



Steven W. Troxler  
Commissioner

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

Joseph W. Reardon  
Assistant Commissioner  
for Consumer Protection

Douglas Meckes, DVM  
State Veterinarian

September 9, 2019

Wendy Laney  
Owner  
Project Pawz  
32064 Austin Road  
New London, North Carolina 28127

**Notice of Warning**

**Re: Violation of NC General Statute § 19A-26**

**AWS-WL-2019-UNL-2 (Amended for Second Location)**

Unlicensed Animal Shelter: Project Pawz

Dear Ms. Laney:

The Animal Welfare Section ("AWS") of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("NCDA&CS") opened an investigation into the potential operation of unregistered animal shelters located at 29559 Burris Burleson Road, New London, NC and 32064 Austin Road, New London, NC. Under the North Carolina Animal Welfare Act, "[n]o person shall operate an animal shelter unless a certificate of registration for such animal shelter shall have been granted by the Director," of the AWS. N.C.G.S. § 19A-26.

On September 9, 2019, Animal Health Technician Jay Blatche ("Inspector Blatche") attempted to conduct a site visit to discuss the registration of the facilities at 32064 Austin Road, New London, NC and 29559 Burris Burleson Road, New London North Carolina 28127 as animal shelters pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 19A-26.

You refused to allow Inspector Blatche on the Burris Burleson Road property for this discussion. When he attempted to hand you an animal shelter registration packet, you informed him you were already aware of the regulations and you refused to accept the packet.

As you are operating an animal shelter(s), you must submit the completed animal shelter registration application immediately so that AWS can initiate the registration process. If you need another copy of the application form, it can be found on the AWS website at the following link:

<http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/aws/documents/SCANNEDApplicationFormShelters2016.pdf>.

Until these facilities have valid AWS animal shelter certificates of registration, you may not operate them as animal shelters. Therefore, you are directed to cease operating as an animal shelter at both locations and find suitable accommodations for any animals currently in the care and custody of these facilities, until you have obtained a certificate of registration.

Failure to abide by this directive shall be considered a willful disregard or violation of the North Carolina Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto. Under N.C.G.S. § 19A-40, violation of the North Carolina Animal Welfare Act or the rules issued pursuant thereto may result in the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation.

Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Dr. R. Douglas Meckes, State Veterinarian  
Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS  
Tina Hlabse, General Counsel, NCDA&CS  
Christopher R. McLennan, Assistant Attorney General

## Appendix

### REFERENCED STATUTES AND REGULATIONS

#### **§ 19A-26. Certificate of registration required for animal shelter.**

No person shall operate an animal shelter unless a certificate of registration for such animal shelter shall have been granted by the Director. Application for such certificate shall be made in the manner provided by the Director. No fee shall be required for such application or certificate. Certificates of registration shall be valid for a period of one year or until suspended or revoked and may be renewed for like periods upon application in the manner provided. (1977, 2nd Sess., c. 1217, s. 7; 1987, c. 827, s. 64.)

#### **§ 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. (1995, c. 516, s. 6; 1998-215, s. 3.)