



State of Wisconsin
Governor Tony Evers

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Secretary Randy Romanski

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM – Division of Animal Health

DATE: April 16, 2024
TO: Travis Maze – Jefferson County Sheriffs Department
FROM: Chris Ondercin, Inspection Services Manager – Division of Animal Health
SUBJECT: Patricia Rockstroh / Penny Lane Cocker Spaniels

Captain Maze,

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. 173.41(13), when Wisconsin Department of Agriculture personnel have reasonable grounds to believe that dog(s) are being mistreated in violation of Wis. Stat 951 (Crimes Against Animals), we are required to report it to law enforcement. Pursuant to our inspections on November 13 2023 and April 4 2024, we believe there are reasonable grounds to report that the conditions as stated below constitute violations of Wis. Stat. 951. WI-DATCP, while having a responsibility to inspect and investigate compliance with Wis. Stat. 173.41, does not have the authority to seize or accept the surrender of animals.

- Wis. Stat. 951.14(3)(b) Space requirements. Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns.
 - o The department documented on 11/13/23 & 4/4/24 that Rockstroh has been keeping between four and six adult cocker spaniels within 16sqft (4'x4') wire enclosures. This allows for between 4 and 2.6 sqft per dog, respectively. This lack of space does not allow dogs to engage in normal postural movements for extended periods of time, which may cause stress and debility. When department staff asked how many hours per day the dogs were kept in said conditions, Rockstroh refused to provide specific answers.
- Wis. Stat. 951.14(1)(b) No person owning or responsible for confining or impounding any animal may fail to provide the animal with proper shelter as prescribed in this section. In the case of farm animals, nothing in this section shall be construed as imposing shelter requirements or standards more stringent than normally accepted husbandry practices in the particular county where the animal or shelter is located.
 - (b)Ventilation. Indoor housing facilities shall be adequately ventilated by natural or mechanical means to provide for the health of the animals at all times.
 - o The department documented on 11/13/23 & 4/4/24 that the indoor air quality within Rockstroh's dog breeding facility was well below standards. On 11/13/24 inspection staff attempted to obtain an ammonia reading, at which time Rockstroh physically prevented our staff from doing so. On 4/4/24, inspection staff obtained a reading of 20ppm within the basement of the residence. Ongoing exposure to high concentrations of ammonia can result in effects on the respiratory and other organ systems. The department's threshold for citing a violation is 15ppm.

Best Regards,

Chris Ondercin

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Attached: Inspection and Supplemental reports from the 11/13/23 & 4/4/24 inspections.