



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 19, 2025

Laurie LaBean
d.b.a. Dog Love
6302 Lebanon Road
Mebane, North Carolina 27302
l.labean@yahoo.com

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 .0102(1); .0103; .0201(d)(4) and (h); .0202(c); 0204(k) and (p)(5); and .0206(a); and NOTICE of WARNING for VIOLATIONS of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(2); .0201(d)(2); .0203(a)(1) and (b)(2); .0204(b).

AWS-CP-2025-19

Facility: Dog Love
License Number: 20631

Dear Ms. LaBean:

Pursuant to NCGS § 19A-40, I am issuing this notice that you, Laurie LaBean, d.b.a. Dog Love, (“the kennel”), are hereby assessed a civil penalty of \$2,200.00 as provided in the enclosed Notice of Violation.

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

1. Pay the civil penalty assessment; or
2. File a written petition for a contested case hearing with the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings to appeal the penalty assessment.

Pursuant to NCGS § 150B-22, either party to a dispute may initiate informal settlement negotiations at any time. To negotiate a settlement of this assessment, you may contact me by telephone at (919) 707-3280. 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
Lindsey Spain, Special Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF ORANGE

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
LAURIE LEBEAN	)	for VIOLATIONS of TITLE 02 NC
	)	ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ("NCAC")
D.B.A. DOG LOVE	)	CHAPTER 52J SECTIONS .0102(1); .0103;
	)	.0201(d)(4) and (h); .0202(c); .0204(k) and
	)	(p)(5); and .0206(a) and NOTICE of
	)	WARNING for VIOLATIONS of 02 NCAC
	)	.0102(2); .0201(d)(2); .0203(a)(1) and (b)(2);
	)	and .0204(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 Dog Love ("the kennel"), owned and operated by Laurie LeBean, was a boarding kennel licensed pursuant to NCGS § 19A-28.
2. On July 31, 2025, AWS Veterinary Program Specialist Bowes ("Inspector Bowes") conducted a Facility Compliance Inspection ("FCI") at the kennel. This FCI report was marked as "Disapproved" due to the number and severity of the violations of the NC Animal Welfare Act ("AWA") and its associated rules. The kennel was cited for being in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(1); .0103; .0201(d)(1); .0202(c) and (e)(3); .0203(b)(2) and (4); .0204(p)(4) and (5); .0206(a) and .0207(c) and (e). These violations and the required corrective actions were discussed with the kennel's owner during this FCI.
3. On September 15, 2025, Inspector Bowes returned to conduct a follow-up FCI at the kennel. This FCI report was marked as "Disapproved" due to the number, severity, and repetitive nature of the violations of the AWA and its associated rules. The findings for the FCI included:
 - a. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(1), the kennel failed to maintain records of the date of entry and release and the required signatures. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI;
 - b. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(2), the kennel failed to maintain a record of the description of the dogs named Rose and Cruz;
 - c. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0103, the kennel failed to provide the required records upon request during an FCI. Inspector Bowes requested to see the records for the dogs named Rose and Cruz. The kennel was unable to provide any records for these dogs. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI;

- d. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(d)(4), the kennel failed to store linens in a cabinet or sealed containers. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI;
- e. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(d)(2), the kennel failed to store open boxes of treats and open bags of dog food in airtight containers with lids;
- f. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(h), the kennel failed to supervise a group of 3 dogs in the front exercise area and a group of 5 dogs in the back exercise area. These outdoor areas were not surrounded by a separate perimeter fence, and therefore, the animals must be supervised while in these areas;
- g. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0202(c), the kennel failed to provide sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, cleaning and housekeeping of the facility and observation of the animals. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI;
- h. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(a)(1), the kennel failed to provide impervious surfaces on the back door to which the dogs have access. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI;
- i. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(b)(2), the kennel failed to maintain a minimum depth of 6 inches of gravel in the back exercise area;
- j. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(b), the kennel allowed the animals to have access to wood in multiple areas of the facility. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI;
- k. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(k), the kennel failed to supervise a group of more than 4 dogs as a group of 5 dogs were confined together in the back exercise area with no employee supervision;
- l. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(p)(5), the kennel failed to clean and sanitize the small pool in the back exercise area as it contained dirty brown water. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI; and
- m. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0206(a), the kennel failed to provide continuous access to water to 7 dogs. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI when 5 dogs were found to not have continuous access to water.

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 the kennel violated the following provisions:

02 NCAC 52J .0102(1) for failure to maintain records of the date of entry and release and the required signatures as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

02 NCAC 52J .0102(2) for failure to maintain a record of the description of the dogs named Rose and Cruz as noted on September 15, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0103 for failure to provide the required records upon request during an inspection as noted on September 15, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0201(d)(4) for failure to store clean linens in a cabinet or sealed container as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

02 NCAC 52J .0201(d)(2) for failure to store open boxes of treats and open bags of dog food in airtight containers with lids as noted on September 15, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0201(h) for failure to supervise a group of 3 dogs in the front exercise area and a group of 5 dogs in the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025. These exercise areas were not surrounded by a separate perimeter fence.

02 NCAC 52J .0202(c) for failure to provide sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, cleaning and housekeeping of the facility and observation of the animals as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

02 NCAC 52J .0203(a)(1) for failure to provide impervious surfaces on the back door to which the dogs have access as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

02 NCAC 52J .0203(b)(2) for failure to maintain a minimum depth of 6 inches of gravel in the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0204(b) for allowing the animals to have access to wood in multiple areas of the facility as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

02 NCAC 52J .0204(k) for failure to supervise a group of more than 4 dogs confined to the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025.

02 NCAC 52J .0204(p)(5) for failure to clean and sanitize the small pool in the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

02 NCAC 52J .0206(a) for failure to provide continuous access to water to 7 dogs as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI when 5 dogs were found to not have continuous access to water.

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, Laurie LaBean d.b.a. Dog Love is hereby assessed a civil penalty for the following violations:

\$100.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(1) for failure to maintain records of the date of entry and release and the required signatures as noted on September 15, 2025.

\$200.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0103 for failure to provide the required records upon request during an inspection as noted on September 15, 2025.

\$100.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(d)(4) for failure to store clean linens in a cabinet or sealed container as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

\$100.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(h) for failure to supervise a group of 3 dogs in the front exercise area and a group of 5 dogs in the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025. These exercise areas were not surrounded by a separate perimeter fence.

\$100.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0202(c) for failure to sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, cleaning and housekeeping of the facility and observation of the animals as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

\$100.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(k) for failure to supervise a group of more than 4 dogs confined to the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025.

\$100.00 for violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(p)(5) for failure to clean and sanitize the small pool in the back exercise area as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI.

\$1,400.00 for 7 violations (\$200.00 per violation) of 02 NCAC 52J .0206(a) for failure to provide continuous access to water to 7 dogs as noted on September 15, 2025. This violation was previously cited and discussed with the kennel owner during the July 31, 2025 FCI when 5 dogs were found to not have continuous access to water.

\$2,200.00 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 license 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.

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

NOTICE of WARNING

As to the remaining violations of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(2); .0201(d)(2); .0203(a)(1) and (b)(2); .0204(b), this Warning Letter serves as written notice indicating in which respects the kennel 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 license 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 19, 2025

Date



Patricia Norris, DVM, MS
Director, Animal Welfare Section,
NCDA & CS

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-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 .0102 RECORDS; BOARDING KENNELS

Operators of boarding kennels shall maintain records of all dogs and cats showing the following:

- (1) name and address of owner or person responsible for animal, the date of entry and signature of the person leaving the animal; and the date of release and signature and address of individual to whom animal is released;
- (2) description of animals including species, estimated age, sex, breed or breed type, and color markings;

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

02 NCAC 52J .0103 INSPECTION OF RECORDS

All operators of animal shelters, pet shops, boarding kennels, public auctions, and persons operating as dealers shall make all required records available to the Director or his or her authorized representative on request, during the business and cleaning hours listed on the license application and/or during an inspection of the facility or an investigation. The operator must be able to match each animal to its record upon request. Records shall be maintained for a period of one year after the animal is released from a boarding kennel or sold from a pet store or public auction. Animal shelters shall maintain records required by the Animal Welfare Act or this Subchapter for a period of three years after the disposition of the animal.

History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; 19A-25; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; April 1, 1985; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.

02 NCAC 52J .0201 GENERAL

(d) Storage of food and bedding:

- (1) food and bedding shall be stored in cabinets and/or sealed containers which adequately protect such supplies against infestation or contamination by vermin and insects;
- (2) all open bags of food and edible treats shall be stored in airtight containers with lids;

(h) A separate five-foot tall perimeter fence is required if any animal(s) has/have unsupervised access to an outdoor primary enclosure, common area, and/or exercise area. Supervision of animals is required for any animal(s) within any outdoor enclosure, common area, or exercise area without a separate five-foot tall perimeter fence.

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 .0202 INDOOR FACILITIES

(c) Indoor housing facilities for dogs and cats shall have sufficient illumination to permit routine inspections, maintenance, cleaning and housekeeping of the facility and observation of the animals. Illumination shall provide regular diurnal lighting cycles of either natural or artificial light, uniformly diffused throughout the animal facilities.

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

02 NCAC 52J .0203 OUTDOOR FACILITIES

(a) In outdoor facilities that are subject to the Animal Welfare Act, primary enclosures, common areas and walkways with which an animal comes in contact:

(1) shall have groundcover constructed of sealed concrete or other surfaces so long as it is impervious to moisture, and/or;

(b) Exercise areas of outdoor facilities:

(2) use gravel for groundcover so long as it is maintained at a minimum depth of six inches and kept in a sanitary manner; and/or

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

02 NCAC 52J .0204 PRIMARY ENCLOSURES

(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.

(k) If more than four dogs including animals owned by the staff or operator of the facility are housed or confined in an exercise area or primary enclosure, then there shall be at least one person constantly supervising each 10 dogs housed or confined within each primary enclosure or exercise area. This supervision shall be conducted from within the exercise area or primary enclosure such that the person(s) has/have immediate access to the animals in the event of an emergency, aggression or fight between animals.

(p) Pools in primary enclosures and/or exercise areas:

(5) Typical kiddie wading pools are to be considered accessories for the purposes of cleaning, sanitation, repair and maintenance.

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 .0206 WATERING

(a) Animals shall have continuous access to fresh, potable water, except as might otherwise be required to provide adequate veterinary care.

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