periods of public contact with the animals.



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Subject: Space and Exercise Requirements for Traveling Exhibitors Policy #6

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References AWA Section 2143  
9 CFR, Part 3 Sections 3.6, 3.8, 3.28, 3.53, 3.80, 3.104, 3.128

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History: Replaces memorandum dated June 6, 1984, and policies dated March 5, 1988, and October 13, 1998.

Justification: Some traveling exhibitors maintain animals long term in transport cages during "travel status." This policy clarifies when the licensee is required to meet full primary enclosure space requirements and/or provide sufficient exercise space and time for animals in traveling exhibits.

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Policy: Animals exhibited in traveling shows may be transported in enclosures that meet the space requirements for transport as specified in Sections 3.14, 3.36, 3.61, 3.87, 3.113, and 3.137 OML during actual transport, i.e., movement in a conveyance between temporary locations. At all other times, they must be provided with space as described below.

- Dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, nonhuman primates, and marine mammals must be housed in primary enclosures that meet the space requirements described in Sections 3.6, 3.28, 3.53, 3.80, and 3.104, respectively.
- Primary enclosures for all other animals must allow space for each animal to express all species-typical postures, social adjustments, behaviors, and movements. For example, animals must be able to lie down with limbs extended in a normal manner without obstruction from enclosure sides or having to extend feet through feed doors or bars. Animals that normally engage in occasional vertical postures, such as bears and felines, must have sufficient vertical space available to accommodate these postures. Bears often stand upright on their rear legs and must be allowed sufficient vertical space within their housing enclosure to do so. Many felines also stand on their rear legs, for example, when using scratching posts. enclosures used while "on the road" (i.e., when away from permanent quarters but not actually in transit) do not provide adequate height for animals that occasionally exhibit vertical postures to engage in such activities, this requirement may be satisfied through release of the affected animals into an exercise pen or equivalent. If a pen is used for this purpose, animals should be released at least once per day and allowed to remain for a reasonable length of time unless otherwise justified. These periods should be in addition to regular performance and practice time.

- When elephants are housed on chains while not in transport, chains must be of sufficient length and arrangement so as to permit each elephant to comfortably lie down, get up, see, and move about within a reasonable range. If elephants are kept unchained in a truck or railway car, each elephant must have enough space to take these postural adjustments.
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Subject	Brachiating Species of Nonhuman Primates	Policy #7
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References	AWA Section 2143 9 CFR, Part 3, Section 3.80
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History:	Replaces memorandum dated July 31, 1991; letter dated June 30, 1992; and policy dated April 14, 1997.
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chimpanzees, >B5(f) Tc 0 Tw 3.41 0 Td ( ) Tj (bo3655(n) Tj 1.74 0 Td (obo,) Tj ( ) Tj -0.004 Tc 0.004 Tw [(an)-4(d>B5(f) T

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Subject: Criteria for Licensing Hoofstock Dealers

Policy #8

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References AWA Section 2133  
9 CFR, Part 1, Section 1.1  
9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.1

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History: Replaces memoranda dated Feb. 6, 1991; April 1991; June 19, 1991; July 1, 1991; and Sept. 26, 1991. Replaces policies dated October 13, 1998 and August 26, 2002 and previously identified as Policy #23.

Justification: Provides needed clarification.

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Policy: The following criteria are examples of when a dealer's license is required for people selling hoofstock:

- Sells animals only for regulated purposes such as biological research, exhibition or as pets.
  - Sells the majority of their domesticated farm hoofstock (sheep, cattle, goats, pigs, llamas)
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Subject: Adequate Enclosures for Flying Species and Aquatic Species Policy #9

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References AWA Section 2143  
9 CFR, Part 3, Section 3.128

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History: Replaces policy dated October 13, 1998 and previously identified as Policy #24.

Justification: The unique biological and physiological needs of these species require clarification of their space requirements as set forth under the general language of Section 3.128.

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Policy: To meet the requirement for sufficient space for normal social and postural adjustments with adequate freedom of movement, Subpart F species that fly (i.e., bats) should be provided with sufficient unobstructed enclosure volume to enable movement by flying and sufficient resting space to allow all individuals to rest simultaneously.

For Subpart F species that, under natural conditions spend a significant portion of their time in water (such as capybaras, beavers, river otters, hippopotami, tapirs, etc.), compliance with space requirements means there should be both dry and aquatic portions of the primary enclosure each of which must, at a minimum, provide sufficient space to allow each animal therein to make "normal postural and social adjustments within 6 ( ) TJ 0 Tc 0 Tw 3(h) TJ ( ) 3 0 T

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the effect of the unconventional introduction of synthetic, species, or other such genetic material on the phenotype of the animal. Therefore, the facility must be registered as a research facility.

A facility which produces cloned animals for regulated purposes utilizing standard veterinary medical practices is considered to be breeding animals, and must be licensed as a dealer. Other activities conducted by cloning companies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they are covered by the AWA.

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alternatives in the specific field of study. For example, an immunologist cited as a subject expert may or may not possess expertise concerning alternatives to in vivo antibody production.

When a database search is the primary means of meeting this requirement, the narrative should include:

1. the name(s) of the database(s) searched (due to the variation in subject coverage and sources used, one database is seldom adequate);
2. the date the search was performed;
3. the time period covered by the search; and
4. the search strategy (including scientifically relevant terminology) used.

The Animal Welfare Information Center (AWIC) is an information service of the National Agricultural Library specifically established to provide information about alternatives. AWIC offers expertise in formulation of the search strategy and selection of terminology and databases, access to unique

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Significant changes are subject to prior review by the IACUC. If those changes include a painful or distressful procedure, a consideration of alternatives or a revision of the prior search may be required.

Although additional attempts to identify alternatives or alternative methods are not required by Animal Care at the time of each annual review of an animal protocol, Animal Care would normally expect the principal investigator to reconsider alternatives at least once every 3 years, consistent with the triennial denovo review requirements of the Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (IV, C, 5).

and effectiveness of

Policy: Microchip Implants







1. An outline of the research proposal for which the procedure(s) is requested;
2. A means by which to uniquely identify the research proposal;
3. The species and the approximate number of animals involved in the exemption request;
4. A method of permanently identifying the individual animals involved;
5. The time frame for the proposed exempt procedure;
6. The number of major operative procedures to be performed on a given animal, the frequency of such procedures, and the period of time between each major operative procedure;
7. Measures to be taken to ensure that pain/distress are minimized;
8. A complete scientific justification for the exemption. Cost is not an acceptable justification.
9. An assurance that all other stipulated requirements of the AWA and regulations will be met in consideration of this exemption; and
10. An assurance that the facility's IACUC has approved the exemption.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) may respond to the formal request by approving the request as written, requesting further information, imposing additional limitations, or denying the request. An annual IACUC evaluation of the exemption is required, which consists of an IACUC assessment of the animals and the effectiveness and soundness of the methods and procedures used. This information is to be included in the report of the IACUC submitted.

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For Animal Welfare Act (AWA) enforcement purposes, the nonaffiliated member of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is to “provide representation for general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals.” The person filling this position is intended to represent society’s “less specialized” nonscientific concerns regarding the welfare of the animal subjects. APHIS has determined the nonaffiliated member should not be a laboratory animal user at any research facility.

Compensation of the nonaffiliated member is permissible only when it does not jeopardize the member’s status as a nonaffiliated member. Compensation varies but is normally limited to payment for travel and related expenses, such as parking and meals, to modest monetary payments for participation. The dollar amount of compensation, if any, should not be so substantial as to be considered an important source of income or to influence voting on the IACUC.

IACUC members must be qualified to assess the research facility’s animal program, facilities and procedures. The research facility is responsible for ensuring their qualification, and this responsibility is filled in part through the provision of training and instruction. For example, IACUC members should be trained in understanding the Animal Welfare Act, protocol review, and facility inspections.

No IACUC member can review his/her own proposal.



lead poisoning from ingestion of the pellets. Downer animals exhibiting signs of central nervous system disorders, including dairy and beef cows, horses, other livestock (particularly sheep), and wildlife species must not be used for food because of the risk of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. This includes animals suffering from scrapie and any chronic wasting disease. If the downer animals were clearly harvested because of physical injuries only, they may be used for food when properly processed. In addition, animals known or suspected of being affected with Johnne's disease should not be fed to felids. Likewise swine from herds identified with pseudorabies should not be fed to any species of felid.

Adherence to a strict feeding schedule is strongly recommended. Scheduled feedings will result in the animals consuming the meal more quickly, and decreasing the time for potential spoilage. Meals should be of proper proportions, to facilitate consumption before they spoil or become contaminated. If spoilage (contamination) does not require earlier removal, food not consumed within 12 hours should be removed and disposed of properly. After this time, APHIS would not consider the food to be wholesome. Likewise, to be considered wholesome, stored meat should be refrigerated, or wrapped and frozen. Frozen meats must be handled







Subject: Health Certificate for Dogs, Cats and Nonhuman Primates Policy #18

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References AWA Sections 2132 and 2143(f)—Veterinary Certificate  
9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.78

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History: Replaces letter dated March 6, 1992, and policy dated April 14, 1997.

Justification: Provides guidance for intrastate transport.

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Subject: Capture Methods of Prairie Dogs

Policy #19

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References AWA Section 2143  
9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.131(a)(1), and Section 2.126

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History: Replaces policies dated February 23, 1999; November 17, 2000; February 9, 2001; and September 21, 2001 and previously identified as Policy #27.

Justification: Provides clarification regarding methods for capturing prairie dogs

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Policy: As required by Section 2143 of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and further explained in 9 CFR, Part 2, Section 2.131(a)(1), handling of animals must be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, excessive cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Methods used to capture prairie dogs from natural habitats for covered purposes must be done in a humane manner.

The introduction of water, chemicals or noxious substances to the animal is prohibited.

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## Policies