



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Veterinary Division

Christina L. Waggett
Assistant Commissioner
for Consumer Protection

Michael Martin, DVM
State Veterinarian

August 18, 2026

Ulyses Bridges
13819 Spivey Corner Highway
Newton Grove, NC 28366
And via email:
bridgesulyses85@gmail.com

NOTICE of CIVIL PENALTY

Re: CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENT for VIOLATION of NC GENERAL STATUTE § 19A-28

AWS-CP-2026-12

Facility: In-home boarding kennel
License Number: Unlicensed

Dear Mr. Bridges:

Pursuant to NCGS § 19A-40, I am issuing this notice that you as owner and operator of an unlicensed in-home boarding kennel ("the kennel") are hereby assessed a civil penalty of \$5,000.00 as provided in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

With regard to the civil penalty, within 60 days from the date of this Notice, you must do one of the following:

1. Pay the civil penalty assessment;
2. File a written petition for a contested case hearing with the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings to appeal the penalty assessment; or
3. Pursuant to NCGS § 150B-22, initiate informal settlement negotiations. To negotiate a settlement of this assessment, you may contact me by telephone at (919) 707-3280 or email Patricia.Norris@ncagr.gov. Settlement offers do not extend the 60-day deadline for payment or filing of a contested case petition.

Additional information about your options is provided below:

PAYMENT

To pay the penalty, please send your payment by check or money order made payable to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to:

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Dr. Patricia Norris
Director, Animal Welfare Section
1030 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1030

APPEAL

If you file a contested case petition, it must be in writing and in the form prescribed by NCGS § 150B-23. The petition must be filed with the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings ("OAH") within 60 days of the date of this document. Additionally, the petition must be accompanied by a filing fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00). Payment can be made by cash, money order, certified check or check drawn on an attorney's trust account. Make checks payable to: Office of Administrative Hearings. File the petition and one copy with:

Office of Administrative Hearings
6714 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6714

Any questions about filing a petition may be directed to the Clerk of OAH by telephone at 919-431-3000.

You must serve NCDA&CS by mailing a copy of the petition to:

Mr. Jonathan Lanier
North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Registered Agent and General Counsel
1001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

Payment of the penalty will not foreclose further enforcement action against you for any new violation. If the violations which resulted in the assessment are of a continuing nature, NCDA&CS reserves the right to assess additional civil penalties in the future or take other enforcement action against you.

Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Patricia Norris, DVM, MS
Director
Animal Welfare Section

Attachment: Notice of Violations, Assessment of Civil Penalty

cc: Michael Martin, DVM, State Veterinarian
Jonathan Lanier, General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Christina L. Waggett, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF SAMPSON

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER
SERVICES, VETERINARY DIVISION
ANIMAL WELFARE SECTION

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
ULYSES BRIDGES) NOTICE of VIOLATION and
) ASSESSMENT of CIVIL PENALTY
) for VIOLATION of N.C. GENERAL
) STATUTE ("NCGS") § 19A-28.
)

Acting pursuant to NCGS § 19A-40, Dr. Patricia Norris, Director, Animal Welfare Section ("AWS"), North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("NCDA&CS") makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. At all times pertinent to this matter, in-home boarding kennel ("the kennel"), owned and operated by Ulyses Bridges, was a boarding kennel that was not licensed with AWS as a boarding kennel pursuant to NCGS § 19A-28.
2. On July 7, 2026, AWS received information from Sampson County Animal Control that 5 dogs died while being boarded at the kennel over the July 4, 2026, holiday. Based on this information, AWS opened an investigation. The investigation centered on possible violation(s) of the N.C. Animal Welfare Act ("AWA") as these statutes and associated regulations are the extent of the jurisdiction of AWS.
3. The investigation found the following:
 - a. On July 7, 2026, Animal Control Officer ("ACO") Spence responded to the kennel due to a report of 5 dogs dying while boarding. He noted that none of the remaining dogs had water in their kennels during his site visit. As the incident involved boarding animals, ACO Spence notified AWS;
 - b. On July 8, 2026, AWS Veterinary Specialist Tolley ("Inspector Tolley") and ACO Spence conducted a site visit. At this site visit, all but one of the dogs had water in their kennels. One golden retriever type dog that was boarding was on a tie out under a tree. Due to the extreme heat, Inspector Tolley directed the kennel owner to bring the dog into the air-conditioned area;
 - c. During the July 8, 2026, site visit, Mr. Bridges relayed that he had been boarding dogs in his home through Rover for approximately 18 months. He stated that he had installed a new air conditioning unit into the boarding area around 3-4 p.m. on July 3, 2026. He said that at 10 p.m. that evening, he set the new unit to run until 5 a.m. When he checked the animals at ~6:40 – 7:00 a.m. on July 4, 2026, he noted that 2 dogs were deceased, and 3 dogs were in distress. Subsequently, the 3 distressed dogs either died or were euthanized due to their severe condition;
 - d. AWS Inspector Tolley directed Mr. Bridges to return the remaining boarding dogs to their owners and to cease boarding until he received a boarding kennel license from AWS; and
 - e. On July 13, 2026, Inspector Tolley conducted a follow-up site visit to verify that no boarding dogs were present. Only the kennel owner's dogs and his roommate's dog were present.

4. The medical records for Freyja, a female German Shepherd dog, were reviewed. The medical records show the following:
 - a. On July 4, 2026, Freyja was presented comatose at approximately 8 AM;
 - b. Her clinical signs and bloodwork were consistent with severe heat stroke;
 - c. She suffered a brief cardiac arrest but was successfully resuscitated; and
 - d. Despite aggressive medical treatment, a subsequent neurological examination did not show evidence of brain activity. Her owner elected humane euthanasia.
5. The medical records for Kilo, a male Belgian Malinois, were reviewed. The medical records show the following:
 - a. Kilo presented comatose at approximately 8 a.m. on July 4, 2026;
 - b. His clinical signs and bloodwork were consistent with severe heat stroke; and
 - c. Despite aggressive medical treatment, his condition continued to deteriorate. His owner elected humane euthanasia;
6. The medical records for Yami, a female Labrador Retriever mix, were reviewed. The medical records show the following:
 - a. Yami presented stuporous at approximately 8 a.m. on July 4, 2026, with a body temperature of 104.4°F;
 - b. Her clinical signs and bloodwork were consistent with severe heat stroke; and
 - c. Despite aggressive medical treatment, her condition deteriorated, and she died of cardiac arrest.
7. The medical record for Olive, a female Great Dane, showed that the dog was deceased upon arrival at the veterinary hospital on July 4, 2026. The necropsy report for Olive showed coronary vascular hypertrophy, but a cause of death could not be determined.
8. No medical records were available to review for Tyson, the fifth dog that died during this incident.
9. A review of AWS records showed that an AWS boarding kennel license had not been issued for this location or for Mr. Bridges for any location.

CONCLUSIONS

To the extent that the Findings of Fact contain Conclusions of Law, or that the Conclusions of Law are Findings of Fact, they should be so considered without regard to the given labels. Based on the findings of this investigation, AWS concludes that Ulyses Bridges as the owner of the kennel violated the following provision:

NCGS §19A-28 for operating a boarding kennel without obtaining a license granted by the AWS Director to operate such an establishment. This violation resulted in the death of 5 dogs.

CIVIL PENALTY

As required by NCGS § 19A-40, in determining the amount of the civil penalty, I have considered the degree and extent of harm caused by the violation listed above.

Accordingly, Ulyses Bridges, as the owner of the kennel, is hereby assessed a civil penalty for the following violation:

\$5,000.00 for the violation of NCGS § 19A-28 for operating a boarding kennel without obtaining a license granted by the AWS Director to operate such an establishment. This violation resulted in the death of 5 dogs.

\$5,000.00 TOTAL AMOUNT ASSESSED

Pursuant to NCGS § 19A-33, operation of a boarding kennel without a valid license constitutes a Class 3 misdemeanor with each day of operation constituting a separate offense. In addition, operation of a boarding kennel without a valid license is a violation of the AWA and may result in the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation pursuant to NCGS§ 19A-40 and/or the suspension, revocation, or denial of a license pursuant to NCGS§ 19A-30.

(See Appendix for text of referenced General Statutes and Administrative Code)



August 18, 2026
Date

Patricia Norris, DVM, MS
Director, Animal Welfare Section
North Carolina Department of
Agriculture & Consumer Services

Appendix

REFERENCED LAWS AND REGULATIONS

§ 19A-28. License required for public auction or boarding kennel.

No person shall operate a public auction or a boarding kennel unless a license to operate such establishment shall have been granted by the Director. Application for such license shall be made in the manner provided by the Director. The license period shall be the fiscal year and the license fee shall be seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for each license period or part thereof beginning with the first day of the fiscal year.

§ 19A-30. Refusal, suspension or revocation of certificate or license.

The Director may refuse to issue or renew or may suspend or revoke a certificate of registration for any animal shelter or a license for any public auction, kennel, pet shop, or dealer, if after an impartial investigation as provided in this Article he determines that any one or more of the following grounds apply:

- (1) Material misstatement in the application for the original certificate of registration or license or in the application for any renewal under this Article;
- (2) Willful disregard or violation of this Article or any rules issued pursuant thereto;
- (3) Failure to provide adequate housing facilities and/or primary enclosures for the purposes of this Article, or if the feeding, watering, sanitizing and housing practices at the animal shelter, public auction, pet shop, or kennel are not consistent with the intent of this Article or the rules adopted under this Article;
- (4) Allowing one's license under this Article to be used by an unlicensed person;
- (5) Conviction of any crime an essential element of which is misstatement, fraud, or dishonesty, or conviction of any felony;
- (6) Making substantial misrepresentations or false promises of a character likely to influence, persuade, or induce in connection with the business of a public auction, commercial kennel, pet shop, or dealer;
- (7) Pursuing a continued course of misrepresentation of or making false promises through advertising, salesmen, agents, or otherwise in connection with the business to be licensed;
- (8) Failure to possess the necessary qualifications or to meet the requirements of this Article for the issuance or holding of a certificate of registration or license.

The Director shall, before refusing to issue or renew and before suspension or revocation of a certificate of registration or a license, give to the applicant or holder thereof a written notice containing a statement indicating in what respects the applicant or holder has failed to satisfy the requirements for the holding of a certificate of registration or a license. If a certificate of registration or a license is suspended or revoked under the provisions hereof, the holder shall have five days from such suspension or revocation to surrender all certificates of registration or licenses issued thereunder to the Director or his authorized representative.

A person to whom a certificate of registration or a license is denied, suspended, or revoked by the Director may contest the action by filing a petition under G.S. 150B-23 within five days after the denial, suspension, or revocation.

Any licensee whose license is revoked under the provisions of this Article shall not be eligible to apply for a new license hereunder until one year has elapsed from the date of the order revoking said license or if an appeal is taken from said order of revocation, one year from the date of the order or final

judgment sustaining said revocation. Any person who has been an officer, agent, or employee of a licensee whose license has been revoked or suspended and who is responsible for or participated in the violation upon which the order of suspension or revocation was based, shall not be licensed within the period during which the order of suspension or revocation is in effect.

§ 19A-33. Penalty for operation of pet shop, kennel or auction without license.

Operation of a pet shop, kennel, or public auction without a currently valid license shall constitute a Class 3 misdemeanor subject only to a penalty of not less than five dollars (\$5.00) nor more than twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), and each day of operation shall constitute a separate offense.

§ 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.