



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
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NEW WAY TO REPORT PUPPY MILL CRUELTY
USDA CREATES ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has made it easier for the public to report suspected abuse or neglect at a puppy mill. The USDA has created a new online form for members of the public to submit their concerns about animals that are covered under the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act.

The reporting form is now on USDA's web site:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/aw_complaint_form.shtml.

USDA states that this will provide animal advocates with a quick and efficient method to notify them of animal welfare concerns so USDA can investigate complaints in a timely manner. USDA even assures the public that complaints can be made anonymously although the public is encouraged to provide contact information as follow-up information might be needed.

USDA will continue to take complaints by phone, email or regular mail. You can find contact information here: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/contact_us/ac.shtml.

USDA states that they take all animal welfare complaints seriously and will continue to look into each one thoroughly, regardless of the method used to submit the complaint.

We hope that this additional reporting form will increase scrutiny over substandard breeders and help reduce puppy mill cruelty. USDA also regulates the humane care and treatment of animals used in biomedical research, animals in commercial transport, and exotic animals housed in zoos, roadside exhibits, and at auctions. Alleged abuse and neglect of these animals can also be reported online to the USDA, including the “soring” of horses participating in exhibitions and shows. Soring is an illegal practice in which horses are subjected to chemical and or mechanical irritants in order to enhance their gait.

This form will also make it easier for consumers, who have purchased a sick puppy from a pet store, to report the breeder to USDA. Too often, families that purchase an animal from a pet store, have nowhere to turn to report a dog breeder located half-way across the country. We hope this online form will encourage consumers to report the breeders of sick puppies.

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