Animal Welfare Section
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030
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e-mail: aws.agr@ncagr.gov
URL: www.ncaws.com

Complaint investigation

Date of inspection: Sep 3, 2014

Complaint #: 225

License #: 65

license type: 44 - Public shelter

Name of business: Rutherford County Animal Shelter

Name of owner: Rutherford County Sheriff Office

Street address: 576 Laurel Hill Drive

City: Rutherfordton

NC

ZIP code: 28139

County: Rutherford

Phone Number: +1 (828) 287-6025

Description of Complaint

, I would hope you would give serious consideration to animals left in our county's care with 94 degree heat , no water, no air conditioning , and no food.

Today 4 kittens were put in the drop box at AC. A concerned citizen by the name of nancy golio saw them there shortly before 9am today. They had no food and no water. She called sheriffs department who said to wait for someone to come feed / clean at AC. When no one arrived to clean / feed by the afternoon, the sheriff was called directly on his cell. the concerned citizens were advised that someone would be on their way. Animal Control Officer Sara Hartman arrived at the shelter at 2.15 pm. At that time she began to feed the animals at the shelter. She left the kittens In the drop box til 3pm, at which point she retrieved them. She left AC at 3.15. The other drop boxes had no water. Fresh water was placed in the cat drop box after kittens were removed. we (citizens) went to the store and purchased wet food and tried to feed them as best they were able (through the grate). I arrived at about 1.45 pm and stayed until 6 pm. I was able to view the outdoor runs and they were not cleaned AT ALL today.

We were on this property grounds from 8am- 6pm today. The ac officer only arrived for one hour, from 2.15-3.15pm. During this time no hoses were employed and no cleaning of outdoor kennels took place (dogs in them). We were unable to witness what was or wasn't cleaned inside the facility. Before Sara Hartman's departure, fresh water was placed inside the cat drop box however it was left soiled with feces and urine, as were the cat litter boxes. Below are photos of the empty water bowls.

In the past , you have issued warning letters for such unsanitary practices, including an aug 16 2010 letter to the rockingham humane society , where you stated ;

"Must...providing for cleaning of all enclosures as early as possible and at least twice a day";

You cited 52J.0207;

Why should rutherford county be held to a lesser standard?

This is a formal complaint. I would like the practices of weekend and holiday cleaning investigated, as well as overall sanitary procedures in rutherford county.

Signature of Management: SHartman

Animal Welfare Section, NCDA&CS
complaint investigation, continued

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Results of Investigation

09/03/2014: I arrived at this facility regarding complain # 225, I spoke with corporal Jones with animal control who was on call Saturday and Sunday 8/30 & 8/31 2014. He stated he is unsure what time he visited the shelter to clean and and feed the animals he noticed that the feline enclosures was almost to capacity so he locked the outside boxes.

On Sunday Corporal Jones he is unsure of the time he euthanized 4 cats that appeared sick then cleaned and fed the animals the boxes were checked and no animals were in them.

On Monday 09/01/2014 Deputy Sara Hartman was on call she arrived after receiving a call that there were kittens in the lock boxes. She arrived sometime after 2pm cleaned the inside of the shelter then removed the kittens from the lock boxes then fed the animals, the outside kennels on the left and locked boxes were not cleaned because the hose on that side of building was inoperable, at that time facility had 20 dogs & 49 cats Hartman states she departed approximately 4pm.

This facility has no written protocol regarding cleaning the facility or feeding the animals on the weekend/holiday. On call person has no set time when they arrive at this facility on the weekend to feed the animals and clean, the are required to come once a day on the weekend/holiday. I asked personnel if they were aware puppies and kittens must be fed twice a day. Deputy Hartman states they are only authorized to come to the shelter once a day on the weekend/ holidays and the lock boxes are only checked then, there is currently no records of when lock boxes are checked or when the shelter is cleaned and the animals fed on the weekends/holidays. During this investigation at 1:05pm temperature in cat lock box is 91.9 degrees. Kittens are now assigned to a foster home By the Rutherford County Humane Society veterinary records are not available at this time pictures are available on website.

Violations Noted:

NCAC 52J.0202 The ambient temperature shall not allowed to fall below 50 degrees or exceed 85 degrees. Lock Boxes shall not be used in extreme heat or cold conditions unless temperature can be regulated.

NCAC 52J. 0205 Puppies and kittens less then six months of age shall be fed at least twice in a 24 hour period.

NCAC 52J. 0207 Enclosures and exercise areas for dogs and cats must be properly cleaned a minimum of two times per day.

Digital signature of inspector: Jay Blatche

Digitally signed by Jay Blatche
DN: cn=Jay Blatche, o=Animal Welfare, ou=Dept of Agriculture, email=jay.blatche@ncagr.gov, c=US
Date: 2014.09.03 14:05:32 -04'00'

☐ check here if additional pages of narrative are attached

Signature of Management