



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

September 17, 2026

Siglinda Scarpa
Owner, The Goathouse Refuge
680 Alton Alston Road
Pittsboro, NC 27312
and via email:
siglinda@goathouserefuge.org

NOTICE of CIVIL PENALTY and NOTICE of WARNING

Re: CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENT for VIOLATIONS of TITLE 02 N.C. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ("NCAC") CHAPTER 52J SECTIONS .0101(5) and .0210(d) and NOTICE of WARNING for VIOLATIONS of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(g) and .0204(a) and (b).

AWS-CP-2026-15

Facility: The Goathouse Refuge
Registration Number 264

Dear Ms. Scarpa:

Pursuant to NCGS § 19A-40, I am issuing this notice that you individually and d/b/a The Goathouse Refuge ("the shelter"), are hereby assessed a civil penalty of \$5,300.00 as provided in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

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

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 from 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,

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

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
Allyson Barkley, Assistant Attorney General

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHATHAM

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

IN THE MATTER of	)	NOTICE of VIOLATION and
	)	ASSESSMENT of CIVIL PENALTY
SIGLINDA SCARPA	)	for VIOLATIONS of TITLE 02 NC
	)	ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ("NCAC") CHAPTER
OWNER of THE GOATHOUSE	)	52J SECTIONS .0101(5) and .0210(d) and
	)	NOTICE of VIOLATIONS of 02 NCAC 52J
REFUGE	)	.0201(g) and .0204(a) and (b).
	)	

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, The Goathouse Refuge ("the shelter"), was an animal shelter registered pursuant to NCGS § 19A-26.
2. On August 11, 2026, AWS received a complaint containing multiple allegations of violations against the shelter. 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. On August 18, 2026, AWS Veterinary Program Coordinators Shore and Bradley ("Inspectors Shore and Bradley") conducted a site visit at the shelter as part of the investigation. The following information was obtained from the site visit:
 - a. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0101(5), the shelter failed to maintain records of veterinary care as the records for 19 animals were missing multiple entries for the morning administration of medications, and all the afternoon/evening entries for these animals were missing. This violation was also cited in the December 8, 2025 Notice of Civil Penalty;
 - b. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(g), the shelter failed to have a functional thermometer in the kitten cabana;
 - c. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(a), the shelter failed to maintain surfaces in the primary enclosures and exercise areas so that they were impervious to moisture as the paint was peeling on the floors of the main building. This violation was also cited in the December 8, 2025 Notice of Civil Penalty;
 - d. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(b), the shelter failed to remove damaged wood from the animals' access as the door frames within the outbuilding were damaged and allowed animals access to the wood. This violation was also cited in the December 8, 2025 Notice of Civil Penalty;
 - e. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0210(d), the shelter failed to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner to the cat named Hansel. This cat was prescribed 7 days of meloxicam after a

dental with tooth extractions. On April 24, 2026, Hansel was diagnosed with severe hyperplastic gingiva and severe gingivitis. At the time of the dental on August 14, 2026, Hansel was diagnosed with “really severe gingivitis and stomatitis of his gums as well as the mucosa behind his back molars.” He was also diagnosed with feline resorptive lesions and at least one fractured tooth, retained tooth root, and tooth abscess. In addition, Hansel was found to be positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (“FIV”) which meant his immune system was compromised. During the dental procedure, 29 teeth were extracted. The veterinary clinic prescribed doxycycline for Hansel post-surgery. The shelter failed to document that doxycycline was prescribed and failed to administer this antibiotic. The shelter also failed to administer the pain relief on the first 2 days after the dental procedure when the pain from the 29 tooth extractions and dental procedure would have been the most severe. The veterinary clinic also recommended feeding a GI sensitive diet, a daily probiotic, Imuquin to support the immune system, and Duralactin. The shelter failed to implement any of these recommendations. The shelter was previously cited in the December 8, 2025 Notice of Civil Penalty for failure to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner [02 NCAC 52J .0210(d)]; and

- f. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0210(d), the shelter failed to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner to the cat named Rosa. Rosa was Feline Leukemia Virus positive and was prescribed prednisolone to be administered once daily from May 27 – June 2, 2026. The shelter administered this medication to Rosa on June 16 - 20, and 23, 2026. This administration was not compliant for this medication as prescribed by the veterinarian. This violation was also cited in the December 8, 2025 Notice of Civil Penalty.

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 the AWS investigation, AWS finds that the shelter violated the following provisions:

02 NCAC 52J .0101(5) for failure to maintain records of veterinary care as the records for 19 animals were missing multiple entries for the morning administration of medications and all the afternoon/evening entries were missing as noted on August 18, 2026. This is the FOURTH violation of this rule as the shelter owner was assessed a Civil Penalty for the THIRD violation of this rule on December 8, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0201(g) for failure to have a functional thermometer in the kitten cabana as noted on August 18, 2026.

02 NCAC 52J .0204(a) for failure to maintain surfaces in the primary enclosures and exercise areas so that they were impervious to moisture as the paint was peeling on the floors of the main building as noted on August 18, 2026. This is the SECOND violation of this rule as the shelter owner was assessed a Civil Penalty for the FIRST violation of this rule on December 8, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0204(b) for failure to remove wood from the animals’ access as noted on August 18, 2026. This is the SECOND violation of this rule as the shelter owner was assessed a Civil Penalty for the FIRST violation of this rule on December 8, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0210(d) for failure to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner to the cat named Hansel as noted on August 18, 2026. This is the SECOND violation of this rule as the shelter owner was assessed a Civil Penalty for the FIRST violation of this rule on December 8, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0210(d) for failure to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner to the cat named Rosa as noted on August 18, 2026. This is the SECOND violation of this rule as the shelter owner was assessed a Civil Penalty for the FIRST violation of this rule on December 8, 2025.

Pursuant to NCGS §§ 19A-30 and 19A-40, these violations can result in the suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew a registration for any animal shelter and/or the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 per violation.

CIVIL PENALTIES

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 violations listed above.

Accordingly, Siglinda Scarpa, individually, as the owner and operator of The Goathouse Refuge animal shelter and d/b/a The Goathouse Refuge, is hereby assessed a civil penalty for the following violations:

\$3,800.00 for 19 violations (\$200.00 per violation) as the FOURTH violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0101(5) for failure to maintain records of veterinary care as the records for 19 animals were missing multiple entries for the morning administration of medications and all the afternoon/evening entries were missing as noted on August 18, 2026.

\$1,000.00 for the SECOND violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0210(d) for failure to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner to the cat named Hansel as noted on August 18, 2026.

\$500.00 for the SECOND violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0210(d) for failure to provide adequate veterinary care in a timely manner to the cat named Rosa as noted on August 18, 2026.

\$5,300.00 TOTAL AMOUNT ASSESSED

Continued or future violation of the statutes or regulations referenced in this letter will be considered a willful disregard or violation of the N.C. Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto. Such willful disregard or violation may result in action against your facility's registration pursuant to NCGS § 19A-30 and/or the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation under NCGS § 19A-40.

NOTICE of WARNING

As to the remaining violations of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(g) and .0204(a) and (b), this Warning Letter serves as written notice indicating in which respects the shelter may have violated the NC Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto.

Continued or future violations of these statutes or regulations will be considered a willful disregard or violation of the N.C. Animal Welfare Act and the rules issued pursuant thereto. Such a willful disregard or violation may result in action against your facility's registration pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 19A-30 and/or the assessment of a civil penalty of up to \$5,000.00 per violation under N.C. General Statute § 19A-40.

September 17, 2026
Date



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

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.

§ 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-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.

02 NCAC 52J .0101 RECORDS; ANIMAL SHELTERS, ETC.

Operators of all animal shelters, pet shops, public auctions, and dealers shall maintain records on all dogs and cats showing the following:

- (5) record of veterinary care including medications, treatments, procedures, and immunizations. The record shall include: diagnosis(es), diagnostic testing and results, date and time of administration or procedure, description of medication and initials of person administering any product, medication or procedure. The description of the medication shall include the name, strength or concentration, dosage, and dosing regimen. The dosage regimen shall include the frequency, duration to include the number of dosages or days to be given and the reason for the administration; and

History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; April 1, 1985; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.

02 NCAC 52J .0201 GENERAL

(g) Each facility shall have the ability to confirm ambient temperature. A functional room thermometer shall be present in each separate area of indoor enclosures, common areas and exercise areas.

History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; 19A-30(3); Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; Readopted Eff. October 1, 2022.

02 NCAC 52J .0204 PRIMARY ENCLOSURES

(a) Primary enclosures and exercise areas shall be constructed so as to prevent contamination from waste and wastewater from animals in other enclosures. All surfaces with which an animal comes in contact shall be impervious to moisture excluding the ground cover options of gravel and grass allowed for in Rule .0203 of this Section.

(b) For primary enclosures and exercise areas placed into service on or after January 1, 2005, no wood shall be within the animal's reach. For primary enclosures and exercise areas in use in a licensed or registered facility prior to January 1, 2005, any damaged wood shall be replaced in a manner that does not permit contact with wood by the animal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; April 1, 1985; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.

02 NCAC 52J .0210 VETERINARY CARE

(d) Each dog and cat shall be observed daily by the animal caretaker who has been adequately trained or is experienced in animal care or is under the direct supervision of a person who has such training or experience. Sick or diseased, injured, lame, or blind dogs or cats shall be provided with adequate veterinary care in a timely manner or be euthanized, provided that the euthanasia shall not affect compliance with any state or local law requiring the holding, for a specified period, of animals suspected of being diseased. If an animal cannot be euthanized due to a required holding period and does not meet the criteria of G.S. 19A-32.1(b)(2), then adequate veterinary care shall be provided to the animal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. March 23, 2009; January 1, 2005; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.