Animal Welfare Section
NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030
phone: (919) 715-7111 FAX: (919) 733-6431
e-mail: aws.agr@ncagr.gov
URL: www.ncaws.com

Complaint investigation

Date of inspection: Sep 5, 2012

Complaint #: 182

License #: 65

license type: 44 - Public shelter

Name of business: Rutherford County Animal shelter

Name of owner: Rutherford County Government

Street address: 576 Laurel Hill Drive

City: Rutherford

NC

ZIP code: 28139

County: Rutherford

Phone Number: +1 (828) 287-6025

Description of Complaint

Can you please look into a dog being held at the Rutherford, NC Animal Shelter, Community Pet Center, (828) 287-7738. He is listed as ID#A022999, and has been at the shelter since Aug 31. Apparently the person to contact is Lynne. The email address is cpcrutherfordcounty@gmail.com.

This dog is becoming quite a Facebook sensation and the pictures being published make it look as though he is being held up on a catch pole and is in desperate need of grooming and medication for his eyes. I can't imagine that Rutherford County can't do better for its animals, but if anything about this picture is accurate, the situation looks pretty horrible.

Signature of Management

Animal Welfare Section, NCDA&CS
complaint investigation, continued

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Rutherford County Animal shelte	Rutherford County Government	Rutherford	NC

Results of Investigation

September 5, 2012 1155am:

I was allowed to enter facility by shelter Administrator Sarah Green I informed her I was there regarding a picture of a black chow dog posted on the internet. When asked if the dog was still at this facility she stated it was and proceeded to take me to the kennel. While en route to the kennel I observed a different small dog the appeared to have an eye infection. After seeing these dogs and taking pictures. The dog in question does appear to have a severe eye infection with copious discharge, large patches of matted fur and appears grossly under weight. I requested to see all the animals at the facility, with the exception of these two dogs all other animals appear healthy.

When asked why the two dogs had not received any veterinary care Ms. Green stated there is no funds available for veterinary care. I asked what would happen if an animal came in injured i.e.. broken bone or gunshot she stated the animal would be euthanized. She also stated that the only time a veterinarian is called is if a quarantine animal is injured or sick. The veterinarian will come to the shelter at no cost and all medication if required must be purchased by the facility.

She stated that the chow is supposed to be picked up today by a rescue group and the other dog had just arrived two hours earlier. If the chow is not picked up by Friday it will be euthanized. The other dog in question will also be euthanized if not rescued or adopted by Friday. Facility cannot quarantine possible infected or contagious animals in the existing quarantine area because owned animals are housed in that area. The quarantine issue is due to the age and design of this facility built in 1974. I informed her all sick or injured animals must be seen by a licensed veterinarian or euthanized pursuant NCAC 52J.0210 Veterinary Care.

Informed her that both dogs in question must be seen by a license veterinarian within 24 hours. This facility must provide the NC Department Agriculture and Consumer Services AWS with a detailed written protocol for veterinary care regarding sick or injured animals within 30 days. Returned on 9/6/2012 at 0945 both dogs in question are at the local veterinarian at this time.

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: 2012.09.06 10:13:58 -04'00'

☐ check here if additional pages of narrative are attached

Signature of Management