



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

April 2, 2025

Antione Robinson  
Owner  
Real Deal Kennels  
4825 Country Club Road  
Winston Salem, NC 27104  
and via email:  
[Rdealkennels@gmail.com](mailto:Rdealkennels@gmail.com)

**NOTICE of WARNING and NOTICE of VIOLATION**

**Re: Violations of Title 02 N.C. Administrative Code (“NCAC”) Chapter 52J, Sections .0102(1); 0103; .0202(b)(3) and (d); .0203(b)(3) and (4), and (e); .0204(a) and (c); .0207(a), (d)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (7), (e) and (f); .0209(7)(a) and (8); and .0210(h).**

**AWS-WL-2025-6**

Boarding Kennel: Real Deal Kennels  
License Number: 20658

Dear Mr. Robinson:

On March 26, 2025, a Facility Compliance Inspection (“FCI”) was conducted by Veterinary Program Specialists Harris and Shore (“Inspectors Harris and Shore”) of the Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the Veterinary Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (“NCDA&CS”) of the Real Deal Kennels (“the kennel”). The findings of this FCI included:

1. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0102(1), the kennel did not have the owners of 2 of the 6 animals present at the kennel during the site visit provide a signature on entry. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report;
2. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0103, the kennel did not provide vaccination records for 2 of the 6 dogs on site when requested by the AWS Inspectors. In addition, the kennel did not produce records of enrichment of the long-term care animals when requested by the AWS Inspectors. Inspector Harris requested that the kennel owner email the requested records by COB on March 26, 2025 and the kennel owner failed to do so. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report;
3. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0202(b)(3), air flow in the kennel was not adequate to minimize odors. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report and the June 14, 2024 Notice of Civil Penalty;

4. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0202(d), the kennel failed to maintain the interior building surfaces so that they were impervious to moisture and readily sanitized as evidenced by the chipping paint on the concrete pathway;
5. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(b)(3), the kennel failed to clean and sanitize the artificial turf in the area leading to the outdoor exercise yard;
6. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(b)(4), the kennel failed to maintain the grass areas so that the dogs did not have access to bare dirt, and these areas had not been properly cleaned as old piles of fecal matter were present. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report;
7. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0203(e), dogs were not provided with adequate protection from inclement weather and the sun in the outdoor exercise areas. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report;
8. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(a), surfaces within the primary enclosures were not impervious to moisture as the back wall to which the animals have access had chipping and peeling paint and the cracks along the back wall were not sealed;
9. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0204(c), the primary enclosures were not maintained in good repair or in a manner to prevent injury to animals as chips of paint were accessible to the dogs and could be ingested and the leaving of choke and/or prong collars on the dogs while they are in the enclosures poses a risk of injury/choking;
10. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(a) and (d)(7), the outdoor exercise areas were not being properly cleaned a minimum of twice daily based on the accumulation of fecal debris in these areas. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report and the June 14, 2024 Notice of Civil Penalty;
11. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(d)(4), the common areas accessible to multiple animals were not kept clean or sanitary. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report and the June 14, 2024 Notice of Civil Penalty;
12. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(d)(1) and (2), the fabric barriers had not been properly cleaned and sanitized;
13. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(d)(3), the kennel failed to properly sanitize the primary enclosures and other hard surface areas as congealed urine is noted on the floor and buildup of biological debris is noted throughout the facility;
14. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(e), the kennel failed to keep the premises in good repair as noted by the pooling of water in the outdoor basement area with drainage of this pooled water into the drain near the entrance of the facility. This violation was previously cited in the September 24, 2024 FCI report and the June 14, 2024 Notice of Civil Penalty;
15. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0207(f), the kennel failed to maintain an effective program for insect control as evidenced by the significant number of cobwebs noted throughout the kennel;
16. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0209(7)(a), the kennel failed to document the provision of the daily social interactions and enrichment of long-term care animals;
17. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0209(8), the kennel confined animals in an area that had not been previously inspected by AWS; and
18. in violation of 02 NCAC 52J .0210(h), the facility failed to comply with the North Carolina rabies law as evidenced by 2 animals on site without proof of a current rabies vaccination.

The March 26, 2025 FCI was 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

0102(1); .0103; .0202(b)(3) and (d); .0203(b)(3) and (4), and (e); .0204(a) and (c); .0207(a), (d)(1), (2), (3), (4) and (7), (e), and (f); .0209(7)(a) and (8); and .0210(h).

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,

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, State Veterinarian  
Christina L. Waggett, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA&CS  
Jonathan Lanier, General Counsel, NCDA&CS  
Samuel Gray, Assistant 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 .0102 RECORDS; BOARDING KENNELS**

Operators of boarding kennels shall maintain records of all dogs and cats showing the following:

- (1) name and address of owner or person responsible for animal, the date of entry and signature of the person leaving the animal; and the date of release and signature and address of individual to whom animal is released;

*History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

### **02 NCAC 52J .0103 INSPECTION OF RECORDS**

All operators of animal shelters, pet shops, boarding kennels, public auctions, and persons operating as dealers shall make all required records available to the Director or his or her authorized representative on request, during the business and cleaning hours listed on the license application and/or during an inspection of the facility or an investigation. The operator must be able to match each animal to its record upon request. Records shall be maintained for a period of one year after the animal is released from a boarding kennel or sold from a pet store or public auction. Animal shelters shall maintain records required by the Animal Welfare Act or this Subchapter for a period of three years after the disposition of the animal.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; 19A-25; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; April 1, 1985; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

### **02 NCAC 52J .0202 INDOOR FACILITIES**

(b) Ventilation of indoor facilities:

- (3) air flow shall be adequate to minimize odors and moisture condensation.

(d) Interior building surfaces of indoor facilities with which animals come in contact shall be constructed and maintained so that they are impervious to moisture and can be readily sanitized.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; 19A-30(3); Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

### **02 NCAC 52J .0203 OUTDOOR FACILITIES**

(b) Exercise areas of outdoor facilities:

- (3) artificial turf may be allowed so long as it is adequately maintained in good repair, is replaced when damaged, and is cleaned and sanitized in accordance with 02 NCAC 52J .0207; and/or
- (4) may contain established grass so long as the animal(s) do not have access to bare dirt and the grass covered area(s) must be kept properly cleaned and sanitized as prescribed in

Rule .0207 of this Subchapter. In the event of a contagious disease outbreak, the sanitation, management, and use of the grass area shall be addressed in the veterinarian's written protocol required by 02 NCAC 52J .0210(b) and (c).

(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.

(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;
- (2) in addition to primary enclosures being properly cleaned a minimum of two times per day, enclosures and accessories shall be sanitized a minimum of once every seven days in the manner provided in Subparagraph (d)(3) of this Rule if the same animal is housed in the same enclosure for seven or more days;
- (3) primary enclosures, cages, rooms, hard-surfaced or artificial turf exercise areas, pens, and runs shall be sanitized by:
  - (A) washing them with hot water (180 degrees F.) and soap or detergent as in a mechanical cage washer; or
  - (B) removal of visible organic matter, precleaning all soiled surfaces with a detergent or degreaser solution, followed by the application, at the correct concentration, of an animal-safe disinfectant labeled to be effective against common pathogens. The disinfectant is to be left on the surfaces for the time indicated by the manufacturer. After such time, all surfaces shall be thoroughly rinsed to remove all residual chemicals and then the area dried prior to returning the animal(s) to this area; or
  - (C) cleaning all soiled surfaces with live steam. The area is to be cooled and dried prior to the return of the animal(s).

(4) common areas, any area accessible to multiple animals and exercise areas not covered by 02 NCAC 52J .0207(d)(3) shall be kept clean and sanitary. These areas are to be properly cleaned a minimum of two times per day. Hard and/or impervious surfaces of these areas shall be sanitized a minimum of once every seven days in the manner provided in Subparagraph (d)(3) of this Rule;

(7) any area accessible to multiple animals shall be kept clean and sanitary; and

(e) Premises (buildings and grounds) shall be kept clean and in good repair in order to protect the animals from injury and to facilitate the prescribed husbandry practices set forth in this Rule. Premises shall remain free of accumulations of trash, junk, waste products, and discarded matter. Weeds, grasses, and bushes must be controlled so as to facilitate cleaning of the premises and to improve pest control, and to protect the health and well-being of the animals.

(f) An effective program for the control of insects, ectoparasites, and avian and mammalian pests shall be established and maintained.

*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 .0209 CLASSIFICATION AND SEPARATION**

Animals housed in the same primary enclosure or confined to an exercise area shall be maintained in compatible groups, with the following additional restrictions:

(7) Animals in long term care must be provided with human interaction other than interaction for enclosure cleaning, same species social interaction, opportunity for play and exercise, and environmental enrichment daily. The provision of these daily interactions and enrichment shall be adequate for the animal's species, age, size and behavior needs. In addition:

(a) The provision of the daily social interactions and enrichment shall be documented in the animal's records and the records maintained for three years; and

(8) All animals shall be confined in primary enclosures or exercise areas. Primary enclosures and exercise areas shall be inspected by the Animal Welfare Section and in compliance with the rules of this Subchapter before an animal can be confined in the enclosure or area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. January 1, 2005; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*

## **02 NCAC 52J .0210 VETERINARY CARE**

(h) All animals in a licensed or registered facility shall be in compliance with the North Carolina rabies law, G.S. 130A, Article 6, Part 6. This subsection shall not apply to animals which have been in the facility less than 15 days.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-24; Eff. April 1, 1984; Amended Eff. March 23, 2009; January 1, 2005; Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*