

PACFA UPDATE

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PACFA REMINDERS

- Be sure to notify our office in writing if you close your facility.
- Remember to submit plans if you have a new facility or when remodeling affects a minimum of 25% of the square footage.

Pet Animal Care Facilities Act

PACFA RULE CHANGES TAKE EFFECT JULY 31, 2008

Please be advised that significant changes to the rules have been made and will be effective July 31, 2008. The PACFA program has spent a year working with the Advisory Committee, members of various industry groups, the Reptile Rule subcommittee, and the Agriculture Commission to rewrite language in many license categories. The categories affected are Retail/Wholesale, Pet Grooming, Dog Breeder, Bird Breeder, Cat Breeder, Pet Animal Boarding/Training, Animal Rescue, Animal Shelter, and Small Animal Breeder. Watch your mail for the details.

In addition, the legislature passed House Bill 1185 this year which adds a spay/neuter requirement for dogs and cats being adopted from shelters and rescues. The law will become effective January 2009 and PACFA will be working on rules to accompany this new law. The requirement affects only licensed Shelters and Rescues and mandates that animals be spayed or neutered prior to being adopted or that the shelter or rescue require a deposit be left and a contract be signed indicating that the new adoptive owner will have the animal spayed or neutered within 90 days of adoption. The adoptive owner can then present the shelter with documentation from a veterinarian stating the animal was

spayed or neutered and have their deposit returned. This new law will help in the fight against pet overpopulation and help ensure a healthy life for pets adopted from shelters and rescues.

Champ pondering all those rule changes.



REQUESTING WAIVERS

For those of you requesting a waiver of a rule such as tethering (for arctic breed dogs) or housing more than 5 dogs per enclosure (dog breeders), these waivers must be requested yearly. A written request is required. Lisa, at our office, has forms that can be used for the tethering waivers. All requests will be accepted or denied in writing from the commissioner's designee.

2008 LICENSE RENEWAL

We have 1,724 licensees as of June this year! The re-licensing process has gone very smoothly, in part due to additional administrative help in the office this year. It was of great benefit, so we are in the process of hiring some permanent additional help. We hope to keep the program running smoothly year round. Stay Tuned!

Here's a rough breakdown of the licensees thus far:

Animal Rescue: 159	Bird Breeder (uncommon): 13	Grooming: 813
Animal Shelter: 163	Cat Breeder: 16	Pet Handler: 48
Boarding/Training: 546	Dog Breeder (lg. scale): 35	Retail/Wholesale: 213
Network Boarding: 11	Dog Breeder (sm. scale): 198	Retail Aquarium Only: 89
Bird Breeder (common): 25	Small Animal Breeder: 17	

NEW FACES OF PACFA



Jennifer Leslie is our newly hired inspector for the northern part of the state. She has a degree in Animal Science from Colorado State University and is also a certified veterinary technician. Jen's professional career began at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as a disease control specialist. Her most recent job was as a technician in the pharmacy at the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Feline behavior is one of her interests. When she has free time, she enjoys interacting with her pets, day hikes, raptor watching, travel and knitting.

SKUNK RABIES IN COLORADO

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment along with the Colorado Department of Agriculture is warning residents of Colorado about skunk rabies. Several skunks have been found to have rabies in 2007 and 2008. For many years this form of terrestrial rabies was thought to be absent from Colorado.

For the 2008 year the Public Health officials would like to encourage private citizens and law enforcement/animal control and veterinarians to report dead skunks and skunks exhibiting abnormal behavior to Public Health officials. More information can be found on our web site www.colorado.gov/ag/animals

The Department of Agriculture is encouraging animal owners to discuss rabies vaccination of pets and livestock with their veterinarian.

DEADLY BACTERIA FOUND IN SHELTER DOGS

In the early months of 2008 animal shelters in California, Wisconsin, Nevada and Florida began to see outbreaks of respiratory disease in dogs. The dogs became ill and many died within days.

The agent found to cause the outbreaks is *Streptococcus equi* which is a bacterium commonly associated with horses. The bacteria have an ability to survive in the environment for many years. In horses it causes a disease known as "strangles" or equine distemper. The signs of disease in horses are respiratory difficulty, fever, swollen and abscessed lymph nodes under the jaw and in the neck, which drain thick pus.

These outbreaks in animal shelters are the first known infections of dogs with this bacteria commonly found in horses. Infection of this type in dogs is very rare. The signs of illness in dogs include a moist cough, fever, lack of appetite and depression. Dogs with acute signs of illness often have bleeding into the lungs which results in death sometimes within 24 hours. If detected early the bacteria are susceptible to penicillin and several other antibiotics.

These outbreaks have all occurred in facilities with a high density of animals. The bacterium occurs naturally in the environment and has been found in oral swabs from cats. In shelters with outbreaks, cage bars, floors, drains and other surfaces are contaminated. It is most likely that this bacteria is a secondary infection, following more common invaders such as *Bordetella* and *Parainfluenza*.

Dogs in shelters are at risk for many disease problems. The intensive housing of animals and lack of proper preventative care when the animals arrive combined with the stress of confinement and change of environment all work together to make dogs more susceptible to infection. Shelters can help protect their animal residents by providing the best vaccine protocol possible, cleaning and sanitizing enclosures properly, ensuring proper ventilation within kennel areas, and having good biosecurity practices. Early veterinary intervention for any dog exhibiting signs of respiratory disease is important and proper diagnosis and treatment is essential.

"My dog is worried about the economy because Alpo is up to 99 cents a can. That's almost \$7.00 in dog money."

-Joe Weinstein

Doing our part to be green:

- With the price of gas being what it is these days, our inspectors our making an effort to arrange their schedules to save gas and miles driven on their cars.

- We would like to communicate via email to cut down on our paper use as well. If you would like to add your email, please contact us via phone, or email.

lisa.gibson@ag.state.co.us
or 303-239-4167



HANTAVIRUS IN COLORADO

Here is another important reason to maintain good rodent control procedures in and around your pet care facility. Hantavirus is carried by deer mice and excreted in their feces and urine. The virus becomes aerosolized when dry rodent droppings are cleaned or disturbed. Humans breathe the dust containing the virus and become ill with a very serious respiratory disease.

In Colorado in 2008 we have had reports of Hantavirus infection in Kiowa and Fremont Counties with one case resulting in death. The heavy snow pack and moist spring weather have resulted in large amounts of vegetation which will allow for large rodent populations this year. May, June and July are the months in which we see the highest incidence of Hantavirus.

For more information: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/dc/zoonosis/hanta/index.html>

Or you can contact the Colorado Department of Health and Environment at 303-692-2700



DEER MOUSE (*PEROMYSCUS MANICULATUS*)



PACFA ON THE WEB

The webpage for PACFA can be found at:
www.colorado.gov/ag/animals

Just look for the Pet Animal Care Facilities link to the left. We have various forms on the webpage, lots of links to additional information, etc. However, we do NOT have our regulations on line at this time. If you phone or email requesting regs, we're happy to mail or email them to you though. Email is:
pacfa@ag.state.co.us or
lisa.gibson@ag.state.co.us



VACCINATION INFORMATION



The Colorado Board of Veterinary Examiners (CBVE) prohibits immunization of client dogs. This is a veterinary procedure according to the CBVE requiring a Veterinary Degree to be chargeable. There is also significant liability in the event that an animal has an allergic reaction. Vaccinations should be administered at least 1 week prior to boarding to allow the animal to build immunity to the disease. The Colorado State Board of Veterinary Examiners can be reached at 303-894-7752.

"You can not look at a sleeping cat and feel tense."
- Jane Pauley

PACFA PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Have you ever wanted to inform a group about PACFA or have lots of questions about the program? We're here to help! If you would like a presentation given to either your license group or another group regarding the PACFA program, please contact our office. Dr. Anderson or the PACFA inspectors will arrange a presentation for your group. Call us at 303-239-4167.

THIS & THAT



Important PACFA Regulations During Summer Months

- 1.** Shade must be provided to allow animals relief from direct sunlight to help prevent dehydration and over heating. Shaded areas should be of a size directly proportional to the size of the animal or animals. Consider when it is best to have animals outdoors to utilize the shade as it moves throughout the day.
- 2.** As families go on vacations and leave their dogs for boarding remember to verify that immunizations and vaccinations are up to date. Double check records when making reservations to help ensure the health of the dogs at the facility and a good boarding experience for all.
- 3.** Be sure you are effectively cleaning and disinfecting community areas and kennels. Many products that appear to be a disinfectant are not. Check labels for an EPA registration number or call your inspector if you have questions about the product you are using or see the front page for disinfectants used frequently in pet care facilities.
- 4.** Provide plenty of water to animals that are outdoors and carefully watch those animals that may be more susceptible to heat exhaustion due to age, medical complications, breed and color. If in doubt about an animal's condition contact the customer and seek veterinary care.
- 5.** Remember boarding facilities are required to have one human supervisor directly attending every 15 dogs. For the safety of the dogs and staff this shall be strictly observed. Fines may be issued for this violation. Consider 'rest' times for the dogs while employees are out to lunch or during unexpected employee absence.

Visit us on the web!

<http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals>

FUTURE NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS NEEDED

Please send future newsletter suggestions to:

lisa.gibson@ag.state.co.us

We will try and include topics of interest in upcoming issues of PACFA Update.

HEALTH CERTIFICATES

The Colorado Department of Agriculture, Animal Industry rules require a health certificate for any livestock or pet animals transported into the State of Colorado. This is especially significant for dogs or cats brought into rescues and shelters. Dogs and cats from southern states can expose current populations to flea, tick and mosquito-borne diseases such as Ehrlichia, Heartworm and Lyme disease.



Pet Animal Care Facilities Act

Division of Animal Industry

700 Kipling St., Suite 4000

Lakewood, CO 80215-8000