

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE  
ANIMAL CARE

**Pre-license Phone Discussion with Sugar Glider Breeder/Dealer Applicant**  
**INTERNAL USE**

➤ **Background and General Facility Questions**

- Have you been licensed with USDA-APHIS-Animal Care before?
- If so, how long ago were you licensed and for what timeframe?
  - Can you tell me what happened to cause this failure to renew your license?
  - Tell me about your past inspection reports – was anything cited, how were the problems fixed?
  - Were there any minor issues or concerns that your inspector discussed with you previously but did not put on the report?
  - What measures have you taken to fix those issues/concerns?
  - Do you understand that there are no “teachable moments” or minor issues for these pre-license inspections?
- How many sugar gliders are currently under your control or at your facility?
- How many of these animals are intact females and capable of being bred?
- Are these all of the animals and locations you are using or intending to use for regulated purposes?
- Have you ever pled ‘no contest’ or have you ever been found to have violated any Federal, State, or local laws or regulations pertaining to animals? When?
- Tell me about your facility and how and where your animals are housed. What types of enclosures do you utilize?

➤ **Animals Raised/Kept Inside the Home or Animals Cohabiting with Humans (Reference Animal Welfare Inspection Guide 4-22)**

- Do you keep or raise animals in your home?
- Do you have a special room or area in your home that is set aside specifically for the animals?
- If you do – do you understand that this animal area will need to meet the requirements of indoor housing including surfaces, ventilation, etc.? (need to refer to indoor housing facility questions at this point)
- Do you allow for free roaming enrichment?
  - How long?
  - Is the room closed off during this time?
  - Do you monitor the gliders during the free roaming time?
  - Are there household pets in the room during this time? (dogs, cats, etc.)
- Do you understand that the areas of the home that are available to the animals must be kept clean and safe to ensure their well- being? (Safety hazards – electrical cords, toxic plants, choking hazards, etc.)

- Do you understand that all areas housing animals and items associated with their care will need to be inspected?

➤ **Indoor Facilities (not applicable to animals cohabiting with humans):**

- How is the facility heated and cooled and how is the temperature regulated?
- What is the high temperature in the summer and the low temperature in the winter inside the facility?
- Tell me how you monitor the temperature and humidity levels?
- Do you use a dehumidifier?
- How is the facility ventilated? Doors, vents, windows, or some other auxiliary ventilation system?
- How is the facility lighted? Are there windows or skylights? What is the lighting schedule?
- Are interior surfaces including walls, floors, and ceilings impervious to moisture? What is used to make surfaces impervious to moisture?
- How often do you have maintenance issues that require repair or replacement? Are these issues currently fixed?

➤ **Enclosures and Sanitation**

- What are the size of the cages? (length, width, and height)
- What materials are the cages made of?
- How often do you repair or replace cages?
- How many gliders do you house per cage?
- Do you ever house more than that number?
- How often do you spot clean and change the pans out?
- How often do you sanitize the cages?
- What cleaning products do you use to clean the cages?
- What kind of enrichment do you use? (toys, exercise wheels, perching sticks, etc.)
- How often do you clean and sanitize the enrichment toys?
- Do you use nesting pouches or boxes?
- How often are the pouches washed or boxes sanitized?
- How often do you change the bedding out of the box?
- How often do you clean and sanitize food/water receptacles?

➤ **Veterinary and Health Issues**

- Who is your Attending Veterinarian (AV)?
- What experience does your AV have with sugar gliders?

- Has your attending veterinarian visited recently? When?
- What is your formal arrangement?
- How have you given your AV appropriate authority to ensure that adequate care is provided to your animals?
- Do you have a current, written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) signed by your AV?
- Does the written PVC reflect what you actually do at your facility?
- Does the PVC cover routine medications, vaccinations, routine treatments including routine dental care, and when needed, euthanasia?
- Do you have any expired or unlabeled medications?
- How often do you observe each animal and what do you do when problems are discovered?
- How are problems recorded and communicated to your AV?
- How do you maintain medical records?
- How do you handle neutering and other surgical procedures?

➤ **Identification and Records**

- How do you identify each animal?
- Are you familiar with APHIS Form 7019? (Record of animals on hand other than Dogs and Cats.) Form is not required but the information in 2.75 (b) (1) is.
- Have you recorded the animals on hand with the correct information on this form or a separate form?
- Do you have all the acquisition information possible (name, address, USDA license number, driver's license number, etc.)?
  - If not – can you get at least directions to the seller's facility?
  - A phone number?
  - Some form of official identification?
- Are you familiar with APHIS Form 7020? (Record of Acquisition, Disposition, or Transport of Animals – Other than Dogs and Cats) – Form is not required but the information in 2.75 (b) (1) is. (Still need to ask this question but need to make clear this is not required for the PL.)

➤ **Feeding and Watering**

- Do you bottle feed babies? How often?
- Tell me about the housing for the bottle babies? What formula do you use?
- Is the current diet being utilized at your facility homemade or commercial?
  - Describe the current diet.
  - Has this diet been discussed with the AV?
- Sugar gliders can have calcium deficiency issues. What measures are you taking to address this (i.e., supplement diet with yogurt, etc.)
- How is food stored? Is animal food separated from food intended for human consumption? Is animal food stored to prevent contamination

(chemicals/cleaners/medications/or any other non-food items)?

- How are extra bags of food and extra bedding material stored?

➤ **Additional Topics**

- How do you manage pest control?
- Who will be caring for the animals, apart from you?
  - Have they had training in the care and husbandry of the animals and are they familiar with:
    - your PVC
    - your maintenance plans
    - any other procedures you have in place to ensure compliance
- Are there days and/or times during the week when you are unavailable for routine inspections?
- Is there someone else who you can authorize to be available for routine inspections?
- Do you understand the difference between regulated and unregulated activity?
- Do you understand that you cannot conduct regulated activity until you have a USDA license?
- Do you have your copy of the Animal Welfare Act ("the blue book" or the CD)?
- Have you read through the regulations and standards that apply to your facility and to your situation?
- Do you understand that you are legally responsible for complying with all of them?
- Are you aware that once the first pre-license inspection is conducted, you have 90 days to complete the inspection process with a maximum of three inspections?
  - It can take a week or two to schedule second and third inspection so please allow for that time to schedule inspections.
- When the first pre-license inspection is conducted (please allow at least 2-4 hours), some educational components and tools will be presented. Once that is completed, a physical inspection of the facility will be conducted.
- Do you understand that 100% compliance is required to pass and receive a license?
- Do you feel that you are ready for an inspection?
- Do you have any questions