

AFA IN BRIEF  
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## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT

There are currently proposed changes to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that seek to standardize the technology of microchips and microchip scanners/readers so that all microchips may be read by all scanners/readers in order to help lost animals be returned to their owners. Please note this regulation does NOT require the mandatory microchipping of animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act including birds not used in research.

The following is a summary of the proposed changes:

“The Conference Committee Report accompanying the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109-97) directed the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop appropriate regulations that allow for an open radio frequency identification technology microchip system that would enable a scanner to read all microchips used for the identification of pets. In addition, APHIS has received a petition from the Coalition for Reuniting Pets and Families requesting that we consider establishing a national identification standard for pets and publish a notice soliciting comments on the need for the adoption of ISO 11784 and 11785 as the national radio frequency technology standard for pets. We are currently considering the direction given in the congressional report and the petitioners' request. This notice solicits public comment on potential changes to our regulations that would address the use of microchips for identifying animals covered under the Animal Welfare Act and advises the public that APHIS is hosting a series of informational meetings on that subject and the issues raised in the conference committee report and the petition.”

For more information about the proposed changes to the AWA please visit the AFA website at [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org).

## LIONS, TIGERS AND BIRDS, OH MY!

Join us for the Dallas Zoo tour on Wednesday August 2, 2006 and enjoy wondrous things. The Dallas Zoo is home to the historic Bird Valley, the oldest bird exhibit in Texas. A huge free-flight aviary was constructed during the 1930's in preparation for the Texas Statehood Centennial in the 1940's. Bird Valley is located along a creek and includes an ornamental plant garden which attracts butterflies during the warm months. It's a great place to bird and butterfly watch.

Of course, birds aren't the only attraction here! Kangaroo Corner, Primate Place, Birds of Prey, and other interesting animals are housed in the Dallas Zoo.

Plan to join AFA as we explore the Dallas Zoo! For more information on the upcoming convention, visit [www.afabirds.org](http://www.afabirds.org).