

INSTRUCTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Talk to your sheriff and inform him that animal rights activists and humane society personnel have been harassing breeders by trying to inspect breeding facilities even though they have no legal authority. Humane society investigators are merely employees of a private organization, nothing more! They have no legal authority to be on your property!

“Post” your property by putting up NO TRESPASSING signs or painting trees or fence posts purple. Other appropriate signs include “Authorized Personnel Only”, “Controlled Environment for Disease Control”, “No Audio or Video Recording Equipment Allowed”, etc. The Missouri Statute Section 569.145 states, *“the owner...may post the property by placing identifying purple paint marks on trees or posts around the area to be posted. Each paint mark shall be a vertical line of at least eight inches in length and the bottom of the mark shall be no less than three feet nor more than five feet high. Such paint marks shall be placed no more than one hundred feet apart and shall be readily visible to any person approaching the property.”* Remember, animal rights activists and humane society people will assume that, if the property is not “posted”, they are welcome to enter. As always, they will interpret the law in their own special way and to their advantage.

Prepare a clipboard for every place you enter your facility. Most clipboards can be hung on a nail with a ballpoint pen clipped to the top of the clipboard. On each clipboard have several copies of the “visitors form” and this instruction sheet. For recording the visit, have a camcorder or camera available with the clipboard. If you do not have a camera, disposable ones can be bought at most convenience stores or Wal-Mart. Keep one with each clipboard.

DO NOT leave a visitor alone if you do not have a cell or portable phone. If your spouse or employee can make the call to the sheriff, have them do so; otherwise, make the call as soon as the visitor leaves the premises.

If the visitor flashes a badge or identification card, do not be impressed. An inspector from USDA or the Missouri Department of Agriculture will let you see it clearly.

Missouri inspectors will have a badge and identification card; they will drive a vehicle with an official Missouri license number beginning with 11. If you have any doubts of their identity, you may call the Missouri Department of Agriculture at 573-751-3076.

USDA inspectors will be driving a vehicle with white U.S. Government license plates. You may call 970-494-7478 to verify their identity.

Once you let a visitor inside your facility, it is too late to tell them they are trespassing. Do all the talking outside. **Remember it is your facility and you are in control. You ask the questions** and you do not have to answer any of their questions. **Some humane society investigators are taking deputy sheriffs with them to premises, claiming they have a complaint against you. If they do not have a search warrant, ask them to leave.**

Fill out the “Visitors Form” in front of the visitor or as soon as you can while everything is fresh in your mind. If you are ever asked about the visit by the sheriff or the Department of Agriculture, you will have a record of the visit. Send a copy of the completed “visitors form” to MOFED for our records.

The **“NEVER DO”** list is for the protection of all of us. A clever animal rights activist or humane society investigator can gather bits of information from seemingly innocent remarks.