



AVIAN REGULATIONS OVERVIEW



INTRODUCTION

- On February 21, 2024, the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) regulations setting new welfare standards for birds not bred for research took effect.
- If you are involved in selling, exhibiting, transporting, or using birds for research, you may need to be licensed or registered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by the USDA.
- To read the regulations in detail visit: **USDA Avian Regulations**; visit **this link** for a listing of species of birds considered pets as defined by the USDA.



WHO IS AFFECTED

- Avian breeders, distributors, and transporters
- To check the requirements for licensure, visit the **USDA's website**



INSPECTIONS

- USDA inspectors will conduct unannounced visits to licensed or registered facilities to review all areas of care and treatment covered under the law.
- **Preparing for inspection**
- **USDA Avian FAQ**



EXEMPTIONS

- The regulations include de minimis exemptions, such as:
 - Entities that sell 200 or fewer pet birds weighing 250 grams or less each year, and/or sell eight or fewer pet birds of more than 250 grams annually.
 - Please use the **USDA Animal Care Licensing and Registration Assistant** to determine whether you need a license or registration.

IMPACT



- The new regulations requirements will affect:
 - Housing facilities
 - Animal health and husbandry
 - Transportation

IMPORTANT NOTE TO BREEDERS – FORMAL GUIDANCE FROM USDA



- If you applied more than 90 days before the February 21, 2024 deadline, you are permitted to continue regulated activities while awaiting inspection. You also should have received a letter from the USDA confirming application submission.
- If you applied less than 90 days before the February 21, 2024 deadline, you must suspend regulated activities until inspected and licensed.
- ****EVERYONE** is still able to sell birds up to the de minimis threshold while waiting. The de minimis numbers are based on sales in a calendar year.

RESOURCES



[USDA APHIS Avian Final Rule](#)



[The Pet Advocacy Network](#)



[Organization of Professional Aviculturists \(OPA\)](#)



[Bird Enjoyment and Advantage Koalition \(BEAK\)](#)



[American Federation of Aviculture \(AFA\)](#)

