Complaint was received via e-mail to AWS on August 12, 2012. It was assigned to me on August 13, 2012 to investigate. The e-mail read as follows: "I am concerned that in the past week two injured animals have been surrendered to the shelter. One dog had a right eye infection and I believe has now been adopted by a local person. And to my knowledge, the dog did not receive any medical attention while at the shelter. The other dog has an injured leg and as far as I know has not received any medical attention. The dog with the injured leg is still at the shelter. Will you please let me know who has the responsibility to provide veterinary care for Rowan county shelter animals who need medical attention? I would really like to see our homeless animals receive the care they need even when they are in a public shelter. I have not been able to get a response from the shelter regarding this."

Complainant sent an e-mail to Rowan County Animal Shelter on August 12, 2012 and received this response: "Unfortunately, we are not able to treat any animals that come through. If the injury doesn't seem to be causing the dog much pain we will keep it for a few days in case anyone wants to adopt it and treat it, however, if it is in too much pain we can't allow it to suffer."
8/14/2012 visited shelter to follow-up on the complaint. Upon arrival I spoke with Maria and explained complaint to her. She knew of the two dogs in question and pulled all corresponding paperwork. The tri-colored beagle with said right eye infection was surrendered on 07/31/12 as a stray. It was adopted out on 08/10/2012. There were no health problems reported concerning any type of eye injury/infection on the paperwork. The brindle Shepherd/collie mix with said injured leg was an owner surrender on 08/09/2012. This dog was adopted on 08/13/2012. Again there was no known injury indicated on the paperwork. Clai Martin arrived at the shelter and I explained complaint to him also. Clai and Maria stated that they knew the dog was limping but he was putting pressure on the leg and was able to stand and walk on it. They stated the dog was not showing any signs of pain. Since the dog has been adopted Maria has spoken with the owners and was told the dog was doing fine and had not required any medical attention. I have received copies of all paperwork for both dogs in question. I have left a voicemail with both of the new adopters to confirm the health status of both dogs.

Clai and I walked through the shelter and there were no animals with visible injuries or illness.

Digital signature of inspector

Christie Shore

Signature of Management
At time of visit Clai and I discussed his program of Veterinarian Care which states to "Contact Veterinarian on call" for his protocol for providing emergency veterinarian care. I recommended having the county to contract with a Veterinarian so that when needed the shelter will be familiar with which vet to contact if injury/illness requires attention.

After my visit the new adopters of the two dogs in question returned my call. The first call was from Mrs. Duganne, the adopter of the Beagle with said eye infection. Mrs. Duganne stated that she adopted the dog on Friday, August 10, 2012. She did notice that the dog had an infected right eye. The shelter did tell her that there was a problem with the dog's eye. Mrs. Duganne took the dog to her veterinarian on Saturday and dog was prescribed antibiotic drops for right eye only. She said at this time dog is doing wonderful.

The second call was from Mrs. Connolly, the adopter of the Shepherd/collie mix with said leg injury. She stated that when she saw the dog the shelter worker told her that the dog did have a limp when it was brought in but had improved quickly and was able to put weight on all four legs. Mrs. Connolly said the dog showed no signs of injury when she saw the dog and has not showed any signs since the adoption.