



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION
E-NEWS – May 1, 2013

**USDA REQUESTS FUNDING TO
ENFORCE NEW RULES ON DOG BREEDERS**



The Office of Budget and Management recently posted the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget for the U. S. Department of Agriculture. OMB is reporting that USDA is “requesting funding to enforce the Animal Welfare retail pet store rule, which closes a loophole of pets being sold over the Internet, phone and by mail, that are currently exempt from the regulatory process. The requested funding levels will help support these important regulatory efforts.”

USDA has also posted its FY 2014 Budget Summary and Annual Performance Plan. The USDA reports that, “The 2014 Budget proposes \$29 million for Animal Welfare activities. ***This includes funding to fully implement the retail pet stores rule, which will offer welfare protections to dogs and certain other animals sold as pets through non-traditional means.***”

USDA’s new rule will help regulate puppy mills that have simply ignored federal regulations on how they raise and care for their animals by simply selling over the Internet as opposed to selling to pet stores. Numerous investigations and exposes of inhumane Internet sellers have resulted in this new rule change.

This new rule to regulate all large commercial dog breeders regardless of how they sell their puppies is certainly welcome news. It is heartening to learn that USDA is seeking the funds to enforce humane standards of care on puppy mills that sell over the Internet.

Thanks to those who submitted comments to USDA is support of these new rules. **Your letters and emails really do make a difference!**

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