



Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Veterinary Division*

David T. Marshall, DVM  
State Veterinarian

November 8, 2013

Mr. Charles Vacharis  
Grateful Pets  
3735 Monroe Road  
Charlotte NC 28205

SENT VIA UPS

**Notice of Warning**

**Re: Violations of Title 02, N.C. Administrative Code (NCAC) Chapter 52J, Section(s) listed below**

Facility: **Grateful Pets**

Dear Mr. Vacharis:

Jay Blatche, Animal Health Technician with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Animal Welfare Section, Veterinary Division, inspected your facility on November 6, 2013, and determined that the boarding facility may be in violation of state law and regulations. On that date Mr. Blatche found a number of deficiencies in conditions and/or practices at your shelter which can constitute violations of the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations. The following lists what must be done if the certificate of registration is to be maintained. Further, conditions found to be satisfactory must be maintained as such.

1. Each facility shall have the ability to determine ambient temperature.
2. Walls behind kennels have been repaired with materials that are not impervious to moisture.
3. Back door has deteriorated to the point that it may allow for the entry of rodents.
4. Staff was unable to provide proof of rabies vaccination for all animals.
5. Bottom tubs have been repaired with materials that are not impervious to moisture.

Based on the results of the above visit, you may have violated the following Agriculture regulations:

**02 NCAC 52J .0201        GENERAL**

(a) Housing facilities for dogs and cats shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury, contain the animals and restrict the entrance of other animals and people.

...  
(g) Each facility shall have the ability to confirm ambient temperature.

**02 NCAC 52J .0202        INDOOR FACILITIES**

(d) Interior building surfaces of indoor facilities with which animals come in contact shall be constructed and maintained so that they are impervious to moisture, and can be readily sanitized.

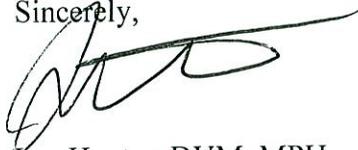
**02 NCAC 52J .0204        PRIMARY ENCLOSURES**

(b) Primary enclosures for dogs and cats shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair and in a manner to prevent injury to animals and keep other animals out. Primary enclosures shall be constructed so as to provide space to allow each dog or cat to walk, urn about freely, and to easily stand, sit, or lie in a natural position. The height of a primary enclosure other than a cage shall be no less than five feet. All enclosures shall be constructed to prevent the escape of animals.

**You are requested to address those concerns by providing a timeline informing the Section of the time needed to rectify each of the conditions listed above and return to full compliance with the NC Animal Welfare Act (NCAWA). You should address those concerns individually, stating in a written reply to the Section by no later than ten business days from the date you receive this Notice of Warning.** If you do not respond, providing a full time table for rectifying all of these violations, the Section may, upon confirming that serious violations continue to exist in your facility, take appropriate action as authorized under the NCAWA.

This letter shall constitute a **WARNING**. If a future violation of these statutes or regulations occurs, it could result in disciplinary action against your facility's certificate of registration pursuant to G.S. 19A-30 or the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 19A-40.

Sincerely,



Lee Hunter, DVM, MPH  
Director, Animal Welfare Section

BHB/bhb/mwb

cc: Mr. Barry Bloch, Assistant Attorney General  
Mr. Jay Blatche, NCDA, Animal Health Technician