



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

March 11, 2026

Azure Hensley
Clover's Clubhouse
304 Cedar Lodge Road
Thomasville, NC 27360

Notice of Warning and Notice of Non-Compliance with NC General Statute § 19A-26

Dear Ms. Hensley:

The Animal Welfare Section ("AWS") of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("NCDA&CS") received information that Clover's Clubhouse located in Lexington and Thomasville, NC may be operating as an unregistered animal shelter.

On February 25, 2026, AWS Program Coordinator Shore ("Inspector Shore"), in coordination with Davidson County Animal Control, conducted site visits at two addresses, 2431 Wright Lane, Lexington and 304 Cedar Lodge Road, Thomasville, associated with Clover's Clubhouse. The site visit revealed 52 cats at the Lexington address and 31 cats at the Thomasville address. You, Ms. Hensley, stated there was a mix of rescue cats and personal cats at each location with the majority being rescue cats.

Inspector Shore discussed the registration requirements if a rescue was operating as an animal shelter. Until such a time Clover's Clubhouse has a valid AWS animal shelter registration, this organization may not operate as an animal shelter. This means that the organization/rescue may not house more than 9 seized, abandoned, rescue, stray or unwanted dogs and/or cats, including fostering dogs/cats for a shelter(s) or other rescue(s).

To initiate the process to become registered as an animal shelter, you must complete the animal shelter registration application, before housing any animals. 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/awsnewshelterapp/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.

Your immediate 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
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-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. (1977, 2nd Sess., c. 1217, s. 7; 1987, c. 827, s. 64.)

§ 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.