Secretary Randy Romanski
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Dear Secretary Romanski:

This letter is to respectfully request that your agency investigate [redacted], operator of Rosewood Kennels, a dog-breeding facility located at her home at 220 S. Third St. in Delavan, for practicing veterinary medicine without a license.

On August 4, an eyewitness visited the breeding business and spoke with [redacted]; video of the conversation is available at [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 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." Further, [redacted] stated (6:42), "We do our own dewclaws too. … we cut [the dog's] thumb off …." [redacted] 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."

Wisconsin does not license [redacted] as a veterinarian or veterinary technician, according to the Veterinary Medical Board's lists of current credential holders.

Accordingly, the above-described actions appear to violate Wis. Stat. § 89.05 (1), which prohibits "practic[ing] veterinary medicine … without a license or temporary permit from the examining board." Wis. Stat. § 89.02 (6) defines "practice [of] veterinary medicine" as "to … operate [on an animal] … for compensation, direct or indirect, or in the expectation thereof." [redacted]'s mutilations of dogs constitute (crude) operations, and she undertook them before selling the animals to the public (or expecting to).

We urge your agency to investigate [redacted] and vigorously pursue enforcement action against her, including fining her $1,000 and enjoining her from such acts, pursuant to Wis. Stat. §§ 89.05 (3) and 89.079. 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