

E.O. 12866 Meeting

RIN: 0579-AE61 **Title: Establishing AWA Standards for Birds**

Monday, December 27, 2021, 2:30 p.m. Eastern / 11:30 a.m. Pacific
Via teleconference

Agenda:

- Overview, Legal (Bruce Wagman)
- Birds in Exhibition (Debbie Leahy)
- Disease Risk (Monica Engebretson)
- Welfare Problems (Nancy Blaney)
- Importance of Full Coverage (Sue Leary)
- Questions from OMB

Attendees:

Bruce Wagman is an attorney and educator whose practice focuses solely on animal law. He has been involved with various legal aspects of the Animal Welfare Act for years, and will provide a brief overview of the Act and the developments that have resulted in the Congressionally- and judicially-ordered regulations regarding birds not bred for use in research.

Debbie Leahy is Senior Strategist for captive wildlife for the Humane Society of the United States. HSUS and its affiliate, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, campaign to end the suffering of animals caused by humans in wild and captive settings. Debbie will highlight birds in public exhibition settings, the ways they are mistreated, and the solutions available through USDA regulation.

Monica Engebretson is a member of the Board of Directors of the Avian Welfare Coalition (AWC), which for over twenty years has worked to improve the welfare of birds held in captivity and promote the conservation of birds in the wild. AWC has provided educational resources and assistance on the care of captive birds to the public, animal shelters and rescues and to humane law enforcement in addition to working to support laws at the state and federal level to protect birds. Monica will stress the importance of regulations to prevent disease outbreaks and transmission that can impact birds, humans, wildlife and agriculture.

Nancy Blaney is the Director of Government Affairs for the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) in Washington, DC. Founded in 1951, AWI's mission is to end human-caused animal suffering. Founder Christine Stevens worked with Congress to achieve passage of the Animal Welfare Act in 1966. Nancy will explain and address the importance of particular welfare standards under the AWA and the substantial value of those standards.

Sue Leary is the President of the American Anti-Vivisection Society and its affiliate, the Alternatives Research & Development Foundation, both of which are located in Jenkintown, PA. The organizations monitor and address issues related to the use of animals in science and have been involved in legal action and lobbying with respect to the federal government's failure to enact regulations extending protections to animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act. Sue will stress the importance of the current regulations applying to all birds that are covered under the AWA.