



Retail Pet Store Final Rule

Effective November 18, 2013



APHIS Animal Care

A place of business or residence at which the seller, buyer, and the animal available for sale are physically present so that every buyer may personally observe the animal available for sale prior to purchasing and/or taking custody of that animal after purchase and where only (certain animals) are sold or offered for sale, at retail, for use as pets...

Definition of a Retail Pet Store

9 CFR
Chapter I,
Subchapter
A, Part 1, 1.1
Definition of
Terms

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- Dogs
- Cats
- Rabbits
- Hamsters
- Guinea Pigs
- Gophers
- Domestic Ferrets
- Chinchillas
- Gerbils
- Rats
- Mice
- Domestic Farm Animals
- Birds
- Cold-Blooded Species

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“Certain Animals”



A facility that has four or fewer breeding female dogs, cats, and/or small exotic or wild mammals, does not have to obtain a license as long as the animals offered for sale were *born and raised on the seller's premises*.

4 or More Breeding Females

Breeding female = female with the capacity to breed.



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- Hedgehogs
- Degus
- Spiny mice
- Prairie Dogs
- Flying Squirrels
- Jerboas

and the like

Small Exotic or Wild Mammals

Sometimes
known as
Pocket Pets



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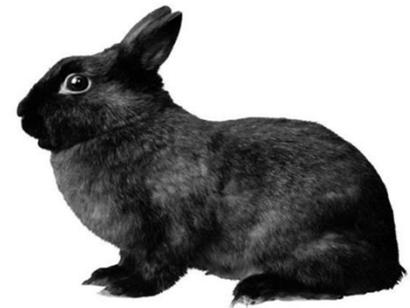


By personally observing the animal, the buyer is exercising public oversight over the animal and in this way is helping to ensure its health and humane treatment.

Face to Face Sales

If you already have a license, you don't need another one.

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Retailers who sell their pet animals to customers only in face-to-face transactions do not have to obtain an AWA license because their animals are subject to such public oversight.

Face to Face Sales

If you already have a license, you don't need another one.

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Breeders that sell working dogs at retail do not need a license.

Working dogs are generally understood to be dogs that are not sold for use as pets but for purposes such as herding, guarding, racing, sledding, service, therapy, hunting, breeding, and security.

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Working Dogs

Working dogs = dogs with full time jobs.



Rescue Groups

“Rescue” groups that participate in “face-to-face” transactions such as off-site adoptions are subject to public oversight. They do not need to obtain a license for that reason.

Some “rescue” groups may need to be licensed if they have any animal transactions for use as a pet which are not “face-to-face.”

Some *may* need to be licensed.

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Shelters and Pounds

State, county, and/or city owned and operated pounds, shelters, as well as humane societies and other organizations that operate under a contract with those jurisdictions are not regulated under the AWA.

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Wholesale

If you sell to: Brokers
Pet Stores
Auctions
Exhibitors

The *only change* to the regulation of wholesale pet sales of dogs, cats, and small exotic and wild mammals is the increase in the threshold number of “breeding females” from three to four.

Only one change.

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- You ship to buyer sight-unseen—Yes
- Buyer comes to your house—No
- You meet the buyer at designated location—No
- You sell only security dogs—No
- If you are unsure if you need a license, describe your business in writing and submit it to your Regional Office.

**Do I really
need a
license?**

It all depends
on the way
you do
business.

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+ Thank you



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