



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 19, 2026

Sabrina Deuel
1223 NC 45 S
Cofield, NC 27922

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

Dear Mrs. Deuel:

The Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) received a complaint that you are operating an unregistered animal shelter at 1223 NC 45 S, Cofield, NC 27922.

On March 5, 2026, AWS Veterinary Program Specialist Lynn (“Inspector Lynn”), conducted a site visit at the address above. You and your husband spoke with Inspector Lynn but denied access to see the animals or their kennels. The tops of numerous kennels were visible over the perimeter fence that was covered with black tarps, and a large number of dogs were heard barking.

You stated that you were a former animal control employee of the Hertford County Sheriff’s Office and were aware of the NC Animal Welfare Act and its rules. You refused to accept the AWS animal shelter registration application packet that Inspector Lynn offered. You stated you were not operating an animal shelter but were rehoming the 50 dogs on the property that have been obtained from the Hertford County Animal Shelter and other sources.

A review of social media shows that you were previously soliciting donations for your rescue named One Love Dog Rescue. Social media posts in 2025 show that you continued to solicit donations for your “rescue.” A review of AWS records does not show an active certificate of registration for an animal shelter for One Love Dog Rescue or any other rescue at this address. Your current activities constitute the operation of an animal shelter and therefore require that you obtain an AWS registration as an animal shelter or cease your activities.

Until such a time the rescue has a valid AWS animal shelter registration, you may not operate as an animal shelter. This means that the rescue may not: intake stray or unwanted animals directly from the

public, animal shelter or other rescue; house more than 9 stray or unwanted dogs or cats; and/or provide foster care for a shelter or other rescue for more than 9 animals.

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.