



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers



Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

October 14, 2025

Ismael R. Ozanne
Dane County District Attorney
215 S. Hamilton St. #3000
Madison, WI 53703

Sent via Cerberus referral portal & E-Mail

Re: Request for prosecution of Ridglan Farms, Inc.

Dear District Attorney Ozanne:

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (“Department”), respectfully requests your office pursue prosecution against the above-named entity, pursuant to your duties under Wis. Stat. § 978.05(2).

Ridglan Farms, Inc. (“Ridglan”) operates a dog breeding facility in the State of Wisconsin at 10489 W. Blue Mounds Road in the Town of Blue Mounds, Dane County. This entity is subject to Dog Seller & Dog Facility Operator requirements and Department inspection under Wis. Admin. Code ATCP Chapter 16.

On June 6, 2024, Department inspectors conducted a routine inspection of the Ridglan dog breeding facility and relevant dog records. During this inspection, inspectors found multiple violations of Wis. Admin. Code ATCP Chapter 16. A follow-up inspection was required to evaluate whether these violations had been corrected.

On September 16, 2024, Department inspectors conducted a follow-up inspection of the Ridglan dog breeding facility. Inspectors found that violations found on June 6, 2024, had still not been corrected as well as additional violations.

In addition to the documented violations during inspections, information shared by the Wisconsin Veterinary Examining Board (“VEB”) revealed a long-standing practice of inappropriate handling of dogs for surgical procedures. These surgeries were performed by untrained, non-veterinarian Ridglan staff and subsequently exposed dogs to unnecessary harm.

During the course of these two inspections and a subsequent investigation, Department staff found violations of the following categories:

- 3 Counts: Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(2)(b); failure to perform daily body, mobility, and behavior checks on each dog.
- 3 Counts: Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(2)(e); failure to have a licensed veterinarian examine each dog as often as necessary to ensure adequate health care.

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- 488 Counts: Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(2)(a); failure to handle dogs as carefully as practicable and in a humane manner that does not cause physical harm or unnecessary injury.

The factual circumstances supporting these violations are explained further in the Department's Case Summary Report. Also explained in the Report, the Department's review revealed potential noncompliance with Wis. Admin. Code § ATCP 16.20(6)(b); failure to provide daily positive human contact and socialization, not limited to feeding time. The Department offers the information obtained for consideration for further investigation.

It is important to note that the Department does not regulate nor inspect the research operations occurring at Ridglan Farms, Inc. The violations cited by the Department are direct violations of this entity's dog seller & dog facility operator's license under Wis. Admin. Code ATCP Chapter 16. This request for prosecution does not involve Ridglan's bona fide research activities and operations.

Under Wis. Stat. § 173.41(15)(b)1., a person who violates this chapter or any rule promulgated or order issued under this chapter, for which a specific penalty is not prescribed, may be required to forfeit not more than \$1,000 for the first offense. A forfeiture under this subsection is in lieu of a criminal penalty under sub. (1).

Generally, the Department will attempt to negotiate a settlement with a defendant and present a fully resolved case to the district attorney, typically seeking civil penalties. In this instance, Ridglan rejects the Department's allegations and the proposed agreement to resolve this matter. Thus, the Department respectfully submits the relevant information provided in the Case Summary Report and requests that your office prosecute as you deem appropriate. The Department has provided a draft civil forfeiture complaint for assistance, if it does assist you.

The supporting documents are being transmitted electronically. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Cuellar, Assistant Legal Counsel for the Department, jackie.cuellar1@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Dustin Boyd
Animal Health Compliance Supervisor

c: Melissa Mace (via E-mail)
Colin Benell (via E-mail)
Jackie Cuellar (via E-mail)