

PACFA UPDATE

Pet Animal Care Facilities Act

2009 LICENSING REMINDER

As 2008 comes to a close and we look onto the 2009 license year the PACFA program would like to remind our pet care facilities about license renewal dates.

At the end of January 2009 your license renewal application will be sent out to be received sometime the first of February. All PACFA licenses expire the last day of February 2009, regardless of when they are issued. Applications and fees for 2009 must be postmarked on or before March 1, 2009 to be renewed without penalties. If license renewals are postmarked after March 1, 2009 a 10% late fee will be assessed. Anyone who has not submitted an application and fees by April is operating without a license (a clear violation of the PACFA law) and is subject to a fine of up to \$200.00. No licenses can be issued or delivered until all fees, late fees and fines have been paid.

Each year the PACFA inspectors spend a significant amount of time sending out late letters, collecting fees and processing penalties. This costs the program money, labor and time of the inspectors and office staff. This affects the PACFA budget and contributes to the overall cost of the program. Rather than increase license fees to pay for these costs, we impose fines and late fees on those facility owners who do not comply.

It is important that the PACFA inspectors focus their time on inspections, complaint investigations and compliance work rather than processing paperwork related to late license renewals. As the program grows, timely license renewal becomes more and more important to help keep the program costs at a minimum. License applications can be printed at any time from the PACFA website at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals>.



Champ pondering his New Year's resolutions.



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PACFA REMINDERS

- Be sure to notify our office in writing if you close your facility.
- Remember to submit plans if you have a new facility or when remodeling affects a minimum of 25% of the square footage.

LOOK US UP

The webpage for PACFA can be found at: www.colorado.gov/ag/animals

Just look for the Pet Animal Care Facilities link to the left. We have various forms on the webpage, lots of links to additional information, etc. However, we do NOT have our regulations on line at this time. If you phone or email requesting regs, we're happy to mail or email them to you though. Email is:

pacfa@ag.state.co.us or lisa.gibson@ag.state.co.us

KITTY CHIPS



Got a cat? Get a chip! There is a great program where you can get your cat microchipped for FREE if you live in one of six counties in the Denver area. For all the details go to www.ChipYourCat.com.

Microchipping your cat is the best way to increase the chance of being reunited with your cat should your cat get lost. Even indoor cats should be microchipped as they can occasionally sneak out the door. Please pass this on to anyone you know that has a cat in the metro Denver area. The cats will thank you for it.

WARNING ABOUT COCOA MULCH

(MULCH ADO ABOUT COCOA)

As you prepare your flowerbeds and yard for the season, you may want to give consideration to what kind of mulch you are using. Veterinarians have noted that cocoa mulch contains ingredients that could pose a health risk to dogs (and other pets that might be tempted to ingest it). Found in most home garden centers, cocoa mulch is known for its fine texture and the sweet smell the fresh mulch gives off. It contains two key ingredients found in chocolate: theobromine and caffeine. Similar to eating chocolate, a dog that eats just a few ounces of cocoa mulch could start having stomach problems and it could get worse if it eats more.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) confirms the potential effects of theobromine and caffeine on dogs: Cocoa beans contain the stimulants caffeine and theobromine. Dogs are highly sensitive to these chemicals, called methylxanthines. In dogs, low doses of methylxanthine can cause mild gastrointestinal upset (vomiting, diarrhea, and/or abdominal pain); higher doses can cause rapid heart rate, muscle tremors, seizures, and death.

Eaten by a 50-pound dog, about 2 ounces of cocoa bean mulch may cause gastrointestinal upset; about 4.5 ounces, increased heart rate; about 5.3 ounces, seizures; and over 9 ounces, death. (In contrast, a 50-pound dog can eat up to about 7.5 ounces of milk chocolate without gastrointestinal upset and up to about a pound of milk chocolate without increased heart rate.) According to tables, cocoa mulch contains 300-1200 mg. of theobromine per ounce, making cocoa mulch one of the strongest concentrations of theobromine your pet will encounter in any chocolate product. Yet the question of the gravity of the risk presented by this type of gardening mulch remains a matter of debate. *According to Hershey's: It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it.* Some manufacturers of cocoa mulch (such as the Cocoa Mulch brand) now proclaim that their products are theobromine-free and pet safe. Responsible pet owners should take care in their selection of cocoa mulch brands; some might prefer to choose another form of soil enhancement for their gardens, such as cedar-based products, rather than gamble their dogs won't be attracted to or harmed by cocoa mulch.

Chocolate's toxicity to animals is directly related to three factors: the type of chocolate, the size of the animal, and the amount of chocolate ingested. Unsweetened baking chocolate presents the greatest danger to pets because it contains the highest amount of theobromine, approximately 390-450 mg. per ounce. White chocolate contains the least. As a general rule of thumb, one ounce of milk chocolate per pound of body weight can be lethal for dogs and cats. (Milk chocolate contains approximately 44-66 mg of theobromine per ounce.)

Theobromine affects the heart, central nervous system, and kidneys, causing nausea, vomiting, restlessness, diarrhea, muscle tremors, and increased urination. Cardiac arrhythmia and seizures are symptoms of more advanced poisoning. Other than induced vomiting, vets have no treatment or antidote for theobromine poisoning. Death can occur in 12 to 24 hours.



Do not feed chocolate to dogs or cats. Do not leave chocolate lying out, to avoid your pet helping himself. If your animal begins exhibiting signs of distress and you believe he might have gotten into some chocolate, call your veterinarian immediately. (It will help if you can supply information about the approximate weight of your critter, what sort of chocolate was ingested—white, milk, dark, cocoa powder, baking—and roughly how much.) But time is of the essence if such a poisoning has indeed taken place, so make the call right away.

“No one appreciates the very special genius of your conversation as much as the dog does.”

-Christopher Morley

RULE CHANGE INFO

The PACFA Advisory Committee and staff held the annual meeting September, 2008 in Lakewood. This was another very successful day to exchange information and meet with industry representatives. The Colorado Association of Dog Daycares made a very informative presentation to the Committee which generated a good discussion and ideas for the future.

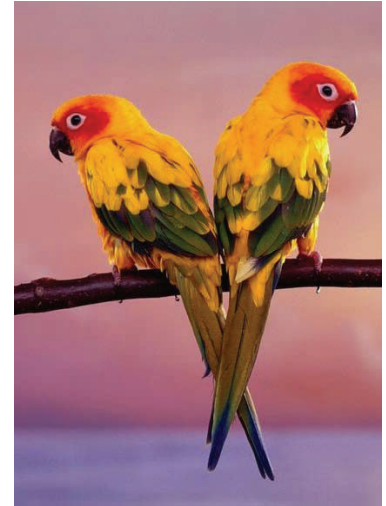
Also during the meeting several proposed rule changes were reviewed and approved. The proposed changes were necessary to bring the Animal Shelter and Rescue rules into agreement with the 2008 legislation which requires animals adopted from shelters and rescues be spayed or neutered prior to leaving or that the adoptive owner pay a deposit and sign a contract to have the animal sterilized within 90 days of adoption. This legislation will significantly affect Colorado's shelters and rescues and the purpose of the rules will be to provide guidelines for facilities to comply with the law. Within the shelter rules it was also proposed to require grooming of dogs to prevent severely matted hair and overgrown nails, to limit the number of animals kept by any one foster home to 8 dogs or cats, delete repetitive language regarding primary enclosures for dogs, and remove the requirement that rabbits be housed on flooring made of 1/2 inch by 1 inch galvanized welded steel grid, thus allowing for other flooring options.

Changes within rules for Animal Rescue were made to provide for additional record keeping and reporting to comply with the spay/neuter law and provide guidelines for operation in compliance with the requirement to spay and neuter all animals leaving the rescue.

One change was proposed for Pet Grooming which involves changing the age of the supervisor of co-mingled dogs from 18 yrs minimum to 16 yrs minimum. It also brings the language into agreement with the same requirement within Boarding and Training and adds that anyone actively involved in grooming a dog is not an acceptable supervisor for co-mingled dogs.

Finally, changes to the Dog Breeder rules were proposed to require a maintenance record be kept for each dog kept at the facility for breeding and require grooming of dogs in the facility to prevent severely matted hair, and overgrown nails. These changes were strongly recommended by the committee and inspectors to prevent health issues in those dogs used for breeding purposes and kept on the facility for an extended period of time.

A public hearing on these changes was held on December 1, 2008, at which public testimony for and against the changes was heard and entered on the record. The final step was approval by the Agriculture Commission on December 9, 2008. The rules as approved will take effect January 30, 2009. A copy of the new rule can be obtained by calling or emailing Lisa at our office, 303-239-4167 or lisa.gibson@ag.state.co.us. Copies can be mailed, faxed or transferred electronically.



**"Cats are
designated
friends."**

-Norman Corwin



BRIGHT IDEAS!

- To keep caged animals warm without generating loads and loads of laundry, place a layer of bubble wrap under a towel. This combination keeps the animal off the cage floor and provides insulation without adding as much to the laundry pile.
- A 60 ml. syringe can be used to unclog sinks. The barrel fits snugly into most drains and can be used to push drain cleaner or water through the clogged drain. Sometimes it takes several attempts of forcing air and backed-up liquid through.

THIS & THAT



Important PACFA Regulation Reminders for 2009

- 1.** During the winter months heating is deemed necessary when the ambient temperature of the facility falls below 50 degrees Fahrenheit for a period of 4 consecutive hours.
- 2.** Ventilation shall be adequate to provide for the health and comfort of the animals and to minimize odor and moisture.
- 3.** During the 2009 license renewal period breeder facilities must renew their waivers for housing more than 5 dogs in any one common area at any one time.
- 4.** Shelters which do not have a veterinarian on staff shall have a written agreement with a veterinarian for services and consultation regarding animal health needs, treatments and disease processes. A copy of such an agreement with non-staff veterinarian(s) shall be kept on the premises. This agreement shall be updated each licensing period.
- 5.** The animal shelter and rescue licensee shall report to the Commissioner on a yearly basis the number of dogs, cats and other pet animals that are accepted into the animal rescue or foster home(s). This report is due with your 2009 renewal in March.

NEW FOR 2009

- If you wish to continue to receive notice of rule change hearings, you must check the box on your renewal application.
- Shelter/Rescue reporting forms have been updated to provide more information. Please review the form and FAQ sheet you receive with your renewal packet.
- Breeders need to remember to submit a request for waiver if they are commingling more than 5 dogs or tethering dogs.
- Please be sure and put your county on your renewal application, below your facility information.



Pet Animal Care Facilities Act
Division of Animal Industry
700 Kipling St., Suite 4000
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000

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