



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

JAMIE CLOVER ADAMS  
DIRECTOR

Date: September 16, 2013  
To: Dr. James Averill, State Veterinarian  
From: Al Rodriquez, Compliance Officer  
Regarding: Wexford County Animal Control Shelter  
1406 Sixth Ave  
Cadillac, Michigan 49601

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On May 14, 2013, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) held a hearing regarding Wexford County Animal Control Shelter and determined they had violated the Pet Shops, Dog Pounds and Animal Shelters Act, Public Act 287 of 1969. At the hearing, MDARD imposed fines for violations found during a complaint investigation and also allowed Wexford County Animal Control Management to take corrective action in order to come into compliance. We have recently received their documents and they have complied with the imposed stipulation. Thus, the case is closed.

As you know, according to PA 287 of 1969, all animal control shelters must maintain written records on the total number of dogs, cats and ferrets received, returned to owners, adopted to new owners, and sold or transferred with or without payment. They must also keep records on the number of cats and dogs that were altered, the number adopted out that were not altered, and the number euthanized. All licensed animal shelters must provide an annual report to MDARD.

Additionally, shelters are expected to maintain a description of the animals including breed, color, sex and approximate weight. They must keep track of the manner of disposition (either adopted out or euthanized) and they must seek veterinary services whenever a health hazard arises to an animal and must try to find the owner within seven days, if the animal has identification, before adopting or disposing of the animal.

The Wexford County Animal Control Shelter agreed to a \$100 fine for not keeping and supplying the State with appropriate statistical data; and \$1,000 for not keeping good records of animals in the shelter. Additionally a fine of \$1,000 was levied against Wexford County for not seeking the services of a veterinarian.

The fine was reduced by \$500 to a total of \$1,600, as Wexford County Animal Control adopted additional operating policies and procedures, provided MDARD with receipts for updates and improvements to the shelter, conducted animal control officer training, and established a protocol between Wexford County Board of Commissioners and a private veterinarian.