

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: May 31, 2012 CONTACT: Jay Fuller, DVM, Assistant State Veterinarian 907-375-8213

DEC to Host Workshops on Animal Care Standards

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of the State Veterinarian will be hosting a third series of public workshops regarding proposed animal care standards. The workshops will help DEC develop animal care standards that provide more detail on what constitutes adequate feeding, watering, and care for common livestock and domestic animals. The public is invited to discuss what they believe should be included in animal care standards for Alaska.

The third series of workshops will cover general care standards and humane euthanasia, as well as have open forum time for comments on specific animal species. The workshops will be held from 3:30 p.m until 5 p.m. on June 27 and July 2.

All interested persons are invited to attend by telephone at 1-800-315-6338 (use pass code 8213 when prompted) or in person at the State Environmental Health Laboratory at 5251 Dr. MLK, Jr. Ave, Anchorage, AK, 99507. Those unable to attend meetings can submit comments to the Department in writing via mail or email.

No proposed regulations have been formally public noticed for comment at this time. Animal care standards regulations will be proposed and a formal public comment period will be held for the entire regulation package later this year. Questions regarding these workshops can be directed to:

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More information on the workshops, minutes from prior meetings and a working draft of the proposed animal care standards are available at: <u>http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/vet/AnimalCareWorkshop.html</u>.