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Regulations on animal handling businesses

Persons engaged in animal handling businesses must be registered by a prefectural governor or mayor of a designated city for each place of business and business category. Such people are also required to comply with standards pertaining to methods for the management of the animals, and the size and structure of animal facilities, etc. Moreover, as animal handlers, they must treat animals properly, as living beings.

Regulated business categories

Persons involved in the selling, keeping, lending, training, or exhibiting of animals* as a business must be registered prior to the commencement of such a business. This requirement also applies to businesses that do not own animals or animal facilities, such as sales agencies using the Internet, pet-sitting businesses, dispatched training businesses, etc.

*This requirement applies to mammals, birds, and reptiles (except laboratory animals and live stocks).

Business category	Business description	Examples of relevant businesses
Selling	Business that engages in retail or wholesale sales of animals or the breeding, import, or export of animals for this purpose (including agency).	-Retailer -Wholesaler -Business that breeds or imports animals for sale -Business that rears animals for the purpose of sales at market stalls, etc. -Business not having animal facilities that engages in mail-order sales via the Internet, etc.
Keeping	Business that accepts customers' animals for the purpose of keeping	-Pet hotel operator -Beauty business (that treats animals) -Pet sitter
Lending	Business that lends out animals for show, photography, breeding, etc.	-Pet rental business -Animal dispatcher (for appearance in movies, photography, breeding; etc.)
Training	Business that accepts customers' animals for the purposes of training	-Business that trains animals -Business that dispatches trainers
Exhibiting	Business that exhibits animals (including those that provide opportunities for human beings to come into contact with animals)	-Zoo -Aquarium -Traveling zoo -Animal circus -Theme park that allows contact with animals -Horse-riding facility/animal therapy business (when the purpose is to allow "contact with animals")