



**Steven W. Troxler**  
Commissioner

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

**Christina L. Waggett**  
Assistant Commissioner  
for Consumer Protection

**Michael Martin, DVM**  
State Veterinarian

January 29, 2024

Pam Jezick  
Owner  
Fifi's Friends at Laughing Dog Farm  
1581 Harrel Hill Road  
Bakersville, NC 28705

Dear Ms. Jezick,

This letter is to confirm that you have decided not to pursue registering "Fifi's Friends" as an animal shelter. In your emails received by AWS Animal Health Technician Lindsey Harris, it appears that you understand the definition of an animal shelter and intend to conduct your rescue activities in such a manner that your rescue does not need to be registered as an animal shelter.

You may not operate as an Animal Shelter without a valid AWS Animal Shelter registration. Future violation of the statutes or regulations relevant to the operation of an unregistered animal shelter will be considered a willful disregard or violation of the N.C. Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto. Such willful disregard or violation may result in the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation under NCGS § 19A-40.

In the future, should you wish to operate as an animal shelter, you must submit an Animal Shelter Registration Application. The application can be found at: [Animal Shelter Registration application \(ncagr.gov\)](http://ncagr.gov). Once the application has been approved, the facility must be in compliance with the NC Animal Welfare Act and its rules and pass a Facility Compliance Inspection.

I wish you well in your endeavors with Fifi's Friends rescue.

Sincerely,

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