AgNews

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Delaware DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
Serving Agriculture and Protecting Consumers

**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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**State Veterinarian reminds public of regulations governing admission of dogs and cats into Delaware from other states.**

Dr. Heather Hirst, State Veterinarian, wants the public to be aware of regulations governing the admission of dogs and cats into Delaware from other states. The State of Delaware Department of Agriculture requires that dogs and cats coming into Delaware must travel with a health certificate (HC). The HC is an official document issued by the state of origin and signed by an accredited veterinarian. The HC contains information about the consignor and consignee, and describes individual animals along with their health status at the time of approval. The HC should contain a statement that animals are free of infectious or contagious disease, to the best knowledge of the veterinarian who is signing the form in the origin state.

Dogs and cats must also have proof of current rabies vaccination prior to entering Delaware. The Delaware Rabies law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets to be current on rabies vaccinations. "The intent of these regulations is to prevent the entry of potentially sick animals into the state. If out-of-state animals are not vaccinated and evaluated for disease prior to moving into Delaware, they may pose a disease risk to whomever ends up taking them in," said Dr. Hirst.

She explains that this risk could be to humans or other pets already living in the household of an adoptive family. If a rescue group brings sick or unvaccinated dogs or cats into a kennel situation prior to adopting them out, these animals could cause a disease outbreak in Delaware that otherwise may have been prevented.

"Admission of animals" regulations for Delaware may be found at:

http://regulations.delaware.gov/AdminCode/title3/300/305.shtml#TopOfPage

Rabies law for Delaware can be found at:

http://delcode.delaware.gov/title3/c082/index.shtml

For more information, contact the Delaware Department of Agriculture Poultry and Animal Health Section – Phone: (800) 282-8685 (DE Only) or (302) 698-4500.

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