

IMPORTANT CHANGES REGARDING PLACEMENT OF YOUR CAT OR KITTEN

Transportation:

"We accept pickups only and the person who takes custody of the animal is considered the buyer." Donegal Cattery has had an excellent reputation for care and disease prevention in all offspring produced here. We go to the "nth" degree with top quality food, distilled water, more than adequate exercise, vaccinations, veterinarian examinations, ultrasounds for HCM, PKD records, and information for optimal care of a Persian cat/kitten.

Nevertheless, the federal government has decided to regulate breeders unless they comply with the latest federal rulings. Regulation, including licensing, identification tags, and record keeping can be very costly and the cost of breeding purebred cats already far outweigh the compensation we receive for placing one in a qualified home. Copies of Rabies certificates, kitten exams and extensive ancestral medical records are already a part of Donegal Cattery's practices, including keeping copies of contracts for every cat or kitten placed since the beginning. All of this is in addition to the cattery's involvement with DNA contributions to two highly important studies: HCM & FIP.

Donegal Cattery's new policy:

You or a designated representative must have a face to face meeting with me, the breeder, before finalizing the transfer of a cat or kitten (see second question below). This includes anytime up to and including the date of acquisition of said cat or kitten. These conditions must be complied with to prevent USDA from regulating Donegal Cattery requiring expensive licensing, identification tags, and record keeping. **Donegal Cattery is not now nor will ever be considered a retail pet store. This is a passionate hobby.** However, "The previous regulatory definition of 'retail pet store' was developed more than 40 years ago. It was meant to include traditional pet stores, **hobby breeders**, and other retail businesses where customers could personally observe an animal for sale prior to purchasing and/or taking custody of it." (excerpt taken from the new regulation). So the government considers a hobby breeder to be a retail pet store.

Therefore, in order to comply with the new regulations and prevent the licensing fee and other regulations (which will serve only to drive up adoption fees), a face to face meeting must occur prior to the final transaction for a cat or kitten. You may contact me regarding your options for a designated representative.

This assures our compliance with The United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) in the finalized version of the new regulations as of September 17, 2013. It also provides you the opportunity to be confident with your decision to adopt a Donegal cat or kitten. You may view the new federal regulations at this link:

www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_welfare/2013/faq_retail_pets_final_rule.pdf

Here are two Q&A excerpts from the new regulation explaining the actual USDA/APHIS terms:

Q. Under the final rule, what is the new definition of a retail pet store?

A. In the final rule, “retail pet store” means a place of business or residence at which the seller, buyer, and the animal available for sale are physically present so that every buyer may personally observe the animal prior to purchasing and/or taking custody of it after purchase. By personally observing the animal, the buyer is exercising public oversight over the animal and in this way is helping to ensure its health and humane treatment.

Retailers who sell their pet animals to customers in face-to-face transactions do not have to obtain an AWA license because their animals are subject to such public oversight.

Q. If a person cannot personally observe an animal before buying it, can someone else stand in?

A. Yes. Some commenters to our proposed rule noted that it would be difficult for certain people—for instance, foreign, disabled, or elderly customers—to personally observe the animals they wish to buy. **We consider the buyer of a pet animal sold at retail to be the person who takes custody of the animal after purchase, even if this person is not the ultimate owner of the animal.** This person cannot, however, be a commercial transporter or intermediate handler.

We strongly recommend that kittens be personally picked up at Donegal Cattery. It is the least stressful for the cat or kitten and allows them time to adjust to a new family before leaving our Cattery. But when that isn't possible, you may designate someone as a “buyer” to pick up the cat or kitten for you. These arrangements must be made in advance and be approved by me, the breeder. All costs for that transfer, including flight costs and health certificates when required, are the responsibility of the ultimate owner.