

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Facts

We provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management.

We have a vision to provide economic opportunity through innovation, helping rural America to thrive; to promote agriculture production that better nourishes Americans while also helping feed others throughout the world; and to preserve our Nation's natural resources through conservation, restored forests, improved watersheds, and healthy private working lands.

Our strategic plan serves as a roadmap for the Department to help ensure we achieve our mission and implement our vision.

Who We Are

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is made up of 29 agencies and offices with nearly 100,000 employees who serve the American people at more than 4,500 locations across the country and abroad.

How We Work

The core values described in our strategic plan provide our workforce with direction and goals along with milestones that we use to measure our progress, and help to guide decisions about our budget, programs and services.

Our History

On May 15, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation to establish the United States Department of Agriculture and two and a half years later in his final message to Congress, Lincoln called USDA "The People's Department." Through our work on food, agriculture, economic development, science, natural resource conservation and other issues, USDA has impacted the lives of generations of Americans.

USDA Website: <https://www.usda.gov/>

Most comments USDA Requirements affecting zoos:

ALL including Commissary-

- All horizontal surfaces clean including but not limited to cabinets, counters, refrigerators
- No chemical stored above or near food
- Floors swept and mopped
- No spider webs
- Freezers defrosted
- All opened cans labeled and dated & properly sealed

- All foods thawed in refrigerator or cooler- i.e. fish, meat, rodents, chicks
- All refrigerator temperatures between 33-39F
- Any medications labeled with patient name, length of treatment, dose, date
- No expired drugs/food/supplements
- No open bags of grain in cabinets- must be stored in covered containers
- No human food in animal food only refrigerators
- All garbage cans and grain bins tightly covered with lids
- Prepared foods (grains, chows, etc.) stacked on pallets, 6" from walls

Haybarn-

- Loose hay swept off floor
- All hay stacked on pallets off floor and not touching walls
- Open bags of shavings in closed containers
- No spider webs

Coolers/Freezers-

- Cooler/refrigerator temperatures= 33-39F
- Freezer temperature= less than 32F
- No food or containers on floor
- No food or containers touching walls
- All food in freezer covered and protected from freezer burn
- No standing blood at bottom of thawed meat containers
- Floors free of food and debris
- No spoiled produce stored

Exhibits-

USDA is only legally concerned with mammal exhibits, but the following should apply to all exhibits:

- Fresh, clean drinking water available, pools do not count as a potable water source, automatic waterers should not leak
- No standing water on exhibit floors
- No rust, no wires, no sharp edges, no exposed nails, no broken fences, etc.
- Resting benches in all cat night quarters
- Shelter from rain/hail- access given to night houses if any extended period of rain
- No exposed bottom wires to exhibits
- No chewed or rotting wood in exhibits
- No spider/cob webs in exhibits or barns
- Wire cages must have impermeable, plastic or varnished resting boards- i.e. rabbits & rodents
- Feeder animals should not be crowded- see USDA minimum standards- have fresh food and water. Clean bedding provided. Those on wire cages must have resting boards provided.

Service areas-

- No chemicals stored above or near food

- No expired medications
- Floors swept and mopped
- No food stored uncovered (bins or in refrigerator)
- Refrigerator temperatures 33-39F
- All containers properly labeled

Enrichment-

- Primates must be enriched daily.
- Primate enrichment log up to date- responsibility of Animal Behavior Programs Manager to see keepers are entering info into logs on a regular basis
- Singly housed primates with up-to-date enrichment forms filled out

Vet Hospital-

- Animal medical records up to date and legible
- No expired food/drug/supplements (unless labeled clearly as such and separated)
- All veterinary protocols on USDA form followed- i.e. fecals, vaccination schedules
- Refrigerator clean, no food- either human or animal, temp= 33-39F
- Freezers defrosted, any cadavers labeled with ID#, spp., date
- Horizontal surfaces clean
- No chemicals stored over or near food
- Floors swept and mopped
- No human food/utensils in lab or treatment room sinks
- Sinks clean
- Garbage cans covered
- Elephant annual TB test results up-to-date and available