



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection Service

Subject: Clarification of Hybrid Animal Crosses—
Animal Welfare

Date: FEB 21 1985

To: Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
Directors, VS Regions
Animal Care Specialists, VS

Several years ago a memorandum clarifying the status of hybrid crosses between wild and domestic animals under the Animal Welfare Act was issued. The memorandum is apparently no longer available and did not receive wide distribution. This memorandum is therefore being issued in order to clarify the status of hybrid crosses.

All hybrid crosses between wild and domestic animals, such as wolf x dog, cat x jungle cat, buffalo x domestic cattle, etc., are considered to be domestic animals. Thus, a wolf x dog cross is considered to be a dog and must be maintained under the dog standards if it is a regulated animal. Any cross between two wild animals is still considered to be a wild animal (i.e., wolf x coyote, tiger x lion, etc.). This distinction should be kept in mind when applying the standards during inspection or determining if licensing is required or not.

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