



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

June 24, 2025

Matthew Nagem
Owner
Diggs for Dogs
1648 N. Clodfelter Road
High Point, NC 27265
and via email:
matt@diggsfordogs.com

NOTICE of WARNING and NOTICE of VIOLATION

Re: Violations of Title 02 N.C. Administrative Code (“NCAC”) Chapter 52J, Sections .0201(h); .0203(b)(2) and (e); .0204(a), (b), and (c); and .0207(a), (d)(1), and (8).

AWS-WL-2025-8

Boarding Kennel: Diggs for Dogs
License Number: 10870

Dear Mr. Nagem:

On June 12, 2025, a Facility Compliance Inspection (“FCI”) was conducted by Veterinary Program Specialist Shore (“Inspector Shore”) of the Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the Veterinary Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) of Diggs for Dogs (“the kennel”). The findings of this FCI included:

1. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0201(h), 4 dogs were present in the outdoor exercise area without employee supervision. This exercise area does not have a separate perimeter fence;
2. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(b)(2), the kennel failed to maintain the gravel in the exercise area at a minimum depth of 6 inches;
3. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(e), the kennel failed to provide adequate protection from the sun in the outdoor exercise areas;
4. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(a), the kennel failed to maintain the surfaces in the primary enclosures so that they were impervious to moisture. This violation was previously cited in the January 9, 2025 FCI report;
5. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(b), the kennel failed to replace damaged wood in a manner that did not permit contact with wood by animals,
6. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(c), the kennel failed to maintain the primary enclosures and exercise areas in good repair in a manner to prevent injury to animals. This violation was previously cited in the January 9, 2025 FCI report;

7. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(a), the kennel failed to properly clean the enclosures and exercise areas a minimum of twice a day. This violation was previously cited in the January 9, 2025 FCI report;
8. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(d)(1), the kennel failed to properly sanitize previously occupied primary enclosures and accessories prior to the introduction of a new animal; and
9. In violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(d)(8), the kennel failed to keep the fans clean of accumulated debris, dust and biological material;

The January 9, 2025 and the June 12, 2025 FCIs were noted to be “Disapproved” due to the number, severity and repetitive nature of the violations. Therefore, AWS finds that the kennel is in violation of 02 NCAC 52J Sections .0201(h); .0203(b)(2) and (e); .0204(a), (b), and (c); and .0207(a), (d)(1) and (8). The FCI reports referenced in this Notice of Warning and Notice of Violation have been provided to the owner of the kennel and are available for viewing by the public on the AWS website at:

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/veterinary/aws>.

This Warning Letter serves as written notice indicating in which respects the kennel violated the N.C. Animal Welfare Act (“AWA”) and the rules issued pursuant thereto. The kennel is directed to immediately comply with the AWA and its associated rules. Without an Approved FCI, the kennel will not be able to renew its AWS boarding kennel license when the current boarding kennel license expires on June 30, 2025.

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 willful disregard or violation may result in action against your facility’s boarding kennel license application 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.

Your immediate compliance with the N.C. Animal Welfare Act is required.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Dr. Michael Martin, State Veterinarian
Christina L. Waggett, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS
Jonathan Lanier, General Counsel, NCDA&CS
Lindsey Spain, Special Deputy Attorney General

Appendix

REFERENCED STATUTES 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. (1977, 2nd Sess., c. 1217, s. 11; 1987, c. 827, s. 67.)

§ 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 .0201 GENERAL

(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 .0203 OUTDOOR FACILITIES

(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

(e) Dogs and cats in outdoor areas shall be provided adequate protection from inclement weather and the Sun. This protection shall be sufficient to protect all animals simultaneously in the exercise area. If an animal cannot maintain its normal body temperature in an outdoor exercise area, the animal shall not be placed in an outside exercise area.

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

(a) Primary enclosures and exercise areas shall be constructed so as to prevent contamination from waste and wastewater from animals in other enclosures. All surfaces with which an animal comes in contact shall be impervious to moisture excluding the ground cover options of gravel and grass allowed for in Rule .0203 of this Section.

(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.

(c) Primary enclosures and exercise areas for dogs and cats shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair and in a manner to prevent injury to animals and keep other animals out.

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 .0207 SANITATION

(a) Waste shall be removed from primary enclosures, exercise areas and common areas to prevent contamination of the dogs or cats contained therein and to reduce disease hazards and odors. Enclosures and exercise areas for dogs and cats shall be properly cleaned a minimum of two times per day. The animal must be able to walk or lie down without coming in contact with any waste or debris.

(d) Sanitation shall be as follows:

- (1) prior to the introduction of dogs or cats into empty primary enclosures previously occupied, enclosures and accessories shall be sanitized in the manner provided in Subparagraph (d)(3) of this Rule;
- (8) fans, including floor fans, ceiling fans, wall fans, vent fans, etc. shall be kept clean of accumulated debris, dust and biological material.