



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

Christina Waggett
Assistant Commissioner
for Consumer Protection

Michael Martin, DVM
State Veterinarian

June 26, 2024

Kristyn Carter
Owner
Crutchfield Acres
311 Aspen Road
Reidsville, NC 27320

Re: Compliance with NC General Statute § 19A-28

Dear Ms. Carter:

The Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) opened an investigation into the potential operation of an unlicensed boarding kennel called Crutchfield Acres, located at 311 Aspen Road, Reidsville, NC 27320.

On June 11, 2024, Animal Health Technicians Shore and Sexton (“Inspectors Shore and Sexton”) and conducted a site visit at the 311 Aspen Road, Reidsville, NC address. They spoke with Jacob Vaughn and explained the requirement to have a valid boarding kennel license from AWS before boarding animals. This information was relayed directly to you via an email from Inspector Sexton on June 19, 2024 and during a courtesy Facility Compliance Inspection (“FCI”) on June 24, 2024.

The June 24, 2024 FCI noted that you have accepted new animals for boarding since the initial contact on June 11, 2024 and the email from Inspector Sexton on June 18, 2024. A review of AWS records does not show an active boarding kennel license for this facility or for you at any other address.

Until such a time the facility has a valid AWS boarding kennel license, you may not operate as a boarding kennel. This means that the facility may not board or provide day care services for any dogs or cats.

AWS received your boarding kennel license and application fee on June 26, 2024. The next step is for the kennel to pass a Facility Compliance Inspection and be issued a boarding kennel license from the AWS before housing any dogs or cats.

Failure to abide by this directive shall be considered a willful disregard or violation of the NC Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto. Under NC General Statute § 19A-40, violation of the NC Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto may result in the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation.

In addition, pursuant to NC General Statute § 19A-33, operation of a boarding kennel without a currently valid license constitutes a Class 3 misdemeanor with each day of operation constituting a separate offense.

Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Norris DVM MS".

Patricia Norris, DVM, MS
Director, Animal Welfare Section
Veterinary Division, NCDA&CS

cc:

Dr. Michael Martin, DVM, State Veterinarian, NCDA&CS
Christina Waggett, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS
Jonathan Lanier, General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Christopher McLennan, Assistant Attorney General

Appendix

RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

§ 19A-28. License required for public auction or boarding kennel.

No person shall operate a public auction or a boarding kennel unless a license to operate such establishment shall have been granted by the Director. Application for such license shall be made in the manner provided by the Director. The license period shall be the fiscal year and the license fee shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each license period or part thereof beginning with the first day of the fiscal year.

§ 19A-33. Penalty for operation of pet shop, kennel or auction without license.

Operation of a pet shop, kennel, or public auction without a currently valid license shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor subject only to a penalty of not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), and each day of operation shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 19A-40. Civil Penalties.

The Director may assess a civil penalty of not more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) against any person who violates a provision of this Article or any rule promulgated thereunder. In determining the amount of the penalty, the Director shall consider the degree and extent of harm caused by the violation. The clear proceeds of civil penalties assessed pursuant to this section shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2.