



Inspection Report

Blue Ridge Kennel
P.O. Box 1207
Wetumpka, AL 36092

Customer ID: **928**
Certificate: **64-R-0102**
Site: 001
BLUE RIDGE KENNEL

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION
Date: 05-OCT-2023

2.33(b)(2) Direct Repeat
Attending veterinarian and adequate veterinary care.

An adult female Norwegian Elkhound dog "Astrid" (microchip #95600007609060) was spayed on September 29th, 2023. At the time of the inspection, the dog was not wearing an Elizabethan collar, and was frequently licking the incision site on the underside of her abdomen. She was also repeatedly using her hind feet to scratch at the area. The skin near the end of the incision (closer to the back end of the dog) was bright pink with darker pink around the edges. The inflamed area was approximately 2 inches by 2 inches in size. The kennel manager stated she had observed that the area was "bruised" and that she had not contacted the Attending Veterinarian (AV) about the issue. The kennel manager stated that she was not giving the dog any medications, since she had not received any instructions from the AV to do so; the dog's medical records showed no medications have been given since the surgery. The AV was contacted and stated that the dog had been discharged after surgery with instructions which included 1) the dog should wear an Elizabethan collar, and 2) the dog was supposed to be given anti-inflammatory pain medication (Carprofen) daily. The AV stated that these instructions were given to the kennel employee who picked up the dog from the clinic after surgery. The written medical record available for review did not contain these instructions, and the written Program of Veterinary Care did not include post-surgical instructions. Dogs that are not properly cared for after surgery may suffer from discomfort, stress, pain, infection, or complications at the surgical site. It is critically important to follow the AV's instructions for post-surgical care; it is also important to ensure that instructions are relayed from the AV to the appropriate personnel so that all instructions can be followed completely and correctly. Correct by having this dog evaluated by the AV and following all instructions for her care, and by ensuring that appropriate methods are used to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries in dogs.

2.35(b)(8) Critical
Recordkeeping requirements.

The facility knowingly obtained a random source dog from a non-exempt, unlicensed individual. Facility records show that on July 11th, 2023 the facility acquired two dogs from a non-exempt, unlicensed individual ("B.H.") without obtaining certification that the dogs were born and raised on that individual's premises. The acquisition records for the dog contains multiple statements which were initialed by the seller, but one statement was clearly left blank and not initialed by the seller. The statement that was left blank is: "I hereby certify that the animals listed below were bred by me and were born and raised on my premises." USDA personnel contacted B.H. by phone, and he stated that one of the dogs ("Jack" male mini Australian shepherd, microchip #991003001583079) was born and raised on his premises, and the other dog ("Piper"

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female cocker spaniel/golden retriever mix, microchip #991003001583081) was not born and raised on his premises. The facility accepted the dogs along with the paperwork which clearly showed that the seller refused to certify that all of the dogs were born and bred on his premises.

Certification regarding the person breeding and raising the dogs is required to ensure that the dogs are being obtained from legal sources and that random source dogs are not being used in research. This certification is also important for preventing stolen or lost pets from being used in research. Correct by obtaining a certification for each new dog or cat acquired from unlicensed or non-exempt sources which includes a statement that the animals were born and raised on that person's/entity's premises and that the person/entity has sold fewer than 25 dogs or cats that year. Correct for all future dog acquisitions, and by October 7th, 2023.

3.6(a)(2)(ii)

Primary enclosures.

The room currently being used to house a female adult Norwegian Elkhound (named "Inga" microchip number 95600007597645) and the whelping box containing her five puppies born on 9/29/23, contains a heat lamp in one corner. The heat lamp was on at the time of inspection and the electrical cord was plugged into the wall outlet located less than one foot from the floor. The dangling cord was approximately three inches above the floor. The female dog has access to the dangling electrical cord and may be injured if she attempts to play with or chew on the cord as will the puppies once they get large and strong enough to leave the whelping box.

Primary enclosures for dogs must be constructed and maintained so that they protect the dogs from injury. Correct by 10/7/23.

3.6(a)(2)(ix)

Repeat

Primary enclosures.

At least 3 indoor/outdoor dog kennels (primary enclosures) containing dogs had cracks or other defects in the exterior concrete walls beneath the dog doors. In the affected areas, paint and concrete was missing, creating a pocket or hole of unsealed concrete. Additionally, at least 2 more indoor/outdoor dog kennels containing dogs had long cracks where the cinderblock walls met the floor. The cracks were not sealed with paint, and the underlying concrete was exposed. Cracks in floors and walls and the unsealed areas resulting from them may harbor organic material, parasites or germs that can be harmful to the dogs, and can be difficult or impossible to clean and sanitize. Correct by maintaining surfaces, including floors and walls, so that they can be properly cleaned and sanitized.

3.13(b)

Veterinary care for dogs.

The medical records reviewed are not complete. The following are identified as examples:

* The medical record showed that six male Norwegian Elkhound puppies (microchip numbers 900215003196521, 900215003196525, 900215003196528, 900215003196530, 900215003196531, and 900215003196532) were diagnosed with roundworms via fecal exam on 9/29/23 and that the veterinarian prescribed a deworming medication (Panacur) daily for four days. The medical record did not identify the names of all treatments administered and the dates of administration. The facility representative was using a post-it note as a reminder to treat but the post-it note was not part of the medical record file and did not contain any indication of which animals were treated (no identifying marks, microchip

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numbers, breed, age or sex), what drug was administered or the dates of treatment (just the days of the week).

*A female Beagle named "Ginger" (microchip #9560000046119633) has an approximately nickel-sized area of hair loss and thickened skin on the outer side of the right rear leg. While the kennel manager stated that she had noticed the issue and contacted the attending veterinarian about it, there was no documentation of this issue or the veterinarian's instructions in the medical record.

*A female Norwegian Elkhound named "Astrid" (microchip #95600007609060) was spayed on 9/29/23. The medical record did not include a description of the plan for post-operative care as it was relayed to the inspector by the Attending Veterinarian. This plan included an injection of pain medication given at the clinic the day of surgery, and directions for care of the animal upon returning to the facility (including the use of an Elizabethan collar and administration of daily oral anti-inflammatory pain relieving medication). The lack of this information in the medical record contributed to the Elkhound not wearing an Elizabethan collar and not receiving the oral pain relief medication.

Medical recordkeeping is important for ensuring dogs receive correct and complete medical care and monitoring. Incomplete records can lead to missed or incorrect treatments, which can cause medical conditions to worsen. Correct by ensuring that dog medical records include all elements required by the regulations, including identifying information about the dog (identifying marks, official ID, breed, sex, age), information regarding all health issues (date, description, exam findings, test results, treatment plan and care, procedures performed), the names and dates of all vaccines and treatments administered, and the dates and results of all tests/examinations. Correct by 10/14/23.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with the facility representative.

Additional Inspectors:

DIANA CARE, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

Brittany Kessler, VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

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Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
928	64-R-0102	001	BLUE RIDGE KENNEL	05-OCT-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
000011	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG PUPPY
000089	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
000100	Total	