The Honorable Zeke Wiedenfeld
Walworth County District Attorney

Dear Mr. Wiedenfeld:

This letter is to respectfully request that your office (and a law-enforcement agency, as appropriate) investigate cruelty to animals at Rosewood Kennels, a dog-breeding facility operated by [redacted], and located at her home at 220 S. Third St. in Delavan.

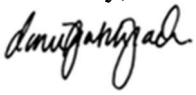
On August 4, an eyewitness visited the breeding business and spoke with [redacted]; video of the conversation is available [redacted]. [redacted] told the eyewitness (beginning at 6:00 in the video) that she was "clipping [the] noses" of pugs she had bred by "cut[ting] off the bottom curl" of their nostrils. When the eyewitness asked if this procedure was being done by a veterinarian during the dogs' sterilization, [redacted] replied (6:35), "No, we would do it … at home" and laughed. She added, "We do that stuff … for ourselves." Furthermore, [redacted] stated (6:42), "We do our own dewclaws, too. … [W]e cut [the dog's] thumb off." She affirmed (7:11) that such puppies' dewclaws are "attached"—meaning connected via joints and tendons to bone—and said (7:21) that the ensuing wounds "would bleed like a sieve. But we use silver nitrate, and it just burns it closed."

[redacted]—whom Wisconsin has not licensed as a veterinarian or veterinary technician—said she mutilates puppies at home because veterinarians "want to put [puppies] under [anesthesia] and all that" for surgery (6:46).

The above-described actions appear to violate Wis. Stat. § 951.02, which prohibits "treat[ing] any animal … in a cruel manner." Wis. Stat. § 951.01 (2) defines "cruel" as "causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury." A layperson's mutilation of dogs does not constitute the "normal and accepted veterinary practices" exempt from prosecution. Veterinarians recommend anesthetizing puppies whose dewclaws are cut off. Second, when a veterinarian performs stenotic nares surgery, a dog is afforded both general anesthesia—as [redacted] well knows—and post-operative pain relief. (Furthermore, putting silver nitrate—which cauterizes tissue—on wounds causes additional suffering.) None of the injuries [redacted] causes dogs in her custody are justifiable, and all the ensuing pain and suffering are unnecessary.

We urge your office to file charges against [redacted] and any other(s) responsible. The eyewitness, who is available for an interview upon request, will testify and authenticate the video recording. I can be reached at 757-621-3376 or DanielP@peta.org. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please let me know how we can assist.

Sincerely,



Daniel Paden
Vice President of Legal Advocacy

cc: Chief Jim Hansen, City of Delavan Police Department