



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

June 30, 2026

Anna Lewandowski
6722 Edwards Farm Lane
Monroe, NC 28110

Notice of Warning and Notice of Non-Compliance with NC General Statute § 19A-26

Dear Ms. Lewandowski:

The Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) received information that you were operating an unregistered animal shelter at 6722 Edwards Farm Lane, Monroe, NC 28110.

On August 15, 2024, AWS Veterinary Program Specialist Eudy (“Inspector Eudy”) and AWS Program Coordinator Bradley (“Inspector Bradley”), conducted a site visit at the address above. AWS received information at that time you were operating an unregistered animal shelter. They discussed with you the requirements for registration as an animal shelter. You agreed to house no more than nine animals at this location so that you did not have to register as an animal shelter.

On September 3, 2024, Inspector Eudy contacted you again to ascertain whether you had reduced the number of rescue animals to nine or fewer. You stated that you were no longer fostering animals.

In May 2026, AWS received information from the Union County Sheriff’s Office that more than 20 rescue dogs had been removed from the address above and 16 dogs were left on the premises. The paperwork for the rescue dogs and the ones left on the premises showed that the dogs originated from the Clayton County Animal Shelter in Georgia. You stated that you were trying to find homes for the dogs.

Your activities constitute the operation of an animal shelter. Therefore, require that you obtain an AWS registration as an animal shelter. You were aware of the requirement to register as an animal shelter as it was explained to you in 2024. A review of AWS records does not show an active certificate of registration for an animal shelter for you or any rescue at this address.

Until such a time the rescue has a valid AWS animal shelter registration, you may not operate as an animal shelter. This means that the rescue may not: intake stray or unwanted animals directly from the public, animal shelter or other rescue; house more than nine stray or unwanted dogs or cats; and/or provide foster care for a shelter or other rescue for more than nine animals.

Pursuant to NCGS§ 19A-26, before housing any animals, you must obtain an AWS animal shelter registration. To initiate the process to become registered as an animal shelter you must complete the animal shelter registration application,. 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/awsnewshelterapp/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.

Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Norris DVM MS".

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

Appendix

RELEVANT LAWS 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.