



December 20, 2017

Congress Wraps Up Business and Prepares to Go Home for the Holidays

With the long-awaited tax reform package on its way to the President's desk, GOP leaders in Congress likely will want to maintain momentum and take positive action to fund the federal government beyond Dec. 22, when the current continuing resolution (CR) expires. For their part, Democrats now do not appear ready to hold up extension of the CR [in order to force a vote on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program \(DACA or the Dream Act\)](#). It is expected that [another short-term CR will be approved](#), again allowing Congress to delay FY 2018 federal appropriations decisions until early next year.

NIH-USDA-FDA 21st Century Cures Act Listening Session on Animal Research, Jan. 9

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seeking information to improve coordination of regulation and policies with respect to research with laboratory animals, as required by the [21st Century Cures Act, Section 2034 \(d\)](#). Join representatives from the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), USDA Animal Care, and FDA to provide your input concerning possible actions the agencies should consider to improve the coordination and harmonization of regulations and policies. The session will immediately follow the Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) sessions on Jan. 9 from noon to 1:00 p.m. in Washington, DC, at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Congressional Room A. Institutional membership in FDP is not required to attend the listening session. Attendance is free but [registration](#) is required. NABR representatives plan to attend and offer suggestions.

APHIS Releases Two New Tech Notes of Importance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) released two new Animal Care Tech Notes last Friday, with a cover letter to registrants and licensees from APHIS Deputy Administrator Bernadette

Juarez. [The first](#) is titled “Incentives for Identifying, Reporting, Correcting, and Preventing Noncompliance with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).” As an additional incentive for facilities to report a noncompliance, Animal Care will not cite an AWA noncompliance on an inspection report if the criteria contained in the Tech Note are met. Different criteria are provided for critical noncompliances and non-critical noncompliances. Both sets of criteria require, among other things, that the facility “timely discovers the noncompliance using its own compliance and monitoring program” and “immediately takes appropriate corrective action.” After the facility reports a critical incident, Animal Care will assess and potentially take further action based on the severity of the noncompliance. Please review the criteria carefully to understand facility responsibilities and the role of APHIS inspectors.

[The second Tech Note](#) focuses on daily observation recommendations for animals at research facilities. The Note includes suggestions on the frequency of observing animals, how an animal should be inspected and handled, and what symptoms would indicate potential health or welfare issues. It also provides examples of observation methods adopted by other research facilities, such as “daily observation should be done as a sole task with complete focus on the animals – separate from the rest of the work and daily chores,” and “monitor appetite and diet consumption as potential early indicators of concern.” APHIS states the note is only to provide helpful suggestions for monitoring animal welfare and its contents do not constitute mandatory regulatory requirements.

USDA Seeks Public Input on Recognizing Third-Party Inspections and Certifications of AWA Facilities

U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal Care program is asking for public input on whether to recognize inspections (and similar reviews) by third-party programs when determining the frequency of federal inspections for facilities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Beginning on January 18, 2018, Animal Care will host four in-person listening sessions and one virtual session to obtain desired feedback. Any interested person may speak. A list of locations and dates for these sessions, along with instructions for registering, are located [here](#). Instructions also are provided for submitting written comments.

Animal Care inspectors conduct routine, unannounced inspections of all AWA licensees and registrants. Various factors determine the inspection frequency for each entity – including a facility’s history of adhering to the federal regulations and standards. Some licensees and registrants already use a third-party program to support animal welfare at their facilities. “We are interested in learning more about these programs, and hearing our regulated community’s and stakeholders’ views on how we might consider the use of these programs in our administration of the Animal Welfare Act, said Animal Care Deputy Administrator Bernadette Juarez. “We are always looking for ways to serve our regulated community and direct our resources more effectively.”

Eleventh Hour for Animals Targeting Researchers and their

Families over the Holidays

The Florida-based animal rights group Eleventh Hour for Animals recently [announced online](#) their intent to target local researchers' homes over the holidays, encouraging followers to join the protests. Demonstrations are scheduled at the homes of at least three different researchers affiliated with the University of Florida, Gainesville from Friday, Dec. 22 through Sunday, Dec. 24. The event is titled "XMAS with the Vivisectors," during which Eleventh Hour will be "spending quality time with vivisectors and their families this holiday season." The post prompted readers to solve a "Christmas Riddle" which displayed a picture of two unnamed young children with the caption: "The family resemblance in this old holiday photo is stunning. Do these kids know what monsters are in their bloodline???" The post included contact information for Eleventh Hour, directed to interested supporters in Florida and New York. Eleventh Hour for Animals was founded by Camille Marino, a convicted animal liberation activist who is known for directly targeting researchers. The post was also featured on Camille Marino's blog and website.

NABR's Next Webinar Rescheduled for Feb. 6

During NABR's November webinar, "Reducing Burden: Options and Opportunities," it was announced that our next webinar, annual review of USDA inspection data, is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2018. The important meeting described above, related to the reduction of regulatory burden as required by the 21st Century Cures Act, has since been scheduled for the same date. **Therefore, NABR is moving the webinar to Feb. 6, 2018.** Please mark your calendar for the new date and join us for "The 2017 USDA Inspection Data: Celebrating a New Milestone in Compliance?"

Each year, NABR collects information from the USDA's Animal Care Inspection System database and reviews overall inspection results. The effort was complicated this year by lack of access to the searchable database, which could be used to download actual data into spreadsheets, allowing for a relatively straightforward analysis of the inspection results. The new Public Search Tool provides data efficiently, but it is difficult to summarize. Fortunately, with our careful analysis, NABR still will provide you with valuable insight into the inspection process.

Please join NABR on Feb. 6, 2018 when we look at the FY 2017 data and compare it to analyses of previous years. Our findings will demonstrate how the research community continues to improve its compliance with the letter and spirit of the regulations. This information will help you manage your own animal care and use program in the coming fiscal year. Registration is complimentary for dues-paying NABR members and subscribers.

See You in 2018!

Unless there is major news to report, this is the last NABR Update of the Year. Look for the next NABR Update in your box by Friday, Jan. 5.

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