

kept on a single record); (2) the date, description of the problem, pertinent history, observations, examination findings, test results, and plan for treatment and care with a tentative diagnosis and a prognosis, when appropriate; (3) the type and chronology of treatment procedures performed, the context of the problem to which the treatment procedures pertain, and the identification of the medication used, the date given, dosage, route of administration, frequency, and duration of treatment; (4) the names of all vaccines administered and the dates of vaccination; and (5) the dates and results of all screening, routine, or other required or recommended tests.

In addition, we would amend the regulations regarding recordkeeping requirements for research facilities, dealers, and exhibitors. Specifically, we would amend the recordkeeping requirements for research facilities in § 2.35(f) to require that medical records be kept for 1 year after the disposition of the animals and that one copy of those records be provided to subsequent owners of the animals or to any person to whom the animals are consigned. We would amend § 2.75, regarding recordkeeping by dealers and exhibitors, by adding a new paragraph (b)(4) requiring that one copy of the medical records be provided to subsequent owners of the animals or to any other person to whom the animals are consigned.

We are soliciting comments from the public (as well as affected agencies) concerning our proposed information collection and recordkeeping requirements. These comments will help us:

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper performance of our agency's functions, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the information collection on those who are to respond (such as through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology; e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses).

Estimate of burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 0.083 hours per response.

Respondents: Research facilities, dealers, and exhibitors.

Estimated annual number of respondents: 8,000.

Estimated annual number of responses per respondent: 691,975.

Estimated annual number of responses: 5,535,800.

Estimated total annual burden on respondents: 459,605 hours. (Due to averaging, the total annual burden hours may not equal the product of the annual number of responses multiplied by the reporting burden per response.)

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

Government Paperwork Elimination Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the Government Paperwork Elimination Act (GPEA), which requires Government agencies in general to provide the public the option of submitting information or transacting business electronically to the maximum extent possible. For information pertinent to GPEA compliance related to this proposed rule, please contact Mrs. Celeste Sickles, APHIS' Information Collection Coordinator, at (301) 734-7477.

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Part 2

Animal welfare, Pets, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Research.

Accordingly, we propose to amend 9 CFR part 2 as follows:

PART 2—REGULATIONS

1. The authority citation for part 2 would continue to read as follows:

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 2131–2159; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.7.

2. In § 2.33, paragraph (b) would be amended as follows:

a. In paragraph (b)(4), by removing the word “and” immediately after the semicolon.

b. In paragraph (b)(5), by removing the period and adding the word “; and” in its place.

c. By adding new paragraph (b)(6) to read as set forth below.

§ 2.33 Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(6) The maintenance of medical records is a required component of adequate veterinary care. They serve as a basis for reviewing the medical history and planning veterinary care and provide a mechanism of communication

for matters of animal health, behavior, and well-being. Medical records document the animal's illness, veterinary care, and treatment and serve as a basis for review, study, and evaluation of veterinary care rendered by the facility. Medical records must be legible and include at least the following information:

(i) The identity of the individual animal; *Provided, however,* That routine husbandry, such as vaccinations, preventive medical procedures, or treatments, performed on all animals in a group (or herd) may be kept on a single record;

(ii) The date, description of the problem, pertinent history, observations, examination findings, test results, and plan for treatment and care with a tentative diagnosis and a prognosis, when appropriate;

(iii) The type and chronology of treatment procedures performed, the context of the problem to which the treatment procedures pertain, and the identification of the medication used, the date given, dosage, route of administration, frequency, and duration of treatment;

(iv) The names of all vaccines administered and the dates of vaccination; and

(v) The dates and results of all screening, routine, or other required or recommended tests.

3. In § 2.35, paragraph (f), the first sentence would be removed and two new sentences would be added in its place to read as follows:

§ 2.35 Recordkeeping requirements.

* * * * *

(f) The medical records required under § 2.33(b)(6) shall be kept for at least 1 year after the disposition of the animal, and a copy shall be given to the subsequent owner of the animal or to any person to whom the animal is consigned. All other records and reports shall be maintained for at least 3 years.

* * *

4. In § 2.40, paragraph (b) would be amended as follows:

a. In paragraph (b)(4), by removing the word “and” immediately after the semicolon.

b. In paragraph (b)(5), by removing the period and adding the word “; and” in its place.

c. By adding new paragraph (b)(6) to read as set forth below.

§ 2.40 Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care (dealers and exhibitors).

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(6) The maintenance of medical records is a required component of