

SHELTER INSPECTION REPORT - AI-SIRRating: **Non-Compliant Critical - 7**Purpose: **Inspection**DATE/TOA: **8/21/26 1:45 pm**

License No.:

Expiration Date:

**JEFFERSON COUNTY SPCA
25056 WATER STREET
WATERTOWN NY 13601**Inspector #: **64**

These are the findings of an inspection of your facility on the date(s) indicated above:

Agriculture & Markets Law - Article 26C - Regulation of Animal Shelters**A. General Facility Standards**

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| 1. Facility Article 26 C, §424.1 | Satisfactory |
| 2. Surfaces Article 26 C, §424.2 | General Deficiency |
| <i>The surfaces of floors and walls where animals come into contact are not impervious or need minor repair.</i> | |
| <i>Article 26 C, §424.2</i> | |
| <i>Indoor building surfaces in direct contact with animals shall be constructed of materials that are non-porous, water resistant, non-toxic and able to withstand regular cleaning and disinfection.</i> | |
| 3. Power/Water Article 26 C, §424.3 | General Deficiency |
| <i>No written emergency plan for power or water outage.</i> | |
| <i>Article 26 C, §424.3</i> | |
| <i>Electrical power and running water shall be maintained to all parts of the facility that house animals, with written emergency plans for back-up sources or relocation of the animals to a safe environment in the event of outages lasting more than four hours.</i> | |
| 4. Sinks Article 26 C, §424.4 | Satisfactory |
| 5. Temperature Article 26 C, §424.5, 6 | Satisfactory |
| 6. HVAC Maintenance Article 26 C, §424.7 | Satisfactory |
| 7. Ammonia Article 26 C, §424.8 | Satisfactory |
| 8. Isolation Article 26 C, §424.9; 425.8 | Satisfactory |
| 9. Sound Article 26 C, §424.10 | General Deficiency |
| <i>Sound levels not documented or sound logs unavailable for inspection.</i> | |
| <i>Article 26 C, §424.10</i> | |
| <i>Each animal shelter shall minimize continuous exposure of personnel and animals to sound levels exceeding eighty-five decibels. Active measures shall be taken and documented to minimize sound levels in housing areas. Such measures may include modified kennel design, relocation of particularly loud animals, or use of visual barriers, sound baffling, and behavioral enrichment protocols. Each animal shelter shall use a decibel-meter at a minimum of once weekly to measure the level of sound in their kennels during cleaning and resting times. A record of such measurements and the date such measurements were recorded shall be maintained by each animal shelter.</i> | |
| 10. Lighting Article 26 C, §424.11 | Satisfactory |
| 11. Drainage and Waste Article 26 C, §424.2; 425.3, 16 | Satisfactory |

12. Pest Control Article 26 C, §424.12

General Deficiency

Lids unavailable for garbage cans that contain open food products. No Written Pest control plan.

Article 26 C, §424.12

Each animal shelter shall establish and maintain a written plan for pest and vermin control including the following:

(a) Method

of controlling rodent infestation that is effective and safe for both humans, and animals housed in the facility; (b)

A record or copies of service reports from outside service providers related to pest and vermin control that

documents dates, methods, locations, and outcomes, if applicable; and (c) Food stored in rodent proof

containers to prevent spoilage, contamination, and infestation once opened, if packaging has been damaged, or

as otherwise required by such plan.

13. Drop Box Article 26 C, §424.13

Satisfactory

B. Animal Housing**1. Primary Enclosure Article 26 C, §425.1, 3, 10, 12; 424.2**

Satisfactory

2. Group Housing Article 26 C, §425.5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14

Satisfactory

3. Whelping Box Article 26 C, §425.8 (b)

Satisfactory

4. Outdoor Housing Article 26 C, §425.2, 15, 16

Not Applicable

5. Identification Article 26 C, §431.2 (d), (v)

Satisfactory

C. Sanitation**1. Sanitation Article 26 C, §426.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11; 428.1 (e)**

Satisfactory

2. Outdoor Enclosures Article 26 C, §426.9

Satisfactory

D. Shelter Management and Animal Husbandry**1. Number Housed Article 26 C, §425.12; 427.2,3**

Satisfactory

2. Observation Article 26 C, §428.1; 427.4

General Deficiency

Animal not observed at feeding times. Observations not recorded.

Article 26 C, §428.1f; 427.4

Each animal shall be observed during or following each feeding time to ensure daily food intake, or at least once every twenty-four hours for animals continually offered food. Such observations shall be recorded. All animals shall be observed daily by a manager or designee to identify each animal's needs for care, housing and service and to ensure that each animal has a plan to advance efficiently through the shelter.

3. Food and Water Article 26 C, §428.1

Satisfactory

4. Restraint Article 26 C, §428.2 (a), (b), (c)

Satisfactory

E. Behavior**1. Routine Care and Handling Article 26 C, §430.1, 2, 3**

Satisfactory

2. Exercise and Enrichment Article 26 C, §430.4 (a), (b), (c), 5

General Deficiency

Exercise and or enrichment not documented. Additional measures not documented for animals exhibiting stress behaviors.

Article 26 C, §430.3, 4 (a), (b), (c), 5

At least twenty minutes of positive social interactions, in addition to time spent providing feeding, cleaning, basic husbandry or care with people shall be provided by each animal shelter on a daily basis for any animal in such shelter's custody or possession except those so poorly socialized to humans that such contact would be unpleasant, stressful or pose a safety risk to other animals or humans. Daily handling and positive exposure to people and other animals shall be provided for any dog or cat less than four months of age, while taking appropriate precautions to limit infectious disease. Positive social interactions shall include but not be limited to petting an animal, walking, reward based training or interactive play with toys. Time spent providing basic husbandry and animal care shall not be used to offset the social interaction time requirements of this subdivision.

4. Each animal shelter shall provide each animal in its custody or possession opportunity for exercise and exploration in the following manner: (a) all cats housed in a cage, kennel, or room that provides less than eighteen square feet of floor space per cat for fourteen days or longer shall be permitted at least fifteen minutes per day at least five days per week outside of their primary enclosure to exercise and explore; (b) all dogs residing in the shelter for fourteen days or longer shall be permitted time outside of their primary enclosure to exercise and explore for at least twenty minutes per day five days per week; or (c) in the event such activities are not possible due to any animal's health, behavior, order of the commissioner or legal restriction, the condition and reason shall be documented in such animal's medical record. Each animal shelter shall implement additional measures for enrichment and stress reduction for any animal in its custody or possession showing persistent hiding, hostile interactions with other animals, reduced activity, depression or social withdrawal, barrier frustration or aggression, self-injurious behavior, repetitive non goal-oriented movement, or stereotypic behaviors. Such measures shall be documented in such animal's medical record created pursuant to section four hundred twenty-three of this article.

3. Behavior Evaluations Article 26 C, §430.6, 7 (a), (b)

Satisfactory

F. Transportation**1. Vehicle Article 26 C, §431.1 a-f**

Not Applicable

2. Vaccinations Article 26 C, §431.2 (d), (i-vi1)

Not Applicable

3. Health Certificates Article 26 C, §431.2 (d), (iv) 3

Not Applicable

4. Visual Identification Article 26 C, §431.2 (d), (v)

Not Applicable

5. Destination Shelter Contact Article 26 C, §431.2

Not Applicable

6. Animal <1 year not from USDA Breeder Article 26 C, §431.5

Satisfactory

7. Mandatory Holding Period Article 26, §384.1; 384.2

Not Applicable

G. Record Keeping and Protocols

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| 1. License Status Article 26 C, §421.1 | Satisfactory |
| 2. License Displayed Article 26 C, §421.4 | Satisfactory |
| 3. Required Training Article 26 C, §422 | General Deficiency |

Training not completed and or documented within 60 days of the educational visit.

Article 26 C, §422

Each animal shelter licensed pursuant to this article shall provide training to all staff members and volunteers having direct animal care

responsibilities. Such training shall be provided within the first sixty days of employment and at least annually thereafter and shall be in addition to any and all training otherwise required by federal, state, or local law or regulation. 2. Acceptable training modalities shall include, but not be limited to, online webinars, on-site lectures or seminars, off -site conferences for animal shelter staff , or other formal training modalities as authorized by the commissioner. 3. Training topics shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (a) humane handling techniques; (b) infectious diseases commonly found in animal shelters; (c) zoonotic diseases; (d) animal cruelty; (e) sanitation procedures; (f) body language and normal behaviors for all species regularly handled; and (g) required documentation and data entry.

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| 4. Unique Animal Identifiers Recorded Article 26 C, §423.1,2 | Satisfactory |
| 5. Record Requirement Article 26 C, §423 | Satisfactory |
| 6. Record Retention Article 26 C, §423.3 | Satisfactory |
| 7. Bite History Notification Article 26 C, §423.4 | Satisfactory |
| 8. Animal Intake Article 26 C, §423.1,2 | Satisfactory |
| 9. In House Protocols Article 26 C, §423.8 | General Deficiency |

No written protocols for Management of bite/scratch cases.

Article 26 C, §423.8, 10

Each animal shelter shall develop and maintain written protocols sufficiently detailed to achieve and maintain the standards prescribed in this section. These shall include, but not be limited to, the following: (a) animal handling; (b) behavioral assessment; (c) enrichment and stress reduction; (d) management of bite/scratch cases; and (e) sanitation. Protocols established by each animal shelter pursuant to this section shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary by designated administrative and managerial staff . Such protocols shall be made readily accessible to appropriate staff and volunteers

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| 10. Veterinary Protocols Article 26 C, §423.2 (g),9; 429 | General Deficiency |
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Protocols unavailable, Written protocols not approved by a licensed veterinarian.

Article 26 C, §423.9, 10

Each animal shelter shall also develop and maintain the following written protocols, approved by a duly licensed veterinarian and sufficiently detailed to achieve and maintain the standards prescribed in this article: (a) nutrition and feeding; (b) physical examination; (c) emergency veterinary care; (d) pain management; (e) vaccinations; (f) parasite control; (g) anesthesia and surgery, if performed on-site by the organization; (h) humane euthanasia; and (i) outbreak management/control of infectious diseases. Protocols established by each animal shelter pursuant to this section shall be reviewed annually and updated as necessary by designated administrative and managerial staff . Such protocols shall be made readily accessible to appropriate staff and volunteers.

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| 11. Pest Control Plan Article 26 C, §424.12 | General Deficiency |
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No written pest control plan.

Article 26 C, §424.12

Each animal shelter shall establish and maintain a written plan for pest and vermin control including the following: (a) Method of controlling rodent infestation that is effective and safe for both humans, and animals housed in the facility; (b) A record or copies of service reports from outside service providers related to pest and vermin control that documents dates, methods, locations, and outcomes, if applicable; and (c) Food stored in rodent proof containers to prevent spoilage, contamination, and infestation once opened, if packaging has been damaged, or as otherwise required by such plan.

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| 12. Staff Authority/ Roles and Responsibilities Article 26 C, §427.1 | General Deficiency |
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Documentation for staff authority, reporting, and/or responsibilities unavailable.

Article 26 C, §427.1

Each animal shelter shall have a clear, written, management structure that defines staff authority, reporting structure and responsibilities, and is readily accessible to all staff and volunteers.

H. Veterinary Care and Records**1. Veterinary and Emergency Care Article 26 C, §429.1-6**

Satisfactory

2. Examinations Article 26 C, §429.3, 7, 11, 13

Critical Deficiency

Animals not assessed within 2 hours of intake. Animal intake exams not performed within 24 hours. Animals in shelter not examined once a month by trained staff.

Article 26 C, §429.3, 7, 11, 12, 13

All incoming animals shall be assessed within two hours after intake by a trained animal shelter staff member to determine if any physical abnormalities exist that require immediate veterinary attention in accordance with the shelter's written protocol for emergency care, as required

by section four hundred twenty-three of this article. Each animal shelter shall provide a complete physical examination of all animals in its custody or possession by trained shelter staff within twenty-four hours of intake to identify medical or behavioral conditions that require further evaluation and care. Animals shall specifically be examined for bite wounds; animals that have potentially been exposed to rabies shall be managed in accordance with applicable local and state laws. Each animal shelter shall comply with the rabies reporting requirements prescribed in 10 NYCRR 2.14. . Any animal in the custody or possession of any animal shelter for more than thirty days shall be examined and weighed at least monthly by a trained staff member. Animals in foster care shall be examined and weighed at least once every six months by a trained staff member. Any apparently healthy animal remaining within the custody or possession of any animal shelter shall be examined by a duly licensed veterinarian at least every six months, or more frequently if problems are identified.

3. Drug Logs Article 26 C, §429.2

Satisfactory

4. Vaccinations Article 26 C, §429.8, 9

Satisfactory

5. Deworming Article 26 C, §429.10

Satisfactory

6. Weights Article 26 C, §429.12

Critical Deficiency

Weights for animals in custody for more than 30 days not recorded.

Article 26 C, §429.12

Any animal in the custody or possession of any animal shelter for more than thirty days shall be examined and weighed at least monthly by a trained staff member. Animals in foster care shall be examined and weighed at least once every six months by a trained staff member.

7. Grooming Article 26 C, §429.14

Satisfactory

8. Spay/Neuter Article 26 C, §429.15 (a), (b. i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi), (c)

Satisfactory

9. Dog Licensing Article 7, § 109

General Deficiency

Dogs 4 months of age or older in foster care for 30 days or more are required to be licensed.

Art.7 § 109.

Licensing of dogs required; rabies vaccination required. 1. (a)The owner of any dog reaching the age of four months shall immediately make application for a dog license.

I. Foster Care**1. Foster Care Providers Article 26 C, §423.6**

Satisfactory

2. Provider Requirements Article 26 C, §432.1

Satisfactory

3. Records Article 26 C, §432.2

Satisfactory

4. Infectious Disease Protocol Article 26 C, §432.3; 422.9

General Deficiency

Infectious disease plan for foster care providers unavailable.

Article 26 C, §432.3

Any animal harbored by a foster care provider pursuant to this section that is affected by an infectious or contagious disease shall be handled in a manner that prevents the spread of such disease in accordance with subdivision nine of section four hundred twenty-four of this article. It shall be the responsibility of the animal shelter with which such foster care provider has established an agreement pursuant to subdivision one of this section to ensure compliance with this subdivision.

Additional Information for Inspection:

REMARKS:

N/A=Requirement not applicable to organizational operations or conditions observed.

REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT FOR INSPECTION: **Carrie Gilchrist**
TITLE: **Operations Director**

REVIEWED BY: **Inspector #: 852**
REVIEWED DATE: **09/23/2026**