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Comment from Anonymous

Posted by the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** on Mar 4, 2026

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The optional forms Animal Care uses to allow facilities to fulfill the AWA regulations do not increase regulatory burden. In fact, they decrease regulatory burden and improve animal welfare.

When facilities opt to use these forms, it standardizes the inspection process. This helps the inspector locate the AWA required information efficiently and allows for a shorter and more efficient inspection. Faster inspections means more inspections and therefore, more opportunity for each inspector to ensure animal welfare.

The forms also better enable regulated facilities to achieve compliance. The forms are simple and easy to fill out with clear guidance on what the AWA requires. Without the forms, the facilities might not have as great of an understanding of what the regulations mean in "layperson" terms and what the requirements are. The forms therefore help ensure animal welfare.

This means that without the forms, facilities will be more likely to become noncompliant with the AWA. Documenting and addressing these potentially avoidable, non-critical noncompliances, again increases regulatory burden. With a federal shortage of Animal Care Inspectors, the inspector's time is extremely valuable for identifying and correcting serious welfare issues.

Finally, without the forms, regulated facilities are much more likely to ask inspectors for guidance, for a "template" (which would not exist), or for help interpreting and applying the laws and creating their own form. This in turn also increases regulatory burden and decreases inspector efficiency.

In summary, the optional forms APHIS provides both help reduce regulatory burden and help achieve compliance and ensure animal welfare. I strongly recommend keeping the forms available as an option for regulated facilities to use.

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