APHIS/USDA Guidelines for Auction Cages
Modified 9/13/2024

APHIS/USDA Guidelines (Subpart F 3.137) were printed in the last newsletter and have been posted to the club website and facebook. In order to check in caged animals (poultry, waterfowl, game birds, peafowl, rabbits, and warm room cages) your cages must meet these guidelines:

1. Cages must have a solid bottom and be sturdy enough that they will not collapse if stacked.
2. Cages must be constructed of sturdy wire that is small enough that the animal can not stick it head, or other body part through the wire. NO 2 x 2 or field wire or sharp edges on the cage interior to injure animal.
3. Clean food and water containers such as a clean tin can that is appropriate in size to the number of animals in the cage. **NO SOLO CUPS, OLEO TUBS, OR CUT OFF SODA BOTTLES**.
4. Easy access door. (As far as cages consigned to the main arena, HOAGBA auction staff has never had a problem in the past, using wire cutters to remove a hog ring or two from the side wire to access a bird. An easy access door/opening could be obtain by removal of hog rings from side or top wire to gain entrance to remove a bird or animal.)
5. Bedding in the cage. (Use straw or hay on solid bottom wooden cages to give birds footing
6. NO CARDBOARD BOXES except for warm room chicks.
7. NO LAUNDARY BASKETS
8. MINERAL TUBS must have holes cut into sides for ventilation. All cages must have 90% ventilation.

APHIS/USDA regulations also state that live birds transported in the same primary enclosure must be of the same species or compatible species and maintained in compatible groups. If more than one bird is being transported, socially dependent birds must be able to see and hear each other.

Primary enclosures used to transport live birds must be large enough to ensure that each bird contained therein has sufficient space to turn about freely and to make normal postural adjustments; **Provided, however, that certain species may be restricted in their movements according to professionally accepted standards** when such freedom of movement would constitute a danger to the birds, their handlers, or other persons. (Typically-constructed peafowl cages which are long and narrow with an opening at one end for the tail to be outside the cage meet the professionally accepted standard. If one is consigning flighty birds such as ringnecks and other fowl, you may construct cages without a lot of headroom so the birds are unable to jump up and injure themselves. Meets the pa standard.)

All animals sold at the auction are sold for agricultural purposes so the cages DO NOT have to have handles or ‘Live Animal Stickers”.