

GOLD LABEL PETS®
CERTIFIED HUMANE CARE GUIDELINES



**Do what is right for animals and
protect your right to own healthy animals by demanding
GOLD LABEL PETS®.**

PREFACE

The Professional Pet Industry is committed to raising pets under the most humane conditions possible. To that end, the "Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®" which follow are adopted to create the best possible program for all participants and their animals. For those who seek to understand the validity of these Guidelines, we offer the following four conditions as the reasonable parameters used for determining the content of the Gold Label Pets® program:

1. Is it sensible for animal health, founded in research, and supported by the veterinary profession?
2. Is it enforceable by industry and any government or other agency, which license facilities?
3. Is it affordable for pet professionals within the reasonable economics of providing for all aspects of animal health?
4. Is it credible to the public, who wants healthy pets?

We invite comment on this program. Interested parties may direct correspondence to:

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Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines

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INTRODUCTION

A. Commitment of Industry

The Humane Care Guidelines contained herein represent the commitment of Gold Label Pets® member breeders, distributors, and stores to provide the best possible care for all the animals in their facilities. These guidelines govern care of dogs and cats as part of a well managed breeding system of animals raised for the enjoyment of pet owners.

The Gold Label Pets® program was designed with the mission to establish this set of practical animal health guidelines and ensure that they comply with, or exceed, all known regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture and those states with licensure programs for professional facilities. The result is the only comprehensive reference available today to assist pet professionals with current technical animal health information related to humane care of dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens under licensed conditions.

Industry is committed to enforcing these guidelines through the landmark Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® Program, which mandates regular inspection by licensed veterinarians in addition to applicable licensure by the governing state and federal agencies.

The banner of a Gold Label Pets® Certified Facility is a guarantee of integrity, professional expertise in canine and feline husbandry, and total commitment to humane care on the part of facility managers. These Gold Label Pets® Guidelines are the foundation of that program, and we proudly present them to the industry and to people who share our commitment to healthy pets.

B. Owning Healthy Pets

For people of all ages, few experiences in life provide more happiness than having a pet. From the early months of enjoying the exuberance of a puppy to the years of pleasure provided by an adult animal, our pets can truly enrich our lives.

But pet ownership is a major responsibility that requires vigilant daily commitment and a practical knowledge of how to appropriately care for each individual animal's needs. The healthy Gold Label Pets® puppy or kitten purchased today can quickly become an unhealthy animal if it is not cared for with common sense as well as love.

Gold Label Pets®'s Technical Committee includes leaders in many specialties of animal health including the veterinary profession, canine nutritionists and experts familiar with the inspection and regulation of licensed facilities. Together, they approved the various sections of these guidelines based upon the best possible definitions of what constitutes "professional care" for pet producing animals.

The wisdom of these guidelines can also serve as solid educational information for retailers and their consumers. The Gold Label Pets® program encourages retailers to enact assertive educational programs to help consumers:

Decide whether they are ready for the responsibility of pet ownership.

Select a healthy pet well suited for their lifestyle and personality.

Continue the excellent humane treatment, which the animal received under the care of a Gold Label Pets® Certified Facility.

Therefore, these guidelines also exist to serve the pets raised by Gold Label Pets® members. Taken seriously by the future pet owners, the guidelines will ensure continued animal health for many years to come.

In keeping with this commitment to lifelong health for pets, Industry Gold Label Pets® Program strongly recommends the spaying and neutering of all pet animals.

Definition of a Pet Professional

According to Industry Guidelines, a pet professional is any person who makes pets available for retail or consumer ownership.

Consumers seeking to purchase a pet raised under the humane conditions of the Gold Label Pets® Guidelines can readily identify these animals by requesting to see proof that the facility is listed as a Gold Label Pets® Certified Facility, which exceeds all federal and state licensing requirements. This automatically confirms that the facility is also licensed under existing federal and state laws, if required.

No professional pet distributor other than a Gold Label Pets® member can qualify for distinction as a certified facility.

C. Gold Label Pets® Certification Procedure

In order to achieve distinction as a Gold Label Pets® Certified Facility, the facility must be a current member and hold current licenses from the USDA and state agencies, if required. Independent verification of licenses will be conducted by the Gold Label Pets® Committee.

The Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® Program requires independent inspection by a licensed veterinarian who will attest to compliance with the Guidelines contained herein, The Certification Procedure is as follows:

1. The facility completes and submits the application form to Gold Label Pets®. Valid license numbers will be verified independently by the association. The facility also submits a signed Contract of Inspection, which allows all parts of the facility pertaining to animals (except financial and shipping records) to be open for inspection upon the request of Gold Label Pets®.
2. The Gold Label Pets® Veterinary Inspection Form will be sent directly to the designated inspecting veterinarian.
3. An on-site inspection must be scheduled between the inspecting veterinarian and the facility. In addition to inspecting the facility and animals, a complete review of the animal health program in effect must be conducted.
4. The application form will inquire whether there is an investigation under way by a government licensing agency or a registration association. Gold Label Pets® reserves the right to delay certification until an independent investigation is completed. Gold Label Pets® also reserves the right to suspend certification if one of the aforementioned groups begins an investigation of a Certified Facility. If a discrepancy is found, Gold Label Pets® reserves the right to begin an independent investigation to determine the status of certification.
5. Pictures of the facility are required in order to be approved for certification. These pictures should represent a “pictorial tour” of the facility. The following is a list of the pictures should be enclosed with the completed veterinary inspection, current USDA inspection and any state inspections or licenses (if applicable). This list should be used as a guide, not to exclude any other pictures that might be important to show the overall view of the facility:
 - a. A picture from the front approach looking at the facility premises (distant)
 - b. An outside overall view of the total facility (close)
 - c. Outside of each building related to animal care or housing
 - d. Inside of each room related to animal care or housing from two different angles

Provide a minimum of six photos.

NEW PICTURES ARE REQUIRED EACH YEAR UPON CERTIFICATION RENEWAL.

When sending in Certification renewal, also send in current photos using the above criteria.

6. The completed and signed Veterinary Inspection Form and photos will be sent directly to the Gold Label Pets® office according to the instructions of the Inspection Form. An appointed Guideline and Certification Committee of the Board will have final determination of certification.

Once certified, veterinary inspections must occur annually. Gold Label Pets® reserves the option to require more frequent inspections on the advice of the Guideline and Certification Committee.

SECTION I: MANAGEMENT

A. Skills of the Pet Professional

Proper facility management is essential to ensure the welfare of animals and the health and safety of facility employees. It is essential that the owner have a working knowledge of basic animal husbandry practices including:

- Disease prevention and control
- Nutrition
- Genetics
- Reproductive health
- Socialization and animal behavior

The facility owner is ultimately responsible to see that the animal care program permits animals to grow, mature, reproduce and maintain good health.

Specific operating practices must be developed in cooperation with veterinarians and other animal health professionals. Owners have a responsibility to stay current on technical information regarding all aspects of animal health. Gold Label Pets® requires enrollment in at least 12 hours each calendar year in area continuing education workshops offered through organizations such as universities, state veterinary medical associations, state and national associations that relate to healthcare, facilities, genetics and regulations. In addition, Gold Label Pets® offers continuing education opportunities.

These Humane Care Guidelines were developed to ensure the best possible animal welfare conditions through conscientious daily management practices. Pet Professionals therefore are individuals who possess the knowledge and commitment to administer all aspects of this program on a daily basis in their facilities.

B. Employees

Each facility owner must employ enough people to ensure the humane care of all animals within the facility on a daily basis in compliance with all the requirements specified by the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®, the USDA and applicable state licensure programs.

An individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of animals to supervise others must supervise employees who care for, and handle animals. The employer must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to these standards.

It is the responsibility of the facility owner to hire qualified individuals, train and supervise them adequately, and share any revised technical care information as it applies to their daily animal care responsibilities.

All employees must be familiar with Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® and implement all aspects in the course of their duties.

Qualified personnel must be in attendance every day to safeguard the animal's well being, including weekends and holidays. Procedures must be established for providing animal care during emergencies as well.

All employees must be familiar with procedures for obtaining assistance in an emergency situation. This can be accomplished by prominently posting names and phone numbers adjacent to all telephones for the following:

Veterinary Services (including emergency numbers)

Medical Services (local ambulances or 911)

Fire Department (including an evacuation plan for people and animals, as well as location of all fire extinguishers)

Police and/or Sheriff

Utility Companies (in the event of electrical or water supply problems)

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines © requires that employers distribute a written statement to all employees advising that they keep tetanus vaccinations current throughout their employment.

C. Veterinary Care

Professional veterinary care is an essential part of a comprehensive animal care program. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® require programs of disease control and prevention, euthanasia, and adequate veterinary care to be established and maintained under the supervision and assistance of a doctor of veterinary medicine.

Facilities are required to have a formal arrangement with a licensed veterinarian to provide direction in animal care for the facility. This formal agreement shall include a written program of veterinary care and regularly scheduled visits to the facility.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires each facility's written daily care program to ensure that:

1. Appropriate facilities are readily available to facilitate animal health and veterinarian care.
2. Appropriate programs are provided for prevention, diagnosis and control of disease and injury, and access to emergency, holiday and weekend care.
3. Each animal shall be observed daily by the animal caretaker in charge or by someone under his direct supervision. Sick, diseased or injured animals shall be provided with veterinary care or humanely relieved of their suffering. This must be done in compliance with any state or local law requiring the holding, for a specific period, of animals suspected of being diseased.
 - a. When needed humane euthanasia will be done in accordance with AVMA guidelines and local ordinances.
4. Accurate, timely information as it relates to animal health and behavioral problems will be communicated to the attending veterinarian. When needed humane euthanasia will be done in accordance with AVMA guidelines and local ordinances.
5. Written program information approved by the attending veterinarian will be provided to guide animal care personnel.

6. Daily observation of all animals to assess the health and well-being; Provided, however, That daily observation of animals may be accomplished by someone other than the attending veterinarian; and Provided, further, That a mechanism of direct and frequent communication is required to that timely and accurate information on problems of animal health, behavior, and well-being is conveyed to the attending veterinarian.

In addition to an on-going relationship with a veterinarian involved in development of daily care programs, certification by Gold Label Pets® requires annual inspection by a licensed veterinarian to verify that the facility is in compliance with the conditions outlined in the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®.

D. Working with Other Professionals to Ensure Humane Care

Gold Label Pets® is committed to the lifelong humane care of each animal raised and distributed through a certified facility. To this end, Gold Label Pets® members are pledged to work cooperatively with retailers and veterinarians on consumer education.

This is borne of Gold Label Pets® recognition that only educated pet owners can ensure the continued health and well being of an animal.

SECTION II:

FACILITIES AND OPERATING STANDARDS

The construction and maintenance of housing systems for pet producing animals are two of the most important aspects of humane care. All facilities should be designed carefully to provide safety, access to food and water, sanitary conditions, and protect the animals from outside harm while allowing freedom of movement, normal posture and comfortable rest.

Facilities must permit employees to care for the animals in full compliance with Gold Label Pets® Humane Care Guidelines®.

The primary consideration for all facility variables must be whether or not animal health is fostered and maintained at all times. Facilities, regardless of their specific construction, must meet this important criterion in order to be honored as a Gold Label Pets® Certified Facility.

A. General Requirements of All Facilities

Structure and Construction

Housing facilities for animals must be designed and constructed so that they are structurally sound. They must be kept in good repair, and they must protect the animals from injury, contain the animals securely, and restrict other animals from entering.

Condition and Site

Housing facilities and areas used for storing animal food or bedding must be free of any accumulation of trash, waste material or weeds. Animal areas inside of housing facilities must be kept neat and free of all materials other than those used for cleaning and proper husbandry practices.

Long-term housing facilities (more than 30 days) located on the same premises as another business must be physically separated from the other business by a minimum of a barrier wall.

Gold Label Pets® recommends that air exchange be from an outside source and be exhausted to an area separated from the long-term housing facility.

Water and Power

The housing facility must have reliable electric power adequate for heating, cooling, ventilation and lighting, and for carrying out other husbandry requirements. The facility must provide adequate running potable water for the animals' drinking needs, for cleaning and for carrying out other husbandry requirements.

Noise

Activities that create stressful noise should be minimized and kept distant from animal housing areas.

Washroom and Sinks

Washing facilities such as sinks, washrooms and/or showers must be provided for caretakers and must be readily accessible. At minimum a plumbed sink must be provided.

Storage

Supplies of food and bedding must be stored in a manner that protects against spoilage and contamination. Storage of feed on normal pallets is considered satisfactory. Pallets of feed must be stacked so as to assure no sacks are against the wall and the area under the pallets and between the pallets and walls must be kept clean. This will allow for proper cleaning and helps to reduce the possibility of contamination by absorption of moisture from the wall or floor. The area must be kept clean and then thoroughly sanitized between shipments. Food must be stored to protect its nutritive value, and refrigerated if necessary to maintain wholesomeness. Open supplies of food and bedding must be stored in leak proof containers with tightly fitting lids, and only those currently being used may be kept in animal areas. Cleaning agents must be stored in cabinets in the animal areas, but separated from food storage and preparation areas. Other toxic substances must be stored outside the animal area. Potentially toxic or hazardous substances must be stored, used and disposed of, in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

Disposal of Deceased Animals

Disposal of deceased animals must be in accordance with local and state ordinances.

Drainage and Waste Disposal

Operators must provide for regular and frequent collection, removal and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, debris, garbage, water, other fluids and wastes, or any other contaminants in a manner that minimizes contamination and disease risks. Facilities must be equipped with disposal and drainage systems that are constructed and operated so that animal waste and water are rapidly eliminated and animals stay dry. Disposal and drainage systems must minimize vermin and pest infestation, insects, odors and disease hazards. All drains must be properly constructed, installed and maintained. If closed drainage systems are used; they must be equipped with traps and prevent the backflow of gases and the backup of sewage onto the floor. If the facility uses sump or settlement ponds, or other similar systems for drainage and animal waste disposal, the system must be located far enough away from the animal area of the housing facility to prevent odors, diseases, pests and vermin infestation. Standing puddles of water in animal enclosures must be drained or mopped up so that the animals stay dry.

Trash containers in housing facilities and in food storage and food preparation areas must be leak proof and must have tightly fitted lids on them at all times and should be clearly marked.

Surfaces

The surfaces of housing facilities, including houses, dens and fixtures, must be constructed in a manner and made of materials that allow them to be readily cleaned, sanitized, removed or replaced when worn or soiled. Interior surfaces and any surfaces that come in contact with animals must be free of excessive rust that prevents cleaning or affects structural strength of the surface, and be free of jagged edges or sharp points that may injure the animals.

All surfaces must be maintained on a regular basis. Surfaces of housing facilities that cannot be cleaned and sanitized must be replaced when worn or soiled. See SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS, C. Sanitation, for more information.

Isolation Facilities

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires that isolation facilities be readily available either on the premises or at a remote location, such as a veterinary clinic. Isolation allows the separation of animals with contagious or infectious disease, provides quarantine for newly purchased animals, and confines overly aggressive animals away from other healthy, potentially susceptible facility occupants. These facilities should be, at minimum, a separate room allowing limited traffic of personnel and animals from other facility areas, allow movement of exhaust air to outside to reduce airborne contaminant flow and insure proper disposal of potentially infected wastes. Gold Label Pets® suggests a work area for treatment of isolated animals within the isolation area, if located on the premises.

Primary Enclosures

General Requirements

Primary enclosures shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair so that they have no sharp points or jagged edges, protect animals from injury; contain animals securely, keep other animals from entering the enclosure, enable the animal to remain dry and clean, provide shelter and protection from extreme temperatures and weather conditions, provide sufficient access to clean water and food, and have properly constructed and maintained floors so as to protect the animals feet and legs from injury.

Space Requirements

Canine should be allowed to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit and lie in a comfortable normal position. Each animal housed in any primary enclosure shall be provided a minimum square footage of floor space calculated according to the following formula, with length of the animal measured from tip of nose to base of tail; $(\text{Length} + 6") \times (\text{Height} + 6")$ divided by 144. This formula is the USDA required square footage of an animal enclosure OTHER than required for nursing females. A USDA "Minimum Space Requirements Chart" appears in this section for assistance in calculating dimensions. However, Gold Label requires the space requirements be doubled on all replacement or repair pens and all pens must be at least double the 2001 USDA space requirement by December 31, 2005. Guidelines for minimum space, exercise, and socialization requirements of long-term housing are discussed in SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS, E. Exercise and Socialization.

Feline requirements: each cat, including weaned kittens, that is housed in any primary enclosure must be provided minimum vertical space and floor space as follows:

1. Prior to February 15, 1994 each cat housed in any primary enclosure shall be provided a minimum of 2½ square feet of floor space;
2. On and after February 15, 1994:
 - a. Each primary enclosure housing cats must be at least 24 in. high (60.96 cm);
 - b. Cats up to and including 8.8 lbs. (4 kg.) must be provided with at least 3.0 square ft² (0.28 m²) of floor space;
 - c. Cats over 8.8 lbs. (4 kg.) must be provided with at least 4.0 square ft² (0.37m²) of floor space;
3. Each queen with nursing kittens must be provided with an additional amount of floor space, based on her breed and behavioral characteristics, and in accordance with generally accepted husbandry practices. If the additional amount of floor space for each nursing kitten is equivalent to less than 5 percent of the minimum for the queen, such housing must be approved by the attending veterinarian in the case of a research facility, and, in the case of dealers and exhibitors, such housing must be approved by the Administrator; and
4. The minimum floor space required by this section is exclusive of any food or water pans. The litter pans may be considered part of the floor space if properly cleaned and sanitized.

Feline Compatibility. All cats housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible, as determined by observation. Not more than 12 adult nonconditioned cats may be housed in the same primary enclosure. Queens in heat may not be housed in the same primary enclosure with sexually mature males, except for breeding. Except when maintained in breeding colonies, queens with litters may not be housed in the same primary enclosure with other adult cats, and kittens under 4 months of age may not be housed in the same primary enclosure with adult cats, other than the dam or foster dam. Cats with a vicious or aggressive disposition must be housed separately.

Feline Litter. In all primary enclosures, a receptacle contain sufficient clean litter must be provided to contain excreta and body waste.

Feline Resting places. Each primary enclosure housing cats must contain a resting surface or surfaces that, in the aggregate, are large enough to hold all the occupants of the primary closure at the same time comfortably. The resting surfaces must be elevated, impervious to moisture, and be able to be easily cleaned and sanitized, or easily replaced when soiled or worn. Low resting surfaces that do not allow the space under to be comfortable occupied by the animal will be counted as part of the floor space.

The USDA allows as many as 12 adult nonconditioned canine or feline animals to be housed in the same primary enclosure.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® exceed this requirement by allowing no more than SIX (6) adult animals to be housed in a primary enclosure, if compatible.

Regarding specific materials for flooring, Gold Label Pets® is committed to ensuring that primary enclosures foster animal health. Therefore, Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires facility owners to work with veterinarians to determine optimum flooring selection based upon breed and age of animal, with special attention paid to preventing injury to footpads and legs. Any material that is difficult to clean and sanitize and brings animals into frequent contact with fecal material should be rejected; however, all suspended floor material must be vinyl coated unless it is expanded metal. Chart of aperture size on suspended vinyl coated flooring or expanded for:

1. Animal weighing 5 pounds or less should be no larger than ½” by 1” or ¾” by ¾”;
2. Animal weighing 5 pounds to 15 pounds should be no larger than 1” by 1”;
3. Animal weighing 15 pounds to 25 pounds should be no larger than 1” by 1” or expanded metal;
4. Animal weighing over 25 pounds must be expanded metal (if suspended) of a gauge sufficient to prevent sag greater than 1½” between supports with full animals’ load.

Animals on Tethers (Chains)

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® prohibits the use of tethers in certified facilities. The Guideline and Certification Committee may grant exceptions to this rule if the request is submitted in writing as part of the Certification Application and the attending veterinarian describes in full detail the circumstances under which the animal(s) would be tethered and must be approved by administrators.

Bedding

Bedding, when required, (see SECTION II FACILITIES AND OPERATING STANDARDS: C. Indoor Facilities; Heating, Cooling, and Temperature, and D. Outdoor Facilities; Shelter From Cold Weather and E. Sheltered Housing Facilities; Heating, Cooling and Temperature) must be free of toxic chemicals or other substances that could injure animals or personnel, and of a type not easily eaten by the animals. The attending veterinarian should approve bedding type used. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® specifies when using clean hay or straw as bedding material that it must be changed weekly.

Whelping Area and Space Requirements

These primary enclosures must be easily disinfected, provide easy access for observation and veterinary assistance, provide sufficient protection so young animals are not pulled outdoors or brought into contact with other animals, and have the ability to be heated through safe means, if necessary.

Space for Nursing Females

Each female with nursing young must be provided with an additional amount of floor space, based on her breed and disposition and in accordance with practices approved by the attending veterinarian. If the additional amount of floor space for each nursing animal is less than 5 percent of the minimum requirement for the female, approval for a variance must be obtained from the USDA administrator or Gold Label certified administrator.

B. Minimum Space Requirement Chart

The following chart provides the absolute minimum space requirements for animals of various sizes according to the formula established by the USDA. Minimum space, exercise, and socialization requirements for long-term housing are described in SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS, E. Exercise and Socialization.

<u>Length of Canine</u>	<u>Sq. In. Required</u>	<u>Sq. Ft. Required</u>
10"	256	1.78
11"	289	2.01
12"	324	2.25
13"	361	2.51
14"	400	2.78
15"	441	3.06
16"	484	3.36
17"	529	3.67
18"	576	4.00
19"	625	4.34
20"	676	4.69
21"	729	5.06
22"	784	5.44
23"	841	5.84
24"	900	6.25
25"	961	6.67
26"	1,024	7.11
27"	1,089	7.56
28"	1,156	8.03
29"	1,225	8.51
30"	1,296	9.00
31"	1,369	9.51
32"	1,444	10.03
33"	1,521	10.56
34"	1,600	11.11
35"	1,681	11.67
36"	1,764	12.25

C. Indoor Facilities

Definition of Indoor Housing

Indoor housing facilities are those buildings with environmental controls. They must meet the three following requirements:

- A. It must be possible to control the temperatures within the range outlined in Heating, Cooling and Temperature (next subsection), maintain a relative humidity level of 30 to 70 percent, and be sufficiently ventilated to eliminate odors rapidly.
- B. The walls, roof and floor of the structure must be connected. Sheds or barns with dirt or gravel floors do not qualify.
- C. The structure must have at least one door for entry and exit that can be opened and closed. Windows and other openings providing natural light must have transparent covering like glass or rigid plastic.

Heating, Cooling and Temperature

Indoor housing must be sufficiently heated and cooled to protect the animals from temperature extremes and provide for their health and well-being. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to drop below 50° F (10° C) for animals not acclimated to lower temperatures.

When temperatures fall below 50° F, Gold Label Pets® requires dry bedding, solid resting boards, or other means of conserving body heat. The temperature in an indoor facility must not fall below 45° F nor rise above 85° F for 4 consecutive hours. Mechanical heating and cooling systems will be required to maintain temperatures within this range. Additionally, sick, aged, young or infirm animals and breeds not able to tolerate lower temperatures, such as short haired breeds, must be maintained at temperatures above 50° F at all times.

Ventilation

Indoor housing for animals shall be adequately ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Facilities shall provide fresh air by means of windows, doors, vents, or air conditioning. Ventilation must be adequate to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation. Auxiliary ventilation in the way of exhaust fans, vents or air conditioning shall be provided when ambient temperatures are 85° F or above.

Indoor facilities are required to ventilate in such a way as to minimize ammonia levels and moisture condensation. The relative humidity must be maintained at a level that ensures the health and well being of the animals. The humidity standards must be in accordance with the directions of the attending veterinarian and generally accepted professional and husbandry practices. Refer to Definition of Indoor Housing, previous page.

Lighting

Ample lighting, by natural and/or artificial means which provides full spectrum light qualities where possible, should be uniformly distributed and of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning during the entire working period. The lighting must be provided in a regular diurnal cycle, whether by natural or artificial means. Primary enclosures should be placed to avoid exposure of animals to excessive light. Whelping situations utilizing infrared heat lamps in a safe manner are exempted from these requirements.

Interior Surfaces

The interior surfaces of indoor housing facilities shall be constructed and maintained so they are substantially impervious to moisture and may be readily sanitized. Floors, walls and animal contact surfaces must be impervious to moisture. Ceilings must be impervious to moisture or be replaceable. Metals must be free of excessive rust or tears, plastics must be well maintained. Concrete, block or brick and asphalt must be sealed and wood must be smooth surfaced and sealed with a nontoxic waterproof, washable finish material.

D. Outdoor Facilities

Outdoor facilities are those environments in which there is no attempt to control temperature or humidity.

Outdoor Primary Enclosures

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® defines “Outdoor Primary Enclosures” as a structure with attached floor, walls and roof. All surfaces must be constructed from materials impervious to moisture and be maintained on a regular basis. Animal houses are required by Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® to have a solid floor that can be readily cleaned and sanitized. The design must allow for protection from all elements, including a wind and rain break at the entrance.

Outdoor facilities for animals are required to include one or more shelter structures that are accessible to each animal in each impoundment. These shelters must be large enough to allow each animal in the shelter to stand, sit, lie and turn around in a normal manner. In addition to the shelter structures, one or more separate outside areas of shade must be provided, large enough to provide shade from direct sun for all the animals at the same time.

Shelter from Sunlight

When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort, sufficient shade shall be provided to allow all animals kept outdoors to protect themselves from the direct rays of the sun.

Shelter from Rain or Snow

Animals kept outdoors shall be provided with access to shelter to allow them to remain dry during rain or snow.

Shelter from Cold Weather

Shelter must be provided at all times for all animals kept outdoors when the atmospheric temperature falls below 50° F. Metal barrels, cars, refrigerators or freezers and the like must not be used as shelter structures.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® prohibits the use of any type barrel as a shelter structure.

Sufficient clean bedding material or other means of protection from the weather elements shall be provided when the ambient temperature falls below that temperature to which a animal is acclimated.

Outdoor shelters must contain clean, dry bedding material if the ambient temperature is below 50° F. Additional clean, dry bedding will be required when the temperature is 35° F or lower.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® prohibits the following categories of animals to be housed in outdoor facilities, unless specifically approved by the attending veterinarian; animals not acclimated to the temperatures prevalent in the region where they are maintained; breeds that cannot tolerate the prevalent temperatures without stress or discomfort (i.e. short-haired animals); or, sick, infirm, aged or young animals.

When the acclimation history of an animal is unknown it should not be housed in an outdoor facility when the ambient temperature is below 50° F.

E. Sheltered Housing Facilities

Definition

Shelter housing facilities means a housing facility which provides the animal with shelter; protection from the elements; and protection from temperature extremes at all times. A shelter housing facility may consist of runs or pens totally enclosed in a barn or building, or of connecting inside/outside runs or pens with the inside pens in a totally enclosed building.

This classification is in contrast to the indoor housing, which maintains the whole primary enclosure within a structure that allows for environmental control; and outdoor facilities, which usually consist of an outside run or fenced-in area with an animal house or small enclosure without environmental control.

In general the sheltered portion of these facilities will be subject to the same space and environmental requirements as a indoor primary enclosure. The outdoor run portion of sheltered housing will be subject to the same criteria of an outdoor enclosure.

Heating, Cooling and Temperature

The sheltered part of the sheltered housing must be sufficiently heated and cooled to protect the animals from temperature extremes and provide for their health and well being. When temperatures fall below 50° F, dry bedding, solid resting boards or other means of conserving body heat is required. The ambient temperature shall not be allowed to drop below 50° F (10° C) for animals not acclimated to lower temperatures.

The temperature in any indoor portion of a sheltered housing facility must not fall below 45° F nor rise above 85° F for 4 consecutive hours. Mechanical heating and cooling systems will be required to maintain temperatures within this range. The attending veterinarian must approve exemptions to these requirements. Sick, aged, young, infirm animals and breeds not able to tolerate lower temperatures, such as short haired breeds, must be maintained at temperatures above 50° F at all times.

Ventilation

The enclosed or sheltered part of this type of facility shall be adequately ventilated to provide for the health and comfort of the animals at all times. Facilities shall provide fresh air by means of windows, doors, vents, or air conditioning. Ventilation must be adequate to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation. Auxiliary ventilation in the way of exhaust fans, vents or air conditioning shall be provided when ambient temperatures are 85° F or above.

Indoor portions of sheltered housing facilities are required to ventilate in such a way as to minimize ammonia levels and moisture condensation.

Lighting

Ample lighting, by natural and/or artificial means which provides full spectrum light qualities where possible, should be uniformly distributed and of sufficient intensity to permit routine inspection and cleaning during the entire working period. Lighting must provide for a regular diurnal lighting cycle, whether by natural or artificial means. Primary enclosures should be placed to avoid exposure of animals to excessive light, unless lights are temporarily used under safe conditions for necessary heating purposes, such as whelping. Lighting fixtures that may come into contact with animals must have protective coverings.

Surfaces

Surfaces in shelter facilities must be constructed and maintained so they are easily sanitized and conducive to good animal health. Metals must be free of excessive rust or tears, plastic must be well maintained. Concrete, block or brick and asphalt must be sealed, and wood must be smooth surfaced and sealed with a nontoxic waterproof, washable finish material.

Outside floor areas in contact with the animals and exposed to direct sunlight may consist of compact earth, absorbent bedding, sand, gravel, or grass. All surfaces must be maintained on a regular basis.

SECTION III:

ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS

A. Nutrition, Food and Feeding

Nutrition

Animals must be fed at least once each day except as otherwise might be required to provide adequate veterinary care. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires that young animals should be fed more than once daily or be given free choice feed to ensure normal growth and development. The food must be free from contamination, wholesome, palatable, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value to meet the normal daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal. Food must be available in sufficient amounts to ensure normal growth in immature animals and maintenance of normal body weight, reproduction and lactation in adults. The feeding regimen must meet or exceed the nutritive requirements established by the National Research Council. Feed must equal or exceed 22% protein for animals under 16 weeks of age; 18% protein for animals over 16 weeks of age and 22% protein for large breeds until 20 weeks of age unless otherwise approved in writing by the attending veterinarian. These requirements are outlined by the National Research Council entitled “Nutrient Requirements of Animals.” Gold Label Pets® Certified Facilities are encouraged to obtain a copy by contacting the National Research Council, National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. (800) 624-6242.

Gold Label Pets® recommends the use of feeds performance tested and labeled by the American Feed Control Officials (AFCO) for nutritional quality. Feed must be discarded before it spoils or becomes contaminated in the pen.

Food Receptacles

Food receptacles shall be accessible to all animals and shall be located to minimize contamination by urine, feces or vermin. Feeding pans shall be durable and kept clean. USDA requires sanitizing at least once every two weeks. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires sanitizing at least once every week. Furthermore, Gold Label Pets® requires that moist food receptacles must be cleaned and sanitized after each use. Disposable food receptacles may be used but must be discarded after each feeding. Self-feeders may be used for the feeding of dry food, and they shall be sanitized regularly to prevent molding, deterioration or caking of feed.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires food to be sheltered from rain and snow. Sanitization of food receptacles will be required by utilizing the methods listed in SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS; C. Sanitation.

Food Preparation

Food should be prepared from fresh ingredients or supplies that are stored in accordance with manufacturers’ or suppliers’ recommendations. No more food should be prepared than can be fed without spoilage. Feed preparation machinery, area and implements must be cleaned carefully and sanitized after each use.

Storage

All feed storage containers should be clearly marked and covered with tight lids to ensure feeding before expiration and to eliminate contamination by vermin. All unopened bags of food or bedding must be off the floor and clearance to clean under and around. Refrigeration should be provided for feeds and veterinary supplies that require cold storage.

Commercial Feeds

Commercial feeds must be labeled as complete feeds and fed only to those animals of the age and stage of growth for which they are appropriately formulated. These requirements are outlined by the National Research Council, entitled “Nutrient Requirements of Animals”. Gold Label Pets® Certified facilities are encouraged to obtain a copy by contacting the National Research Council, National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. (800) 624-6242.

B. Water

Requirements

Animals should have continuous access to fresh, potable, uncontaminated drinking water. If potable water is not accessible to animals at all times, animals will be offered water at least twice daily for periods of at least one hour except as might be required to provide adequate veterinary care. If automatic watering systems are used, routine maintenance and care should ensure that water does not soak animals and bedding.

Quality Assurance

Gold Label Pets® recommends that facilities using well water as the potable water source voluntarily submit water samples for purity testing at least annually and consult with the state agency regulating water quality or the local County Extension Service agent if there are any questions.

Freezing Conditions

Special precautions should be taken when watering during freezing periods, to ensure that each animal has sufficient access at least twice daily, for periods of one hour, to fresh, potable liquid water, even if this requires numerous attempts at filling receptacles. Excess water should be emptied before freezing to allow for the next complete watering cycle.

Water Receptacles

The USDA requires all receptacles to be kept clean and sanitized at least once every two weeks. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires sanitation at least once every week or more often by one of the techniques outlined in SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS C. Sanitation.

C. Sanitation

Proper sanitation is a key factor in the prevention of disease, and a major aspect of humane care in the facility environment.

Cleaning Primary Enclosures

Primary enclosures shall be cleaned as often as necessary to prevent contamination of the animals, reduce disease hazards and minimize odors. When a hosing or flushing method is used for cleaning a primary enclosure commonly known as a cage, any animal shall be removed from the enclosure during the cleaning process, and adequate measures shall be taken to protect adjacent cages from being contaminated with water and other wastes.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires all hard surfaces to be spot-cleaned daily and sanitized in accordance with practices outlined in the next section, “Sanitation of Primary Enclosures.” Daily removal of food waste and excreta is required. Floors made of dirt, absorbent bedding, sand, gravel, grass or other similar material must be raked or spot-cleaned with sufficient frequency to ensure all animals freedom from contact with excreta. Contaminated material must be replaced whenever raking and spot cleaning are not sufficient to prevent or eliminate odors, insects, pests, or vermin infestation. No standing water will be allowed. Pans under primary enclosures with grill-type floors and ground areas under raised runs with wire or slatted floors must be cleaned as often as necessary to prevent accumulation of feces and food waste and to reduce disease hazards, pests, insects and odors.

Sanitation of Primary Enclosures

After an enclosure is occupied by an animal it must be sanitized by one of the methods listed below before introducing a new animal into the enclosure.

Primary enclosures shall be sanitized often enough to prevent an accumulation of debris or excreta, or creation of a disease hazard. USDA requires sanitizing at a MINIMUM of once every two weeks. However, Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires primary enclosures to be sanitized at a MINIMUM of once every week.

Cages, rooms, and hard surfaced pens or runs shall be sanitized by one of the following methods:

Washing with hot water (180° F) and soap or detergent;

Washing all soiled surfaces with detergent solution followed by a safe effective disinfectant;

Using a combination detergent/disinfectant product with a thorough cleaning of all organic material and mineral build-up followed by a clean water rinse;

Cleaning all soiled areas with live steam.

Pens and runs using gravel, sand or dirt shall be sanitized by removing the soiled floor material and replacing it as necessary. Care must be taken to ensure that animals do not become harmed, wet or distressed in the process.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires the daily cleaning of whelping areas.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® also requires that used primary enclosures, food and water containers be cleaned and sanitized by one of the approved methods before they can be used for another animal or group of animals. Enclosures, food receptacles and water receptacles must be sanitized at least once every two weeks under USDA rules. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires sanitizing weekly, or more often, as frequent sanitation effectively prevents accumulation of dirt, debris, food waste, excreta and other disease hazards.

Facilities and Ground Maintenance

Premises where housing facilities are located, including buildings and surrounding grounds, must be kept clean and in good repair to protect the animals from injury, to facilitate the husbandry practices required, and to reduce or eliminate breeding and living areas for rodents and other pests. Premises must be kept free of all accumulations of trash, waste and discarded matter. Weeds, grasses and bushes must be controlled to facilitate maintenance of the premises and protect the health and well being of the animals.

Pest Control

An effective program for the control of insects and external parasites that are pests, as well as birds and mammals that are pests affecting dogs and cats must be established and maintained so as to promote the health and well-being of the animals and reduce contamination by pests in animal areas. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® stresses caution in utilizing chemical or electrical means of pest control in order to eliminate unintentional exposure to employees and animals.

D. Grouping and Housing

Adult Non-Breeding Animals

Animals housed in one enclosure should be maintained in compatible groups, as determined by observation and common sense.

The USDA allows as many as 12 adult nonconditioned animals to be housed in the same primary enclosure. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® mandate that no more than SIX (6) adult animals may be housed together in the same primary enclosure. Furthermore, Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® strongly encourages reason in determining a safe number of animals according to breed, disposition, and compatibility.

Breeding Animals

Females in season (estrus) shall not be housed in the same primary enclosure with males, except for breeding purposes. Females with litters may not be housed in the same primary enclosures with other adult animals.

Puppies and Kittens

Puppies and kittens shall not be housed in the same primary enclosure with adult animals other than their dams or foster dams. Weaned animals should be housed with animals of similar age and size.

Isolation

Any animal exhibiting vicious behavior must be removed from the premises. Any animal exhibiting overly aggressive behavior should be separated from other animals. Any animal that has, or is suspected of having, a contagious disease must be isolated from healthy animals, as directed by the attending veterinarian. If an entire group or room of animals is known to have been, or believed to have been, exposed to an infectious agent, the group may be kept intact during the process of diagnosis, treatment and control.

Animals under quarantine or under treatment for communicable diseases will be housed in a separate room or building with separated ventilation.

Additionally, Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® recommends that:

Employees in contact with isolated animals wear separate outer protective garments and shoes to reduce the likelihood of spreading contagious disease.

Pet Professionals maintain a separate holding area for animal's intended for sale.

See SECTION II: FACILITIES AND OPERATING REQUIREMENTS, A. General Requirements of all Facilities; Isolation.

E. Exercise and Socialization

A great deal of public concern is continually expressed about the socialization needs of animals raised in primary enclosures, or cages. Often this concern is borne without informed consideration for the actual needs of any given breed, or individual animal. In fact, the likelihood of any given animal being denied its needs for exercise and appropriate socialization in the hands of an uninformed pet owner is of tremendous concern to the members of Gold Label Pets®. Therefore, Gold Label Pets® is committed to consumer education in these areas through cooperative programs with retailers offering Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® certified animals.

The USDA rule changes effective August 14, 1991, mandate specific requirements for providing animals the opportunity to exercise, and general recommendations on socialization. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® encourages members to become familiar with the details of the following language and adopt these practices:

USDA Sec. 3.8 Exercise for Animals: "Dealers must develop, document and follow an appropriate plan to provide animals with opportunity for exercise. In addition, the attending veterinarian must approve the plan. The plan must include written standard procedures to be followed in providing the opportunity for exercise. The plan must be made available to APHIS upon request."

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires that the plan must comply, at a minimum, with each of the following:

- A. Animals housed individually, over 12 weeks of age, except females with litters, housed, held, or maintained by any dealer or exhibitor, must be provided the opportunity for exercise regularly if they are kept in cages, pens or runs that provide less than two times the required floor space for that animal. Long term housing floor space shall be double of USDA guidelines.
- B. Animals over 12 weeks of age housed, held, or maintained in groups by any dealer or exhibitor, do not require additional opportunity for exercise regularly if they are maintained in cages, pens, or runs that provide at least 100 percent of the required space for each animal if maintained separately.
- C. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires providing physical human contacts that encourages exercise through play or other similar socializing activities on a daily basis with puppies and kittens. Breeders, in developing their plan, should consider providing puppies and kittens with positive physical contact with humans that encourages exercise through play or other similar activities. If an adult animal is housed, held or maintained at a facility without sensory contact with another animal, it must be provided with positive physical contact with humans at least daily.

- D. The opportunity for exercise may be provided in a number of ways, such as group housing in cages that meet the requirements listed previously; maintaining individually housed runs, cages, or pens that meet the previously listed requirements; providing access to a run or open area of the frequency and duration prescribed by the attending veterinarian; or other similar activities. Forced exercise such as swimming, treadmills, or carousel-type devices are unacceptable.
- E. The frequency, method and duration of the opportunity for exercise shall be determined by the attending veterinarian.
- F. Veterinarians may exempt animals from exercise because of their health, condition or well being. Unless the basis for exemption is a permanent condition, it must be reviewed and documented by the attending veterinarian every 30 days.
- G. Records of any exemptions must be maintained and listed on the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® Inspection Form signed by the inspecting veterinarian.

F. Disease Prevention and Control

Although the USDA licensure requirements do not mandate specific vaccination, parasite control, or genetic disease and prevention programs, Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® recognizes that these are an essential part of maintaining good animal health within a facility operation and are critical elements of a comprehensive veterinary program. Preventative medicine programs may vary from facility to facility depending upon breeds of animals raised, differing facilities, regional considerations and other management factors. A facility disease prevention program including specifications for the aforementioned aspects of veterinary care must be written with the help and approval of a veterinarian, and reviewed annually as part of the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® inspection requirements.

Immunization Program

An effective immunization program must be developed with the attending veterinarian and maintained on file for inspection. All Gold Label Pets® Facilities must be in compliance with and be up to date on VETERINARY HEALTH CARE STANDARDS FOR ENTRY INTO COMMERCE (see APPENDIX: C.) as a minimum recommended immunization program. This program may be revised as recommended by the veterinarian community to effectively protect the animals.

Parasite Control

An effective program should be implemented to control external and internal parasites including worms, coccidia, giardia, fleas, ear mites, ticks, lice and mange. All Gold Label Pets® puppies and kittens must have at least three dewormings prior to eight (8) weeks of age unless the attending veterinarian certifies a different schedule. Cleaning and sanitation of animal facilities is an essential part of maintaining parasite control. In addition, adult animals should be treated on a schedule appropriate for the breed and facility management conditions. This program must be created and approved by a veterinarian and should include scheduled examinations for each of the parasites to assess the efficacy of the control program. A minimum recommended parasite control program published in the back of the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®, (see APPENDIX: C. Veterinary Health Care Standards For Entry Into Commerce), may be revised as recommended by the veterinarian to effectively protect the animals.

Genetic Health Program

Each breeding animal's record must contain detailed and accurate information to allow periodic review to assess the animal's suitability as a breeder. Each breeding animal should be examined, and only those known to be free of heritable genetic defects known for that breed should be kept for breeding animals.

If any puppy that was shipped by a Gold Label Pets® Certified member is found to have hip dysplasia confirmed by radiographs, the breeder will be informed immediately for the purpose of approving the sire and dam through the Orthopedic Foundation of America. Additionally if any puppy that was shipped by a Gold Label Pets®Certified member is found to have other confirmed genetic defects, the breeder will be informed immediately.

For genetic health it is recommended that animals not be mated to closely related animals. Therefore Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires than no female be mated to her father, son, brother, or half brother.

Veterinary Care

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires facilities to work with the attending veterinarian to develop treatment and control programs for other nonspecific conditions such as, but not limited to:

Teeth examinations and cleaning

Hernia examinations

Ear examinations and cleaning

Nail trimming

In addition, close daily inspection of each animal will be made to monitor overall condition, and any animal showing signs of distress or illness will receive attention immediately. If necessary, the attending veterinarian will be contacted for an examination. Medical records must be maintained for 1 year after disposition or death of animals.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® endorses and will adopt as the standard a working canine brucellosis certification program with the recommendation of the veterinary community.

Healthy Coat Maintenance

The coats of all animals must be maintained to foster good hygiene and remain free of ectoparasites.

G. Euthanasia

In the operation of any professional animal breeding or distribution facility there are times when animals must be humanely euthanized. Methods of euthanasia used in professional facility operations must meet the recommendations of the American Veterinary Medical Association's Panel on Euthanasia. (JAVMA, Vol.188, No.3, Feb. 1, 1986.)

Accordingly, the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® require that facilities comply with all federal and state laws pertaining to the handling of controlled substances.

Euthanasia of animals shall be by intravenous injection with barbituric acid derivatives (pentobarbital sodium). Nervous or vicious animals should be tranquilized or sedated prior to injection. Intravenous injection should be performed by trained personnel and current federal law requires that these drugs be used only under the supervision of personnel registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

In most facilities the attending veterinarian, or personnel under his or her direct supervision, will be administering the drug. In addition, some states require registration for legal use of these drugs.

Use of other methods is expressly prohibited by Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®.

In facilities where individuals other than the licensed attending veterinarian performs euthanasia by lethal injection, the facility must have, on file, documentation from the attending veterinarian indicating personnel who have been trained and are qualified to handle the drug and administer it properly. Only persons with proper, documented training may be allowed to euthanize animals.

SECTION IV: TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS

The USDA rules and regulations pertaining to the transportation of animals by carriers and intermediate handlers are comprehensive and specific as to the conditions permitted at all stages of the delivery process. The Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® specify full compliance with all of the federal requirements as published in the “Federal Register”.

Due to differences of time in transit Gold Label Pets® recognizes that air and ground transport must have different requirements for conveyance vehicles and the level of expertise for animal care. When transporting by ground criterion of time, number of animals transported, and method of conveyance thresholds must be observed.

Gold Label Pets® has provided a reference key to the USDA rules and regulations and has summarized the intent of those requirements as follows, with additional compliance requirements for Gold Label Pets® Certified Facilities.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Members are required to transport animals through carriers and intermediate handlers that meet a minimum standard of USDA requirements for temperature, sanitation, pest control, ventilation and shelter. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® absolutely requires humane treatment of animals at all times and encourages members to insist upon careful handling of animals in all transport situations.

A. Obligations of Carriers & Intermediate Handlers

Maximum Time Held Before Departure

An animal should not be delivered or held for transport in commerce more than four (4) hours before the scheduled departure time of the primary conveyance on which the animal is to be transported. However, a carrier or intermediate handler may agree with anyone consigning an animal to extend this time by up to 2 hours.

After six (6) hours animals must be moved to a facility that meets USDA standards for housing of animals of age and size of the animals being transported.

Consignee Address

Shippers must provide the carriers or intermediate handlers with the name, address, and telephone number of the consignee. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® also requires the addition of at least one emergency telephone number.

Written Instructions for Food and Water

USDA requires all shippers sending animals must securely attach to the outside of the shipping facility written instructions for in-transit food and water requirements for a 24-hour period for the animals contained in the enclosure. The instructions must be attached in a manner that makes them easily noticed and read. These instructions must be in compliance with **SECTION IV: TRANSPORTATION; C. Food and Water Requirements**, below.

Food and Water Certification

Carriers and intermediate handlers must not accept an animal for transport unless the consignor certifies in writing that the animal was offered food and water during the 4 hours before it was delivered to the carrier or intermediate handler. The certification must be securely attached to the outside of the shipping crate so it can be easily seen and read.

Instructions indicating not to give food or water are not acceptable unless directed by the attending veterinarian.

The certification must include the following information for each animal:

1. The shipper's name and address.
2. The tag or tattoo number. This must be the official USDA animal number.
3. The time and date the animal was last fed and watered and the specific instructions for the next feeding(s) and watering(s) for a 24-hour period. These must be in compliance with the above section.
4. The shipper's signature with the date and time the certification was signed.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires that a written record of food and water certification must accompany each group of animals as listed on each Interstate Health Certificate. Refer to SECTION V: RECORDS AND IDENTIFICATION; A. Records: Health Certificates.

Requirements for Holding Area and Conveyance Vehicle (Air Transport)

Gold Label Pets® Certified members are required to transport animals through holding areas meeting a minimum of USDA requirements for temperature, sanitation, pest control, ventilation and shelter. USDA requires carrier and intermediate handler personnel to observe the animals as often as circumstances allow, but not less than once every 4 hours during air transportation, if cargo area is accessible during flight to make sure they have sufficient air for normal breathing, that the ambient temperature is within the limits required, and that all other conditions of the transportation are within compliance of USDA regulations. If any animal is in obvious physical distress, the animal can only be transported for the purpose of locating care at the nearest veterinary facility.

According to the USDA, the consignor can provide a certificate accompanying each animal to its designation, signed by a veterinarian or the owner of record and dated no more than 10 days before delivery of the animal, certifying that the animal is acclimated to temperatures lower than those required (see SECTION IV: TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS: D. Temperature and Shipping Conditions).

Requirements for Holding Area and Conveyance Vehicle (Ground Transport)

The animal cargo space of primary conveyances used to transport animals must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that at all times protects the health and well-being of the animals transported in them, ensures their safety and comfort, and prevents the entry of engine exhaust from the primary conveyance during transportation.

The animal cargo space must have a supply of air that is sufficient for the normal breathing of all the animals being transported in the space.

Additionally, Gold Label Pets® recognizes that the longer animals will be in transit the greater the care and observation requirements. Since 48 hours or less will allow even a small producer to reasonably deliver to most markets, that shall be the first time threshold. If in transit more than 48 hours Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires ground transport conveyance vehicles will include the following:

1. Animals must be accessible without delay. Primary enclosures must be placed in such a way as to allow immediate access to any and all animals in emergency and distress situations. If greater than 50 animals are transported, primary enclosures must be placed in such a way to create a center isle with direct access to enclosure door with direct visual monitoring possible at all times.

2. There must be an employee sufficiently trained to care for the animals while they are in transit to properly feed, water, observe, and clean the primary enclosures and conveyance vehicle as though the animals were still in a normal facility operation. (See SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY STANDARDS; C. Sanitation). If 100 or more animals are transported, a dedicated animal caregiver must accompany each shipment.
3. The primary conveyance vehicle will be constructed, maintained, and manned with personnel thoroughly trained in all aspects of proper security as well as animal care.
4. The primary conveyance vehicle will be equipped with enough food and potable water to sustain all animals on board for the projected length of travel time plus 24 hours (minimum). An emergency plan must be available to all drivers and caregivers detailing a method for animal care in the event of equipment failure, accident or other emergency situations.
5. Ground transport vehicles shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means to provide for the health and to prevent discomfort of the animals at all times. Such vehicles shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, vents, fans, or air-conditioning and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors and moisture condensation. Air and temperature must be monitored at least every four (4) hours. If 'same cabin' air and temperature are utilized for personnel and animals then additional monitoring is not required.
6. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® prefers that animals transported by ground are directly accessible to animal care staff while the vehicle is moving. However, if direct access is not possible on the primary conveyance (i.e. trailers) constant visual and audio remote monitoring of the animal area and of temperature must be possible. Physical checks of the remote conveyance cabin will be conducted at least every four (4) hours.

Handling by Personnel

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® absolutely requires humane treatment of animals at all times, and encourages breeders and distributors to insist upon careful handling of animals in transportation situations by terminal facility personnel.

Any person who moves, loads or unloads animals must carefully do so as quickly and efficiently as possible in a manner that avoids causing physical harm or distress. The USDA specifies that personnel must provide the following considerations during movement of the animal:

1. Shelter from sunlight and extreme heat so that the animal is not exposed to an ambient air temperature above 85° F (29.5° C) for a period of more than 45 minutes while being moved to or from a primary conveyance or a terminal facility.
2. Shelter from rain and snow.
3. Shelter from cold temperatures to protect the animal when outdoor temperature falls below 50° F (10° C). The animals must not be exposed to an ambient temperature below 45° F (7.2° C) for more than 45 minutes, unless a certificate (as mentioned above) accompanies them.
4. No enclosure containing an animal should ever be tossed, dropped or needlessly tilted, and must not be stacked in a manner that may reasonably be expected to result in its falling. It must be handled and positioned in the manner that written instructions and arrows on the outside of the primary enclosure indicate, according to the USDA and Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requirements, see SECTION IV: TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS; B. Primary Enclosure For Transportation, Construction.

Except during the cleaning of primary enclosures, as required by the USDA, no animal can be removed from its primary enclosure by transportation personnel unless it is placed in another primary enclosure or facility that meets USDA regulations.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® further stresses that each person handling animals in transportation must do so with the utmost care at all times.

B. Primary Enclosure for Transportation

Construction

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® is committed to humane and comfortable conditions for animals during transportation. The USDA requires shippers to refuse an animal for transportation unless the primary enclosure meets the minimum structural requirements outlined below. Primary enclosures that are obviously defective or damaged and cannot reasonably be expected to safely and comfortably contain the animal without causing suffering or injury must not be used. The animal must be contained in a primary enclosure such as a compartment, transport cage, carton or crate constructed so that:

- A. The primary enclosure is strong enough to contain the animal securely and comfortably and to withstand the normal rigors of transportation.
- B. The interior of the primary enclosure has no sharp points or edges and no protrusions that could injure the animal contained in it. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® encourages all members to obtain a copy of “Live Animal Regulations, 17th Edition (1990)” published by the International Air Transportation Association, which details construction characteristics of primary enclosures.
- C. The animal is at all times securely contained within the enclosure and cannot put any part of its body outside the enclosure in a way that could result in injury to itself to handlers, or to persons or animals nearby.
- D. The animal can be easily and quickly removed from the enclosure in an emergency.
- E. Portable enclosures require adequate devices such as handles or handholds on the exterior, to enable the enclosure to be lifted without tilting it and ensure that anyone handling the enclosure will not come into physical contact with the animal contained inside.
- F. Portable enclosures must be clearly marked in top and on one or more sides with the words “Live Animals” in letters at least 1 inch (2.5 cm.) high, and with arrows or other markings indicating the correct upright position of the primary enclosure.
- G. Any material, treatment, paint, preservative, or other chemical used in or on the enclosure must be nontoxic and safe to the health and well being of the animal.
- H. Acceptable flooring for a primary enclosure:
 1. The primary enclosure must have a solid, leak-proof bottom that prevents seepage of waste products such as excreta and body fluids outside of the enclosure. The enclosure must contain enough litter to absorb or cover excreta. The litter must be of a suitable absorbent material that is safe and non-toxic to the animals. Examples of unsuitable materials: un-shredded newspaper, towels, etc. OR
 2. The primary enclosure must have a removable, leak-proof collection tray under a suspended slatted or wire mesh floor that prevents seepage of waste such as excreta and body fluids outside of the enclosure. The suspended floor must be designed and constructed so that the animal cannot put any part of its body that may be injured or broken between the slats or through the holes in the mesh. OR
 3. The primary enclosure may be suspended above a solid, leak-proof tray that is designed so that waste such as excreta and body fluids are not allowed to come in contact with the animals above, below or beside the primary enclosure. The tray may rely on absorbent material to collect waste products, or the tray may be plumbed into a wash-down system.
 - a. If the tray is part of a dry-collection system (not flushed with water while in-transit) waste must be removed a minimum of two times a day. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® recommends a system of cleaning that prevents the accumulation of humidity, odor and ammonia for maximum animal health.

- b. If a wash-down system is used (the method preferred by Gold Label Pets®), all drains must be properly installed and maintained. Closed drainage systems must be equipped with traps to prevent the backflow of gasses or the back up of sewage onto the wash-down or floor. Drainage must be constructed and operated so that animal waste and water are eliminated rapidly and the animals stay dry. Water must not be allowed to puddle or pool on the tray. Wastewater holding tanks must not be allowed to overflow or stand stagnant. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® requires that the storage of wastewater does not exceed seven (7) days.
- c. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® encourages all members to become familiar with wastewater management practices in compliance with state and local requirements.

Space and Placement

Enclosures must be large enough to ensure that each animal has enough space to turn about normally while standing, to stand and sit erect, and to lie in a natural position. Enclosures must be placed to provide protection from the elements.

When shipping by air, the USDA regulates that no more than one animal, six (6) months of age or older, may be shipped in the same primary enclosure. No more than one animal, eight (8) weeks to six (6) months of age and over 20 lbs. each, may be shipped in the same primary enclosure. No more than two animals, eight (8) weeks to six (6) months of age, of comparable size and weighing 20 lbs each or less, may be shipped by air in the same enclosure. Actual airline requirements may vary.

When shipping by surface vehicle or privately owned aircraft, no more than four animals, eight (8) weeks of age or older, that are of comparable size, may be transported in the same primary enclosure, and then only if all other requirements are met.

Cleaning

A primary enclosure used to hold or transport animals in commerce must be cleaned and sanitized before each use in accordance with the methods approved by the USDA and outlined by Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® (see [SECTION III: ANIMAL HEALTH AND HUSBANDRY](#); Sanitation). If the animals are in transit for more than 24 hours and can come in direct contact with contaminated litter, the enclosures must be cleaned and any litter replaced; or another method, such as moving the animals to another enclosure, must be utilized to prevent the soiling of the animals by body wastes. If it becomes necessary to remove the animal from the enclosure in order to clean, or to move the animal to another enclosure, this procedure must be completed in a way that safeguards the animal from injury and prevents escape.

Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® recommends that animals that are in transit for longer than 24 hours should be transported on suspended flooring and not be in direct contact with litter or excreta (see [SECTION IV: TRANSPORTATION STANDARDS](#); B. Primary Enclosure For Transportation, item H.)

Ventilation

Proper ventilation must be provided in all portable primary enclosures. The USDA provides different formulas for different construction:

Two Wall Ventilation

This requires vent openings on two opposing walls of the enclosure and covering at least 16 percent of the surface area of each wall, with the total combined surface area of the ventilation openings being at least 14 percent of total combined area of all the walls.

Three Wall Ventilation

Another formula provides for three walls to be ventilated, with two opposing walls having openings totaling 8 percent of the total surface area of the two walls, and the ventilation openings on the third wall totaling at least 50 percent of the total surface of that wall.

Four Wall Ventilation

Ventilation openings located on all four walls of the primary enclosure must be at least 8 percent of the total surface area of each such wall, and the total combined surface area of the openings must be at least 14 percent of the total combined surface area of all the walls.

Projecting rims or similar devices must be located on the exterior of each enclosure wall having a ventilation opening, in order to prevent obstruction of the openings. The projecting rims or similar devices must be large enough to provide a minimum air circulation space of 0.75 in (1.9 cm) between the primary enclosure and anything the enclosure is placed against.

The USDA provides regulations pertaining to primary enclosures that are permanently affixed to the primary conveyance. If a primary enclosure is permanently affixed so that there is only a front ventilation opening, it is imperative that the front ventilation opening be constructed in such a way that the opening cannot be blocked and is open directly to an unobstructed aisle or passageway. The ventilation opening must be at least 90 percent of the total area of the front wall of the enclosure, and must be covered with bars, wire mesh, or smooth expanded metal having air spaces.

Compatibility

Animals transported for commerce must be maintained in compatible groups. Puppies' and kittens' four (4) months of age or less may not be transported in the same primary enclosure with adult animals other than their dams. Animals that are overly aggressive or exhibit a vicious disposition must be transported individually. Female animals in heat (estrus) may not be transported in the same enclosure with any male animal.

C. Food and Water Requirements

Food and water receptacles must be securely attached inside the primary enclosure and placed so that water receptacles can be filled from outside the enclosure without opening the door. Food and water containers must be designed, constructed, and installed so that an animal cannot leave the primary enclosure through the food or water opening.

Each animal that is 16 weeks of age or more must be offered food at least once every 24 hours. Puppies and kittens less than 16 weeks of age must be offered food at least once every 12 hours. Each animal must be offered potable water at least once every 12 hours. These time periods apply to breeders and distributors who transport animals in their own primary conveyance, starting from the time the animal was last offered food and potable water before transportation was begun.

Animals must be offered food and water within four hours of transportation. As outlined above, the shipper must certify this fact in writing and attach certification to the shipping kennel.

D. Temperature and Shipping Conditions

In addition to the aforementioned regulations pertaining to temperature and shipping conditions, there are stringent USDA requirements for holding facilities and carriers. Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® require all such facilities to be in compliance with USDA at all times.

Each primary enclosure containing animals must be positioned in the animal cargo space in a manner that provides protection from the elements and that allows each animal enough air for normal breathing.

During surface transportation, auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers or air conditioning, must be used in any animal cargo space containing live animals when the ambient temperature within the animal cargo space reaches 85° F (29.5° C). Moreover, the ambient temperature may not exceed 85° F (29.5° C) for a period of more than one 1 hour; nor fall below 45° F (7.2° C) for a period of more than one (1) hour.

Primary enclosures must be positioned in the primary conveyance in a manner that allows the animals to be quickly and easily removed from the primary conveyance in an emergency.

Animals may not be transported with any material, substance (e.g., dry ice) or device in a manner that may reasonably be expected to harm the animals or cause inhumane conditions.

E. Documents and Records

Shipping documents that must accompany shipments of animals may be held by the operator of the primary conveyance, for surface transportation only, or must be securely attached in a readily accessible manner to the outside of any primary enclosure that is part of the shipment, in a manner that allows them to be detached for examination and securely reattached, such as in a pocket or sleeve. Instructions for administration of drugs, medication, and other special care must be attached to each primary enclosure in a manner that makes them easy to notice, to detach for examination, and to reattach securely. Food and water instructions must be attached in accordance with the aforementioned requirements.

F. Minimum Age and Holding Requirements

No animal shall be delivered for transportation in commerce by any person to an intermediate handler or carrier unless that animal is eight (8) weeks of age or greater and weaned.

Holding Period

Any animal greater than 120 days of age shall be held for five (5) FULL days excluding any days in transport and the day of acquisition, prior to sale or placement. If that animal is less than 120 days of age it must be held for a minimum of 24 hours excluding transport days.

All animals shall be unloaded from the primary enclosures used for transportation during this holding period.

G. Reference Key to the 1991 Revised USDA Transportation Regulations

The following table of contents, listing actual USDA section numbers, is provided by Gold Label Pets® for convenient reference through the USDA “Federal Register” regulations pertaining to transportation. Every USDA licensed facility must have a copy on file. THIS TABLE OF CONTENTS DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO GOLD LABEL PETS® CERTIFIED HUMANE CARE GUIDELINES® SUMMARY OF THE REGULATIONS, WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDELINE BOOK.

OBLIGATIONS OF CARRIERS/INTERMEDIATE HANDLERS (3.13)

1. Maximum Time Held Before Departure
(3.13a)
2. Consignee Address, Name & Phone Required
(3.13b)

3. Written Instructions for Food and Water
(3. 16a-c)
4. Food and Water Certification
(3.13c1-4)
5. Requirements for Holding Area and Handling by Personnel
(3.13e, 3.17, 3.18 & 3.19)

PRIMARY ENCLOSURE FOR TRANSPORTATION
(3.13d, 3.14)

1. Construction
(3.14a; 1-9)
2. Space and Placement
(3.14e; 1-2)
3. Cleaning
(3. 14b)
4. Ventilation
(3. 14c)
5. Compatibility
(3.14d)
 6. Food and Water
(3. 16a-c)

TEMPERATURE AND SHIPPING CONDITIONS
(3.13e, 3.14, 3.15, 3.17, 3.18, 3.19)

TERMINAL FACILITIES
(3.18)

TRANSPORTATION BY AIR
(3.14f:1-4, 3.15d, 3.17b)

TRANSPORTATION BY SURFACE VEHICLE OR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT
(3.14g:1-2, 3.15e, 3.17a)

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS
(3. 14h)

PRIMARY CONVEYANCE
(3.15)

1. Temperature
(3.15a, e)
2. Safety
(3.15f, h)
3. Pressurization
(3.15d)

CARE IN TRANSIT
(3.16,3.17)

1. Food and Water
(3.13c: 1-4, 3.16a-c)
2. Handling
(3.19)
3. PROHIBITIONS
(3.17c,d)

MINIMUM AGE AND FEEDING REQUIREMENTS
(3.14f: 1-4, 3.14g, 3.16a-c)

SECTION V: RECORDS AND ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

A. Records - USDA

The USDA specifies a number of regulations pertaining to record keeping and identification of animals. In order to be licensed by the USDA and in compliance with Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®, all records must be accurately maintained. For the purposes of this section, both the USDA and Gold Label Pets™ classify breeders differently from distributors.

USDA Licensed Pet Producers

Every breeder must make, keep and maintain records or forms which fully and correctly disclose the following information concerning each animal purchased or otherwise acquired, owned, held, or otherwise in possession, as well as those which are transported, euthanized, sold or otherwise disposed of (records shall also include any offspring born of any animal while in the breeder's possession):

Name of the animal with official USDA tag number, tattoo, or microchip assigned;

Name and address of the person from whom the animal was acquired;

USDA license or registration numbers from whom the animal was acquired if the person is licensed or registered;

Vehicle license number and state, and the person's driver's license number and state if he or she is NOT USDA licensed or registered;

Name and address of the person to whom an animal was sold or given, and the person's USDA license or registration number if USDA registered;

Date of an animal's acquisition or disposal, including method (such as sale, death, euthanasia or donation);

A description of each animal including the species, breed or type; sex; date of birth or approximate age; and color with distinctive markings.

Method of transportation including name of carrier or handler, or the name of the vehicle owner if a private vehicle is used.

USDA Documents or approved computer alternatives, which must be used for these purposes, are:

Record of Animals and Cats on Hand (Form 7005);

Record of Disposition of Animals and Cats (Form 7006);

USDA State or Interstate and International Certificate of Health Examination for Small Animals (Form 18-1).

ONE copy of the record containing the information required by the USDA must accompany any animal which is shipped by a breeder. ONE copy must be retained in the breeder's records.

USDA / State / Gold Label Pets® Licensed Pet Distributors

Every distributor must make, keep and maintain records or forms that fully and correctly disclose the following information concerning each animal consigned:

Name and address of the person who owned or consigned the animal;

Name and address of the buyer or consignee who received the animal;

USDA / State / Gold Label Pets® license or registration number of the person(s) selling, consigning, buying, or receiving the animals if he or she is licensed or registered;

Vehicle license number and state and the person's license number and state if he or she is NOT USDA licensed or registered;

Date of consignment;

Official USDA / State / Gold Label Pets® tag number, tattoo, or microchip assigned;

A description of each animal including the species, breed or type; sex; date of birth or approximate age; and color with distinctive markings;

ONE copy of these records shall be given to the consignor of each animal, ONE copy shall be given to the purchaser (this copy does not need to include the source and date of consignment) and ONE copy must be retained by the distributor.

Retention of Records

Breeders and distributors are required to keep records for one (1) year after an animal is sold or disposed of unless there is written permission from the USDA Administrator to destroy the documents earlier. If a breeder or distributor receives written notification of an investigation by the USDA, he or she is required to hold all records until the USDA authorizes their disposition.

Health Certificates

Breeders and distributors are required to have a valid health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian within 10 days prior to transport in commerce of any animal. A copy of the health certificate must accompany the animal during transportation.

B. Animal Identification

All animals must be identified according to USDA and Registry guidelines. The tag must be affixed to a well-fitted collar of leather or plastic, or other material determined to be humane by the APHIS in consultation with the breeder or distributor. The use of materials such as wire, elastic, or sharp metals that might cause injury or discomfort is not acceptable. If the animal is under 16 weeks of age, it can be identified by a USDA approved, temporary plastic collar inscribed with the information required for an official tag. When an international standard for electronic microchip identification is developed, Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® will endorse electronic microchip identification as a sole means of animal identification.

USDA Approved Tag

Breeders may obtain, at their own expense, official tags from commercial tag manufacturers. At the time the breeder is issued a license, the USDA will assign identification letters and numbers and inform them of the identification letters and numbers to be used on the official tags. Tags must be made of a durable alloy such as brass, bronze or steel, or of durable plastic. The tag may be either circular and not less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter OR oblong and flat, not less than 2 inches by 3/4 inch and affixed to an acceptable collar. Each tag shall have the following information embossed or stamped: “USDA” and the numbers identifying the state and breeder AND the numbers identifying the animal. Official tags shall be serially numbered, and no number can be used more than once within a five (5) year period.

Facility records must list all old and new tattoos or official tag numbers in the records of purchase required by the USDA. New official tag or tattoo numbers shall be used on all records of subsequent sales.

Official tags must be kept after an animal dies or is euthanized for at least one (1) year, or until called for by an APHIS official.

Tattoos

Animals may also be identified by a distinctive tattoo approved by the administrator. This tattoo must contain the breeder’s or distributor’s USDA assigned 5 letter tattoo, and numbers identifying the animal.

Microchip Identification

An international standard for electronic microchip identification is being developed by the International Standardization Organization. If such a standard is implemented, Gold Label Pets® will endorse electronic microchip identification as a sole means of animal identification.

C. Registry Associations

Registry associations mandate certain record keeping requirements in order to register adult and juvenile animals, as well as a method of identification for registered animals. United All Breed Registry® requires certified facilities and those who use UNITED to manage records in full compliance with applicable regulations issued herein.

Because negligence in record keeping and positive identification may result in penalties as severe as lifetime suspension from all registration privileges with a particular registry service, it is imperative that breeders and distributors maintain complete and accurate records.

While many of the record keeping requirements of the various registry associations are similar, each has its own specific set of regulations that must be followed. Breeders who have animals registered with more than one registry service should not assume that record-keeping compliance with one registry would automatically meet the requirements of another.

Breeders and distributors are encouraged to obtain and familiarize themselves with the complete set of requirements from each registry service with which they deal. Compliance should be determined by receiving a copy of their guidelines and any questions should be directed to them by obtaining their address or phone number from the telephone directory, or the Internet.

A Gold Label Certified Breeder should register purebred animals with a registry that maintains a system having requirements, ethics, and business practices which give the consumer a high degree of assurance they are receiving a pure bred animal. The registry should also have a source other than itself from which genealogical information is readily available without future reliance on the registries own database. (Registries that currently qualify include United All Breed Registry®, American Kennel Club®, and purple ribbon animals with United Kennel Club®. Other registries will be added as they are approved.)

APPENDIX

A. GOLD LABEL PETS® CERTIFIED FACILITY APPLICATION FORM:

Complete in Full (please print or type.)

Name: _____

Facility Name: _____

I am a: Breeder Distributor Pet Store Other (Please Specify) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

USDA License No. (if required): _____

Name of USDA Inspector: _____

Date of last inspection: _____

State License No. (if required): _____

Name of State Inspector: _____

Date of last inspection: _____

Attending Veterinarian: _____

Clinic Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Veterinarian's Phone Number: _____

Are you currently under investigation by a government agency? Yes No

If so, please name and explain:

Are you currently under investigation by a registry agency? Yes No

If so, please name and explain:

Is your membership in Gold Label Pets® current? Yes No New

I guarantee that the information on this application is truthful and accurate, and hereby agree to accept and abide by all terms, conditions, code of ethics, and inspections established by Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® for the Facility Program. I realize that violation of these terms could result in my dismissal from the program, the right to claim Gold Label Pets® Certification, and the privilege to advertise Gold Label status.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Please return with \$35.00 application fee to:

Gold Label Pets®
PMB 505
2020 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20006-1846

B. Program Code of Ethics

GOLD LABEL PETS® CODE OF ETHICS

As a member of the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care program, I recognize that in order to fulfill my obligations to: the animals in my care; my customers; the pet industry; and my community, both my business and personal life must be governed by honorable standards. Therefore, I solemnly pledge:

1. To provide conscientious care for animals entrusted to me, being constantly attentive to their security, safety and well being, and to place their welfare above all other business considerations.
2. To take every opportunity to learn more about my profession and to improve my services above personal gain.
3. To deal honestly and fairly and respect the confidence of every customer served.
4. To deal honestly and fairly with retailers and the public, and to avoid misrepresentation of my services.
5. To encourage responsible pet ownership, and to promote, especially through the charitable programs of Gold Label Pets®, an increased public awareness and acceptance of humane and noble animal programs.
6. To obey all applicable federal, state and local laws governing animal care.
7. As a member of Gold Label Pets® Certified Facilities, I pledge and will strive to see that all other members comply and conform to this code of ethics.

C. Veterinary Health Care (A breeder, distributor, or veterinarian may have additions to these schedules.) **Standards for Entry into Commerce**

Canine: Vaccination and parasite control

3 weeks of age

- Vaccinate: 1. Intranasal Bordetella
- Deworm: 1. Pyrantel Pamoate, Nemex or Strongid T.

4 weeks of age (recommended, not required)

As coccidia and giardia stat:

- 1. Albon (sulfadimethoxine) or SMZ (sulfamethoxazole).
- 2. Flagyl (metronidazole) or Panacur.

4 to 6 weeks of age

Customary weaning, depending on breed.

6 weeks of age

- Vaccinate: 1. DMP product and MLV High Titer CPV or Distemper, Hepatitis, Adenovirus Type 2 and MLV High Titer CPV.
- Deworm: 1. Pyrantel Pamoate, Nemex or Strongid T.
2. Hook or roundworms use Panacur or Benamidazoles.
- Ear Mites: 1. Mitocide in ears or Ivomec at Mitocide dose.

7 weeks of age (recommended, not required)

As coccidia and giardia stat:

- 1. Albon (sulfadimethoxine) or SMZ (sulfamethoxazole).
- 2. Flagyl (metronidazole) or Panacur.

Five (5) days prior to transport (minimum required)

As coccidia and giardia stat:

- 1. Albon (sulfadimethoxine) or SMZ (sulfamethoxazole).
- 2. Flagyl (metronidazole) or Panacur.

Prevention of external parasites is critical in confinement or herd type environments. Your local veterinarian can supply product and dose information of products such as Ivermectin compounds as well as correct usage and mixtures of the least toxic chemical compounds for prevention of external parasites.

Animals will remain with the producer for a minimum of 56 days prior to entry into commerce.

If sold to a certified distributor, pets will remain in continuous transport or if transport is interrupted the animals received from a regulated facility will be held for a minimum of 24 hours, when received from a non regulated facility they will be held for at least 48 hours.

Feline: Vaccination and parasite control

3 weeks of age

- Deworm: 1. Benamidazoles or Pyrantal Pamoate.

4 to 6 weeks of age

Customary weaning, depending on breed.

5 weeks of age

- Vaccinate: 1. (Prior to weaning) FVRCP for Distemper, Calici, and Rhinotracheitis virus.
Deworm: 1. Benamidazoles or Pyrantal Pamoate.

7 weeks of age

- Deworm: 1. Benamidazoles or Pyrantal Pamoate.

8 Weeks of age

- Vaccinate: 1. FVRCP for Distemper, Calici, and Rhinotracheitis virus.
2. Optional) Chaldia, FIP
Deworm: 1. Benamidazoles or Pyrantal Pamoate.

Five (5) days prior to transport

As coccidia and giardia stat:

1. Albon (sulfadimethoxine) or Panacur.

Fungus prevention:

1. Bathe with a fungicidal solution at least five days prior to transport for commerce.

Test for FELV prior to entry into commerce.

Prevention of external parasites is critical in confinement or herd type environments. Your local veterinarian can supply product and dosage information of products such as Ivermectin compounds as well as correct usage mixture of the least toxic chemical compounds for prevention of external parasites.

Animals will remain with the producer for a minimum of 56 days prior to entry into commerce.

If sold to a certified distributor, pets will remain in continuous transport or if transport is interrupted the animals received from a regulated facility will be held for a minimum of 24 hours, when received from a non regulated facility they will be held for at least 48 hours.

Long Term Health Care

Canine:

- Vaccinate:
1. 12 to 16 weeks of age with DA2PL+CPV & Rabies.
 2. At one year of age revaccinate with DA2PL+CPV, Bordetella & Rabies.
 3. Revaccinate all females with DA2PL+CPV & Bordetella at weaning of each litter.
Males at least annually.
- Deworm:
1. At 12 – 16 weeks and each 6 months thereafter (or as needed as symptoms manifest).
 2. Deworm prior to each whelp with Pyrantel Pamoate or Benzimidazoles.
 3. Deworm females at each weaning of puppies' housed with her.
 4. Treat each female with Albon and Flagyl, or other coccidia & giardia stat when treating puppies housed with her, and all adults at least annually or if symptoms are manifest.
- Ectoparasitic control:
1. Annual treatment with Ivermectin or Mebilicmycine compounds or dips as needed.
 2. Treat females prior to estrus if used for breeding.
- Canine Brucellosis:
1. Follow guidelines published by Missouri Brucellosis Committee 1998. Isolate and test all incoming animals. Animals must test clean with 2 tests 40 days apart, prior to being admitted to the colony.

Feline Long Term Health Care

- Vaccinate:
1. Vaccinate at 12 – 16 weeks of age with MLV FVRCP and Rabies.
 2. Revaccinate at 1 year of age with MLV FVRCP and Rabies.
 3. Feline Leukemia test negative all animals annually and consider vaccination for Feline Leukemia, Feline Infectious Peritonitis, and Chlamydia.
- Deworm:
1. Females twice annually (not gestating) and also as suckling kittens are dewormed (use Pyrantel Pamoate, Benzimidazole) consult DVM if Ivermectin compound is considered. More frequent deworming if symptoms are manifest.
 2. Males at least twice each year.
- Ectoparasite Control:
- Bathe or dip as needed. Consult DVM prior to use of Ivermectin or mebillinicin. Fungus (especially ringworm) is a particular problem with cats. Chlorexaderine 1% as a dip or bath, let set for 5 minutes... lime shampoos, etc. may be used. It is very difficult to eradicate once introduced. A closed cattery and isolation of inbound animals for at least 30 days and possible vaccination with a ringworm vaccine would be recommended.
- New animals in isolation should test clean for FELV with 2 tests 40 days apart, prior to being admitted to the colony.

The USDA defines puppies and kittens as adults by 16 weeks of age. Standards of care, housing, transportation and vaccinations evolve to recognize the needs of animals as adults. Gold Label Pets® strongly encourages all members to become familiar with the standards in place for the healthy maintenance of all ages of dogs and cats.

D. United All Breed Registry

United All Breed Registry ® holds copyright to Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines®.

Information regarding United All Breed Registry® or the Gold Label Pets® Certified Humane Care Guidelines® may be obtained by writing to United All Breed Registry®, PMB 505, 2020 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006-1846.

Certified facilities and the pet professionals who use UNITED are required to manage their records in full compliance with applicable regulations issued herein. United All Breed Registry routinely encloses its regulations for the identification of registered animals and record keeping requirements with each request for information and with each litter that is registered.

