



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
 Division of Animal Health  
 PO Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911  
 Phone: (608) 224-4872 Fax (608) 224-4871

Case Number: 149309



# INITIAL NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Issued under chs. 93, 95 and 173 Wis. Stats., and ch. ATCP 10, 12, 16 and 17, Wis. Admin. Code

NAME RIDGLAN FARMS, INC		DATE OF VIOLATION 6/06/24 & 9/16/24	LICENSE OR PERMIT NUMBER 267262-DS	
STREET ADDRESS 10489 W. BLUE MOUNDS RD.		CITY BLUE MOUNDS	STATE WI	ZIP 53517
INCIDENT LOCATION OR STREET ADDRESS DOG BREEDING FACILITY		CITY	STATE	ZIP

VIOLATION(S) (DESCRIBE):  
 SEE BELOW

<p>IN VIOLATION OF WIS. ADMIN. CODE SECTION(S) ATCP:</p> <p><b>Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(2)(b)</b> – Animal health and veterinary care</p> <p><b>Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(2)(e)</b> – Animal health and veterinary care</p> <p><b>Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(6)(b)</b> – Behavior and socialization</p> <p><b>Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(6)(d)</b> – Behavior and socialization</p> <p><b>Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(3)(c)(4):</b>                  9 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter A, § 3.1(f) – Drainage and waste disposal</p> <p><b>Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(3)(c)(4):</b>                  9 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter A, § 3.2(b) – Ventilation</p>	<p>IN VIOLATION OF WIS. STATS. SECTION(S):</p>
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Violations from 6/06/2024 and 9/16/2024 inspections:

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

- (2) Animal health and veterinary care.
- (b) The responsible caretaker on the premises, or an individual implementing a caretaker's oral or written instructions, shall perform daily body, mobility, and behavior checks on each dog.

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

- (2) Animal health and veterinary care.
- (e) A licensed veterinarian shall examine each dog as often as necessary to ensure adequate health care. The examining licensed veterinarian shall use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. The license holder shall follow the veterinarian's recommendations.

- On 6/06/2024, department inspectors observed a dog within enclosure 550/551 identified preliminarily as ZKA-8 or FZA-8 that was limping and keeping weight off her front right paw, which had what appeared to be a ruptured interdigital cyst. No documentation of the cyst was present on the information cards located outside of the enclosure(s) or the dry erase board(s) utilized to document interdigital cysts.

In follow up correspondence Ridglan stated "I believe the dog in question is actually LLG-0 and her card was in the 552 card holder spot. DOB 12Apr20. She has been receiving topical treatment and is looking almost normal." Inspectors did not observe a treatment record or 'flag' on the information card for enclosure 552 nor was enclosure 552 documented on the aforementioned dry erase board. In further correspondence Ridglan stated "Simply what happened was that an interdigital cyst was found on one of the 3,222 dogs we have that was not yet found by myself or one of our dedicated employees. The caretakers are very diligent and caring, but they are human and may not notice every minor finding immediately."

- On 9/16/2024, department inspectors observed a dog identified as FVC-0 / inside enclosure 737/739 that was limping while moving through the enclosure, not bearing any weight on the right front leg. Two partially healed scratches and/or puncture wounds and swelling were present on the leg near the carpal joint. No documentation of the injury was present on the enclosure card or the whiteboard documenting ongoing or necessary treatment(s). Ridglan representative stated no treatment had yet been provided and the injury "probably" would have been observed today. The second dog present in the same enclosure (FJA-9) appeared to have partially healed puncture / scratch marks on the snout.

A Ridglan representative on 9/20/24 responded to a request for follow up - "The enclosure numbers for the two dogs you asked about are 737 and 739. FVC-0 is the dog that had the small cut on its leg. Today there is a small scab present and she is normal in all other aspects. I attached a picture of the healed leg. Her pen mate is FJA-9."

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

(6) Behavior and socialization.

(b) All dogs shall have daily positive human contact and socialization, not limited to feeding time.

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

(6) Behavior and socialization.

(d) Dogs may not be deprived of contact, activity, or enrichment under this section for extended periods, except for good cause.

- Pursuant to observations during the routine inspection (case 99107) and the 9/16/2024 follow-up inspection, department inspectors found that dogs within the facility are not receiving daily human positive contact and socialization. During the routine inspection and the follow-up inspection, injuries apparent to DATCP staff were unidentified and untreated.

Ridglan has approximately 3,200 dogs present within the facility, and approximately 16 full time employees (at the time of the 6/6/24 routine inspection, not including manager and lead veterinarian). Three of these sixteen employees' duties primarily consist of dog socialization. All dogs within the facility are not receiving daily positive human contact and/or socialization, not limited to feeding time.

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

(3) Housing and transportation.

(c) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a facility that is used only for the purpose of breeding, raising and selling dogs for scientific research, provided that all of the following apply:

4. The dogs are kept in enclosures that comply with 9 CFR, Chapter I, subchapter A (animal welfare).

#### **9 CFR AWA Subpart A**

##### **§ 3.1 - Housing facilities, general.**

f. Drainage and waste disposal. Housing facility operators must provide for regular and frequent collection, removal, and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding, debris, garbage, water, other fluids and wastes, and dead animals, in a manner that minimizes contamination and disease risks. Housing facilities must be equipped with disposal facilities and drainage systems that are constructed and operated so that animal waste and water are rapidly eliminated and animals stay dry. Disposal and drainage systems must minimize vermin and pest infestation, insects, odors, and disease hazards. All drains must be properly constructed, installed, and maintained. If closed drainage systems are used, they must be equipped with traps and prevent the backflow of gases and the backup of sewage onto the floor. If the facility uses sump or settlement ponds, or other similar systems for drainage and animal waste disposal, the system must be located far enough away from the animal area of the housing facility to prevent odors, diseases, pests, and vermin infestation. Standing puddles of water in animal enclosures must be drained or mopped up so that the animals stay dry. Trash containers in housing facilities and in food storage and food preparation areas must be leak-proof and must have tightly fitted lids on them at all times. Dead animals, animal parts, and animal waste must not be kept in food storage or food preparation areas, food freezers, food refrigerators, or animal areas.

- On 6/06/2024 and 9/16/2024, department inspectors observed that drainage systems were not constructed and/or operated so that animal waste is rapidly eliminated. Excess excreta, low spots where waste and wash water accumulates and becomes stagnant were consistent in the catch pans beneath the second-level enclosures where adult dogs were kept, and on the concrete flooring beneath the first level enclosures - with the exception of the pre-shipment / order dogs area and the whelping rooms. A film of organic waste material was present on the concrete flooring beneath the enclosures throughout the facility.

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

(3) Housing and transportation.

(c) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a facility that is used only for the purpose of breeding, raising and selling dogs for scientific research, provided that all of the following apply:

4. The dogs are kept in enclosures that comply with 9 CFR, Chapter I, subchapter A (animal welfare).

#### **9 CFR AWA Subpart A**

##### **§ 3.2 - Indoor housing facilities.**

b. Ventilation. Indoor housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently ventilated at all times when dogs or cats are present to provide for their health and well-being, and to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels, and moisture condensation. Ventilation must be provided by windows, vents, fans, or air conditioning. Auxiliary ventilation, such as fans, blowers, or air conditioning must be provided when the ambient temperature is 85°F (29.5 °C) or higher. The relative humidity must be maintained at a level that ensures the health and well-being of the dogs or cats housed therein, in accordance with the directions of the attending veterinarian and generally accepted professional and husbandry practices.

- Department inspectors observed on 9/16/2024, that due to the 9 CFR Chapter I, Subchapter A, § 3.1(f) violation (excess waste accumulation) and inadequate air circulation, odors from stagnant pools of moisture and excess excreta had not improved since the routine inspection.

Most wall-mounted exhaust fans and their adjacent surfaces (louvers, fan blades, casing and ingress points) within the facility were coated with organic material, restricting air movement.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Cease and desist the activity immediately.


Take the following corrective steps:

Correct by: IMMEDIATELY

- The responsible caretaker on the premises, or an individual implementing a caretaker's oral or written instructions, shall perform daily body, mobility, and behavior checks on each dog in the dog breeding facility.
- A licensed veterinarian shall examine each dog as often as necessary to ensure adequate health care. The examining licensed veterinarian shall use appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. The license holder shall follow the veterinarian's recommendations.
- All dogs shall have daily positive human contact and socialization, not limited to feeding time.
- Dogs may not be deprived of contact, activity, or enrichment for extended periods, except for good cause.
- Indoor housing facilities for dogs must be sufficiently ventilated at all times when dogs are present to provide for their health and well-being, and to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels, and moisture condensation.
- Housing facility operators must provide for regular and frequent collection, removal, and disposal of excrement, water, other fluids and wastes, in a manner that minimizes contamination and disease risks. Housing facilities must be equipped with disposal facilities and drainage systems that are constructed and operated so that animal waste and water are rapidly eliminated and animals stay dry. Disposal and drainage systems must minimize vermin and pest infestation, insects, odors, and disease hazards. All drains must be properly constructed, installed, and maintained. If closed drainage systems are used, they must be equipped with traps and prevent the backflow of gases and the backup of sewage onto the floor. If the facility uses sump or settlement ponds, or other similar systems for drainage and animal waste disposal, the system must be located far enough away from the animal area of the housing facility to prevent odors, diseases, pests, and vermin infestation.

**This is an official notice that you are operating in violation of the law(s) of the State of Wisconsin described above. This notice will be forwarded to department offices in Madison for review and evaluation. The issuance of this notice DOES NOT preclude further legal proceedings being brought against you for the stated violations or for continued violations. Chapters 93, 95 and 173, Wis. Stats., provide penalties for violations of the law, which are listed on the back of this form.**

**NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE ISSUED BY**

NAME COLIN BENELL	TITLE COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST	ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP 2811 AGRICULTURE DR, MADISON WI 53708
SIGNATURE 		DATE ISSUED 11/08/2024
TELEPHONE NUMBER (608) 575-3207	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL COLIN.BENELL@WISCONSIN.GOV

**COPY OF ABOVE NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE RECEIVED BY**

**METHOD OF SERVICE:**     US Mail                       Email                       In person

**I understand that this is an official notice that will be placed in department files. Any further violations of these laws may result in immediate penalties (see back of form).**

NAME	TITLE
SIGNATURE	DATE RECEIVED

FORM DISTRIBUTION:    (Office of State Veterinarian)    (Consultant/Inspector)    (Violator)

Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was originally collected – sec.15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.

LAW	STATUTE	PENALTY
Obstructing Officers	93.21(2)	Any person who obstructs or interferes with an officer or employee of the Department in the performance of his or her duty, or who refuses to permit access or sampling, may be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 6 months or both. In lieu of penalty may be required to forfeit not more than \$2,000.
Violation of Order or Regulation	93.21(3)	Any person who refuses, neglects, or fails to obey any order, shall be fined, not to exceed \$200 or imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed 6 months or both.
Failure to Obey Orders	93.21(4)	Resist or obstruct any Department employee in exercise of lawful authority, shall, for each offense, be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both.
Rabies	95.21(10)	Failure to obtain rabies vaccination: forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 Refusal to comply with orders or quarantines: fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$1000, or imprisoned not more than 60 days or both. Other violations: forfeiture of up to \$50.
Animal Markets	95.68(9),	Conducting business after revocation: fine of not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not to exceed 6 months or both
Animal Dealers	95.69(9)	Conducting business after revocation: fine of not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not to exceed 6 months or both
Animal Truckers	95.71(9)	Conducting business after revocation: fine of not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not to exceed 6 months or both
All other violations of law or department orders under ch. 95, Stats.	95.99(1)	First offense: fine of not more than \$1,000; subsequent offense fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both
	95.99(2)	Injunction restraining violation of Statute or Rule
	95.99(3)	First offense: forfeiture of not less than \$200, nor more than \$5,000; 2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offense within 5 years, forfeiture not less than \$400 nor more than \$5,000 [in lieu of criminal penalty under (1)]
Operating without a license	173.41(15)(a)	May be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 9 months or both
All other violations under ch. 173, Stats.	173.41(15)(b)(1)	Forfeiture of not more than \$1,000 for the first offense and not less than \$200.00 nor more than \$2,000 for subsequent offense within 5 years
Expenses for Care	173.41(15)(c)	May be ordered to pay the expenses of caring for dogs removed from possession because of mistreatment

In addition to the above, the division may seek action against any license or registration you hold at the department.