



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

September 10, 2025

Amanda Warren
Owner
The Grooming Barn
201 E Ehringhaus Street
Elizabeth City, NC 27909

Notice of Warning and Notice of Non-Compliance with NC General Statute § 19A-28

Dear Ms. Warren:

The Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) received information that you are operating The Grooming Barn, (“the kennel”), a facility that offers boarding and daycare services.

On June 4, 2025, AWS Veterinary Program Specialist Lynn (“Inspector Lynn”) met you at your facility. She informed you of the requirement to be licensed as a boarding kennel and conducted a courtesy inspection of the kennel. You stated you would be submitting the boarding kennel application.

On July 9, 2025, Inspector Lynn reached out to you as no application for the kennel had been received. You said that you had been busy but would send in the application.

On August 13, 2025, as no boarding kennel application had been received, Inspector Lynn spoke with you again. You stated you were uncertain if you would continue to offer boarding services.

A review of social media posts for the kennel shows that on August 24, 2025 and September 3, 2025, you continued to offer boarding services.

A review of AWS records does not show an active boarding kennel license for this facility or for you at any other address or that you have submitted the required application form.

Until such a time the facility has a valid AWS boarding kennel license, you may not operate as a boarding kennel. This means that the facility may not provide boarding or daycare services for any dogs or cats.

To initiate the process to become licensed as a boarding kennel, you must complete and submit the boarding kennel license application along with the application fee, pass a Facility Compliance Inspection and be issued a boarding kennel license from the AWS before housing any dogs or cats. 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/awsnewboardingapp/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.

In addition, pursuant to NC General Statute § 19A-33, operation of a boarding kennel without a currently valid license constitutes a Class 3 misdemeanor with each day of operation constituting a separate offense.

Please respond either by email or USPS to this notice by confirming that you have ceased all boarding and daycare services and will not offer them without first obtaining an AWS boarding kennel license fee. You may respond to me directly by email at: patricia.norris@ncagr.gov.

Your immediate attention to this matter is required.

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
Lindsey Spain, Special Deputy Attorney General

Appendix

RELEVANT 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-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.