



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

David T. Marshall, DVM
State Veterinarian

February 10, 2014

Ms. Linden Spear
The Haven Friends for Life Animal Shelter
400 Fulford –McMillan Rd.
Raeford, NC 28376

Re: WARNING LETTER
Request for Remediation Plan for Correcting Animal Shelter Deficiencies

Dear Ms. Spear:

As you are aware, your shelter facility was inspected by members of the staff of the Animal Welfare Section of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This section is responsible for enforcing state laws and regulations applicable to boarding kennels, pet shops and public and private animal shelters. You have received a copy of those laws and the rules establishing the minimum standards for conditions and practices in animal shelters in North Carolina.

The inspection conducted on October 29, 2013, was a comprehensive inspection for the purpose of determining the extent of the shelter's progress toward meeting minimum standards and qualifying for registration. The shelter's progress was measured against its conditions found in the last inspection conducted on July 12, 2010. The inspection revealed that your facility has not continued to improve its conditions and make progress toward qualifying for registration by fully complying with the applicable laws and regulations. In fact, overall facility conditions are now worse than the conditions found on July 12, 2010. The inspection results are as described in the enclosed copy of inspection report.

Each of these deficiencies can constitute grounds for action against a registered shelter's registration certification or grounds to deny an applicant's request for registration. This letter constitutes a **WARNING** that, unless The Haven corrects the deficiencies noted in the inspection, the Department will have no choice but to take legal action authorized under the North Carolina Animal Welfare Act.

To avoid legal action the Haven must immediately undertake the steps described below. These steps are necessary to restore the facility conditions to those found during the inspection conducted on July 12, 2010. Once conditions in the shelter facility are restored to that state, the Haven must resume progress toward meeting minimum facility standards and qualifying for registration.

It is apparent that conditions in the shelter facility have deteriorated since July 12, 2010, because too much of your resources have been allocated to housing and taking care of too many animals and insufficient resources

have been allocated to continued improvement of the facilities. We strongly recommend that you immediately reduce your cat and dog populations to 75% percent of current numbers so that more funds and work can be re-allocated to repairs and facility improvement. If you need assistance with re-homing or fostering your excess animal population, please notify us of that problem immediately; we will then contact other animal welfare groups that have expressed willingness to assist in rehoming and fostering animals in this type of situation. We believe that 6 weeks is a reasonable period of time for you to reduce your population to 75% percent of current numbers, with or without assistance from other organizations. This is the first and highest priority of steps toward compliance. We will expect you to cap your animal population at these levels until the facility qualifies for registration; if you do not comply with these limits, we will conclude that you are no longer interested in qualifying for registration and determine what legal action is necessary.

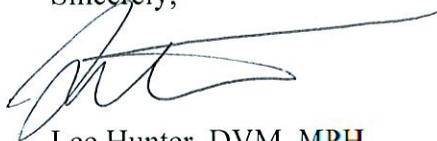
The next priority is your preparation and submission of a detailed remediation plan, listing each project needed to bring the facility back to the conditions of July 12, 2010, stating the amount of money and time needed to do so. Once you have completed the remediation plan you must return it to us. It will then become part of your inspection records and available for public inspection. We expect you to complete and return the remediation plan to us no later than February 28, 2014.

Finally, you will carry out the remediation plan, which will serve as a "action item list" for measuring your progress toward compliance with applicable minimum standards. We realize that unforeseen circumstances may arise that require the plan to be amended and we are willing to amend the plan when such circumstances arise that are beyond your control. However, you will need to request such changes in writing when and as needed.

These steps are not optional. Full compliance is expected as only full compliance can justify the Department's continued forbearance from taking legal action.

If you have any questions about the applicable law or the shelter's status, please feel free to speak with me.

Sincerely,



Lee Hunter, DVM, MPH
Director, Animal Welfare Section

Enclosure

Copy to: Barry H. Bloch, Assistant Attorney General, NCDOJ
William M. Van O'Linda, Jr., Van Camp, Meacham & Newman, PLLC,
David T. Marshall, DVM, State Veterinarian