



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

December 16, 2024

Heather Trull
Owner
Furbaby Country Club
628 Monroe Street
Statesville, NC 28677
and via email:
HeatherFurbaby@gmail.com

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

Dear Ms. Trull:

The Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) received a complaint alleging that you are operating a boarding kennel at 628 Monroe Street in Statesville, NC. AWS opened an investigation into the potential operation of an unlicensed boarding kennel based on this information.

Previously, you were issued an AWS Boarding Kennel License for the Furbaby Country Club. On May 18, 2023, AWS Inspector Christie Shore (“Inspector Shore”) emailed you requesting a status on the operation of this kennel and reminded you that if you decided to open another boarding kennel, you must contact AWS to begin the licensing process as this license was not transferable. You acknowledged her email on August 23, 2023 and stated that the kennel had ceased operations.

Due to the receipt of the complaint on October 24, 2024, Inspector Shore made 2 site visits to the address listed above, but no one answered the door. Dog related equipment was visible at the location. During the November 19, 2024 site visit, signage was noted at the facility that said “Furbaby Country Club.”

A review of the Facebook page for Furbaby Country Club on November 19, 2024 revealed a post from November 17, 2024 ago that said “If you’re needing boarding services, please email Aunt Heather. HeatherFurbaby@gmail.com” The Facebook page listed training, grooming, boarding and daycare services being available.

Therefore, AWS concludes that you may be operating as a boarding kennel as defined by NC General Statute § 19A-23(5c). 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 a valid AWS boarding kennel license has been issued by AWS, you may not operate as a boarding kennel. This means that the facility may not board or provide day care services for dogs or cats.

To initiate the process to become licensed as a boarding kennel, you must complete a new boarding kennel license application, submit the application fee, pass a Facility Compliance Inspection and be issued a boarding kennel license from the AWS before housing any dogs or cats. If you need a copy of the application form, it can be found on the AWS website at the following link:

<https://www.ncagr.gov/veterinary/awsnewboardingapp/open>.

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 current, 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,



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
Samuel Gray, 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.