§ 2.51 Form of official tag.

(a) The official tag shall be made of a durable alloy such as brass, bronze, or steel, or of a durable plastic. Aluminum of a sufficient thickness to assure the tag is durable and legible may also be used. The tag shall be one of the following shapes:

(1) Circular in shape and not less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter, or

(2) Oblong and flat in shape, not less than 2 inches by 3/4 inch and riveted to an acceptable collar.

(b) Each tag shall have the following information embossed or stamped on so that it is easily readable:

(1) The letters "USDA";

(2) Numbers identifying the State and dealer, exhibitor, or research facility (e.g., 39–AB); and

(3) Numbers identifying the animal (e.g., 82488).

(c) Official tags shall be serially numbered. No individual dealer or exhibitor shall use any identification tag number more than once within a 5-year period.

§ 2.52 How to obtain tags.

Dealers or exhibitors may obtain, at their own expense, official tags from commercial tag manufacturers.4 At the time the dealer or exhibitor is issued a license or is registered, the Department will assign identification letters and numbers and inform them of the identification letters and numbers to be used on the official tags.

§ 2.53 Use of tags.

Official tags obtained by a dealer, exhibitor, or research facility, shall be

4 A list of the commercial manufacturers who produce these tags and are known to the Department may be obtained from the AC Regional Director. Any manufacturer who desires to be included in the list should notify the Administrator.
applied to dogs or cats in the manner set forth in §2.50 and in as close to consecutive numerical order as possible. No tag number shall be used to identify more than one animal. No number shall be repeated within a 5-year period.

§ 2.54 Lost tags.
Each dealer or exhibitor shall be held accountable for all official tags acquired. In the event an official tag is lost from a dog or cat while in the possession of a dealer or exhibitor, the dealer or exhibitor shall make a diligent effort to locate and reapply the tag to the proper animal. If the lost tag is not located, the dealer or exhibitor shall affix another official tag to the animal in the manner prescribed in §2.50, and record the tag number on the official records.

§ 2.55 Removal and disposal of tags.
(a) Where a dog or cat to which is affixed or which is identified by an official tag is euthanized, or dies from other causes, the dealer or exhibitor shall remove and retain the tag for the required period, as set forth in paragraph (b) of this section.
(b) All official tags removed and retained by a dealer or exhibitor shall be held until called for by an APHIS official or for a period of 1 year.
(c) When official tags are removed from animals for disposal, the tags must be disposed of so as to preclude their reuse for animal identification. No animal identification number shall be used within any 5-year period following its previous use.

Subpart F—Stolen Animals

§ 2.60 Prohibition on the purchase, sale, use, or transportation of stolen animals.
No person shall buy, sell, exhibit, use for research, transport, or offer for transportation, any stolen animal.

Subpart G—Records

§ 2.75 Records: Dealers and exhibitors.
(a)(1) Each dealer, other than operators of auction sales and brokers to whom animals are consigned, and each exhibitor shall make, keep, and main-