

IN RE: PETITION TO APPOINT A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO COMMENCE  
PROSECUTION OF RIDGLAN FARMS

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FIRST AMENDED PETITION FOR THE FILING OF A CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

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**INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>**

This case confronts a simple question: can a corporation get away with hoarding and abusing thousands of dogs? The facts presented in this petition, including the surgical mutilation of dogs without anesthetic, would unquestionably be criminal animal abuse if undertaken by an ordinary citizen. The question facing this court is whether, after years of governmental inaction, corporations also will be held accountable to the law.

The Petitioners, Dane4Dogs Ltd., a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Madison, WI, and Wayne Hsiung, a nationally-recognized animal cruelty investigator, hereby move the Circuit Judge pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3)<sup>2</sup> to permit the filing of a complaint against Ridglan Farms, Inc., a corporation located in Dane County, Wisconsin, that engages in breeding and experimentation upon beagles (“Ridglan Farms”). Petitioners move for the filing of a complaint

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<sup>1</sup> The First Amended Petition features changes to only the following sections: The Petitioners (adding Alliance for Animals, a local animal rights organization), Part V (explaining the urgency of issuing a complaint), and Exhibits K through P (letters of support).

<sup>2</sup> Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) provides: “If a district attorney refuses or is unavailable to issue a complaint, a circuit judge may permit the filing of a complaint, if the judge finds there is probable cause to believe that the person to be charged has committed an offense after conducting a hearing. If the district attorney has refused to issue a complaint, he or she shall be informed of the hearing and may attend. The hearing shall be ex parte without the right of cross-examination.”

for violations of Chapter 951, *Crimes Against Animals*, that have occurred and continue to occur at the facility. The known victims of this conduct are thousands of beagles held at Ridglan Farms. According to the determinations of an expert veterinarian, many of the beagles are in dire circumstances that necessitate immediate intervention, including removal and the provision of appropriate veterinary care. Ridglan Farms' criminal conduct has occurred unchecked for over a decade, claiming the lives and welfare of thousands of dogs, and the criminal conduct continues today. There is, moreover, overwhelming evidence to substantiate these allegations, including: inspection reports from state and federal agencies, testimonial evidence from eyewitnesses, and photos and videos from inside the facility. This evidence does not just meet the standard of probable cause but of proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

The District Attorney (DA), Ismael Ozanne, has been repeatedly provided with information detailing conduct in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14, which require animals to be provided adequate shelter and prohibit cruel treatment. Despite knowing about these violations and the need for prompt action since at least May 2018, the DA has failed to prosecute the violations. This in legal effect is a refusal or inability to file a complaint that should be remedied by the Circuit Court Judge. Petitioner Wayne Hsiung has attested to his knowledge of the facts alleged throughout this petition in his Declaration, attached as **Exhibit J**.

Accordingly, the Circuit Court Judge is authorized, under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3), to permit the filing of a complaint against Ridglan Farms. The Circuit Court Judge should exercise their discretion to hold an ex parte evidentiary hearing and permit the filing of a complaint because of Ridglan Farms' ongoing, flagrant criminal conduct; because the welfare of thousands of beagle victims depends upon it; and because the interests of justice and the rule of law require that no

one, even a corporation in a powerful industry, is above the law. A proposed complaint is attached at **Exhibit H**.

## **THE PETITIONERS**

**Dane4Dogs Ltd.** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in Madison, Wisconsin. Its mission is to end the breeding, sale, and use of dogs and cats in experimentation and to promote modern scientific alternatives. Dane4Dogs has worked with 6 Wisconsin cities and villages to pass legislation to ban research puppy mills and experimentation on dogs and cats, and also works to find loving homes for dogs released from experimentation facilities.

**Wayne Hsiung** is an animal cruelty investigator, former law professor at Northwestern School of Law, and co-founder and Executive Director of The Simple Heart Initiative. He has led teams that have investigated and rescued animals from animal-abusing enterprises across the nation – challenging unconstitutional “ag-gag” laws in the process – and has organized successful campaigns to ban fur in San Francisco and California. He served as lead counsel in three “right to rescue” trials in which activists were prosecuted after being charged for giving aid to sick and dying animals in factory farms, garnering media attention from The New York Times. He is also a co-founder and former lead organizer of the grassroots animal rights network Direct Action Everywhere. Hsiung has published scholarship on animal law in the Harvard Law Review and the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, and his investigative work has been featured by WIRED, ABC’s Nightline, and on The Ezra Klein Show. In November 2023, he was convicted of felony conspiracy and sentenced to 90 days in jail for his role in organizing a nonviolent demonstration at a Whole Foods egg factory farm; that case is currently on appeal.

**Alliance for Animals** (AFA) is a Wisconsin-based, non-profit, animal rights organization that was formed in 1983 to promote the ethical and compassionate treatment of all animals.

The AFA actively engages in grassroots activism, has promoted municipal and statewide legislation that positively impacts non-human animals, and regularly collaborates with other local, state-level, regional, national, and international animal rights organizations.

## ARGUMENT

### **I. Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) authorizes the Circuit Judge to permit the filing of a complaint if the district attorney refuses or is unavailable to issue a complaint and the Judge finds probable cause to believe that the person charged has committed an offense.**

Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) empowers a circuit judge to authorize the issuance of a criminal complaint. By its terms, the statute requires the circuit judge to make two determinations prior to authorizing the filing of a complaint: (1) that “the district attorney refuses or is unavailable to issue a complaint;” and (2) that “there is probable cause to believe that the person to be charged has committed an offense.” Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3). The procedure thus “requires a judge to assume two functions: investigation of alleged violations of the law and, upon a finding of probable cause, initiation of prosecution.” *State v. Unnamed Defendant*, 150 Wis. 2d 352, 359 (1989).

The sections below proceed in reverse order: first, establishing that probable cause exists that Ridglan Farms has committed criminal animal cruelty and, second, establishing that the District Attorney, Ismael Ozanne, refuses to prosecute those crimes. Accordingly, the Circuit Judge is authorized to “direct[] the filing of a complaint consistent with the criminal complaint that is proposed . . . [and to] appoint[] . . . a special prosecutor.” *State ex rel. Kalal v. Cir. Ct. for Dane Cnty.*, 271 Wis. 2d 633, 646 (2004).

### **II. There is more than probable cause to believe that Ridglan Farms committed violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14, directly or as party to the crime.<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> Petitioner Wayne Hsiung has attested to his knowledge of the facts alleged throughout this petition in his Declaration, attached as **Exhibit J**. This includes, inter alia, authentication of the photos and videos contained in the petition.

As detailed below, there is probable cause—and indeed, proof beyond a reasonable doubt—that Ridglan Farms violated §§ 951.02 and 951.14, specifically by the following cruelty:

- Conducting painful surgical procedures, including the so-called “cherry eye” surgery on dogs’ red, irritated eyes without anesthetics or veterinary supervision and devocalization surgery to mutilate dogs’ vocal cords;
- Confining dogs to small metal cages, often in solitary confinement and without meaningful enrichment, to the point that many dogs exhibit signs of extreme psychological torment, including endless spinning, pacing, and wall bouncing;
- Housing dogs on inadequate flooring, through which the dogs’ feet often fall and which results in serious and painful injuries and infections for the dogs.

Wisconsin law is clear that probable cause is present when the facts and circumstances available justify a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed. *See Mahnke v. Garrigan*, 428 F. App’x 630, 634 (7th Cir. 2011) (citations omitted) (applying Wisconsin law to determine presence of probable cause in animal abuse case.) It “does not take much to establish probable cause”; it requires “more than a bare suspicion” but does not require “enough evidence to support a conviction or even to show that [Petitioner’s] belief is more likely true than false.” *Fox v. Hayes*, 600 F.3d 819, 833 (7th Cir. 2010) (citation omitted). The “test is not whether the inference drawn is the *only* reasonable inference. The test is whether the inference drawn is a reasonable one.” *State v. Gralinski*, 2007 WI App 233, ¶ 25, 306 Wis. 2d 101, *review denied*, 2008 WI 6, 306 Wis. 2d 46 (citation omitted, emphasis in original). Moreover, “the showing sufficient to establish probable cause . . . is less than the evidence which would justify conviction and less than the evidence required in a preliminary examination.” *State v. Benoit*, 83 Wis. 2d 389, 394-395 (1978).

As such, probable cause is established when there are facts and inferences that “allow a reasonable person to conclude that a crime was probably committed and that the defendant is probably culpable.” *State v. Jensen*, 2004 WI App 89, ¶95, 272 Wis. 2d 707, *aff’d*, 2005 WI 31 ¶95, 279 Wis. 2d 220. “Where reasonable inferences may be drawn establishing probable cause that supports the charge, and equally reasonable inferences may be drawn to the contrary, the criminal complaint is sufficient.” *Id.* The facts are not viewed “in a hypertechnical sense but in a minimally adequate way through a commonsense evaluation by a neutral judge making a judgment that a crime has been committed.” *Id.*

**A. The charges are Class A misdemeanor violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14 and Class I felony violations of Wis. Stat. § 951.02.**

There is probable cause that violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14 have been and continue to be committed against thousands of beagles currently warehoused in wholly inadequate and substandard cages at Ridgland Farms. The beagles are also subjected to cruel treatment through intentional and negligent conduct that causes infection and injury, including surgical mutilation without anesthetics or veterinary supervision.

Wis. Stat. § 951.02 criminalizes mistreating animals: “No person may treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner. This section does not prohibit normal and accepted veterinary practices.” “‘Animal’ includes every living warm-blooded creature, except a human being.” Wis. Stat. § 951.01(1)(a). “‘Cruel’ means causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury or death.” *Id.* § 951.01(2).

Wis. Stat. § 951.14 establishes the minimum requirements for proper shelter of animals: “The housing facilities shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the animals from injury and to contain the animals. . . . Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate

space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns.” State and federal administrative rules provide additional guidance on what constitutes adequate housing for dogs. Chapter 16 of the Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Code (ATCP) requires that any wire flooring “shall be of an adequate gauge . . . to prevent injury to the dogs’ feet” and “[f]loor openings, if any, shall be small enough to prevent the feet of the smallest dog kept in the enclosure from passing through or becoming entangled in the openings.” ATCP § 16.22(1)(b). Likewise, Section 3.6 of Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations requires: “Primary enclosures for dogs . . . must be constructed and maintained so that they: . . . [e]nable the dogs . . . to remain dry and clean . . . [and] [h]ave floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the dogs’ . . . feet and legs from injury, and that, if of mesh or slatted construction, do not allow the dogs’ . . . feet to pass through any openings in the floor.” 9 C.F.R. § 3.6.

Finally, Wis. Stat. § 951.18 provides the penalties for violating Wisconsin’s animal cruelty laws: “Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any of those sections [including §§ 951.02 and 951.14] is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Any person who intentionally violates § 951.02, resulting in the mutilation, disfigurement or death of an animal, is guilty of a Class I felony.”

Criminal negligence alone is enough for a Class A misdemeanor; intentional conduct is only required for the Class I felony. *Id.* “‘Intentionally’ means that the actor either has a purpose to do the thing or cause the result specified, or is aware that his or her conduct is practically certain to cause that result.” *Id.* § 939.23. What must be intentional is the cruel treatment; the mutilation, disfigurement or death of an animal need not be intended. *See State v. Klingelhoets*, 2012 WI App 55, ¶ 15, 17, 341 Wis. 2d 432 (noting that “the final outcome of the intentional cruel treatment by the actor . . . increases the penalty exposure” but “the plain language of Wis. Stat. § 951.18(1) does

not require a defendant to have intentionally mutilated, disfigured or caused an animal's death for that defendant to be guilty of the Class I felony").

Given the nature of the conduct described below, there is probable cause to believe that Ridglan Farms' cruelty is intentional, with some acts rising to the level of felony violations of Wis. Stat. § 951.02 because they resulted in mutilation.

**B. The evidence establishes that there is probable cause to believe that Ridglan Farms violated Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14.**

The evidence discussed below establishes that there is probable cause to believe that Ridglan Farms has violated Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14 by improperly conducting painful surgical mutilations, confining dogs to small metal cages and thereby inducing extreme psychological distress, and housing dogs on inadequate and harmful flooring. Indeed, given that the evidence comes from multiple sources over a period of many years, it clearly establishes proof beyond a reasonable doubt can be shown in a criminal trial.

**1. Ridglan Farms has engaged in, and continues to engage in, intentional mutilation of beagles by conducting surgeries without anesthetics or veterinary supervision or that are patently unnecessary in violation of Wis. Stat. § 951.02.**

Ridglan Farms regularly performs so-called "cherry eye" surgery on beagles without anesthetics or veterinary supervision. An expert veterinarian, Dr. Sherstin Rosenberg, reviewed footage, inspection reports, and internal documents from Ridglan Farms, including information related to the performance of "cherry eye" surgery. Dr. Rosenberg is a licensed veterinarian who has practiced veterinary medicine for over 25 years; examined and cared for thousands of animals, including dogs; and has served as an expert veterinary witness in 9 criminal and civil cases and testified in multiple legislative hearings regarding animal welfare issues. Dr. Rosenberg's affidavit is attached as **Exhibit A**. As Dr. Rosenberg explains, "cherry eye" is "a congenital eye condition"

in which a dog's third eyelid gland protrudes from the eye and becomes red and irritated. Ex. A. at 3. In Dr. Rosenberg's telling, "a former Ridglan employee revealed that as recently as 3 years ago the nictitating membrane (third eyelid) of dogs was routinely removed without anesthesia or hemostasis (control of bleeding) as a 'treatment' for cherry eye." *Id.* Dr. Rosenberg's affidavit is worth quoting at length for its description of Ridglan Farms' standard practices with respect to "cherry eye" surgery:

According to a former employee at Ridglan, the procedure is done by staff (not a veterinarian) using a pair of scissors. Instead of blocking pain with anesthesia, the employee told me that dogs were held firmly in place to prevent them from squirming in response to the pain. The dogs would yelp during the procedure and since no attempt was made to clamp or ligate tissue, there was profuse hemorrhage. The employee told me that the dogs would be put aside and the blood would be hosed off later.

It should be noted that the eye is one of the most highly innervated, vascularized, and sensitive parts of a dog's body. Performing surgery on the eye without anesthesia causes severe pain and constitutes unnecessary cruelty. Failure to control bleeding could lead to life-threatening complications or death due to severe blood loss.

*Id.* at 4. In Dr. Rosenberg's expert opinion: "I would characterize the cherry eye "surgeries" performed at Ridglan as mutilations rather than surgeries. The procedures are highly painful in the absence of anesthesia and do not benefit the dogs, who later suffer chronic painful eye conditions as a result of having their third eyelids removed." *Id.*

In addition, Ridglan Farms regularly performs "devocalization" surgeries on beagles. The surgeries "debark" dogs "by cutting or removal of the laryngeal cartilage." *Id.* The American Veterinary Medical Association "strongly discourages the devocalization (non-therapeutic ventriculocordecotomy) of dogs because of the surgery's negative impacts on animal welfare. Barking is a natural behavior and an important canine communication method. Devocalization deprives the dog from normal engagement in this natural behavior. . . . [S]ignificant risks and

complications, including pain, are associated with the surgery” *Canine Devocalization*, AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASS’N, <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/canine-devocalization> (last accessed March 18, 2024). Devocalization surgery is done for human convenience—that is, it is not a medically necessary procedure for dogs. Ex. A at 4. To make matters worse, Ridglan Farms has failed to meet even the most minimal standards for the care and safety of the beagles on whom this invasive procedure is performed. At a site visit in 2013, for example, an inspector for the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) noted Ridglan Farms’ failure to use sterile procedures during devocalization surgeries, including failure to sterilize surgical instruments. Ex. B. at 3. Ridglan Farms’ letter to AAALAC summarizing the report is attached as **Exhibit B**. In addition, in footage from April 2017—much of which is in the possession of the DA’s Office—dogs can be heard straining to bark and issuing the hoarse, hollow sounds that are evidence of devocalization surgery.

Ridglan Farms’ practices with respect to “cherry eye” surgery and devocalization surgery reflect the policies of the company and amount to felony violations of Wis. Stat. § 951.02. As Wis. Stat. § 951.18(1) makes clear: “Any person who intentionally violates § 951.02, resulting in the mutilation, disfigurement or death of an animal, is guilty of a Class I felony.” Ridglan Farms’ surgical operations are repeated, planned, and intentional. As Dr. Rosenberg concludes in her report: “Cherry eye removal and devocalization as commonly practiced at Ridglan Farms are mutilations leading to unnecessary pain, risk of complications, lifelong negative impact on welfare, and do not benefit the animals.” Ex. A at 5. Put simply, these policies and practices amount to felony animal cruelty.

**2. Ridglan Farms confines dogs in a manner that induces psychological torment in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14.**

Ridglan Farms has a policy and practice of confining dogs in small metal enclosures, often in solitary confinement and without meaningful enrichment, to the point that many dogs are in a state of extreme psychological torment. On October 26, 2016, an inspector with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) noted: “A number of adult dogs in the facility were displaying prominent stereotypical behaviors; such as: circling, pacing, and wall bouncing.” Ex. C at 10. Based on observations of the dogs, the inspector concluded: “Efforts should be taken to address dog’s abnormal, stereotypical behaviors. Such behaviors are an indicator of the dog’s welfare.” *Id.* at 11. The full DATCP report is attached as **Exhibit C**. But despite the government’s report, Ridglan Farms did not correct these problems.<sup>4</sup> On April 17, 2017, animal rights activists observed the same problem: numerous dogs spinning in cages or exhibiting other forms of stereotypical, repetitive behaviors. Then again, in the 2021-2022 timeframe, an employee at Ridglan Farms noted the persistence of these conditions.

A video taken by animal activists in 2017, attached hereto as **Exhibit D**, provides a representative example of the psychological distress of dogs at Ridglan Farms. The video shows a dog kept alone in a small metal cage, deprived of the outdoors and the ability to engage in natural behaviors or socialize with other dogs. The dog has developed an abnormal coping mechanism to deal with the abnormal surroundings: the dog spins in an endless circle, around and around and around. As Dr. Rosenberg has noted based on her review of the evidence, this is a systemic and recurring problem: “Dogs at Ridglan Farms are systematically housed in tiny enclosures, often alone, devoid of enrichment, causing dogs to display repetitive behaviors—spinning, pacing, and wall bouncing. This behavior indicates severe psychological torment and distress.” Ex. A at 1.

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<sup>4</sup> In fact, Ridglan Farms claims in the report that it did fix these problems, but the company’s claims are belied by the findings of animal activists in 2017 and an employee in 2021-2022.

This is just one of dozens of instances of stereotypic behavior observed and documented by Petitioner Hsiung in a span of 2 hours.



*A beagle at Ridglan Farms engaging in stereotypic behavior: endless spinning.*

These blatant signs of psychological distress are evidence that Ridglan Farms’ policies and practices—in particular, the way it cages dogs—violate Wisconsin law. Wis. Stat. § 951.14 establishes mandatory requirements for housing animals: “Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns.” As Dr. Rosenberg has indicated—and as common sense confirms—Ridglan Farms subjects many dogs to “[i]nadequate space,” resulting in abnormal, stress-induced behaviors like circling, pacing, and wall bouncing. The “evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns” is plain.



*A traumatized beagle at Ridglan Farms.*

Ridglan Farms has been given notice more than once about the inadequacy of its housing, but it has refused to fix the problem. By continuing to subject dogs to these conditions, Ridglan Farms is engaging in intentional or negligent conduct in violation of Wis. Stat. § 951.14, a Class A misdemeanor. *Id.* § 951.18. Ridglan Farms’ actions also violate Wis. Stat. § 951.02, which prohibits “treat[ing] any animal . . . in a cruel manner.” Subjecting dogs to intensive and often solitary confinement—and then failing to address that confinement when dogs exhibit clear signs of psychological distress—is not standard veterinary practice and constitutes cruel treatment.



*A representative example of dog enclosures at Ridglan Farms: small metal cages without enrichment, in which dogs are often kept alone. The dogs are never permitted outdoors.*

**3. Ridglan Farms’ improper flooring and inadequate veterinary care causes serious infections and ailments to dogs in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14.**

Ridglan Farms causes serious infections and ailments to dogs, and, despite repeated warnings, the company has refused to ameliorate harmful conditions. On October 26, 2016, an inspector with the DATCP found that: “Within several enclosures the feet and legs of puppies were found to be repeatedly passing through the floor openings. In these instances the legs of puppies were observed to have passed completely below the mesh flooring up to the puppy’s chest. Puppies were observed to have noticeable difficulty standing or moving comfortably and naturally upon the floored surface due to the large size of the openings.” Ex. C at 12. Despite this notice, Ridglan Farms failed to remedy the problem because, in December of 2023, a USDA inspector observed that: “Some of the weaned puppies and preweaning-aged puppies in eleven enclosures were observed to have feet or legs pass through the smooth-coated mesh floors when they walked.” Ex.

E at 1. The full USDA report is attached as **Exhibit E**. After reviewing this evidence, as well as evidence obtained from animal activists on site in 2017 and from a whistleblower employee on or around 2021-2022, Dr. Rosenberg opined: “Inadequate flooring for puppies is a serious animal welfare violation. When a puppy falls through holes in their enclosure, it inhibits their ability to move freely, express normal behaviors, and to reach food and water. Being forced to live on this type of flooring is a form of psychological and physical cruelty.” Ex. A at 3.

This cruelty is not limited only to puppies. The DATCP inspector in 2016 noted: “Several observed dogs within the facility were being treated for foot health problems.” Ex. C at 10. And in 2017, when animal activists investigated the facility and removed three dogs, all three of the dogs “suffered from severe interdigital pododermatitis (foot infections) requiring veterinary care.”

Ex. A at 3. Dr. Rosenberg provided the following analysis of the dogs’ conditions and welfare:

By my own experience and consultations with veterinary specialists in the field of canine laboratory research, dogs living on mesh flooring repeatedly bump the area between toes on the uneven flooring, causing irritation and injury. In addition, fecal matter accumulates on the floor surface because the holes are not large enough for most feces to pass through. In a 2’ x 4’ cage it is impossible for a dog to avoid walking through feces and irritated/damaged skin exposed to feces frequently leads to infection. Interdigital dermatitis is highly irritating and even painful for dogs suffering from this infection.

Ridglan Farms was notified of these problems at least as far back as 2016. Since then, animal activists on site observed the same problems in 2017, a whistleblower employee observed them on or around 2021-2022, and the USDA observed them in 2023. All of the evidence indicates that improper flooring and lack of adequate veterinary care is an ongoing problem that Ridglan Farms has refused to address, resulting in unnecessary pain and suffering for thousands of dogs over the years and into the present day.



*Above: Dried blood and evidence of a foot infection in a beagle rescued from Ridglan Farms.*



*Right: A beagle's infected paw at Ridglan Farms.*

These failures by Ridglan Farms are violations of both Wis. Stat. § 951.14 and Wis. Stat. § 951.02. Wis. Stat. § 951.14 requires housing facilities for animals “to protect the animals from injury,” and state and federal administrative rules specifically require flooring that prevents injuries, including preventing dogs’ feet from passing through openings. *See* ATCP § 16.22(1)(b); 9 C.F.R. § 3.6. Ridglan Farms’ flooring does not protect dogs from injury—on the contrary, it is the *cause* of injury, as at least two government inspections have made clear. Ridglan Farms’ failure to fix its flooring, despite repeated notices, amounts to intentional or negligent conduct in violation of Wis. Stat. § 951.14, a Class A misdemeanor. *See* Wis. Stat. § 951.18. Ridglan Farms’ improper flooring and inadequate care is also intentional or negligent conduct in violation of Wis. Stat. § 951.02, which forbids “treat[ing] any animal . . . in a cruel manner.” Permitting dogs to fall

through flooring, injure themselves, and develop serious and painful foot infections is cruel treatment, especially when remedial action is not taken after repeated notices.

**C. The crimes alleged took place in Dane County, Wisconsin, within the statute of limitations.**

The violations are ongoing and have been taking place at Ridgland Farms, located at 10489 W. Blue Mounds Rd., Blue Mounds, WI 53517, in the County of Dane. The statute of limitations is three years for misdemeanors and six years for felonies. Wis. Stat. § 939.74(1). Ridgland Farms' practices with respect to "cherry eye" surgery and devocalization surgery are felony violations of Wis. Stat. § 951.02. There is evidence from 2021-2022 that practices were regularly occurring, and they continue to this day. Ridgland Farms' improper flooring and inadequate housing, as well as its infliction of injury, infection, and psychological distress upon dogs, are misdemeanor violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14. There is evidence from as recently as 2023 for these practices, and they continue to this day. But all of the evidence referenced in this Petition, including government reports from 2016 and 2023, footage from activists from 2017, and whistleblower information from on or around 2021-2022, is relevant to the misdemeanor and felony charges, even if the evidence itself falls outside of the statute of limitations. Evidence of past violations can give rise to an inference of present violations, especially when Ridgland Farms has repeatedly ignored notices of wrongful conduct from government inspectors and others. For example, the fact that dogs' feet were falling through wire floors in 2016, 2017, and on or about 2021-2022, and that Ridgland Farms took no action despite government inspections calling for better flooring, justifies an inference that Ridgland Farms' flooring is still inadequate today. And indeed, the most recent government inspection—from 2023—confirms that dogs' feet are still passing through the floor. *See* Ex. E at 1.

Further, Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14, which require ongoing care and adequate housing for animals, establish continuing offenses, so the statute of limitations has not even begun to run. “Often a continuing offense may be distinguished by a duty to perform an act which the defendant fails to do.” *John v. State*, 96 Wis. 2d 183, 188 (1980). Ridglan Farms has failed—and continues to fail—to comply with its legal duties. Ridglan Farms’ violations are the result of policies and practices that are still in place, including painful surgical procedures and cruel confinement of dogs. Notably, “the statute of limitations for a continuing offense does not begin to run until the last act is done which viewed by itself is a crime.” *Id.*

**D. Ridglan Farms can be held criminally liable for the acts of its agents.**

Wisconsin law recognizes that a corporation, like Ridglan Farms, is a legal entity that can be held criminally liable for the acts of its agents. *See, e.g., State v. Steenberg Homes, Inc.*, 223 Wis. 2d 511, 518 (Ct. App. 1998) (holding a corporation criminally liable for negligent homicide); *State v. Richard Knutson, Inc.*, 196 Wis. 2d 86, 102–03 (Ct. App. 1995) (same); *Vulcan Last Co. v. State*, 194 Wis. 636 (1928) (holding a corporation criminally liable for attempting to influence votes of employees at election). “Agents are officers, directors, employees, or other people who are authorized by a corporation to act for it.” Wis. JI-Criminal 420, *Criminal Liability of a Corporation*. “A corporation can be held liable for the acts of its employees committed within the scope of employment. . . . Employees act within the scope of employment when they perform acts which they have express or implied authority to perform and their actions benefit or are intended to benefit the employer.” *Steenberg Homes, Inc.*, 223 Wis. 2d at 520. In fact, “[a]n employer can be held responsible for the acts of an employee performed within the scope of employment, even though the conduct of the employee is contrary to the employer’s instructions or stated policies.” *Id.* In other words, it is not the policies on the book that are dispositive; rather, what matters is

whether the individual acted with the corporation's express or implied authority and intended to benefit the corporation. Alternatively, a corporation can be held criminally liable if it acted through its officers, including a failure by those officers to comply with existing statutory duties. *See Wis. JI-Criminal 420, Commentary to Criminal Liability of a Corporation.*

The criminal practices described above, including “cherry eye” and devocalization surgery, confining dogs to inadequate enclosures, and housing dogs on harmful flooring, are paradigmatic instances of corporate wrongdoing. Surgeries require planning and procedure, and Ridglan Farms’ “cherry eye” and devocalization surgeries occurred repeatedly. They were not the result of rogue contractors but the planned operations of employees. Staff acted with Ridglan Farms’ authority, and their actions benefited or were intended to benefit Ridglan Farms. Likewise, confining dogs to inadequate and harmful enclosures—enclosures that resulted in infections, injuries, and psychological torment—was done with Ridglan Farms’ authority and benefited or was intended to benefit Ridglan Farms. Agents of Ridglan Farms, including Richard J. VanDomelen, the Staff Veterinarian and Facility Manager for Ridglan Farms, received and responded to reports from AAALAC, the DATCP, and the USDA. *See Exs. B, C & E.* Thus, through its agents, Ridglan Farms was aware of its violations but failed to take corrective action in violation of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.18.

**E. The exemption under Wis. Stat. § 951.015 does not apply to the conduct at issue, so Ridglan Farms is not insulated from prosecution for its violations.**

Wisconsin law provides an exemption from prosecution for cruelty to animals for “[t]eaching, research, or experimentation conducted pursuant to a protocol or procedure approved by an educational or research institution, and related incidental animal care activities.” Wis. Stat. § 951.015(3)(a). But the conduct described above does not fall under this exemption. Ridglan Farms houses approximately 3,000 dogs at any one time, and the dogs can be roughly divided into

two groups. The vast majority of the dogs are bred and raised to be sold to research universities and private corporations for testing. While at Ridglan Farms, these dogs are not used for “[t]eaching, research, or experimentation conducted pursuant to a protocol or procedure approved by an educational or research institution.” They are born, grown, and sold away. A smaller, separate group of dogs is used for experiments at Ridglan Farms. These two sets of dogs are housed in separate buildings. This Petition focuses only on the dogs being bred for sale at Ridglan Farms, not the ones on whom Ridglan Farms performs experiments; as a result, the exemption in Wisconsin law for animals subjected to experiments does not apply.

Put more specifically, none of the violations described above are related to teaching, research, or experimentation, nor are they part of any protocol or procedure approved by an educational or research institution. The “cherry eye” and devocalization surgeries are not experimental or educational. Likewise, the small and harmful enclosures are not part of an experimental or educational program. The fact that experimental or educational institutions later purchase some of these dogs does not immunize Ridglan Farms. As a beagle breeder, Ridglan Farms is subject to the animal cruelty laws of Wisconsin—without exception—and it is flagrantly and repeatedly violating those laws.

### **III. The District Attorney has refused to issue a complaint.**

The Dane County District Attorney, Ismael Ozanne, has failed to issue a complaint since first being made aware of the violations by Ridglan Farms nearly *six years* ago. This failure to prosecute Ridglan Farms constitutes a refusal to file a complaint under Wis. Stat. § 968.02.(3).

The word “refuse” in Wis. Stat. § 968.02.(3) is given its plain meaning, namely “[t]o indicate unwillingness to do, accept, give, or allow.” *State ex rel. Kalal v. Cir. Ct. for Dane Cnty.*, 271 Wis. 2d 633, 668 (2004). Importantly, the Wisconsin Supreme Court has rejected the

“argument that only a direct and unequivocal statement from the district attorney—e.g., ‘I refuse to issue a complaint’—can satisfy the statute.” *Id.* at 644. Indeed, “requiring an explicit statement of refusal from the district attorney . . . is contrary to and could defeat the purpose of the statute. The district attorney could block the use of Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) by simply responding to the complainant in vague and uncertain terms.” *Id.* at 669-70. Accordingly, a refusal under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) “does not necessarily require an express statement from the district attorney”; “a long silence or period of inaction that, under the totality of circumstances, gives rise to a reasonable inference that the district attorney intends not to act” is sufficient. *Id.* at 669. Refusal can thus “be proven directly or circumstantially, by inferences reasonably drawn from words and conduct.” *Id.* at 668-69.

In this case, the circumstantial evidence that the DA, Ismael Ozanne, has refused to issue a complaint against Ridglan Farms is overwhelming. The DA has engaged in “a long silence” and “period of inaction” that can give rise to only one inference: a refusal to prosecute.

Petitioner Hsiung’s organization contacted the District Attorney’s Office and the Dane County Sheriff on or around May 2018 by phone to indicate concerns about the above-mentioned cruelty. The Petitioner’s organization directed the authorities to a report by a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist regarding the cruelty at Ridglan Farms. *See* Glenn Greenwald & Leighton Akio Woodhouse, *Bred to Suffer*, INTERCEPT (May 17, 2018), <https://theintercept.com/2018/05/17/inside-the-barbaric-u-s-industry-of-dog-experimentation>. The report provides a detailed description of the criminal activity discussed in this Petition, including devocalization surgery, confinement that brought about “extreme psychological torment,” and “skin and foot conditions from walking on wire.” *Id.* Petitioner Hsiung and his organization received no response to these inquiries.

In October 2022, an animal cruelty complaint was submitted to the District Attorney's Office. The complaint, attached as **Exhibit F**, discusses violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.02 and 951.14 by Ridglan Farms. The DA did not issue a response.

Again, in May 2023, an animal cruelty complaint was sent by email to the District Attorney's office, in part based on additional records obtained through state open records laws. The complaint is attached hereto as **Exhibit G**. As before, the DA did not issue a response.

And then again, on March 14, 2024, Petitioners submitted a proposed criminal complaint to the District Attorney's office, Dane County Animal Control, and the Dane County Sheriff by email and web form. The complaint is attached as **Exhibit H**. Animal Control indicated that it would not be able to begin an investigation and referred Petitioners to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The Sheriff failed to reply. The District Attorney's office indicated that it would not prosecute without a referral from the Sheriff. Later, on March 18, 2024, a supervisor with the Dane County Sheriff's office said to Petitioner Hsiung that the Petitioners would need to speak to the District Attorney's office in order to address his concerns about the Ridglan dogs.

The District Attorney's Office and Sheriff have thus trapped Petitioners in a Catch-22: the District Attorney's Office will only prosecute the crimes if the Sheriff conducts an investigation, and the Sheriff will only conduct an investigation if the District Attorney's Office will prosecute. This impossible situation allows both parties to disclaim responsibility for enforcing the law and amounts to a refusal on the part of the District Attorney to issue a complaint.

Finally, on March 18, 2024, Petitioners brought further evidence to the Dane County District Attorney's office, along with a criminal cruelty referral written by a former federal prosecutor, Bonnie Klapper. Ms. Klapper, who spent 24 years evaluating evidence for probable

cause as a federal prosecutor, opined: “There is far more than probable cause to believe that Ridglan, and by extension, its owners, is engaging in intentional acts of criminal animal cruelty, causing the dogs in their care intense physical and psychological pain, suffering, mutilation and sickness.” Ex. I at 9. Ms. Klapper’s referral is attached as **Exhibit I**. When Petitioners delivered the criminal cruelty referral on March 18, investigator Ryan Greeno met briefly with the Petitioners and indicated that his office would decline to bring charges unless an investigation was performed by law enforcement with “jurisdiction” over the case. Again, the District Attorney’s Office is hiding behind this Catch-22, and their inaction amounts to a refusal to issue a complaint.

Perhaps most revealing, the District Attorney’s office, with knowledge of most of the evidence above, elected to prosecute Petitioner Hsiung in a case that was dismissed on March 8, 2024. The case concerned an investigation conducted by Hsiung, in which he documented examples of criminal animal cruelty like those discussed above. Rather than hold Ridglan Farms accountable for demonstrable animal cruelty, the District Attorney’s Office chose to shield the company and prosecute those who exposed its criminal practices. Given that the facts at issue in this petition are intertwined with Petitioner Hsiung’s own criminal defense arguments, which the District Attorney characterized as “shameful” and “lunacy” in public filings, the appointment of a special prosecutor is necessary to avoid actual or positional conflicts of interest.

**IV. Proceedings pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) are judicial, and the accused has no right to participate, request reconsideration, or appeal.**

A proceeding under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) is not a court proceeding but a judicial proceeding, “and there is an express distinction between a judge and a court.” *Gavcus v. Maroney*, 127 Wis. 2d 69, 70 (Ct. App. 1985) (internal citation omitted). Hence, a judge’s decision on a petition brought under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) “is not a judgment or order of a circuit court” and hence is not appealable by either the petitioner or the accused. *Id.* at 70-71. Similarly, because

Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) expressly specifies an *ex parte* proceeding, it “does not confer upon the person who is the subject of a proposed prosecution the right to participate in any way or to obtain reconsideration of the ultimate decision reached.” *Kalal*, 271 Wis. 2d, at 650. “To the extent that a circuit judge’s decision to permit the filing of a complaint under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) is legally or factually unsupported, the defendant named in the complaint may seek its dismissal in the circuit court after it has been filed, and may pursue standard appellate remedies thereafter.” *Id.* at 652. While there is no right to appeal, the supervisory writ procedure is available “in limited circumstances to obtain review of a judge’s decision under [§ 968.02(3)].” *Id.* at 651. Thus, neither Ridglan Farms nor the District Attorney’s office is entitled to participate in an *ex parte* hearing related to this petition.

**V. The need for the filing of a complaint is urgent, as there is probable cause to believe the law will continue to be violated, causing unnecessary pain and suffering to thousands of dogs.**

Ridglan Farms’ crimes are ongoing and systemic. After Dr. Rosenberg reviewed voluminous evidence about Ridglan Farms’ policies and practices, she concluded her report as follows: “Due to poor management practices and improper housing, thousands of Ridglan dogs have been and continue to be subjected to psychological torment, painful infections, and surgical mutilations. The persistence of these problems over nearly a decade suggests that the facility has no intention of improving the situation, and that they will continue business as usual unless further action is taken.” Ex. A at 5. Indeed, as this Petition has chronicled, government inspectors, activists, journalists, and others have brought these problems to the attention of Ridglan Farms again and again, but the company has refused to take action.

Further, the local community, various animal protection organizations, and several scholars and scientists have noted the high stakes of this case and urged the Court to appoint a special

prosecutor, including a scholar of animal law,<sup>5</sup> a psychiatrist specializing in trauma,<sup>6</sup> a biomedical scientist specializing in animal research,<sup>7</sup> local non-profit animal welfare organizations and voting organizations (including the Dane County Humane Society, the Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies, and the League of Humane Voters),<sup>8</sup> local veterinarians and dog behavioral experts,<sup>9</sup> and both a national non-profit and an individual that have direct experience with rehabilitating

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<sup>5</sup> Exhibit K (Letter of Professor Kristin Stilt). Prof. Kristen Stilt is a professor at Harvard Law School, where she teaches, researches, lectures, and publishes in the areas of property law, comparative law, and animal law. She serves as Faculty Director and founder of the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program at Harvard. She writes that animal cruelty laws are significantly under-enforced in the United States, and when they are enforced, it is often against individuals of color and not against corporations, which are the entities engaging in the most cruelty. Stilt Decl. at 1. Prof. Stilt notes that corporations, including those licensed under the Animal Welfare Act, are *not* exempt from state animal cruelty laws, and that “[f]or the animal cruelty laws of any state to have a deterrent effect, . . . local jurisdictions must prosecute corporate animal abusers for violating state anti-cruelty laws.” *Id.* at 1-2.

<sup>6</sup> Exhibit L (Letter of Professor Robert B. Daroff). Robert Daroff, MD is a clinical professor of psychiatry at UCSF, an LGBTQ rights activist, and a United States Army Reservist. Dr. Daroff notes that Julie, a dog rescued from Ridgland with whom he has developed a relationship, “bears the unmistakable evidence of trauma – the fight or flight response, the frightened body posture, and the endless spinning in an attempt to escape unseen terrors.” Daroff Declaration at 2. Dr. Daroff hopes to see Wisconsin law enforced to protect “the beings who are most vulnerable in our society: our animal friends.” *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit N (Letter of Jarrod Bailey, Ph.D, FOCAE). Jarrod Bailey is a biomedical scientist who serves as a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics in the UK and the Director of Medical Research for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. Dr. Bailey notes that dogs suffer serious trauma in places like Ridgland Farms, and sadly, they suffer without purpose, because “the use of dogs in research and testing also has extremely poor scientific justifications (in terms of its human relevance, predictability, translatability, and necessity)...” Bailey Decl. at ¶ 10. According to Dr. Bailey, “In short, using dogs as models for humans is unscientific and impossible.” *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Exhibit M (Letters of Dane County Humane Society, Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies, and League of Humane Voters-Wisconsin). Local non-profit animal welfare organizations and voting organizations have also submitted letters in support of this petition. These include the Dane County Humane Society and the Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies (a statewide federation of over 50 humane societies within Wisconsin, founded in 1927, with a mission to prevent cruelty to animals). The humane societies make clear that the conditions under which the dogs are kept at Ridgland Farms do not meet basic standards for responsible and humane care of dogs and, in fact, constitute cruelty to animals that cause the dogs severe physical and psychological harm. DCHS Decl. at 1-2; WFHS Decl. at 1. The Wisconsin chapter of the League of Humane Voters, representing members across 42 counties in Wisconsin, has also submitted a letter, noting: “When the law is not enforced against mass animal abusers like Ridgland Farms, it renders the animal cruelty laws of Wisconsin toothless and meaningless.” LOHV Decl. at 1.

<sup>9</sup> Exhibit O (Letters of Laura Sharkey PhD, KPA-CTP; Megan Arce, DVM; Dr. Pam Mache, DVM; Amelia Fairchild, DVM; and Lowell Wickman, DVM). Local veterinarians and dog behavioral experts support the petition as well, including Drs. Megan Arce and Pam Mache of Lakeview Veterinary Clinic, Drs. Amelia Fairchild and Lowell Wickman (both graduates of UW’s Veterinary School); and Laura Sharkey, Ph.D, KPA-CTP (a doctor of microbiology, as a well as dog breeder, trainer, and behavior expert). These parties express significant concern regarding the stereotypical behavior of dogs at Ridgland Farms (such as circling and pacing), which indicates that the animals are being abused and denied their most basic needs. *See* Decls. of Arce, Mache, Fairchild, & Wickman.

traumatized dogs rescued from Ridglan Farms.<sup>10</sup> The letter writers are unanimous in their alarm at Ridglan Farms' practices. Several of them have also expressed concern for the rule of law if Ridglan Farms escapes prosecution. For example, Professor Kristen Stilt of Harvard Law School noted that animal cruelty laws are notoriously under-enforced, and "[w]hen they are enforced, it is often against individuals, and these individuals are often people of color. . . . For the animal cruelty laws of any state to have a deterrent effect, this trend must change, and local jurisdictions must prosecute corporate animal abusers for violating state anti-cruelty laws." Ex. K at 1-2. Or as the Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) put it: "If DCHS was keeping dogs in deplorable conditions and disfiguring them through amateur surgeries as reported, there would be public outcry and likely an investigation. Why should it be any different with Ridglan Farms?" Ex. M at 2.

Under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3), the Court has the authority to issue a criminal complaint against Ridglan Farms. Indeed, the Judge's ability to authorize the issuance of a complaint plays an important role in Wisconsin's constitutional order. This role dates back to before the Wisconsin Constitution was adopted and "has remained, substantially unchanged, in our statutes for over one hundred and fifty years." *State v. Unnamed Defendant*, 150 Wis. 2d 352, 363 (1989). As the Wisconsin Supreme Court has recognized, "A hearing conducted under this statute is not only a check upon the prosecutor's decision not to file charges; additionally, it is a check performed under

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<sup>10</sup> Exhibit P (Letters of Shannon Keith on behalf of the Beagle Freedom Project and Ellie Hansen on behalf of the "Dog Research Exposed" Podcast). Shannon Keith, Esq. is an attorney and founder of the Beagle Freedom Project, a national non-profit that rehabilitates and re-homes animals rescued from puppy mills, including dogs that have been rescued from Ridglan Farms. Ms. Keith states: "I have witnessed firsthand the profound physical and psychological trauma that these dogs have, caused by living their entire lives in small cages, often alone, with wire flooring and without ever knowing love or connection. . . . Sadly, I have read many reports of violations of animal cruelty laws in facilities like Ridglan during my years working for the animals, but this report is one of the most egregious I have read." Keith Decl. at 1. Ellie Hansen is an author and podcaster who educates the public about the breeding and use of beagles in experimentation. Ms. Hansen adopted and rehabilitated a dog who was bred at Ridglan Farms, whom she describes as "the most traumatized dog I had ever met." Hansen Decl. at 1.

the tradition of judicial fairness and openness that our American system of law provides.” *State ex rel. Newspapers, Inc. v. Cir. Ct. for Milwaukee Cnty.*, 124 Wis. 2d 499, 509 (1985). In other words, appointing a special prosecutor under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) is not a disfavored remedy but an essential means of upholding the rule of law.

This function of the judge is especially important in cases like this one, where the victims of the criminal conduct cannot speak for themselves or petition the government for redress. Thousands of dogs at Ridglan Farms continue to suffer criminal mistreatment, yet the company and District Attorney refuse to take action. In such circumstances, the Circuit Judge is authorized to permit the issuance of a criminal complaint. A proposed complaint is attached as **Exhibit H**.

### CONCLUSION

Probable cause exists to believe that Ridglan Farms has violated Wis. Stat. §§ 951.14 and 951.02. The company has mutilated dogs, confined them in torturous conditions, and subjected them to flooring that has caused injuries and infections. Even though Ridglan Farms has received repeated notices to fix these problems, it has refused to take action, prioritizing its bottom line over animal welfare or compliance with the law. Despite being made aware of these crimes as far back as May 2018, the Dane County District Attorney has not prosecuted Ridglan Farms. This long period of silence and inaction amounts to a refusal to prosecute.

Accordingly, Petitioners respectfully request that the Judge grant the relief requested herein, namely that a special prosecutor be appointed and a complaint issued against Ridglan Farms for their violations of Wis. Stat. §§ 951.14 and 951.02.

Signed and sworn on this 15th Day of April, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



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Rebekah Robinson  
President, Dane4Dogs Ltd.



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Wayne Hsiung



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Kristin Schrank  
Alliance for Animals

# **EXHIBIT A**

Sherstin Rosenberg, D.V.M.  
3940-7 Broad Street  
PMB #215  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
(805) 458-6102

3-14-24

I have been asked by the Simple Heart Legal Team to review footage, inspection reports, and internal documents from Ridglan Farms in Dane County, Wisconsin and to evaluate animal welfare practices at the facility. Ridglan Farms is a large, commercial facility which breeds and sells thousands of beagles annually to research laboratories across the U.S. Ridglan also conducts its own research on the dogs on a contract basis.

I have been a licensed veterinarian in the state of California for more than 25 years. I graduated from the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1998 after completing my undergraduate education at Stanford University. For the past 10 years I have been the chief veterinarian at an animal sanctuary where I have examined and cared for thousands of dogs, cats, goats, sheep, birds, and other animals. I have served as an expert veterinary witness in 9 criminal and civil cases, and have also testified in multiple legislative hearings regarding animal welfare issues.

**Summary:** Review of the data reveals a pattern of repeatedly recurring criminal animal welfare violations. Failure to provide adequate housing, exercise, and socialization has induced psychological torment in thousands of dogs. Puppies routinely become trapped in flooring, and older dogs incur injuries and foot infections due to the flooring. Painful surgical mutilations are routinely performed without anesthesia or sterile technique for procedures that do not benefit the dogs and induce chronic pain and psychological distress. Based upon willful failure to improve practices as demonstrated over a number of years, in my opinion Ridglan is unlikely to take corrective action of its own accord.

**Dogs at Ridglan Farms are systematically housed in tiny enclosures, often alone, devoid of enrichment, causing dogs to display repetitive behaviors- spinning, pacing, and wall bouncing. This behavior indicates severe psychological torment and distress.**

Widespread display of spinning, pacing, and wall bouncing behaviors observed at Ridglan indicate **high levels of psychological distress** in the animals.

Repetitive, stereotypic behaviors are widely understood by animal welfare experts to be a sign of inadequate housing and poor management. See [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals eighth edition.](#), pg 63.

According to an inspection performed on 10/26/2016 by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (ATCP)

“A number of adult dogs in the facility were displaying prominent stereotypical behaviors; such as: circling, pacing, and wall bouncing.”... “Efforts should be taken to address dog’s abnormal, stereotypical behaviors. Such behaviors are an indicator of the dog’s welfare.”

This same inspector recorded that adult dogs at the facility are housed in cages that are 2’ x 4’. They never leave their cage and, as noted by the state inspector, there are no outdoor exercise facilities.

Animal Activists on site in 2017 took extensive footage of dogs displaying these same repetitive behaviors.

On 2/27/2019 an AAALAC site inspector wrote:

“Numerous Animals were found single housed in enclosures that did not fulfill their daily exercise requirement.”

Failure to provide adequate space, exercise, and meet social needs at the Ridgland facility has led to the psychological torment of thousands of dogs over the years. Moreover, Ridgland has failed to improve their management practices despite repeated notification of the issues.

**Dogs living in tiny cages are forced to step in their feces while puppies fall through large floor openings; dogs spend their lives on mesh floors and the uneven flooring causes painful foot injuries and infections.**

Coated mesh flooring with openings for passage of feces has led to serious welfare issues at the facility for many years, including puppies’ legs and feet getting stuck and a high incidence of foot infections (interdigital pododermatitis). Despite claims by Ridgland to have rectified these issues, inspectors from different agencies noted serious violations in October of 2016 and again in December of 2023, as well as by animal activists in 2017 and an employee in 2021.

Flooring violations were flagged during an inspection performed on 10/26/2016 by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (ATCP) and were noted again as recently as December 2023. The Animal Welfare Act States:

*9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A (Animal Welfare Act) § 3.6 - Primary enclosures. Primary enclosures for dogs and cats must meet the following minimum requirements: General requirements. (2) Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they: (x) Have floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the dogs' and cats' feet and legs from injury, and that, if of mesh or slatted construction, do not allow the dogs' and cats' feet to pass through any openings in the floor;*

According to the **ATCP inspector** on **10/26/16**:

*Within several enclosures the feet and legs of puppies were found to be repeatedly passing through the floor openings (see pictures 3-4). In these instances the legs of puppies were observed to have passed completely below the mesh flooring up to the*

*puppy's chest. Puppies were observed to have noticeable difficulty standing or moving comfortably and naturally upon the floored surface due to the large size of the openings.*

On **12/5/23** a **USDA inspector** noted:

*Some of the weaned puppies and preweaning-aged puppies in eleven enclosures were observed to have feet or legs pass through the smooth-coated mesh floors when they walked.*

Inadequate flooring for puppies is a serious animal welfare violation. When a puppy falls through holes in their enclosure, it inhibits their ability to move freely, express normal behaviors, and to reach food and water. Being forced to live on this type of flooring is a form of psychological and physical cruelty.

In addition, a Wisconsin ATCP inspector noted foot infections in some of the dogs in 2016, and all 3 dogs removed from the facility by animal activists in 2017 suffered from severe interdigital pododermatitis (foot infections) requiring veterinary care. By my own experience and consultations with veterinary specialists in the field of canine laboratory research, dogs living on mesh flooring repeatedly bump the area between toes on the uneven flooring, causing irritation and injury. In addition, fecal matter accumulates on the floor surface because the holes are not large enough for most feces to pass through. In a 2' x 4' cage it is impossible for a dog to avoid walking through feces and irritated/damaged skin exposed to feces frequently leads to infection. Interdigital dermatitis is highly irritating and even painful for dogs suffering from this infection.

Failure to rectify inadequate flooring at the Ridgland facility has resulted in unnecessary pain and suffering to thousands of dogs over the years. Ridgland has known about these problems for nearly a decade, yet has not taken effective action.

**Inappropriate “surgical” mutilations are performed routinely at Ridgland without the use of anesthesia or sterile technique:**

Examination of breeding documents at Ridgland reveals that hundreds of dogs bred there each year have a congenital eye condition known as prolapsed nictitating membrane or “cherry eye.” The term “cherry eye” was coined because of the mass of red, irritated membrane protruding from the eye. Not all cases of cherry eye require treatment, but in severe cases the protruding tissue will become dry and irritated without proper care.

My conversation with a former Ridgland employee revealed that as recently as 3 years ago the nictitating membrane (third eyelid) of dogs was routinely removed **without anesthesia or hemostasis (control of bleeding)** as a “treatment” for cherry eye.

Excision or removal of the prolapsed eye tissue is not an accepted technique for treating cherry eye within the veterinary profession. And of course failure to provide anesthesia or hemostasis for dogs undergoing surgery is never acceptable.

According to an [article](#) in the Clinician's Brief (a well respected veterinary publication), "Surgical removal of the third eyelid is strictly reserved for neoplasia of the nictitans and its gland or for traumatic injury severe enough to interfere with function of the nictitans and globe; *removal for "cherry eyes" or cosmetic reasons is inappropriate.*" ( emphasis added)

Accepted technique for cherry eye surgery is complex and requires the skill of a veterinarian. According to a former employee at Ridgland, the procedure is done by staff (not a veterinarian) using a pair of scissors. Instead of blocking pain with anesthesia, the employee told me that dogs were held firmly in place to prevent them from squirming in response to the pain. The dogs would yelp during the procedure and since no attempt was made to clamp or ligate tissue, there was profuse hemorrhage. The employee told me that the dogs would be put aside and the blood would be hosed off later.

It should be noted that the eye is one of the most highly innervated, vascularized, and sensitive parts of a dog's body. Performing surgery on the eye without anesthesia causes severe pain and constitutes unnecessary cruelty. Failure to control bleeding could lead to life-threatening complications or death due to severe blood loss.

*Current veterinary standards for cherry eye surgery require retention of the gland for tear production.* Modern methods include surgical reattachment of the membrane beneath the eyelid to prevent protrusion. Without a nictitating membrane, most dogs will go on to suffer from a painful lifelong condition known as dry eye (keratoconjunctivitis sicca).

I would characterize the cherry eye "surgeries" performed at Ridgland as mutilations rather than surgeries. The procedures are highly painful in the absence of anesthesia and do not benefit the dogs, who later suffer chronic painful eye conditions as a result of having their third eyelids removed.

In addition, Ridgland routinely devocalizes dogs by cutting or removal of the laryngeal cartilage. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) strongly discourages devocalization surgery "because of the surgery's negative impacts on animal welfare."

The devocalization "surgeries" are presumably done at Ridgland for human convenience- to decrease noise level by muting barking sounds. (Note that devocalized dogs are usually still able to make barking sounds and footage from the facility reveals that the noise level is deafening). Rather than providing more space for the dogs and enrichment that would distract from barking, they are subjected to a painful, risky procedure that is not endorsed by the nation's leading veterinary association.

Failure to sterilize instruments used to devocalize the dogs, along with failure to wear surgical masks, sterile gloves, or otherwise practice sterile technique is another issue that has been flagged at Ridgland: An AAALAC site visit in 2013 noted Ridgland's failure to use sterile technique during devocalization surgeries, including failure to sterilize surgical instruments. Devocalization surgery poses risks of severe respiratory and other complications, and failure of sterile technique introduces a substantial risk of painful and life threatening infection.

Cherry eye removal and devocalization as commonly practiced at Ridglan Farms are mutilations leading to unnecessary pain, risk of complications, lifelong negative impact on welfare, and do not benefit the animals.

**Conclusions:** A persistent pattern of animal cruelty emerges from the data reviewed. More concerning is Ridglan's failure to rectify these matters despite awareness over a number of years. Due to poor management practices and improper housing, thousands of Ridglan dogs have been and continue to be subjected to psychological torment, painful infections, and surgical mutilations. The persistence of these problems over nearly a decade suggests that the facility has no intention of improving the situation, and that they will continue business as usual unless further action is taken.

I thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherstin Rosenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherstin Rosenberg, DVM  
Executive Director/Veterinarian  
Happy Hen Animal Sanctuary  
sherstin@happyhen.org

# **EXHIBIT B**

April 4, 2013

Dr. Kathryn Bayne  
Global Director  
AAALAC International  
5283 Corporate Drive, Suite 203  
Frederick, MD 21703-2879

RE: File# 1501 Post Site Visit Communication

Dear Dr. Bayne,

During the exit briefing of the March 27, 2013 AAALAC site visit of Ridglan Farms, Inc. (Unit 1501) two Mandatory Items for Correction and six Suggestions for Improvement were communicated by the site visit team (Marc Hulin and Lois Zitzow). In this Post Site Visit Communication I will be addressing all of them with a plan to correct all eight.

### **Mandatory Items for Correction**

#### **1) Occupational Health and Safety Program**

The site visit team indicated that Ridglan Farms, Inc. had an Occupational Health and Safety Program in place, but identified multiple deficiencies that must be corrected to attain AAALAC accreditation. These deficiencies included hazard identification and risk assessment, inclusion of an occupational health professional in the medical surveillance and periodic surveillance program and lack of a hearing conservation program. The following is how we plan to address these findings and improve our occupational health and safety program.

Concentra Urgent Care (358 Junction Rd. Madison, WI 608-829-1888) has been contracted to provide the following services to Ridglan Farms, Inc. The program containing these three services will be implemented by the end of April 2013 for all on-site employees.

- a) Risk assessment and hazard identification of the facility.
- b) Medical surveillance / risk assessment of the employees to be conducted by an occupational health medical professional.
- c) Periodic surveillance / risk assessment follow up of the employees by an occupational health medical professional. The frequency of the follow up will be determined by the occupational health medical professional.

Chad Breaker (Cincinnati Insurance) will be conducting a noise assessment of the facility on April 9, 2013 and providing hearing protection recommendations for employees.

American Industrial Medical (Greenfield, WI) will be conducting individual, baseline hearing assessments for all employees that work in animal rooms on April 18, 2013. Periodic reevaluations will be conducted at a frequency to be determined by an occupational health medical professional.

## **2) IACUC Protocol Review**

The site visit team indicated that Ridglan Farms, Inc. had an IACUC Program and Protocol Review process in place, but identified multiple deficiencies that must be corrected to attain AAALAC accreditation. These deficiencies included documentation of “alternative searches”, a report to the Institutional Officer of the IACUC semi-annual program review and facilities inspection, annual and *de novo* review of protocols, documentation of committee deliberations and official votes related to animal care and use protocols/proposals and documentation of information regarding the justification for the species and number of animals used in a study. The following is how we plan to address these findings and improve our IACUC protocol review program.

- a) Information regarding “alternative searches” will be required to be documented in the sponsor’s protocol submitted to Ridglan Farms, Inc. If such documentation is not provided, Ridglan Farms, Inc. will have the option of refusing to conduct the study or performing the literature search and documenting the key words, data bases searched, date time frame of the search and the date the search was performed in the Ridglan Farms protocol review form. A Literature Review section will be added to the Ridglan Farms Animal Care and Use Protocol Form.
- b) A report of the IACUC semi-annual program review and facilities inspection, signed by the IACUC members, will be submitted to the Institutional Officer. This report will include any minority reports and be signed by a majority of IACUC members.
- c) In addition to annual protocol review of ongoing studies, a *de novo* review of ongoing studies will be done every three years by the IACUC.
- d) IACUC meeting minutes will include documentation of committee deliberations and official votes related to animal care and use protocols/proposals.
- e) Information regarding the justification for the species and number of animals used in a study will be required to be documented in the sponsor’s protocol submitted to Ridglan Farms, Inc. This information will also be added and captured on the Ridglan Animal Care and Use Protocol Form.

## **Suggestions for Improvement**

- 1) *Several expired items were found* - There will be a monthly check of expiration dates on all products used at the facility including, but not limited to: prescription and OTC medications, surgical supplies, cleaning supplies and vaccines. All expired items and items due to expire before the next schedule monthly check will be discarded appropriately.
- 2) *Sanitation Verification was done only by visual inspection* - Effectiveness of Sanitation Verification will be assessed by an ATP device such as Fire Fly (Charm Technologies) or a swab and culture method.
- 3) *Autoclave effectiveness was being assessed using autoclave indicator tape inside and outside of surgical packs* - Autoclave effectiveness will be assessed by using a biological indicator which will be placed in the autoclave during operation, as well as, using autoclave indicator tape inside and outside of packs. Biological indicators will be used on a semiannual basis due to the low number of packs which are autoclaved annually at the facility.

- 4) *Surgical gowns, caps and masks are not being worn by the veterinarian during surgical procedures* - In addition to a surgical scrub in by the surgeon and donning sterile gloves, aseptic technique for surgery will include the surgeon wearing a gown, sterile gloves, mask and cap. In regards to devocalizing animals, the instruments used will be sterilized in the autoclave prior to being used to devocalize the first dog and if subsequent dogs are to be devocalized immediately following, the instrument will be submersed in a disinfectant for a period of time between animals. SOP PRD-200-32 (Devocalization of Dogs) will be revised to reflect this change in procedure.
- 5) *Instances of not recording medical treatments were found* - Veterinary records which are kept for each animal on their individual health card will accurately reflect the animal's diagnosis, treatment plan and that the condition has been resolved.
- 6) *IACUC protocols did not include experimental and humane end points* - All IACUC protocols will include experimental and humane end points. The protocols will include a list of potential problems or adverse events which may occur during the study and possible courses of action for each of these. An IACUC policy will also be written addressing how these common adverse events will be handled in study situations.

Ridglan Farms, Inc. will provide a follow-up PSVC after meeting with Concentra, Chad Breaker and American Industrial Medical indicating the specific recommendations and what will be implemented by the institution. Hopefully these actions and proposals will close out the concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. VanDomelen DVM  
Staff Veterinarian/Facility Manager  
Ridglan Farms, Inc.  
P.O. Box 318  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572  
[608-437-8670](tel:608-437-8670)  
[Rickvan@mhtc.net](mailto:Rickvan@mhtc.net)

Cc: Dr. Marc Hulin  
Dr. Lois Zitzow

# **EXHIBIT C**



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Division of Animal Health**

Phone: (608) 224-4872

Fax: (608) 224-4871

Email:

Website: <http://datcp.wi.gov/>

**Dog Seller and Dog Facility Operator Inspection**

s.173.41, Wis. Stats and ch.16, Wis. Admin. Code

**Inspection:** Dog Seller Routine Inspection

**Inspection Date:** 10/26/2016

**Inspector:** Colin Benell

**Legal Entity:** Ridglan Farms, Inc.

**License # / DBA:** 267262-DS / Ridglan Farms, Inc.

**Location:** 10489 W. Blue Mounds Rd, Blue Mounds, WI 53517

*Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was originally collected s.15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.*

**Inspection of your operation on revealed the following results.**

Regulation	Result	Comment
<b>0. General License Information, s. ATCP 16.02, Wis. Adm. Code</b>		
<b>General License Information</b>		
0.1.1 Dog seller license and report are posted in a prominent place.	Compliant	See report
0.1.2 Dog Seller license number is in advertisements.	Compliant	See report
<b>I. Record Keeping, s. ATCP 16.14, Wis. Adm. Code</b>		
<b>General Dog Records</b>		
1.1.1. Records present and in written or readily readable electronic form.	Compliant	
1.1.2. Records retained for at least 5 years and / or made available to the department.	Compliant	
<b>Locations at Which Dogs are Kept</b>		
1.2.1. Address of each location where dogs are kept.	Compliant	
1.2.2. Name of individual responsible for administering that location.	Compliant	
1.2.3. Name and address of home custody provider, if applicable.	Not applicable	
<b>Dog Records</b>		
1.3.1. Breed of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.2. Sex of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.3. Date of birth recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.4. Approximate age of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.5. Color of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.6. Distinct markings on dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.7. Location at which dog is kept (including home custody provider, if applicable) recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.8. Record of official individual animal identification (tag, tattoo, microchip) if any assigned.	Compliant	
1.3.9. Statement that the dog was born under license holder's custody or legal control, if that is the case.	Compliant	
1.3.10. Dog was not born under the license holder's custody / control, date on which license holder acquired custody or control.	Compliant	
1.3.11. Dog was not born under the license holder's custody / control, name and address of person from whom dog was acquired.	Compliant	

1.3.12. Dog was not born under the license holder's custody / control, person's USDA animal care facility license or registration number (if any).	Compliant	
1.3.13. If dog is no longer under the license holder's custody or control, date on which the dog left custody / control of licensee.	Compliant	
1.3.14. If dog is no longer under the license holder's custody or control, disposition of dog.	Compliant	
1.3.15. If dog is no longer under the license holder's custody or control, identity of the person whom assumed custody / control.	Compliant	
1.3.16. CVI that accompanied dog when it entered or left the licensee's custody / control.	Compliant	
1.3.17. Records include vaccination information.	Compliant	
1.3.18. Records include observation information.	Compliant	
1.3.19. Records include any treatment that occurred & who administered the healthcare.	Compliant	
1.3.20. Breed registration records kept if applicable.	Compliant	

**Behavior and Socialization Plan**

1.4.1. Behavior and socialization plan which meets requirements of 4.5.1 – 4.5.5	Compliant	
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**II. Dog Sales; Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, s. ATCP 16.16, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Dogs Sold are Accompanied by a Valid CVI**

2.1.1. Dogs sold are accompanied by a valid CVI.	Compliant	
2.1.2. CVI contains signature of certified veterinarian.	Compliant	
2.1.3. CVI is a valid form issued by the department.	Compliant	
2.1.4. CVI contains name and address of seller.	Compliant	
2.1.5. CVI contains the number, breed, sex and age of dog(s).	Compliant	
2.1.6. CVI contains information regarding whether the dog is spayed, neutered or sexually intact.	Compliant	
2.1.7. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the type of vaccine.	Compliant	
2.1.8. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the manufacturer of the vaccine,	Compliant	
2.1.9. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the serial and lot numbers of the vaccine.	Compliant	
2.1.10. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the date administered & person administering.	Compliant	
2.1.11. Information required for import under ss. ATCP 10.06(4) and ATCP 10.80, Wis. Adm. Code	Not Applicable	
2.1.12. Valid negative Brucellosis test if dog(s) sold at public auction & is not spayed / neutered.	Not Applicable	
2.1.13. Veterinarian statement, signature and date of signature on CVI.	Compliant	
2.1.14. Valid issuance and expiration dates.	Compliant	
2.1.15. Distribution of CVI copies to buyer, seller and issuing veterinarian.	Compliant	
2.1.16. Re-issued CVIs updated, as necessary and copies distributed to buyer, seller an issuing veterinarian.	Not applicable	
2.1.17. CVI incorporating information from prior CVI includes a statement identifying prior CVI.	Not applicable	

**III. Age at Which Dogs May be Sold, s. ATCP 16.18, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Dog(s) Sale and Custody Transfer Meets Necessary Criteria**

3.1.1. Dog is at least 7 weeks old.	Compliant	Approved variance
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**IV. Dog Care; General, s. ATCP 16.20, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Food and Water**

4.1.1. Feeding frequency adequate.	Compliant	
4.1.2. Size of ration and / or nutritional content adequate.	Compliant	
4.1.3. Wholesome, uncontaminated and / or palatable.	Compliant	

4.1.4. Amount and quality of fresh water adequate.	Compliant	
4.1.5. Food and water containers suitable.	Compliant	
4.1.6. Adequate sanitization of food and water containers.	Compliant	

#### Animal Health and Veterinary Care

4.2.1. Proper handling.	Compliant	
4.2.2. Daily body, mobility and behavior checks completed.	Compliant	
4.2.3. Dogs suspected of communicable disease are isolated.	Compliant	
4.2.4. Adequate grooming. (nails trimmed, no hair matting)	Compliant	
4.2.5. Veterinarian exams or adherence to veterinarian recommendations.	Compliant	
4.2.6. Sick or injured dogs receiving timely veterinarian care or humanely euthanized.	Compliant	

#### Exercise

4.3.1. Daily access to exercise area where a running stride can be achieved.	Compliant	
4.3.2. Supervised physical activity.	Compliant	

#### Dog Grouping and Separation

4.4.1. Compatible grouping of dogs.	Compliant	
4.4.2. Females in season appropriately separated.	Compliant	
4.4.3. Aggressive dogs separated.	Compliant	
4.4.4. Puppies under 4 months appropriately separated.	Compliant	

#### Behavior and Socialization

4.5.1. Daily contact with other compatible dogs without good cause.	Compliant	
4.5.2. Daily positive human contact and socialization other than feeding time.	Compliant	See notes
4.5.3. Play objects or other forms of inanimate enrichment in primary enclosure.	Compliant	See notes
4.5.4. Dogs have contact, activity, enrichment.	Compliant	
4.5.5. Written plan for meeting behavior and socialization requirements.	Compliant	

### V. Dogs Kept Indoors, s. ATCP 16.22, Wis. Adm. Code

5.1.1. Enclosure is structurally sound and maintained in good repair.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
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#### Floors and Interior Surfaces

5.2.1. Enclosure does not have dirt floor.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.2. Metal wire mesh floor is coated and / or has adequate gauge to prevent injury	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.3. Floor openings small enough to prevent dog's foot from passing through.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.4. Floor and interior surfaces keep dogs clean, dry, and safe from injuries.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.5. Floor and interior surfaces regularly cleaned and sanitized.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

#### Stacked Primary Enclosures

5.3.1. Floor of top enclosure is not higher than 52 inches from floor of room, when enclosures are stacked.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.2. Stacked enclosures adequate for safe handling, ventilation, temperature control, easy cleaning, sanitation and easy inspection.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.3. Front side of stacked enclosures ventilated and / or have solid floor that can be easily cleaned and sanitized.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.4. Stacked enclosures stable when filled to maximum capacity with dogs.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.5. Dog(s) in stacked enclosures not exposed to excreta, urine, dirt or debris falling from higher enclosures.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Primary Enclosures for One or More Dogs that Get at Least 30 Minutes of Exercise Each Day**

5.4.1. Floor area of enclosure adequate for largest dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.2. Floor area of enclosure adequate to accommodate all dogs in the enclosure without crowding.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.3. Height of enclosure adequate for tallest dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.4. Dogs have adequate time (at least 30 minutes) per day in run or exercise area.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.5. Run or exercise area of adequate size to achieve running stride.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Primary Enclosures for One or More Dogs that Get at Least 120 Minutes of Exercise Each Day**

5.5.1. No more than one dog is kept in enclosure.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.2. Floor area of enclosure is adequate for size of dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.3. Height of enclosure adequate for size of dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.4. Dogs have adequate time (at least 120 minutes per day) in run or exercise area.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.5. Run or exercise area of adequate size for achieving running stride.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Whelping Enclosure**

5.6.1. Enclosure appropriate for breed.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.2. Appropriate solid floor in area accessible to puppies.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.3. Height of enclosure is adequate for the dam to stand normally.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.4. Length and width of enclosure adequate for the dam to lay down, and stretch out to allow all pups to nurse.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.5. Size of enclosure is adequate for number and temperament of puppies.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.6. Enclosure includes an area that is only accessible to dam and large enough for dam.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Nursery Enclosure**

5.7.1. Large enough to allow all puppies to turn around, stand up, lie down and exercise normal postural movements.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.7.2. Large enough to encourage socialization and exercise.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Temporary Enclosure for One Dog**

5.8.1. Dog is kept in enclosure for no more than 12 hours.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.8.2. No more than one dog is kept in enclosure.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.8.3. Floor area & height of enclosure adequate for the dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Lighting, Temperature, and Ventilation**

5.9.1. Adequate light for proper care, maintenance and inspection and / or diurnal lighting cycle.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.9.2. Adequate heating and cooling to protect dogs from temperatures and humidity that may be injurious to their health.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.9.3. Adequate fresh or filtered air to maintain health of dogs and minimize odor, drafts, ammonia levels and moisture.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Cleaning and Sanitation**

5.10.1. Excreta removed daily or more often as needed.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.2. Enclosures and areas cleaned rinsed and sanitized appropriately to be free of dirt, debris and disease hazards.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.3. Primary enclosure cleaned and sanitized before new dog placed in it.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.4. Dogs removed from primary enclosure before it is cleaned and sanitized and / or are returned to the area after it is dry.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.5. Solid surface or bedding is appropriate for breed and maintained in clean, dry condition.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**VI. Dogs Kept Outdoors, s. ATCP 16.24, Wis. Adm. Code****Dogs Kept in Outdoor Primary Enclosure**

6.1.1. Dog's breed, age, health and / or physical condition suited to outdoor temperatures and conditions.	Not applicable	
6.1.2. Dog(s) acclimated to outdoor temperatures and variations that may occur in primary enclosure.	Not applicable	

**Outdoor Primary Enclosure; Minimum Area**

6.2.1. Size of enclosure meets requirements for an individual dog.	Not applicable	
6.2.2. Size of enclosure meets requirements for additional dogs.	Not applicable	

**Outdoor Primary Enclosure; Construction**

6.3.1. Constructed and / or maintained to prevent escape.	Not applicable	
6.3.2. Roof or overhead screen of appropriate height.	Not applicable	

**Shelter, Shade, and Wind block**

6.4.1. Outdoor primary enclosure contains at least one dog shelter that complies with dog shelter requirements below.	Not applicable	
6.4.2. Adequate to shade all dogs in primary enclosure from direct sunlight during all sunlight hours without crowding.	Not applicable	
6.4.3. Adequate to shelter all dogs in primary enclosure from wind.	Not applicable	

**Dog Shelter**

6.5.1. Made with durable material with 4 sides, a roof and solid flat floor.	Not applicable	
6.5.2. Interior accessible by all dogs in primary enclosure.	Not applicable	
6.5.3. Large enough to prevent crowding.	Not applicable	
6.5.4. Large enough to allow tallest dog to stand.	Not applicable	
6.5.5. Adequate to prevent injury, retain or dissipate enough body heat, allow dogs to remain clean and dry and / or provide reasonable protection from predators.	Not applicable	

**Tethering**

6.6.1. Appropriate for breed.	Not applicable	
6.6.2. Dog can tolerate based on age, health and / or physical condition.	Not applicable	
6.6.3. Dog can easily enter and lie down in a dog shelter that complies with dog shelter requirements above.	Not applicable	
6.6.4. Dog is not a pregnant or nursing female.	Not applicable	
6.6.5. Tether cannot become entangled with an object.	Not applicable	
6.6.6. Tether has an anchor swivel.	Not applicable	
6.6.7. Tether is at least 6 feet long and of sufficient length for size of dog.	Not applicable	
6.6.8. Tether is attached to a non-tightening collar or harness of sufficient size.	Not applicable	
6.6.9. Tether is used for a dog at an animal control facility or animal shelter for no more than 4 hours in a day, complies with above tethering requirements, and has caretaker on premises.	Not applicable	

**Runs and Exercise Areas**

6.7.1. More than 30 minutes a day of access to run or exercise area.	Not applicable	
6.7.2. Adequate size for dog's size and temperament (considering number of dogs using at a given time) and large enough to achieve a running stride.	Not applicable	
6.7.3. Adequate to shade all dogs from direct sunlight during hours in use without crowding.	Not applicable	

**Facility Maintenance**

6.8.1. Excreta removed from outdoor primary enclosures daily or more often as necessary.	Not applicable	
6.8.2. Pests and parasites controlled as necessary to maintain dog health and comfort.	Not applicable	
6.8.3. Bedding maintained in clean, dry condition or bedding is not provided but solid resting place is appropriate for dog's breed, age, health & physical condition.	Not applicable	

6.8.4. Facilities maintained to protect health / safety of dogs.	Not applicable	
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**VII. Transporting Dogs, s. ATCP 16.26, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Portable Enclosures**

7.1.1. Constructed of a water-resistant and cleanable material.	Compliant	
7.1.2. Adequate to keep dogs clean and dry.	Compliant	
7.1.3. Adequate to protect dog's health and safety.	Compliant	
7.1.4. Adequate ventilation openings.	Compliant	
7.1.5. Securely closed when in use.	Compliant	
7.1.6. Cleaned and sanitized frequently enough.	Compliant	
7.1.7. Positioned for each dog to have access to sufficient air for normal breathing.	Compliant	
7.1.8. Positioned for emergency removal of dogs.	Compliant	
7.1.9. Positioned to protect dog from excreta falling from above.	Compliant	
7.1.10. Secured as necessary to prevent reasonably foreseeable movement that may injure dogs.	Compliant	

**Care of Dogs During Transport**

7.2.1. Dogs protected from hypothermia or hyperthermia.	Compliant	
7.2.2. Adequate space to turn, stand and lie down (except in transport for training, trialing and hunting).	Compliant	
7.2.3. Food and water in accordance with s. ATCP 16.20(1), Wis. Adm. Code.	Compliant	
7.2.4. Dogs separated from each other if required by s. ATCP 16.20(5), Wis. Adm. Code	Compliant	
7.2.5. Dogs visually inspected every 4 hours.	Compliant	
7.2.6. Dogs removed from vehicle at least once every 12 hours and allowed to urinate, defecate and exercise. (Unless vehicle is equipped for such needs)	Compliant	
7.2.7. Dogs removed from vehicle in a timely fashion upon reaching destination.	Compliant	

**Transport Vehicles**

7.3.1. Vehicle equipped to provide fresh or filtered air without injurious drafts to all dogs transported in the vehicle.	Compliant	
7.3.2. Cargo space construction and maintenance adequate to minimize the ingress of exhaust from the vehicle's engine.	Compliant	

## **Ridglan Farms, Inc.**

- License type: Dog Seller (Dog Breeder/ Dog Breeding Facility)
- Breed(s): Beagle
- Website: <http://www.ridglan.com>
- Hours of operation: Upon appointment
- Previous inspection: 9/24/2014 (routine)
- Veterinarian/ veterinary care provider:
  - Veterinarian onsite (Ridglan Farms, Inc.)

### **Facility Information:**

Ridglan Farms, Inc. (RF) operates as a 'Dog Breeder' within the state who is also licensed with the US Department of Agriculture (#35-A-0009). RF breeds and sells beagles for the purposes of biomedical research.

Dogs are kept in four separate buildings on the property. Each of these buildings has artificial lighting, mechanical ventilation, and temperature control. Dogs are primarily separated between the buildings based upon their age class.

*PRIMARY ENCLOSURES* – Adult and sub-adult dogs are kept in various size enclosures. Many adult dogs are kept in two-level, stacked enclosures constructed of metal fencing and mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 8 ft<sup>2</sup>, 2' x 4'). Other adult dogs may be kept in enclosures constructed of metal fencing, fiberglass panels, and a mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 25 ft<sup>2</sup>, 5' x 5'). Younger stock are kept in enclosures constructed of chain-link fencing and mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 80 ft<sup>2</sup>, 8' x 10').

*WHELPING / ENCLOSURES* – One of the buildings serves as the facility's nursery with approximately 20 nursery rooms. Each of these isolated rooms has two-levels of stacked enclosures for dams and their litters. Each of these enclosures is constructed of metal fencing, fiberglass panels, and a mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 16 ft<sup>2</sup>, 4' x 4'). Dams whelp and nurse their litters in large plastic bins. After puppies are weaned they are moved to different buildings. Nursery enclosures in these buildings are constructed of chain-link fencing and a mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 25 ft<sup>2</sup>, 5' x 5').

*EXERCISE* – Dogs are not removed from enclosures for exercise. Partitions between smaller enclosures are removed daily to allow for space to achieve a running stride. Other enclosures are large enough to allow dogs to achieve a running stride.

*OUTDOOR FACILITIES* – This facility has no outdoor enclosures.

- This facility has two approved variances on file with the Department, ATCP 16.18(1) and ATCP 16.20(3)(c)3.
- Some dogs on the property may be participants in research and have no breeding purpose.

### **Inspection summary:**

October 26, 2016 (11:45 am) - Colin Benell (Companion Animal Inspector, DATCP) conducted a routine inspection of the dog breeding facility and relevant dog records at 10489 W. Blue Mounds Road in Blue Mounds, WI. Benell was accompanied by Amber Becker (Regulatory Specialist, DATCP) for training purposes. During the inspection of the facility Benell and Becker were assisted and accompanied by the Facility manager/veterinarian. The Office manager assisted during the records review. For the inspection of the facility RF provided a Tyvec suit, boot covers, and ear protection. During this inspection non-compliance was found which requires corrective action.

Dog inventory: 1,429 (over 6 months of age); 1,422 (under 6 months of age)

***A FOLLOW-UP inspection shall be done to verify that corrective actions have been taken to address areas of non-compliance (see 'inspection result' below). Licensee is to email photographs of enclosure improvements by 11/15/2016 to complete the inspection.***

### **Violation(s):**

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

(3) Housing and transportation.

(c) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a facility that is used only for the purpose of breeding, raising and selling dogs for scientific research, provided that all of the following apply:

4. The dogs are kept in enclosures that comply with 9 CFR, Chapter I, subchapter A (animal welfare).

#### ***9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A (Animal Welfare Act)***

##### ***§ 3.6 - Primary enclosures.***

*Primary enclosures for dogs and cats must meet the following minimum requirements:  
General requirements.*

*(2) Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they:*

*(x) Have floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the dogs' and cats' feet and legs from injury, and that, if of mesh or slatted construction, do not allow the dogs' and cats' feet to pass through any openings in the floor;*

- Puppies within multiple nursery rooms were found to be upon coated, non-solid flooring with round openings; approximately 1.5" x 1.0" in size (see pictures 1-2). Within one of the nursery rooms each of the occupied enclosures were housing a dam and her litter of young puppies. Within several enclosures the feet and legs of puppies were found to be repeatedly passing through the floor openings (see pictures 3-4). In these instances the legs of puppies were observed to have passed completely below the mesh flooring up to the puppy's chest. Puppies were observed to have **noticeable difficulty standing** or moving comfortably and naturally upon the floored surface due to the large size of the openings. No injuries were observed.



**Picture 1:** Mesh flooring within whelping enclosure.



**Picture 2:** Puppies on top of same mesh flooring.



**Pictures 3-4:** Note white feet and legs of puppies passing through floor openings (view from below flooring). Pictures taken from two separate enclosures.

**Inspection result:**

The following corrective actions must be taken as soon as possible or no later than November 15, 2016:

- Floors within whelping enclosures must be constructed at all times in a manner that do not allow puppies' feet to pass through any openings in the floor as required under § 3.6(2)(x), CFR.

*Photographs of the corrections must be submitted to Benell via email ([colin.benell@wisconsin.gov](mailto:colin.benell@wisconsin.gov)) by 11/15/2016 to complete the follow-up inspection.*

## Discussion:

Floor openings – During the inspection Benell demonstrated to the facility manager that puppies' feet and legs were passing through the gaps in the flooring. Benell explained to the facility manager that within other licensed facilities in the state such findings would be a violation of ATCP Chapter 16. Benell explained that he was aware that RF was exempt from ATCP 16.22 according to ATCP 16.20(3)(a). Benell stated that under ATCP 16.20(3)(c)4 required provisions under CFR Chapter 1 must be met instead. Benell took photographs and stated that he was going to determine whether such flooring was compliant with CFR Chapter 1 following the inspection. The facility manager replied that in such instances the flooring was permitted by his USDA inspector as it allowed for better sanitation. Benell was then shown sheets of a floor covering with smaller gaps that was not in use. The facility manager stated that these sheets have been used in the past, but that they require very regular cleaning. Benell told the facility manager that he would contact him following the inspection.

On 10/31/2016 Benell spoke on the phone with the facility manager. The facility manager stated that he had reviewed CFR following the inspection and intended to take corrective action to address the non-compliance. The facility manager stated that RF would resume using the floor covering with smaller gaps and safely secure the material. The facility manager stated that he would provide photographs for the follow-up inspection within the coming days.

## Notes:

- All records reviewed by Benell appeared complete and accurate. Dogs sold appeared to be covered under valid CVIs under ATCP 16.16(1). Dogs sold appeared to be at least 7 weeks of age or compliant with the approved variance under ATCP 16.18(1). All facilities were observed to be in good condition and clean. All facilities had adequate temperature, lighting, and ventilation. All observed dogs on premises were found to be in good body condition, well groomed, and in good health (or receiving appropriate veterinary care). All observed dogs were found to have adequate access to food and water.
  - Small portions of mesh flooring within some enclosures was found to have its coating removed. The facility manager stated that such damage is patched or the flooring is replaced as necessary.
  - Several observed dogs within the facility were being treated for foot health problems.
  - A number of adult dogs in the facility were displaying prominent stereotypical behaviors; such as: circling, pacing, and wall bouncing. This was discussed with the facility manager and office manager following the inspection. The facility manager stated that RF would consider Benell's recommendations. See 'recommendations' below.
- Benell informed the facility manager and office manager that a copy of the most recent inspection report needed to be posted prominently in addition to the Dog Sellers (DS) license in accordance with ATCP 16.12(5)(b). Only the DS license was posted. The facility manager stated that the matter would be addressed.
- Benell informed the facility manager that RF's DS license number must be posted on their website in accordance with ATCP 16.02(5). The facility manager stated that the matter would be addressed.

**Recommendations:**

- Efforts should be taken to address dog's abnormal, stereotypical behaviors. Such behaviors are an indicator of the dog's welfare. Modifications to housing and husbandry practices should be evaluated, such as: keeping adult dogs in pairs and providing additional forms of effective inanimate enrichment.

\*\*\*A copy of this report must be posted in a prominent location at your facility in accordance with ATCP 16.12(5)(b)\*\*\*

**Inspector / Consultant Signature**



10/31/2016

**Owner / Operator / Manager Signature**

A copy of this report was mailed to the licensee on 10/31/16



Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
 Trade and Consumer Protection  
 Division of Animal Health  
 PO Box 8911, Madison WI 53708-8911  
 Phone - (608) 224-4872 Fax – (608)-224-4871

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

## OFFICIAL WARNING NOTICE

Issued under s. 93.06(10), Wis. Stats.

NAME RIDGLAN FARMS, INC.	DATE OF VIOLATION 10/26/2016
STREET ADDRESS 10489 W BLUE MOUNDS RD	INCIDENT LOCATION OR ADDRESS DOG BREEDING FACILITY
CITY / STATE / ZIP BLUE MOUNDS, WI 53517	LICENSE OR PERMIT NUMBER 267262-DS

VIOLATION(S) (describe):

**ATCP 16.20 Dog care; general.** The following standards of care apply to all dogs kept pursuant to a license under s. ATCP 16.02 (1), including any dogs that the license holder consigns to a home custody provider:

(3) Housing and transportation.

(c) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a facility that is used only for the purpose of breeding, raising and selling dogs for scientific research, provided that all of the following apply:

4. The dogs are kept in enclosures that comply with 9 CFR, Chapter I, subchapter A (animal welfare).

**9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A (Animal Welfare Act)**

**§ 3.6 - Primary enclosures.**

*Primary enclosures for dogs and cats must meet the following minimum requirements:*

*General requirements.*

*(2) Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they:*

*(x) Have floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the dogs' and cats' feet and legs from injury, and that, if of mesh or slatted construction, do not allow the dogs' and cats' feet to pass through any openings in the floor;*

- Puppies within multiple nursery rooms were found to be upon coated, non-solid flooring with round openings; approximately 1.5" x 1.0" in size. Within one of the nursery rooms each of the occupied enclosures were housing a dam and her litter of young puppies. Within several enclosures the feet and legs of puppies were found to be repeatedly passing through the floor openings. In these instances the legs of puppies were observed to have passed completely below the mesh flooring up to the puppy's chest. Puppies were observed to have noticeable difficulty standing or moving comfortably and naturally upon the floored surface due to the large size of the openings. No injuries were observed.

In violation of Wis. Admin. Code section(s) ATCP:  
 ATCP 16.20(3)(c)4 – HOUSING & TRANSPORTATION

In violation of Wis. Stats. section(s):

**By this date, notify the Department representative listed below, in writing or by telephone, of the actions you have taken to correct and prevent future violations of law.**

**Where the above violation can be corrected, correction must be made by (date): November 15, 2016.**

- Floors within whelping enclosures must be constructed at all times in a manner that do not allow puppies' feet to pass through any openings in the floor as required under § 3.6(2)(x), CFR.

*Photographs of the corrections must be submitted to Benell via email (colin.benell@wisconsin.gov) by 11/15/2016 to complete a follow-up inspection.*

**This is an official notice that you are operating in violation of the law(s) of the State of Wisconsin described above. This notice will be forwarded to department offices in Madison for review and evaluation. Further violations of law may result in penalties. Chapters 93 and 95, Wis. Stats., provide penalties for violations of the law, which are listed on the back of this form.**

**WARNING NOTICE ISSUED BY**

NAME  COLIN BENELL	ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP 2811 AGRICULTURE DR. PO BOX 8911 MADISON, WI 53708
SIGNATURE & TITLE COMPANION ANIMAL INSPECTOR	TELEPHONE NUMBER (608) 575-3207
FAX NUMBER (608) 224-4871	DATE ISSUED 10/31/2016

**COPY OF ABOVE WARNING NOTICE RECEIVED BY**

**I understand that this is an official notice that will be placed in department files. Any further violations of these laws may result in immediate penalties (see back of form).** You may appeal this decision by requesting a hearing on this decision before the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). A request for such a hearing must be in the form of a written petition filed with the DATCP Secretary within 10 days of receipt of this notice. The written petition must state the legal and factual grounds for your hearing request, including identification of the facts you dispute, why you dispute them, the factual basis for the dispute and the remedy you are requesting. An appeal does not stop this action.

NAME	TITLE
SIGNATURE	DATE RECEIVED

FORM DISTRIBUTION: Copy 1 (Office of State Veterinarian) Copy 2 (Consultant/Inspector) Copy 3 (Violator)

Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was originally collected – sec.15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.

LAW	STATUTE	PENALTY
Rabies	95.21(10)	Failure to obtain rabies vaccination: forfeiture of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100 Refusal to comply with orders or quarantines: fine of not less than \$100, nor more than \$1000, or imprisoned not more than 60 days or both. Other violations: forfeiture of up to \$50.
Animal Markets	95.68(9),	Conducting business after revocation: fine of not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not to exceed 6 months or both
Animal Dealers	95.69(9)	Conducting business after revocation: fine of not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not to exceed 6 months or both
Animal Truckers	95.71(9)	Conducting business after revocation: fine of not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not to exceed 6 months or both
All other violations of law or department orders	95.99(1)	First offense: fine of not more than \$1,000; subsequent offense fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000, or imprisoned not more than 6 months or both
	95.99(2)	Injunction restraining violation of Statute or Rule
	95.99(3)	First offense: forfeiture of not less than \$200, nor more than \$5,000; 2 <sup>nd</sup> or subsequent offense within 5 years, forfeiture not less than \$400 nor more than \$5,000 [in lieu of criminal penalty under (1)]

In addition to the above, the division may seek action against any license or registration you hold at the department.



**Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection  
Division of Animal Health**

Phone: (608) 224-4872

Fax: (608) 224-4871

Email:

Website: <http://datcp.wi.gov/>

**Dog Seller and Dog Facility Operator Inspection**

s.173.41, Wis. Stats and ch.16, Wis. Admin. Code

**Inspection:** Dog Seller Follow-up Inspection

**Inspection Date:** 11/4/2016

**Inspector:** Colin Benell

**Legal Entity:** Ridglan Farms, Inc.

**License # / DBA:** 267262-DS / Ridglan Farms, Inc.

**Location:** 10489 W. Blue Mounds Rd, Blue Mounds, WI 53517

*Personal information you provide may be used for purposes other than that for which it was originally collected s.15.04(1)(m), Wis. Stats.*

**Inspection of your operation on revealed the following results.**

Regulation	Result	Comment
<b>0. General License Information, s. ATCP 16.02, Wis. Adm. Code</b>		
<b>General License Information</b>		
0.1.1 Dog seller license and report are posted in a prominent place.	Compliant	See previous report
0.1.2 Dog Seller license number is in advertisements.	Compliant	See previous report
<b>I. Record Keeping, s. ATCP 16.14, Wis. Adm. Code</b>		
<b>General Dog Records</b>		
1.1.1. Records present and in written or readily readable electronic form.	Compliant	
1.1.2. Records retained for at least 5 years and / or made available to the department.	Compliant	
<b>Locations at Which Dogs are Kept</b>		
1.2.1. Address of each location where dogs are kept.	Compliant	
1.2.2. Name of individual responsible for administering that location.	Compliant	
1.2.3. Name and address of home custody provider, if applicable.	Not applicable	
<b>Dog Records</b>		
1.3.1. Breed of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.2. Sex of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.3. Date of birth recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.4. Approximate age of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.5. Color of dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.6. Distinct markings on dog recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.7. Location at which dog is kept (including home custody provider, if applicable) recorded.	Compliant	
1.3.8. Record of official individual animal identification (tag, tattoo, microchip) if any assigned.	Compliant	
1.3.9. Statement that the dog was born under license holder's custody or legal control, if that is the case.	Compliant	
1.3.10. Dog was not born under the license holder's custody / control, date on which license holder acquired custody or control.	Compliant	
1.3.11. Dog was not born under the license holder's custody / control, name and address of person from whom dog was acquired.	Compliant	

1.3.12. Dog was not born under the license holder's custody / control, person's USDA animal care facility license or registration number (if any).	Compliant	
1.3.13. If dog is no longer under the license holder's custody or control, date on which the dog left custody / control of licensee.	Compliant	
1.3.14. If dog is no longer under the license holder's custody or control, disposition of dog.	Compliant	
1.3.15. If dog is no longer under the license holder's custody or control, identity of the person whom assumed custody / control.	Compliant	
1.3.16. CVI that accompanied dog when it entered or left the licensee's custody / control.	Compliant	
1.3.17. Records include vaccination information.	Compliant	
1.3.18. Records include observation information.	Compliant	
1.3.19. Records include any treatment that occurred & who administered the healthcare.	Compliant	
1.3.20. Breed registration records kept if applicable.	Compliant	

**Behavior and Socialization Plan**

1.4.1. Behavior and socialization plan which meets requirements of 4.5.1 – 4.5.5	Compliant	
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**II. Dog Sales; Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, s. ATCP 16.16, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Dogs Sold are Accompanied by a Valid CVI**

2.1.1. Dogs sold are accompanied by a valid CVI.	Compliant	
2.1.2. CVI contains signature of certified veterinarian.	Compliant	
2.1.3. CVI is a valid form issued by the department.	Compliant	
2.1.4. CVI contains name and address of seller.	Compliant	
2.1.5. CVI contains the number, breed, sex and age of dog(s).	Compliant	
2.1.6. CVI contains information regarding whether the dog is spayed, neutered or sexually intact.	Compliant	
2.1.7. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the type of vaccine.	Compliant	
2.1.8. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the manufacturer of the vaccine,	Compliant	
2.1.9. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the serial and lot numbers of the vaccine.	Compliant	
2.1.10. Dog(s) vaccination record contains the date administered & person administering.	Compliant	
2.1.11. Information required for import under ss. ATCP 10.06(4) and ATCP 10.80, Wis. Adm. Code	Not Applicable	
2.1.12. Valid negative Brucellosis test if dog(s) sold at public auction & is not spayed / neutered.	Not Applicable	
2.1.13. Veterinarian statement, signature and date of signature on CVI.	Compliant	
2.1.14. Valid issuance and expiration dates.	Compliant	
2.1.15. Distribution of CVI copies to buyer, seller and issuing veterinarian.	Compliant	
2.1.16. Re-issued CVIs updated, as necessary and copies distributed to buyer, seller an issuing veterinarian.	Not applicable	
2.1.17. CVI incorporating information from prior CVI includes a statement identifying prior CVI.	Not applicable	

**III. Age at Which Dogs May be Sold, s. ATCP 16.18, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Dog(s) Sale and Custody Transfer Meets Necessary Criteria**

3.1.1. Dog is at least 7 weeks old.	Compliant	Approved variance
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**IV. Dog Care; General, s. ATCP 16.20, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Food and Water**

4.1.1. Feeding frequency adequate.	Compliant	
4.1.2. Size of ration and / or nutritional content adequate.	Compliant	
4.1.3. Wholesome, uncontaminated and / or palatable.	Compliant	

4.1.4. Amount and quality of fresh water adequate.	Compliant	
4.1.5. Food and water containers suitable.	Compliant	
4.1.6. Adequate sanitization of food and water containers.	Compliant	

#### Animal Health and Veterinary Care

4.2.1. Proper handling.	Compliant	
4.2.2. Daily body, mobility and behavior checks completed.	Compliant	
4.2.3. Dogs suspected of communicable disease are isolated.	Compliant	
4.2.4. Adequate grooming. (nails trimmed, no hair matting)	Compliant	
4.2.5. Veterinarian exams or adherence to veterinarian recommendations.	Compliant	
4.2.6. Sick or injured dogs receiving timely veterinarian care or humanely euthanized.	Compliant	

#### Exercise

4.3.1. Daily access to exercise area where a running stride can be achieved.	Compliant	
4.3.2. Supervised physical activity.	Compliant	

#### Dog Grouping and Separation

4.4.1. Compatible grouping of dogs.	Compliant	
4.4.2. Females in season appropriately separated.	Compliant	
4.4.3. Aggressive dogs separated.	Compliant	
4.4.4. Puppies under 4 months appropriately separated.	Compliant	

#### Behavior and Socialization

4.5.1. Daily contact with other compatible dogs without good cause.	Compliant	
4.5.2. Daily positive human contact and socialization other than feeding time.	Compliant	See previous report
4.5.3. Play objects or other forms of inanimate enrichment in primary enclosure.	Compliant	See previous report
4.5.4. Dogs have contact, activity, enrichment.	Compliant	
4.5.5. Written plan for meeting behavior and socialization requirements.	Compliant	

### V. Dogs Kept Indoors, s. ATCP 16.22, Wis. Adm. Code

5.1.1. Enclosure is structurally sound and maintained in good repair.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
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#### Floors and Interior Surfaces

5.2.1. Enclosure does not have dirt floor.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.2. Metal wire mesh floor is coated and / or has adequate gauge to prevent injury	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.3. Floor openings small enough to prevent dog's foot from passing through.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.4. Floor and interior surfaces keep dogs clean, dry, and safe from injuries.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.2.5. Floor and interior surfaces regularly cleaned and sanitized.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

#### Stacked Primary Enclosures

5.3.1. Floor of top enclosure is not higher than 52 inches from floor of room, when enclosures are stacked.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.2. Stacked enclosures adequate for safe handling, ventilation, temperature control, easy cleaning, sanitation and easy inspection.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.3. Front side of stacked enclosures ventilated and / or have solid floor that can be easily cleaned and sanitized.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.4. Stacked enclosures stable when filled to maximum capacity with dogs.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.3.5. Dog(s) in stacked enclosures not exposed to excreta, urine, dirt or debris falling from higher enclosures.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Primary Enclosures for One or More Dogs that Get at Least 30 Minutes of Exercise Each Day**

5.4.1. Floor area of enclosure adequate for largest dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.2. Floor area of enclosure adequate to accommodate all dogs in the enclosure without crowding.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.3. Height of enclosure adequate for tallest dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.4. Dogs have adequate time (at least 30 minutes) per day in run or exercise area.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.4.5. Run or exercise area of adequate size to achieve running stride.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Primary Enclosures for One or More Dogs that Get at Least 120 Minutes of Exercise Each Day**

5.5.1. No more than one dog is kept in enclosure.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.2. Floor area of enclosure is adequate for size of dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.3. Height of enclosure adequate for size of dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.4. Dogs have adequate time (at least 120 minutes per day) in run or exercise area.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.5.5. Run or exercise area of adequate size for achieving running stride.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Whelping Enclosure**

5.6.1. Enclosure appropriate for breed.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.2. Appropriate solid floor in area accessible to puppies.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.3. Height of enclosure is adequate for the dam to stand normally.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.4. Length and width of enclosure adequate for the dam to lay down, and stretch out to allow all pups to nurse.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.5. Size of enclosure is adequate for number and temperament of puppies.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.6.6. Enclosure includes an area that is only accessible to dam and large enough for dam.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Nursery Enclosure**

5.7.1. Large enough to allow all puppies to turn around, stand up, lie down and exercise normal postural movements.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.7.2. Large enough to encourage socialization and exercise.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Temporary Enclosure for One Dog**

5.8.1. Dog is kept in enclosure for no more than 12 hours.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.8.2. No more than one dog is kept in enclosure.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.8.3. Floor area & height of enclosure adequate for the dog.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Lighting, Temperature, and Ventilation**

5.9.1. Adequate light for proper care, maintenance and inspection and / or diurnal lighting cycle.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.9.2. Adequate heating and cooling to protect dogs from temperatures and humidity that may be injurious to their health.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.9.3. Adequate fresh or filtered air to maintain health of dogs and minimize odor, drafts, ammonia levels and moisture.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**Cleaning and Sanitation**

5.10.1. Excreta removed daily or more often as needed.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.2. Enclosures and areas cleaned rinsed and sanitized appropriately to be free of dirt, debris and disease hazards.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.3. Primary enclosure cleaned and sanitized before new dog placed in it.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.4. Dogs removed from primary enclosure before it is cleaned and sanitized and / or are returned to the area after it is dry.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)
5.10.5. Solid surface or bedding is appropriate for breed and maintained in clean, dry condition.	Not applicable	See ATCP 16.20(3)(c)

**VI. Dogs Kept Outdoors, s. ATCP 16.24, Wis. Adm. Code****Dogs Kept in Outdoor Primary Enclosure**

6.1.1. Dog's breed, age, health and / or physical condition suited to outdoor temperatures and conditions.	Not applicable	
6.1.2. Dog(s) acclimated to outdoor temperatures and variations that may occur in primary enclosure.	Not applicable	

**Outdoor Primary Enclosure; Minimum Area**

6.2.1. Size of enclosure meets requirements for an individual dog.	Not applicable	
6.2.2. Size of enclosure meets requirements for additional dogs.	Not applicable	

**Outdoor Primary Enclosure; Construction**

6.3.1. Constructed and / or maintained to prevent escape.	Not applicable	
6.3.2. Roof or overhead screen of appropriate height.	Not applicable	

**Shelter, Shade, and Wind block**

6.4.1. Outdoor primary enclosure contains at least one dog shelter that complies with dog shelter requirements below.	Not applicable	
6.4.2. Adequate to shade all dogs in primary enclosure from direct sunlight during all sunlight hours without crowding.	Not applicable	
6.4.3. Adequate to shelter all dogs in primary enclosure from wind.	Not applicable	

**Dog Shelter**

6.5.1. Made with durable material with 4 sides, a roof and solid flat floor.	Not applicable	
6.5.2. Interior accessible by all dogs in primary enclosure.	Not applicable	
6.5.3. Large enough to prevent crowding.	Not applicable	
6.5.4. Large enough to allow tallest dog to stand.	Not applicable	
6.5.5. Adequate to prevent injury, retain or dissipate enough body heat, allow dogs to remain clean and dry and / or provide reasonable protection from predators.	Not applicable	

**Tethering**

6.6.1. Appropriate for breed.	Not applicable	
6.6.2. Dog can tolerate based on age, health and / or physical condition.	Not applicable	
6.6.3. Dog can easily enter and lie down in a dog shelter that complies with dog shelter requirements above.	Not applicable	
6.6.4. Dog is not a pregnant or nursing female.	Not applicable	
6.6.5. Tether cannot become entangled with an object.	Not applicable	
6.6.6. Tether has an anchor swivel.	Not applicable	
6.6.7. Tether is at least 6 feet long and of sufficient length for size of dog.	Not applicable	
6.6.8. Tether is attached to a non-tightening collar or harness of sufficient size.	Not applicable	
6.6.9. Tether is used for a dog at an animal control facility or animal shelter for no more than 4 hours in a day, complies with above tethering requirements, and has caretaker on premises.	Not applicable	

**Runs and Exercise Areas**

6.7.1. More than 30 minutes a day of access to run or exercise area.	Not applicable	
6.7.2. Adequate size for dog's size and temperament (considering number of dogs using at a given time) and large enough to achieve a running stride.	Not applicable	
6.7.3. Adequate to shade all dogs from direct sunlight during hours in use without crowding.	Not applicable	

**Facility Maintenance**

6.8.1. Excreta removed from outdoor primary enclosures daily or more often as necessary.	Not applicable	
6.8.2. Pests and parasites controlled as necessary to maintain dog health and comfort.	Not applicable	
6.8.3. Bedding maintained in clean, dry condition or bedding is not provided but solid resting place is appropriate for dog's breed, age, health & physical condition.	Not applicable	

6.8.4. Facilities maintained to protect health / safety of dogs.	Not applicable	
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**VII. Transporting Dogs, s. ATCP 16.26, Wis. Adm. Code**

**Portable Enclosures**

7.1.1. Constructed of a water-resistant and cleanable material.	Compliant	
7.1.2. Adequate to keep dogs clean and dry.	Compliant	
7.1.3. Adequate to protect dog's health and safety.	Compliant	
7.1.4. Adequate ventilation openings.	Compliant	
7.1.5. Securely closed when in use.	Compliant	
7.1.6. Cleaned and sanitized frequently enough.	Compliant	
7.1.7. Positioned for each dog to have access to sufficient air for normal breathing.	Compliant	
7.1.8. Positioned for emergency removal of dogs.	Compliant	
7.1.9. Positioned to protect dog from excreta falling from above.	Compliant	
7.1.10. Secured as necessary to prevent reasonably foreseeable movement that may injure dogs.	Compliant	

**Care of Dogs During Transport**

7.2.1. Dogs protected from hypothermia or hyperthermia.	Compliant	
7.2.2. Adequate space to turn, stand and lie down (except in transport for training, trialing and hunting).	Compliant	
7.2.3. Food and water in accordance with s. ATCP 16.20(1), Wis. Adm. Code.	Compliant	
7.2.4. Dogs separated from each other if required by s. ATCP 16.20(5), Wis. Adm. Code	Compliant	
7.2.5. Dogs visually inspected every 4 hours.	Compliant	
7.2.6. Dogs removed from vehicle at least once every 12 hours and allowed to urinate, defecate and exercise. (Unless vehicle is equipped for such needs)	Compliant	
7.2.7. Dogs removed from vehicle in a timely fashion upon reaching destination.	Compliant	

**Transport Vehicles**

7.3.1. Vehicle equipped to provide fresh or filtered air without injurious drafts to all dogs transported in the vehicle.	Compliant	
7.3.2. Cargo space construction and maintenance adequate to minimize the ingress of exhaust from the vehicle's engine.	Compliant	

## **Ridglan Farms, Inc.**

- License type: Dog Seller (Dog Breeder/ Dog Breeding Facility)
- Breed(s): Beagle
- Website: <http://www.ridglan.com>
- Hours of operation: Upon appointment
- Previous inspection: 10/26/2016 (routine)
- Veterinarian/ veterinary care provider:
  - Veterinarian onsite (Ridglan Farms, Inc.)

### **Facility Information:**

Ridglan Farms, Inc. (RF) operates as a 'Dog Breeder' within the state who is also licensed with the US Department of Agriculture (#35-A-0009). RF breeds and sells beagles for the purposes of biomedical research.

Dogs are kept in four separate buildings on the property. Each of these buildings has artificial lighting, mechanical ventilation, and temperature control. Dogs are primarily separated between the buildings based upon their age class.

*PRIMARY ENCLOSURES* – Adult and sub-adult dogs are kept in various size enclosures. Many adult dogs are kept in two-level, stacked enclosures constructed of metal fencing and mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 8 ft<sup>2</sup>, 2' x 4'). Other adult dogs may be kept in enclosures constructed of metal fencing, fiberglass panels, and a mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 25 ft<sup>2</sup>, 5' x 5'). Younger stock are kept in enclosures constructed of chain-link fencing and mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 80 ft<sup>2</sup>, 8' x 10').

*WHELPING / ENCLOSURES* – One of the buildings serves as the facility's nursery with approximately 20 nursery rooms. Each of these isolated rooms has two-levels of stacked enclosures for dams and their litters. Each of these enclosures is constructed of metal fencing, fiberglass panels, and a mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 16 ft<sup>2</sup>, 4' x 4'). Dams whelp and nurse their litters in large plastic bins. After puppies are weaned they are moved to different buildings. Nursery enclosures in these buildings are constructed of chain-link fencing and a mesh flooring (floor area: approximately 25 ft<sup>2</sup>, 5' x 5').

*EXERCISE* – Dogs are not removed from enclosures for exercise. Partitions between smaller enclosures are removed daily to allow for space to achieve a running stride. Other enclosures are large enough to allow dogs to achieve a running stride.

*OUTDOOR FACILITIES* – This facility has no outdoor enclosures.

- This facility has two approved variances on file with the Department, ATCP 16.18(1) and ATCP 16.20(3)(c)3.
- Some dogs on the property may be participants in research and have no breeding purpose.

**Inspection summary:**

October 26, 2016 (11:45 am) - Colin Benell (Companion Animal Inspector, DATCP) conducted a routine inspection of the dog breeding facility and relevant dog records at 10489 W. Blue Mounds Road in Blue Mounds, WI. Benell was accompanied by Amber Becker (Regulatory Specialist, DATCP) for training purposes. During the inspection of the facility Benell and Becker were assisted and accompanied by the Facility manager/veterinarian. The Office manager assisted during the records review. For the inspection of the facility RF provided a Tyvec suit, boot covers, and ear protection. During this inspection non-compliance was found which required corrective action. Photographs of corrections were to be emailed to Benell by 11/15/2016 to complete a follow-up inspection.

October 31, 2016 – An Official Warning Notice was issued to RF.

November 4, 2016 (1:53 pm) - Benell received an email from RF with four photographs attached. The photographs demonstrated how whelping enclosures were improved to comply with § 3.6(2)(x), 9 CFR, Chapter 1, Subchapter A and ATCP 16.20(3)(c)4.

**Correction of Violation from 10/26/2016 inspection:**

**ATCP 16.20(3)(c)4 – HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION**

Puppies were found to be kept in several whelping enclosures that did not comply with 9 CFR, Chapter I, subchapter A (animal welfare). Puppies’ feet and legs were found to pass through the floor openings in mesh flooring.

- On November 4, 2016 RF emailed Benell photographs of the corrective action that had been taken (see pictures 1-4). RF had begun placing a flooring material with much smaller openings on top of the flooring documented in the previous report. This flooring with smaller openings was assessed by Benell on 10/26/2016 and found to be appropriate for use. Based upon this assessment and a review of the provided photographs these smaller openings would prevent the feet of young puppies from passing through.

Based upon these findings this violation has been appropriately corrected. No further action required.



**Picture 1:** Smaller openings (RF)



**Picture 2:** Puppies on new flooring (taken by RF).



**Pictures 3-4:** Puppies on flooring with smaller openings. Note size of paws relative to size of gaps (taken by RF).

**Notes:**

- This was a focused inspection. A physical inspection of the facility was not completed for this follow-up inspection. A review of photographs was utilized to determine compliance. Check boxes above show findings from the follow-up inspection and 10/26/2016 routine inspection.
- See previous report for 'notes.'

**Recommendations:**

- Efforts should be taken to address dog's abnormal, stereotypical behaviors. Such behaviors are an indicator of the dog's welfare. Modifications to housing and husbandry practices should be evaluated, such as: keeping adult dogs in pairs and providing additional forms of effective inanimate enrichment.

*\*\*\*A copy of this report must be posted in a prominent location at your facility in accordance with ATCP 16.12(5)(b)\*\*\**

**Inspector / Consultant Signature**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caiti Ball".

11/7/2016

**Owner / Operator / Manager Signature**

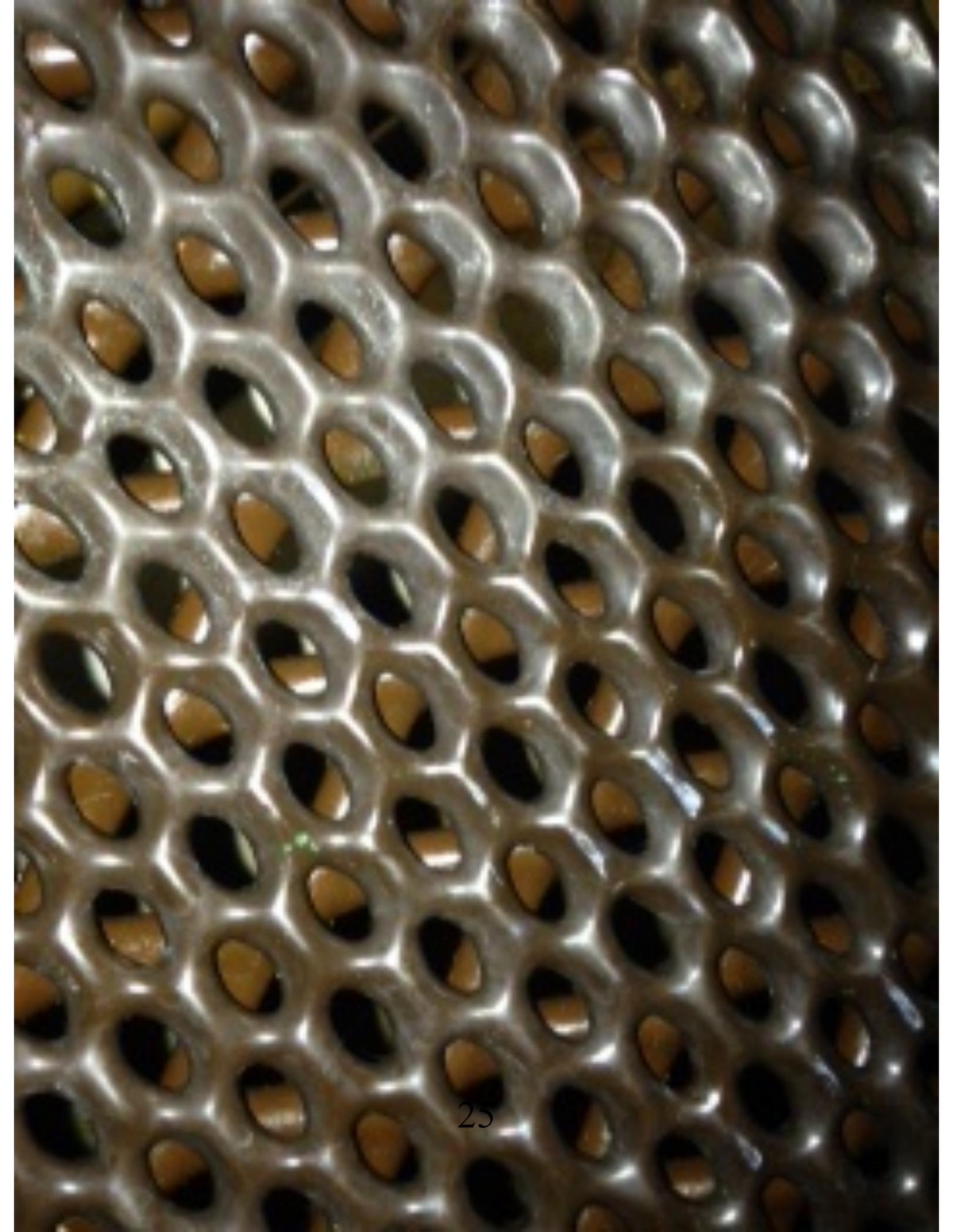
A copy of this report was emailed to the licensee on 11/7/16

## Ondercin, Christopher J - DATCP

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**From:** Rick <rickvan@mhtc.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 4, 2016 1:53 PM  
**To:** Benell, Colin T - DATCP  
**Subject:** Corrections following inspection  
**Attachments:** photo 1.JPG; photo 3.JPG; photo 4.JPG; photo 5.JPG

Attached are photographs of corrections made by License #267262-DS following the inspection on 26Oct16 by Colin Benell.









# **EXHIBIT D**

## **Exhibit D**

Exhibit D is a video of a dog at Ridglan Farms engaging in stereotypical behavior. The video was taken by animal activists in 2017.

The following URL is a Google Drive link to the video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1maNJZ8tp86ljJPVfHIraqGVFeTZ4Xqhu/view?usp=sharing>

# **EXHIBIT E**



### Inspection Report

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RIDGLAN FARMS INC  
PO Box 318  
Mt. Horeb  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Customer ID: **769**  
Certificate: **35-A-0009**  
Site: 001  
RIDGLAN FARMS INC

Type: ROUTINE INSPECTION  
Date: 05-DEC-2023

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#### 3.6(a)(2)(x)

##### Primary enclosures.

Some of the weaned puppies and preweaning-aged puppies in eleven enclosures were observed to have feet or legs pass through the smooth-coated mesh floors when they walked. The facility reports mats with smaller mesh holes had been removed a little early for these groups for sanitation reasons. While the facility reports no injuries have occurred, floors have to be maintained so that dogs/puppies' feet cannot pass through the floor to prevent risk of injury. Ensure that processes are in place to keep enclosure floors in a manner that prevent feet/legs from passing through.

\*\*\*Item was promptly corrected by the facility prior to the end of the inspection. Ensure corrective processes remain in place.

This inspection and exit interview were conducted with facility representatives.

##### Additional Inspectors:

CATHERINE HOVANCSAK, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

Catherine Beckwith, Supervisory Animal Care Specialist

---

**Prepared By:** SCOTT WELCH  
USDA, APHIS, Animal Care  
**Title:** VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER

**Date:**  
08-DEC-2023

**Received by Title:** Facility Representative

**Date:**  
08-DEC-2023



### Species Inspected

Cust No	Cert No	Site	Site Name	Inspection
769	35-A-0009	001	RIDGLAN FARMS INC	05-DEC-2023

Count	Scientific Name	Common Name
001608	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG ADULT
001502	<i>Canis familiaris</i>	DOG PUPPY
003110	<b>Total</b>	

# **EXHIBIT F**

**BEFORE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY OF YORK COUNTY**

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**IN RE PRIVATE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT OF JOSH HARTSFIELD**

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**Private criminal complaint submitted pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3)  
requesting criminal charges against Ridglan Farms, Inc.**

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**October 30, 2022.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

I submit this complaint on behalf of Direct Action Everywhere pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3). This complaint avers that Ridglan Farms, Inc., is in violation of various Wisconsin criminal statutes, including but not limited to Wis. Stat. § 951.02 and § 951.14(3).

Direct Action Everywhere is a nonprofit animal welfare organization based out of San Francisco, California with chapters all around the globe. I am a longtime volunteer with Direct Action Everywhere, a law student at The University of Denver, and the Head Law Clerk at The Animal Law Firm, a private litigation firm based out of Denver, Colorado. I have extensive experience with both civil and criminal litigation surrounding companion animals.

Ridglan Farms, Inc. is a beagle breeding facility that breeds and raises beagles for use in toxicology, pharmacology, and other fields of research. Ridglan Farms is located in Blue Mounds, Wisconsin in Dane County.

## II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In April 2017, three individuals affiliated with Direct Action Everywhere entered the breeding facility at Ridglan Farms on suspicion of animal cruelty and inhumane practices happening at the facility. The individuals included Wayne H. Hsiung, Paul D. Picklesimer, and Eva C. Hamer. The activists entered an ajar door at the facility to investigate conditions inside, document what they saw, and, if necessary, rescue any dogs that were experiencing dire medical conditions.<sup>1</sup>

The conditions that the activists found were deplorable. Wayne H. Hsiung stated:

Thousands of dogs are held in cages, usually 1-2 to a cage and stacked on top of one another, that are about twice the length of the dog's body. We found no facilities for the dogs to step outside or exercise. The dogs sit on their own feces and urine, unable to escape their own waste. Dogs are routinely so desperate to escape that they slam themselves against the cage walls, desperately stretch their paws through the bars, and sometimes chew on the cages. The screams of the dogs in the facility are so loud that we were forced to yell at one another to communicate, even when we were only a foot away from one another.<sup>2</sup>

The individuals filmed their experience and published the documentation online, including a video asking Ismael Ozanne, the District Attorney of Dane County, to investigate their suspicions and charge Ridglan Farms with animal abuse.<sup>3</sup> Rather, despite the events taking place in April 2017, the three individuals were served with criminal charges on August 21, 2021.<sup>4</sup> I

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<sup>1</sup> Glenn Greenwald, *Bred To Suffer, Inside the Barbaric U.S. Industry of Dog Experimentation*, THE INTERCEPT (May 17, 2018), <https://theintercept.com/2018/05/17/inside-the-barbaric-u-s-industry-of-dog-experimentation/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Direct Action Everywhere, *Felony Charges for Rescuing Beagles from Experimentation*, YouTube (April 20, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80nC-H5XOWQ>.

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit A, Criminal Complaint against Hamer, Hsiung, and Picklesimer.

now bring this private criminal complaint in hopes of Ridglan Farms facing similar consequences for the cruel and deplorable conditions that they subject their dogs to.

### III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

In Wisconsin, a complaint charging a person with an offense is typically issued by the district attorney of the county where the alleged crime happened.<sup>5</sup> However, there is a pathway for private citizens to bring criminal complaints:

(3) If a district attorney refuses or is unavailable to issue a complaint, a circuit judge may permit the filing of a complaint, if the judge finds there is probable cause to believe that the person to be charged has committed an offense after conducting a hearing. If the district attorney has refused to issue a complaint, he or she shall be informed of the hearing and may attend. The hearing shall be *ex parte* without the right of cross-examination.<sup>6</sup>

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has noted that § 968.02(3) requires a circuit judge to make two determinations: “1) that ‘the district attorney *refuses* or *is unavailable* to issue a complaint; and 2) that ‘there is probable cause to believe that the person to be charged has committed an offense.’”<sup>7</sup> Here, both of these criteria are met: Ismael Ozanne has refused to charge Ridglan Farms with animal cruelty and there is probable cause that Ridglan Farms has committed at least one, if not multiple, crimes.

#### **a. The first prong of Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) is met because Ismael Ozanne has refused to charge Ridglan Farms with any crimes.**

The Wisconsin Supreme Court further stated, “a district attorney’s refusal to issue a complaint for the purposes of Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) may be established directly or circumstantially.”<sup>8</sup> You do not need an explicit statement of refusal from the district attorney; rather, a successful complaint under § 968.02(3) need only show “unwillingness” from the district attorney to charge and is meant as a “limited check upon the district attorney’s charging power.”<sup>9</sup>

The facility manager for Ridglan Farms, Richard J. Vandomelen, stated to the Dane County Sheriff’s Office on May 17, 2018, that he had seen the videos of Direct Action Everywhere entering the Ridglan facility.<sup>10</sup> The incident report indicates that the sheriff’s office had seen the videos, and Mr. Vandomelen was fearful that the group would “blast the video footage on media tomorrow to try to shut down the Ridglan Farms facility.”<sup>11</sup> The criminal complaint against the individuals also indicates that the district attorney’s office has seen the footage from YouTube, and Wayne H. Hsiungs’ social media posts, which include statements such as “Their paws are

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<sup>5</sup> Wis. Stat. § 968.02(1).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* § 968.02(3).

<sup>7</sup> *State ex rel. Kalal v. Cir. Ct. for Dane Cnty.*, 681 N.W.2d 110, 115 (Wis. 2004).

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> Exhibit B, Dane County Sheriff’s Office Law Supplemental Narrative at 2.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

swollen red from living in a wire cage for their entire lives. They have to breathe noxious air - - the facility smells terrible of feces and urine.”<sup>12</sup>

The activists have tried to get District Attorney Ismael Ozanne to investigate and prosecute Ridglan Farms, including a YouTube video asking people to call his office and request that he prosecute them,<sup>13</sup> without any success. Mr. Ozanne’s refusal, coupled with the evidence that his office has seen the footage from Ridglan Farms and the activists’ statements of the conditions inside Ridglan, demonstrates the “unwillingness” that is necessary to meet the first prong of the requirements to pursue a private criminal complaint under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3).

**b. The second prong of Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) is met because there is probable cause to believe that Ridglan Farms has violated at least Wis. Stat. § 951.02 and § 951.14(3).**

The second prong of the test under § 968.02(3) is that probable cause must exist to believe that the person charged has committed an offense.<sup>14</sup> Probable cause is a fairly low standard to prove. In areas of law such as issuing warrants, a magistrate judge need only have a “substantial basis” for believing that probable cause exists to issue the warrant.<sup>15</sup>

Notably, the dogs at Ridglan are “Animal[s],” which includes every living warm-blooded creature except humans,<sup>16</sup> and not “Farm Animal[s],” which includes animals raised for use as “fiber or food.”<sup>17</sup> It is a crime in Wisconsin to “treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner.”<sup>18</sup> Also, it is a crime to have dogs sheltered in adequate space, which “may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns.”<sup>19</sup>

Probable cause exists to show that Ridglan Farms has potentially mistreated their dogs and also caused their dogs to exist in legally insufficient space for animals. Direct Action Everywhere has publicly released video evidence and written statements, of which the Dane County Sheriff’s Office and the Dane County District Attorney’s office has seen,<sup>20</sup> detailing how the dogs inside Ridglan Farms are forced to live their lives in tiny cages, covered in their own urine and feces.<sup>21</sup> Ridglan Farms has no facilities for the dogs to ever be let outside of their cages.<sup>22</sup> Also, many of the animals inside Ridglan Farms exhibited “evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns”<sup>23</sup> indicative of insufficient space for their survival. The dogs can be seen spinning endlessly in their cage, biting the cage, and barking and screaming for help.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Ex. A at 7.

<sup>13</sup> Direct Action Everywhere, *Supra* note 3.

<sup>14</sup> *State ex rel. Kalal*, 681 N.W.2d at 115.

<sup>15</sup> *State v. Multaler*, 632 N.W.2d 89, 99 (Wis. App. 2001), *aff’d*, 643 N.W.2d 437.

<sup>16</sup> Wis. Stat. § 951.01(1).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* § 951.01(3).

<sup>18</sup> *Id.* § 951.02.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* § 951.14(3).

<sup>20</sup> Ex. A at 3-8.

<sup>21</sup> *Id.*; Glenn Greenwald, *supra* note 1.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> Wis. Stat. § 951.14(3).

<sup>24</sup> Direct Action Everywhere, *supra* note 2.

Because of the deplorable living conditions for the dogs inside Ridglan Farms, and the clear patterns of abnormal behavior exhibited by the dogs, probable cause exists under Wis. Stat. § 968.02(3) to charge Ridglan Farms with at least violations of Wis. Stat. § 951.02 and 951.14(3).

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, a facility exists in Dane County, Wisconsin, to wit: Ridglan Farms, Inc., in which thousands of dogs are being mistreated and subjected to subpar living standards including being forced to live in their own feces and urine and never seeing the light of day. Despite the efforts of citizens and activists, the county refuses to even investigate the deplorable conditions of Ridglan Farms.

We respectfully request that criminal charges are filed against Ridglan Farms, Inc. as an entity for mistreatment of animals and insufficient space for animals. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at [jh@theanimallawfirm.com](mailto:jh@theanimallawfirm.com) or (501)538-8951.

*Josh Hartsfield*  
Josh Hartsfield  
Head Law Clerk  
The Animal Law Firm  
[jh@theanimallawfirm.com](mailto:jh@theanimallawfirm.com)  
(501)538-8951

# **EXHIBIT G**



Wayne Hsiung &lt;wayne@compassionatebay.org&gt;

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**Complaint re: Animal Cruelty**

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**Abassi, Andre** <andre@uchastings.edu>  
To: "danecoda@da.wi.gov" <danecoda@da.wi.gov>

Sat, May 6, 2023 at 12:28 AM

To the Office of the District Attorney of Dane County,

In response to growing local and national outcries concerning Ridglan Farms Inc., I am writing to report clear evidence of animal cruelty and other crimes against animals under chapter 951 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and request that your office open an investigation into Ridglan's practices.

Since it was founded in 1966, Ridglan has sent thousands of dogs to their deaths, including experiments where dogs were force-fed laundry detergent until they vomited blood and died; given experimental artificial sweeteners that caused their testes to shrink to half their normal size; and injected with rabies. In recent years, public records show violations of state and federal animal welfare laws, to include holes in cage flooring so large as to render puppies immobile and cause leg injuries and a lack of enrichment for the dogs, causing psychologically distressed behavior. [1] Julie, a beagle rescued from this facility was found blinded and in a near-constant trauma-induced state of spinning. [2] An investigator who filmed the inside of Ridglan's facilities described the conditions as follow:

Thousands of dogs are held in cages, usually 1-2 to a cage and stacked on top of one another, that are about twice the length of the dog's body. We found no facilities for the dogs to step outside or exercise. The dogs sit on their own feces and urine, unable to escape their own waste. Dogs are routinely so desperate to escape that they slam themselves against the cage walls, desperately stretch their paws through the bars, and sometimes chew on the cages. The screams of the dogs in the facility are so loud that we were forced to yell at one another to communicate, even when we were only a foot away from one another. [3]

These violations are happening in the thousands, which means thousands of counts of animal cruelty, ranging from potential class A misdemeanors to class I felonies, are going unprosecuted in Dane County. Annual reports show that in 2021, Ridglan had nearly 3,000 beagles in their facilities at one time, [4] while experimenting on 848 beagles that same year. [5]

Wisconsin law makes it illegal for any person to "treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner." Wis. Stat. § 951.02. Cruelty is defined under §

951.01(2) as “causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury or death.” Wisconsin also codifies space requirements into its laws, requiring that facilities be structurally sound to “protect the animals from injury” and to allow “freedom of movement.” See Wis. Stat. § 951.14 (3)(a), 951.14(3)(b). “Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns.” Wis. Stat. § 951.14(3)(b). As shown in the above sources, thousands of dogs at Ridglan Farms Inc., experience unnecessary and excessive pain and suffering in subpar cages surrounded by their own feces, with many experiencing unjustifiable injury (such as maimed limbs, blindness, or mangled organs) and death.

Finally, exemptions for animal cruelty do not apply in this case. Wisconsin Statute § 951.015, which governs the construction of the chapter, does not exempt *breeding* activities, only research and experimentation. “This chapter does not apply to: (a) Teaching, research, or experimentation conducted pursuant to a protocol or procedure approved by an educational or research institution, and related incidental animal care activities, at facilities that are regulated under 7 USC 2131 to 2159 or 42 USC 289d.” § 951.015. The Wisconsin Statutes themselves explicitly include an article within § 951.015 that explains “[b]y its plain language, chapter 951 applies to owners and third parties that tend to animals, including animal shelters, *dog breeders*, pet stores, and other such facilities.” [6] The majority of Ridglan beagles, as explained in the above third paragraph, are bred (and presumably sold), rather than experimented on at their facilities. Indeed, Ridglan holds active state and federal licenses with the US Department of Agriculture as a dog-breeding corporation. For the thousands of beagles that experience cruelty and neglect through Ridglan’s breeding-based activities, chapter 951 applies without any exemption.

I respectfully ask that you investigate and prosecute Ridglan Farms Inc. to ensure public justice is achieved in this matter. Please contact me with any questions or requests for additional evidence. Thank you.

Warmly,

Andre Abassi



**Andre Abassi**

J.D. Candidate | Class of 2024

UC Hastings College of the Law

(949) 842-5322 | [andre@uchastings.edu](mailto:andre@uchastings.edu)



# **EXHIBIT H**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF WISCONSIN

DANE COUNTY

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF )  
WISCONSIN, )  
 )  
v. )  
RIDGLAN FARMS, )  
 )  
Defendant. )

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

The below-named complaining witness being first duly sworn states the following:

**COUNT 1: MISTREATING AN ANIMAL — §§ 951.02 and 951.18(1) (Surgical mutilation without anesthetics or veterinary supervision)**

The defendant Ridglan Farms beginning at least on April 17, 2017 and through the present day, regularly performs surgical procedures on animals, such as the so-called “cherry eye surgery,” without anesthetics or veterinary supervision. On or around January 10, 2021, defendant had in place a company policy in which employees, with no training and within days of arriving on the job, are required to participate in surgical procedures described by an employee as a “blood bath,” in which a dog is forcibly restrained and has glands cut out of their eye without any painkillers or veterinary supervision. This policy, which has been described by veterinarians as “shocking,” is just one of numerous surgical mutilations performed on Ridglan dogs in direct contradiction to normal and accepted veterinary practices, including the so-called devocalization of dogs – the mutilation of their vocal cords – which has been [condemned](#) by

veterinary organizations for its “negative impacts on animal welfare” and for causing “significant risks and complications, including pain.” Defendant’s unlawful actions were taken in violation of Wis. Stats. 951.02, which states that “No person may treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner.” They further constitute a felony under 951.18(1) because they result in “the mutilation, disfigurement, or death of an animal.”

**COUNT 2: MISTREATING AN ANIMAL — §§ 951.02 and 951.14(3)(b)**

**(Confinement-induced psychological torment)**

The defendant Ridglan Farms beginning at least on October 26, 2016 and through the present day, confines animals in small metal enclosures, often in solitary confinement, to the point that many animals are in a state of psychological torment, and exhibiting signs of extreme stress, such as circling, pacing, and wall bouncing. On October 26, 2016 an inspector with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, during a routine inspection, noted, “A number of adult dogs in the facility were displaying prominent stereotypical behaviors; such as: circling, pacing, and wall bouncing” and also that “Efforts should be taken to address dog’s abnormal, stereotypical behaviors. Such behaviors are an indicator of the dog’s welfare.” The defendant did not address these findings and, on April 17, 2017, animal rights activists observed exactly the same problem: numerous dogs spinning in cages or exhibiting other forms of stereotypical, repetitive behaviors, including a blind beagle puppy who was spinning in a circle for two hours in a solitary cage. An employee at Ridglan Farms noted the conditions persisted in 2021-2022, and there have been no material changes to the confinement practices at Ridglan Farms since that date. Dogs remain trapped in small metal cages, without access to the outdoors or adequate space, and many develop abnormal behaviors due to the torment and isolation they endure.

Defendant's unlawful actions were taken in violation of Wis. Stats. 951.02, which states that "No person may treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner."

They further violate 951.14(3)(b) which provides, "Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns."

**COUNT 3: MISTREATING AN ANIMAL — §§ 951.02 and ATCP 16.22(1)(b)**

**(Intentionally or negligently causing infection and injury)**

The defendant Ridglan Farms beginning at least on October 26, 2016 and through the present day, intentionally or negligently causes serious ailments and infections to beagles, including dogs with swollen feet and puppies whose legs are caught in cage wire. On October 26, 2016 an inspector with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, during a routine inspection, noted that the "legs of puppies were observed to have passed completely below the mesh flooring up to the puppy's chest. Puppies were observed to have noticeable difficulty standing or moving comfortably." It was noted that, partly as a result of improper flooring, "observed dogs within the facility were being treated for foot health problems." While the facility claimed to have corrected the problem in an email on November 15, 2016, animal rights activists observed similar foot health problems on April 17, 2017, including dogs with painfully swollen and infected feet forced to walk on wire. An employee noted the same conditions persisting in 2021-2022. Finally, a USDA inspector noted in December of 2023 that "Some of the weaned puppies and preweaning-aged puppies in eleven enclosures were observed to have feet or legs pass through the smooth-coated mesh floors when they walked." Defendant's unlawful actions

were taken in violation of Wis. Stats. 951.02, which states that “No person may treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner.” They are further a violation of ATCP 16.22(1)(b)2 and (b)3, which require that any wire flooring “shall be of an adequate gauge to prevent sagging under the weight of the dog or dogs kept in the enclosure, and to prevent injury to the dogs' feet” and that “Floor openings, if any, shall be small enough to prevent the feet of the smallest dog kept in the enclosure from passing through or becoming entangled in the openings.”

Dated: March 17, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

---

Wayne Hsiung

# **EXHIBIT I**

*Bonnie S. Klapper, Esq.*

2 Main Street, #124

Sag Harbor, New York 11963

[bonniesklapper@bskesq.com](mailto:bonniesklapper@bskesq.com)

Tel: 516-721-0010

*Admitted in NY, California and District of Columbia*

*Pro hac vice Florida and Texas*

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March 18, 2024

Ismael R. Ozanne  
District Attorney  
215 S Hamilton St # 3000  
Madison, WI 53703  
[ismael.ozanne@da.wi.gov](mailto:ismael.ozanne@da.wi.gov)

Kalvin Barrett  
Dane County Sheriff  
115 West Doty Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
[dane911@countyofdane.com](mailto:dane911@countyofdane.com)

Joshua L. Kaul  
Attorney General  
PO Box 7857  
Madison WI 53707  
[Josh.Kaul@doj.state.wi.us](mailto:Josh.Kaul@doj.state.wi.us)

**Re: Systemic Violations of Wisconsin Penal Code Section 951.01 et seq. at  
Ridglan Farms Blue Mounds, Dane County, Wisconsin**

Dear Sir/Madame:

By this letter, and on behalf of The Simple Heart (“TSH”), I wish to report the presence of long-term, extensive violations of Wisconsin’s animal cruelty laws at Ridglan Farms, located at 215 S Hamilton St # 3000, Madison, WI 53703 (“Ridglan”). By way of background, I am an attorney licensed to practice in California, New York and Washington D.C. I am also admitted in federal courts in Florida, New York, California, the District of Columbia and Texas. I am a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Berkeley School of Law. From 1988 to 2012, I was a federal prosecutor, first in the Central District of California and then in the Eastern District of New York. My duties as a federal prosecutor included evaluating evidence and witness testimony to determine whether charges should be filed against individuals or entities suspected of crimes. I retired from federal service in 2012 and began my own criminal defense practice. About fifty percent of my work includes pro bono work for animal rights organizations, animal shelters, dog rescues around the world and sanctuaries. As a result of my criminal law background and my work for these non-profits, I have made an extensive study of the laws governing animal cruelty in the United States.

After reviewing video and photographic evidence, an opinion from an expert veterinarian, USDA and AAALAC inspection reports and responses, and the relevant statutes and case law, I have concluded that several of the conditions at Ridgland violate Wisconsin Penal Code Section Chapter 951, Sections 951.02 and 951.14. We are therefore asking that you immediately investigate these conditions at Ridgland, and, upon finding violations of the law, prosecute for animal cruelty.

This letter, which contains photographs documenting the criminal animal cruelty, summarizes: (A) Wisconsin's animal cruelty statutes and (B) our findings of animal cruelty at Ridgland.



**A. Wisconsin Law Broadly Prohibits Cruelty to Animals**

Wisconsin Penal Code Section 951.01 et seq. addresses various forms of criminal animal cruelty. The statutes provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

**951.01 Definitions.** In this chapter:

(1) "Animal" includes every living:

(a) Warm-blooded creature, except a human being;

.....

(2) "Cruel" means causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury or death.

.....

**951.02 Mistreating animals.** No person may treat any animal, whether belonging to the person or another, in a cruel manner. This section does not prohibit normal and accepted veterinary practices.

....

**951.14 Providing proper shelter.** No person owning or responsible for confining or impounding any animal may fail to provide the animal with proper shelter as prescribed in this section.

**851.14(3) SPACE STANDARDS.** Minimum space requirements for both indoor and outdoor enclosures shall include:

**(b) Space requirements.** Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns.

....

Section 951.18 sets forth the penalties for violating the animal cruelty statute:

### **951.18 Penalties**

**(1)** Any person violating s. 951.02 . . . 951.14 is subject to a Class C forfeiture. Any person who violates any of these provisions within 3 years after a humane officer issues an abatement order under s. 173.11 prohibiting the violation of that provision is subject to a Class A forfeiture. Any person who intentionally or negligently violates any of those sections is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. Any person who intentionally violates s. 951.02, resulting in the **mutilation, disfigurement or death** of an animal, is guilty of a Class I felony. Any person who intentionally violates s. 951.02 or 951.06, knowing that the animal that is the victim is used by a law enforcement agency to perform agency functions or duties and causing injury to the animal, is guilty of a Class I felony.

See Section 951.1 et seq. (emphasis added).

The Animal Welfare Act and specifically, Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 3.6, also sets forth minimum conditions for dogs held in confinement: Title 9 CFR Section 3.6 states, in pertinent part:

Primary enclosures for dogs and cats must meet the following minimum requirements:

(a) General requirements.

(2) Primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained so that they:

(v) Enable the dogs and cats to remain dry and clean;

(x) Have floors that are constructed in a manner that protects the dogs' and cats' feet and legs from injury, and that, if of mesh or slatted construction, do not allow the dogs' and cats' feet to pass through any openings in the floor;

In summary, Wisconsin law prohibits the treatment of animals in a manner causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury or death. It also prohibits confining animals without proper shelter. Animal cruelty is treated as a felony if an animal is mutilated, disfigured or killed, punishable by a term of three and one-half years in custody and a fine of up to \$10,000. Otherwise, it is treated as a misdemeanor punishable by a term of nine months in custody and a fine of up to \$10,000. See Wisconsin Penal Code Section 939.50(3)(i) and 939.51(3)(a). A person can be found guilty of felony animal cruelty for intentionally mistreating an animal, resulting in the animal's death, without having intended the dog's death; a jury only need find that the defendant intended to treat the dog in a cruel manner and that the dog's death resulted. See State v. Klingelhoets (App. 2012) 814 N.W.2d 885, 341 Wis.2d 432, review denied 822 N.W.2d 881, 344 Wis.2d 303

The citizens of Wisconsin have expressed their concerns about the welfare of dogs in the state. In 2009, the Wisconsin State Legislature unanimously passed Act 90, a law regulating dog breeders and sellers in the state. The statute requires breeders who sell 25 dogs or more in the state to register and be subjected to regular inspections. There are many groups in Wisconsin fighting for better treatment of dogs, including one right in Ridgland's "backyard," Dane4Dogs.

**B. The Conditions in Which Dogs Are Kept at Ridgland Farms Constitute Criminal Animal Cruelty**

Ridgland was founded in 1966 is one of the three largest firms in the U.S. that provides beagles to research facilities. It is a multi-million dollars business owned by three men: James A. Burns, David Williams and Jeffrey Balmer.<sup>1</sup> Ridgland breeds beagles for experimentation and also conducts its own experiments on the dogs it breeds.<sup>2</sup> Ridgland houses the dogs it breeds in one building and the dogs on which it performs experiments in another building. At any one time, there are approximately 4000 dogs confined at Ridgland. This referral focuses only on the dogs being bred at Ridgland; as a result, the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wpr.org/animals/mount-horeb-dogs-are-ballot>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.ridgland.net/about/>

exemption in Wisconsin law for animals subjected to experiments does not apply to this analysis.<sup>3</sup>

All of the dogs at Ridglan, regardless of where they are housed, suffer horribly. However, this analysis only addresses those conditions which rise to the level of criminal animal cruelty taking place in the breeding building.



### **Performing Surgery on Dogs Without Anesthetics by Non-Veterinary Personnel Violates Wisconsin Law and Constitutes Criminal Animal Cruelty**

Documents obtained from Ridglan as well as whistleblower testimony have revealed that employees without veterinary licenses and with only a few days' training are performing cherry eye surgery at Ridglan, removing the third eye lid on thousands of dogs over the years. Based on veterinary studies discussing the treatment of cherry eye, the number of surgeries as compared to the number of dogs under Ridglan's control is excessive and most likely indicates that Ridglan is performing unnecessary surgery for cosmetic reasons to make the dogs more saleable. The whistleblower also reported that the surgery was being done without anesthesia or hemostasis (techniques to control bleeding). See Letter of Dr. Sherstin Rosenberg, attached hereto.

As noted in the opinion of Dr. Sherstin Rosenberg, attached hereto, cherry eye surgery should be done **only** by trained medical personnel, under the supervision of a

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<sup>3</sup> See Section 951.015(3)(a): 3) This chapter does not apply to:

(a) Teaching, research, or experimentation conducted pursuant to a protocol or procedure approved by an educational or research institution, and related incidental animal care activities, at facilities that are regulated under 7 USC 2131 to 2159 or 42 USC 289d.

licensed veterinarian and while a dog is under anesthesia and with hemostasis. The whistleblower reports that the dogs being operated on yelped in pain when their third eye lid was simply cut away with a scissor. The whistleblower also reported excessive amounts of blood during surgery, as it was done without any proper controls to prevent the bleeding.

Unsupervised employees cutting away dogs' eyelids without anesthesia, causing the dogs extreme pain, falls squarely in the definition of cruelty under Wisconsin law which states that: "[c]ruel" means causing unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering or unjustifiable injury or death."

Another surgery [routinely performed on dogs at Ridgland](#) is "devocalization" surgery, commonly referred to as debarking. Devocalization surgery is entirely unnecessary and done only for the convenience of those who work at Ridgland. It is highly disfavored by the American Veterinary Medical Association ("AVMA"):

The AVMA strongly discourages the devocalization (non-therapeutic ventriculocordectomy) of dogs because of the surgery's negative impacts on animal welfare. Canine devocalization does not address the primary motivators for the unwanted behavior. Barking is a natural behavior and an important canine communication method. Devocalization deprives the dog from normal engagement in this natural behavior. Because canine devocalization can decrease, but not eliminate, the intensity, pitch, and volume of a dog's bark, the procedure is frequently ineffective in preventing inappropriate or excessive barking.

See <https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/avma-policies/canine-devocalization>. In 2013, during a site visit by the AAALAC, a nonprofit which promotes humane treatment of animals through inspections and accreditations, found that Ridgland was performing these surgeries without properly sterilized equipment.

Devocalization is unnecessary, poses a risk of infection, carries with it the risk of respiratory complications and causes dogs pain during their recovery. See Letter of Dr. Sherstin Rosenberg. If it is to be performed at all, it must be done by a trained veterinarian with sterilized instruments. While the performance of the surgery itself is not unlawful, it appears to be part of a pattern of unnecessary surgeries at Ridgland, rising to the level of mutilation.

In conclusion, allowing employees to do cherry eye surgery, unsupervised by a medical professional, without anesthesia or hemostasis, causes unnecessary and excessive pain or suffering in violation of Section 951.01(2). The excessive number of surgeries for cherry eye, coupled with the unnecessary devocalization surgery, results in the mutilation of animals, in violation of Sections 951.01(2), 951.02 and 951.18.

### **The Dog Housing at Ridgland Violates Wisconsin Law and the Animal Welfare Act and Constitutes Criminal Animal Cruelty**

As noted above, Wisconsin law requires that dogs should be held in enclosures which provide sufficient space to allow each animal freedom of movement. noting that inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of stress or abnormal behavior patterns. See Section 951.14(3)(b). Federal regulations also require that flooring must protect the dogs' feet and legs from injury and must now allow dogs' feet to pass through openings in the floor. See Title 9. Section 3.6.



The dogs at Ridgland live in small, two by four cages, stacked one on top of the other, with mesh wire floors.. They have no access to the outside They do not ever see grass or the sky. They do not have the opportunity to run or play. They rarely have the opportunity to socialize with other dogs. The dogs are kept in unsanitary conditions, with cages filled with feces and feces dropping down from cages to a collecting layer underneath each dog. Inspections by the USDA and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (“ATCP”), whistleblower testimony and footage obtained by animal rights activists revealed that the dogs at Ridgland displayed stereotypical behavior of dogs suffering from high levels of psychological distress, including incessant [spinning](#), chewing on the metal cage bars and bouncing off the sides of the cages.

Multiple inspections by the USDA and the ATCP revealed that dogs are forced to step and live in their own feces and feces which drop down from the stacked cages. Most significant for this referral, young puppies were repeatedly found to have had their paws and legs stuck in the floor openings, causing difficulty standing, pain and suffering, distress and a high incidence of foot infections/foot injuries. The issue is compounded by the fact that puppies with foot infections are made sicker because they must [walk in the feces](#)

accumulating in their cages. See Letter of Dr. Sherstin Rosenberg, citing numerous USDA and Wisconsin Department of Agriculture (“ATCP”) inspection reports.



The issue with the flooring and the problems it causes, especially for young puppies, was noted over and over again in inspections from 2016 inspection and to at least 2023. Inadequate flooring is a serious violation of the Animal Welfare Act. Despite this fact, and despite multiple inspection reports from DATCP and the USDA, Ridglan has failed to correct this problem. As Dr. Rosenberg notes in her letter:

Failure to rectify inadequate flooring at the Ridglan facility has resulted in unnecessary pain and suffering to thousands of dogs over the years. Ridglan has known about these problems for nearly a decade, yet has not taken effective action.

As noted above, Section 951.14 requires that owners or those responsible for dogs must provide the animal with property shelter and provides some examples for indoor enclosures.<sup>4</sup> The AWA more broadly sets forth what those standards are. The same section requires that dog enclosure must have sufficient space to allow the dog freedom of movement. Ridglan's continuous and intentional failure to correct the flooring and space deficiencies, housing dogs in filthy, feces-ridden cages and failure to provide the dogs in its care with socialization and enrichment, resulting in pain, suffering, infections and psychological and emotional distress for the dogs, clearly constitutes criminal animal cruelty in violation of Section 951.14. See also U.S. v. Envigo RMF, 2022 WL 2195030 (22-CV00028) (W.D.Va 2022)(upholding finding that Envigo RMS, a beagle breeding and experimentation business, violated 9 C.F.R. Section 3.6(a)(2)(v) by keeping dogs in unsanitary enclosures)

### **Conclusion**

Law enforcement should immediately commence an investigation into the ongoing conditions at Ridglan and into its owners' intentional failure to address these conditions. There is far more than probable cause to believe that Ridglan, and by extension, its owners, is engaging in intentional acts of criminal animal cruelty, causing the dogs in their care intense physical and psychological pain, suffering, mutilation and sickness. We stand ready to provide you with whatever additional proof you may need.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to hear from you very soon; every day that passes is another day of torment for the dogs at Ridglan.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bonnie S. Klapper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bonnie S. Klapper, Esq.

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<sup>4</sup> The statute lists by way of example minimum requirements for providing proper shelter but it is not all-inclusive. Meeting these minimum standards does not exempt Ridglan from prosecution for criminal animal cruelty. See Section 951.14(1)

# **EXHIBIT J**

IN RE: PETITION TO APPOINT A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR TO COMMENCE  
PROSECUTION OF RIDGLAN FARMS

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DECLARATION OF WAYNE HANSEN HSIUNG

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I, Wayne Hansen Hsiung, am a person of the age of majority and the petitioner in the above-entitled action. I reside at 530 Stockton St. Apt. 104 in San Francisco, CA 94108. I am familiar with the matters involved in this litigation. The facts of which I have knowledge in this matter include:

1. Ridglan Farms is a corporation located at 10489 W. Blue Mounds Road, Blue Mounds, WI 53517, in the County of Dane.
2. Ridglan Farms engages in breeding and experimentation upon beagles for profit.
3. Approximately 3,000 dogs are held at the site on Blue Mounds Road at any given time.
4. The vast majority of the dogs are bred and raised to be sold to research universities and private corporations for testing. A smaller, separate group of dogs is used for experiments at Ridglan Farms. These two sets of dogs are housed in separate buildings.
5. On April 17, 2017, I entered a building at Ridglan Farms where dogs intended for sale were kept, in order to investigate the facility. While inside the facility, I personally took the photos and videos that are inserted into the petition in the above-entitled action. Those photos and videos are a true and correct representation of the circumstances I personally observed at the facility.

6. While inside the facility, I observed dogs held in solitary confinement in small metal cages without any sources of meaningful enrichment inside their cages. These dogs were deprived of the outdoors, with no ability to engage in natural behaviors or socialize with other dogs.
7. I also observed many of the dogs exhibiting stereotypic behaviors, including spinning, pacing, and wall bouncing.
8. I also observed that the dogs were housed on inadequate flooring made of coated metal wire. I observed that many dogs had swollen feet that appeared to be injured and infected.
9. I also heard dogs straining to bark and issuing the hoarse, hollow sounds that are evidence of devocalization surgery, a surgical practice whereby a dog's laryngeal cartilage is cut or removed so that the dogs can no longer bark.
10. In 2021-2022, an employee at Ridglan Farms became a whistleblower after leaving his employment.
11. The whistleblower reported to me and others that he saw the very same conditions that I perceived in 2017. These conditions included dogs held in metal cages without meaningful enrichment, deprived of the outdoors, with no ability to engage in natural behaviors or socialize with other dogs, and many dogs exhibiting stereotypic behaviors.
12. The whistleblower reported to me and others that during his time working at Ridglan, the dogs were still housed on inadequate metal flooring.
13. The whistleblower reported to me and others that he was required to participate in performing "cherry eye" mutilations on dogs, whereby non-veterinarian employees hold dogs down and then use scissors to cut away the dogs' third eyelids, without anesthesia or pain medication, while the dogs cried out in pain. The employee reported that performing

this “cherry eye” mutilation is a standard practice and policy at Ridglan Farms and that it occurred repeatedly with the consent and knowledge of Ridglan management.

14. An organization with which I was affiliated at the time, Direct Action Everywhere, contacted the District Attorney’s Office and the Dane County Sheriff on or around May 2018 by phone to indicate concerns about the above-mentioned cruelty. Direct Action Everywhere directed the authorities to a report by Pulitzer Prize winning journalists Glenn Greenwald & Leighton Woodhouse regarding the cruelty at Ridglan Farms. The report provides a detailed description of the criminal activity at Ridglan, including devocalization surgery, confinement that brought about “extreme psychological torment,” and “skin and foot conditions from walking on wire.” See Glenn Greenwald & Leighton Akio Woodhouse, *Bred to Suffer*, INTERCEPT (May 17, 2018), <https://theintercept.com/2018/05/17/inside-the-barbaric-u-s-industry-of-dog-experimentation>. Neither I nor Direct Action Everywhere received any response to these inquiries.
15. In October 2022, an animal cruelty complaint was submitted to the District Attorney’s Office. That complaint is attached to the petition as **Exhibit F**. The DA did not issue a response.
16. In May 2023, an animal cruelty complaint was sent by email to the District Attorney’s office, in part based on additional records that Petitioner Hsiung obtained through state open records laws. That complaint is attached to the petition as **Exhibit G**. The DA did not issue a response.
17. In August 2021, the District Attorney’s office, with knowledge of the prior complaints filed and the majority of the other evidence discussed above, filed criminal charges against me

for conducting the 2017 investigation at Ridglan Farms and removing three dogs. The charges were later dismissed on March 8, 2024.

18. On March 14, 2024, I submitted a proposed criminal complaint to the District Attorney's office, Dane County Animal Control, and the Dane County Sheriff by email and web form. The complaint is attached to the petition as **Exhibit H**. Animal Control indicated that it would not be able to begin an investigation and referred me to the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. The Sheriff failed to reply. The District Attorney's office indicated that it would not prosecute without a referral from the Sheriff.
19. On March 18, 2024, a supervisor with the Dane County Sheriff's office told me that I would need to speak to the District Attorney's office in order to address my concerns about the Ridglan dogs.
20. Also on March 18, 2024, I brought further evidence to the Dane County District Attorney's office, along with a criminal cruelty referral written by a former federal prosecutor, Bonnie Klapper, who spent 24 years evaluating evidence for probable cause as a federal prosecutor. That referral is attached as **Exhibit I**. When I delivered the referral on March 18th, investigator Ryan Greeno met briefly with me and indicated that his office would decline to bring charges unless an investigation was performed by law enforcement that had "jurisdiction" over the case.

I declare under penalty of perjury and false swearing under the law of Wisconsin that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on the 20th Day of March, 2024 at Madison, Wisconsin.

*Wayne Hsiung*

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Wayne Hansen Hsiung

# **EXHIBIT K**



## HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

KRISTEN STILT

PROFESSOR OF LAW

FACULTY DIRECTOR, BROOKS MCCORMICK JR. ANIMAL LAW & POLICY PROGRAM

LEWIS 310, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

kstilt@law.harvard.edu, 617-496-4446

April 13, 2024

Honorable Rhonda Lanford  
Dane County Courthouse  
215 S. Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am a Professor at Harvard Law School, where I serve as Faculty Director and founder of the Brooks McCormick Jr. Animal Law & Policy Program. Prior to that, I held faculty positions at Northwestern University and The University of Washington. I teach, research, lecture, and publish extensively in property law, comparative law, and animal law. I am currently under contract and in the process of authoring or editing several books regarding animal law, including the Oxford Handbook of Global Animal Law and an Animal Law & Policy casebook for law school courses. I also co-authored an amicus curiae brief that the Constitutional Court of Ecuador relied heavily upon and cited extensively in its January 2022 opinion in the widely publicized “Estrellita Monkey Case.” I have a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law and a Ph.D. in History from Harvard University.

I am writing to respectfully share several points of law and a legal policy concern that may be relevant to Your Honor’s determination of whether to appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute Ridglan Farms for violating Wisconsin’s animal cruelty laws.

Throughout the United States, animal cruelty laws are significantly under-enforced. When they are enforced, it is often against individuals, and these individuals are often people of color. *See* Justin Marceau, *Beyond Cages: Animal Law and Criminal Punishment* 166-92 (2019). Sometimes, individuals acting in their own capacity violate animal cruelty laws. However, very often—and perhaps the majority of time—these individuals are not acting for themselves. They are working in an institution that uses animals as its main business, such as industrial agricultural facilities (including slaughterhouses) or large animal breeding facilities, and their actions are a direct result of instructions from their supervisors, a direct result of the prevailing practices and culture at the facility, or a direct result of the facility’s business model that prioritizes volume and speed over attention to animal welfare. If anyone is prosecuted due to cruelty to animals in these institutions, it is the low-level employee who is just trying to keep a job that he or she desperately needs.

The problem with this prevailing practice is that the responsible party, the institution, avoids its responsibility and culpability. For the animal cruelty laws of any state to have a deterrent effect, this

trend must change, and local jurisdictions must prosecute corporate animal abusers for violating state anti-cruelty laws.

Corporations are *not* exempt from state anti-cruelty laws. Even corporations that are licensed and regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) remain subject to these laws. The preemption language in the AWA explicitly states that it does not preempt state laws. Animal Welfare Act § 2143(a)(8) (noting that the promulgation of standards under the AWA “shall not prohibit any State (or a political subdivision of such State) from promulgating standards in addition to those standards promulgated by the Secretary”); see also *Stark v. Rutheford*, 442 F. Supp. 3d 1084, 1089n.4 (S.D. Ind. 2020) (holding that the “AWA sets the floor, not the ceiling, for USDA license holders,” citing *New York Pet Welfare Ass’n, Inc. v. City of New York*, 143 F. Supp. 3d 50, 60 (E.D.N.Y. 2015), *aff’d*, 850 F.3d 79 (2d Cir. 2017)). For that reason, dog breeding operations, even those that ultimately sell dogs into the animal research and testing industry, are not exempt from Wisconsin’s animal cruelty regime.

Thus, corporations like Ridglan Farms can be prosecuted for violating state animal cruelty laws. Without meaningful enforcement, especially against large-scale animal abusers, these laws become meaningless. Large corporations should not be permitted to shirk liability for criminal conduct.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristen Stilt".

Kristen Stilt

# **EXHIBIT L**

**UCSF Department of  
Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences at  
the San Francisco VA  
Health Care System**

4150 Clement Street  
San Francisco, CA 94121

tel: 415.221.4810

psychiatry.ucsf.edu/sfvaucs

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am a professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, where I have served on the faculty since 1994. I recently retired as a United States Army Reserves psychiatrist and Lieutenant Colonel and served on an emergency COVID mission to Philadelphia in 2020 and on a remote post in Kuwait for three months in 2021-22.

I and my family have also been activists for LGBTQ rights for the past 40 years, including establishing the Cleveland Ohio PFLAG chapter in 1985. We have been active members of the Human Rights Campaign for the last 30 years, and my mother has been one of just two straight national board members for the past 20 years. In that time, we've seen dramatic change in our legal system's protection of LGBTQ citizens. And it is not just gay couples such as my husband, Brian, and I, who have benefitted. Providing legal protection to our most vulnerable citizens benefits us all.

It is for that reason I respectfully request the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate the treatment of dogs at Ridglan, and to file criminal charges if appropriate. The evidence I have personally seen is quite concerning, including the mistreatment of a blind beagle named Julie whom I have come to know and love. This court has the power to make a dramatic difference, however, not just in Julie's life, and the lives of thousands of other mistreated dogs, but in our society's commitment to compassion, justice, and the rule of law.

In that spirit, I have submitted for publication the below op-ed, which I hope you will also consider.

In gratitude,



Robert B. Daroff, Jr., MD  
Lieutenant Colonel (Retired)  
HS Clinical Professor

Whose suffering matters? On April 18, a court in Dane County, Wisconsin will answer this question in response to a petition by a local nonprofit to criminally investigate a dog breeding and research facility called Ridglan Farms, which has supplied dogs for use in experiments at the University of California, San Francisco, my home institution for the past 30 years. But the court's answer won't just affect the welfare of thousands of dogs. It will be a test of our society's commitment to protecting even its most vulnerable beings.

Through much of human history, the question of whose suffering matters has defined our civilization. As a physician, former military officer, and gay man, I've seen firsthand the consequences when our nation has answered this question with insufficient empathy. Generations of veterans, traumatized by their experiences in war, have not had access to appropriate medical care due to the stigma associated with mental health problems. Hundreds of thousands of Americans, mostly gay men, suffered and died during the AIDS pandemic because of our nation's disregard for the suffering of citizens who were deemed "lesser than." And through much of American history, our legal system has failed to protect society's most vulnerable people –



women, people of color, and trans people (among other groups) – from abuse at the hands of those who are more powerful. As a physician specializing in trauma, I see the disturbing implications of this neglect every day: broken families, dysfunctional communities, and shattered lives.

But over time, our nation has overcome many of these biases and attempted to live up to its most important ideals: life, liberty, and justice for all. Our nation was founded on the notion that might does not make right, and that the rules should apply equally to all. As a Army officer, I have seen the power of our nation’s effort to live up to these ideals, as LGBTQ service members are now more protected – rather than targeted – by the law. This was and is the way it always should have been. No one deserves to be mistreated simply because of who they are.

But that same principle must apply to the beings who are most vulnerable in our society: our animal friends. A dog will never serve in our military, or ask someone to walk down the aisle, but she is equally capable of feeling trauma and pain. That is precisely why legal protections for animals exist in every state in the nation. Our society has evolved to the point that we collectively understand that, when we hurt a beagle, we are committing a serious wrong. Indeed, it is particularly wrong because the beagle has no ability to defend herself.

What is readily apparent, however, is that enforcement of these legal protections is lagging far behind public support for them. Year after year, the USDA’s own inspector general has acknowledged that the agency’s enforcement of animal welfare standards is “[basically meaningless](#).” In 2018, one year after activists rescued beagles from Ridgman Farms, the Washington Post [reported](#) that there had been just a single administrative complaint for animal cruelty filed by the US government in a system that is intended to protect tens of millions of animals from abuse. Enforcement action at the state level is even more sparse.

The consequence of this failure to protect society’s most vulnerable beings is not just the suffering of dogs, however. As I’ve seen in my treatment of veterans and other patients in San Francisco, unacknowledged suffering poisons us all. We become more callous, and more mean-spirited, when we fail to treat vulnerable beings with compassion. This is why studies consistently [link](#) cruelty to animals to other forms of violent crime.

But the court in Dane County will have an opportunity to challenge that cruelty and once again live up to our society’s most important ideals. In the scheme of things, a suffering dog in a cage might not seem like much. But to that one dog, the possibility of being freed from her trauma means everything. I have seen this with my own eyes in my interactions with Julie, the blind beagle rescued by activists from Ridgman Farms. She bears the unmistakable evidence of trauma – the fight or flight response, the frightened body posture, and the endless spinning in an attempt to escape unseen terrors. But I’ve also seen the evidence of something far more powerful and profound: the healing power of love. And if a Dane County court sees the imperative to protect even the most powerless members of our society – and enshrine that imperative within our legal system – we will be well on our way to building a society that is not just more just, but more healing for us all.

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Dr. Daroff is Clinical Professor in Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco, and a Staff Psychiatrist at the San Francisco VA Medical Center. He formerly served as a psychiatrist in the US Army Reserves. The views here are his own and may not reflect the views of UCSF, the VA, or the US Army.

# **EXHIBIT M**



**Dane County Humane Society**  
*Helping People Help Animals*

5132 Voges Road  
Madison, WI 53718

P (608) 838-0413  
F (608) 838-0368

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[www.giveshelter.org](http://www.giveshelter.org)

April 2, 2024

Honorable Rhonda Lanford  
Dane County Courthouse  
Room 5109  
215 S. Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Dane County Case Number 2024JD000001 In RE: 968.02(3) Complaint

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am writing to you on behalf of Dane County Humane Society, as President of the Board of Directors. As you may know, DCHS is a non-profit shelter. We accept all animals that need help (regardless of age, health status, or temperament), and we have an adoption guarantee, meaning that all healthy or treatable animals can stay with us as long as it takes to find a loving home.

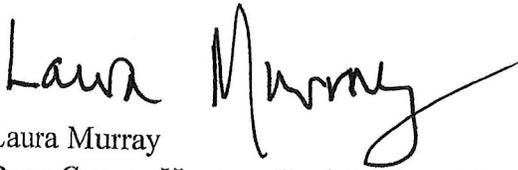
Last year, DCHS had approximately 4,500 animals at our shelter, and 2000 of those were dogs. Each of our dogs is provided with a clean and comfortable environment where they can enjoy the companionship of other dogs, if desired, as well as our many dedicated human volunteers. We incorporate ample exercise into their regimen, as well as enrichment and toys, and of course the compassionate care of veterinarians.

Based on the information we have been provided and included in the petition, we are concerned to learn that Ridglan Farms, a facility right here in Dane County, is keeping thousands of dogs in conditions that not only would fail to meet our standards of care, but likely constitute animal cruelty. We were horrified to learn that Ridglan apparently keeps their dogs in small, feces-filled cages for months on end and that the dogs are forced to stand on painful wire mesh at all times. We are saddened that these dogs appear to receive no meaningful exercise and enrichment, and that they are deprived of the affection humans have bred them over generations to crave. Based on the evidence we've seen, such conditions will cause very serious physical harm and also mental and psychological harm to dogs. We were especially horrified by the reports that Ridglan is performing surgery on dogs without anesthetics and without veterinarians.

The dogs being held at Ridglan Farms are no different than our dogs at DCCHS (or any other dogs, for that matter). Just like our dogs, the Ridglan dogs need proper care, as well as relationships with other dogs, if they want, and kind humans who care for them. And just like our dogs, the Ridglan dogs deserve to be protected by Wisconsin's animal cruelty laws. If DCCHS was keeping dogs in deplorable conditions and disfiguring them through amateur surgeries as reported, there would be public outcry and likely an investigation. Why should it be any different with Ridglan Farms?

We ask that you please select a special prosecutor to charge Ridglan Farms with animal cruelty. The dogs of Ridglan do not have a voice, but a prosecution could give them the voice that they desperately need.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Murray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Laura Murray  
Dane County Humane Society, Board President



April 9, 2024

Honorable Rhonda Lanford  
Dane County Courthouse  
Room 5109  
215 S. Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Dane County Case Number 2024JD000001 In RE: 968.02(3) Complaint

Dear Judge Lanford,

Based on the information we have been provided and included in the petition, we are concerned to learn that Ridglan Farms, a facility right here in Dane County, is keeping thousands of dogs in conditions that not only would fail to meet our standards of care, but likely constitute animal cruelty. We were horrified to learn that Ridglan apparently keeps their dogs in small, feces-filled cages for months on end and that the dogs are forced to stand on painful wire mesh at all times. We are saddened that these dogs appear to receive no meaningful exercise and enrichment, and that they are deprived of the affection humans have bred them over generations to crave. Based on the evidence we've seen, such conditions will cause very serious physical harm and also mental and psychological harm to dogs. We were especially horrified by the reports that Ridglan is performing surgery on dogs without anesthetics and without veterinarians.

The dogs being held at Ridglan Farms are no different than our dogs at WFHS (or any other dogs, for that matter). Just like our dogs, the Ridglan dogs need proper care, as well as relationships with other dogs, if they want, and kind humans who care for them. And just like our dogs, the Ridglan dogs deserve to be protected by Wisconsin's animal cruelty laws. If an animal shelter or humane society was keeping dogs in deplorable conditions and disfiguring them through amateur surgeries as reported, there would be public outcry and likely an investigation. Why should it be any different with Ridglan Farms?

We respectfully request that you select a special prosecutor to charge Ridglan Farms with animal cruelty. The dogs of Ridglan do not have a voice, but a prosecution could give them that voice.

With gratitude,

Pam McCloud Smith, Board President  
Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies Inc.



Re: Petition to appoint a special prosecutor to commence prosecution of Ridglan Farms

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am the Director of the Wisconsin chapter of the League of Humane Voters (LOHV). We are a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization with a mission to promote legislation that protects animals by uniting voters into voting blocs. We represent members across 42 counties in Wisconsin.

Our voters care about the animals of Wisconsin and want to see them treated humanely, as I'm certain Your Honor does as well. Our members tirelessly advocate for stronger laws to protect all animals in Wisconsin. LOHV is writing because the criminal animal abuse that has been documented for years at Ridglan Farms is not being addressed. Since the Dane County District Attorney office has refused to prosecute, despite overwhelming evidence going back for years, a special prosecutor must be appointed to investigate Ridglan Farms.

We have reviewed the petition in this case, and we see ample evidence that Ridglan Farms uses practices that cause the dogs in their care serious psychological torment and physical harm. It is against the law for an individual pet owner to treat their dog this way, and it is also against the law for a business to do the same, especially a business like Ridglan Farms that commits cruelty to thousands of dogs every year.

When the law is not enforced against mass animal abusers like Ridglan Farms, it renders the animal cruelty laws of Wisconsin toothless and meaningless. After so many years of abuse, it is time for this business to be held accountable. Please appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute Ridglan Farms.

Sincerely,

Melanie Weberg, Director  
League of Humane Voters-Wisconsin  
[www.lohvwi.com](http://www.lohvwi.com)

# **EXHIBIT N**

IN RE: PETITION TO APPOINT A SPECIAL Case No. 2024JD000001  
PROSECUTOR TO COMMENCE  
PROSECUTION OF RIDGLAN FARMS

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DECLARATION OF JARROD BAILEY, PhD, FOCAE

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I, JARROD BAILEY, do hereby declare as follows:

1. I am the Director of Medical Research for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine. I am a biomedical scientist with a background in molecular biology, genetics, and virology. I graduated from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the United Kingdom, and completed postdoctoral training researching premature birth in humans at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, UK, and Newcastle University. I am a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics in the UK. My current curriculum vitae is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2. I am the author or co-author of more than 70 book chapters and peer-reviewed papers published in scientific and medical journals. I also have served as an invited speaker and panelist for numerous biomedical organizations and international conferences.

3. For two decades, I have worked to replace the use of animals in biomedical research and drug development and testing. I have testified before the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Institute of Medicine on how misleading animal experiment results have contributed to human harms. I also testified in 2011, and presented my work, before the Institute of Medicine Committee on the Use of Chimpanzees in Biomedical and Behavioral Research.

4. The following are my professional opinions, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty. These opinions are based on my personal review of the Petition for the Filing of a Criminal Complaint, including all exhibits.

5. I will not comment on the welfare issues that are a serious and unavoidable aspect of the breeding and use of dogs in scientific tests and experiments, as this has been covered comprehensively elsewhere. I will only assert that the suffering of dogs, which *must* be fully considered in any justification of their use in any form of scientific investigation, has a robust scientific basis, and appears to be much greater than previously accepted. My own peer-reviewed publication of this evidence, containing many supporting original scientific studies, contained the following evidence: <sup>1</sup>

6. Harm is caused to dogs in breeding centers and laboratories due to their perceptions of unfamiliar objects, sounds, people, situations, and manipulations encountered in labs, and especially from procedures involving restraint and associated with previous unpleasant events.

7. Behavioral studies over decades show that dogs – in part due to their coevolution with humans over millennia – have highly developed and attuned emotional and cognitive responses and capacities, meaning that they perceive, feel, and understand much more than was thought just a few years ago.

8. These behavioral studies are augmented and fortified by non-invasive functional MRI (fMRI) investigations (“brain scanning” research, using companion dogs living domestically with human guardians), which show that dogs’ experiences of pleasure and bonding with humans are very deep, and that dogs are acutely sensitive to human emotions and their

verbal and visual communications, in a manner that was previously thought to be unique to primates.

8. This heightened awareness and sensitivity also mean that dogs suffer from the acknowledged stressors they encounter in laboratories, which can manifest in behavioral problems called stereotypies, which can lead to self-harm, and which indicate psychological distress.

9. Researchers involved with these studies have opined that this evidence *must* lead us to alter how we view dogs and how we treat them, particularly in research. Some believe that dogs have a level of sentience comparable to human children.

10. The above considerations should be of sufficient concern and seriousness to compel us to avoid much, if not all, dog research and testing. But when it is combined with evidence showing that the use of dogs in research and testing also has extremely poor *scientific* justifications (in terms of its human relevance, predictability, translatability, and necessity), I and many other scientists argue that the case to avoid dog experimentation is formidable.

11. Again, I refer to peer-reviewed publications including my own, but must highlight that these contain numerous peer-reviewed original studies constituting a solid and robust evidence base. These show that:

12. Dogs are a commonly used second species in the testing of new human drugs. Their use in addition to rats or mice is an acknowledgement that one species cannot reliably predict the safety and efficacy of a new drug in any other.

13. Animal testing of new drugs generally is far from predictive for humans. The current and long-term attrition rate for new drugs in clinical (human) trials is greater than 92%, and even higher for cardiovascular and cancer drugs at 95%. This failure rate is mostly due to

toxicities and lack of efficacy that were not predicted in preclinical (animal) tests, including on dogs.<sup>2</sup>

14. My own studies of publicly available drug-testing data on more than 2,300 drugs show two salient findings. Most importantly: if a dog test of a new drug suggests that toxicity is *not* present, this provides essentially no statistical evidential weight that the drug will also be non-toxic to humans.<sup>3-6</sup> As this is the result ideally being sought in drug development, so that it can proceed to clinical trials and marketing, this has serious implications for the pharmaceutical industry. This result has also been found by two major subsequent studies published by industry researchers (see<sup>6</sup>), and may partly be responsible for the industry (belatedly) moving towards the much greater use and adoption of non-animal testing methods in the place of animals, including dogs (see below).

15. My studies also showed that, when toxicities *were* seen in dog tests, they were likely to often be present in humans. Important caveats were that these toxicities were very variable in terms of nature, target, and type of drug, so could not be considered reliable or highly predictive. Again, better (and non-animal) methods exist and should be used instead.

16. The lack of predictive nature for humans is not limited to tests of new drugs and chemicals for human safety, but also extends to research. For example, dogs are often used in cardiovascular disease research – as already noted, one of the areas of drugs testing with the greatest failure rate - and cardiovascular disease remains the leading single cause of death, globally. For these reasons, researchers worldwide are moving away from dog use and embracing human-specific methods devoid of the intractable problems of interspecies translation. For example, researchers are using human “mini hearts”, grown from tiny skin samples taken from patients, to model cardiac fibrosis. Genes within these models can be edited

to test for effects on heart function, and for responses to different potential drugs, informing the disease itself and identifying potential therapies for it. <sup>7-9</sup>

17. We also know *why* data from dog experimentation fails to translate well to humans, and that they never can. Genetic differences between all animal species, including dogs, and humans, are widespread and significant, particularly in terms of gene expression – what our genes do and how they work – even when we share similar genes. <sup>10, 11</sup> These differences significantly impact and affect all major biological pathways and physiological systems, preventing reliable translation of experimental data to humans and faithful modelling of human biological systems and diseases. Further, these differences are magnified by the stresses that dogs experience in laboratories, both via experimental procedures and their alien environments and experiences, making the situation with regard to modeling and translation even worse. <sup>1</sup>

18. On top of this, it is known that typical beagles in laboratories are around 100-times more inbred than humans. Yet, data from those dogs, a different species altogether, are considered applicable to “human beings” generally, even though data from inbred human populations cannot be generalized to the wider human population due to inbreeding, even though they’re the same species. In short, using dogs as models for humans is unscientific and impossible. <sup>12</sup>

19. The evidence is – albeit belatedly – resulting in action within academia, the pharmaceutical and chemical industries, research funders, industry regulators, and more.

20. The pharmaceutical industry is beginning to make positive steps away from animal use, and towards so-called New Approach Methodologies, or NAMs as a replacement. These include, for example, human organ-on-a-chip technologies. To illustrate: one of the leading single causes of new drugs failing in clinical trials is Drug Induced Liver Injury (DILI),

not predicted well by animal tests. Human DILI is predicted much more accurately using human “liver on a chip” methods – with 87% sensitivity and 100% specificity. Each of the panel of 27 drugs tested had passed through animal testing, and 11 of them had ultimately been responsible for at least 242 human deaths. <sup>13</sup>

21. US Congress and the FDA are also leading the way with the passage of the FDA Modernization Act 2.0., the launch of programs designed to clearly accept NAMs for regulatory decision-making, and funding allocated to implement NAMs to improve testing outcomes for humans and reduce animal testing.

22. The NIH has recently accepted an advisory group’s recommendations for catalyzing the greater and further development and adoption of NAMs, to better translate research to the understanding of human biology and diseases, and to more, and more effective and safer, therapeutics. <sup>14, 15</sup> The NIH has also instigated its “Complement-ARIE” (Complement Animal Research in Experimentation) program to and accelerate the development and use of NAMs more widely. <sup>16</sup>

23. **In summary:** it has become clear in recent decades that the use of dogs to model human medical conditions (etiology, diagnosis, treatment, adverse effects, and outcomes) and to predict the efficacy and safety of drugs is neither fit for purpose, nor scientific. This growing, evidence-based realization has spurred the development of new and better human-relevant approaches, as well as a prominent regulatory shift away from animal research, and towards embracing non-animal methods documented to provide more translational and clinically important results. This shift will only accelerate, making "dog research" irrelevant but also egregious in its application. No matter where one stands on this issue, we should all agree that the harmful and often lethal use of dogs (and all other non-human animals), when this so poorly

addresses all aspects of human science and medicine, and when better methods are available, is indefensible.

## 24. References

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25. Executed at Hexham, UK, on April 12, 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jarrod Bailey', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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JARROD BAILEY, PhD, FOCAE

## JARROD BAILEY

Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
5100 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20016-4131  
Tel: (202) 527-7371 E-mail: jbailey@pcrm.org

A geneticist/molecular biologist, and fellow of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics since 2016. I have spent the last 20 years researching, evaluating and critiquing the human relevance of animal experiments in many biomedical fields, and promoting human-specific research methods.

### EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Genetics/Molecular Biology**, Newcastle University, England. **1994-1998**

**B.Sc. (Hons) Genetics (2:1)**, Newcastle University, England. **1991-1994**

### NOTABLE WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), USA** **Jan 2024-Present**

Director of Medical Research. I supervise a team of scientists building the evidence base for an increased shift towards human-focused biomedical research, and working to achieve policy and funding changes to encourage humane and human-specific approaches to understanding human diseases and finding new therapies for them.

**Animal Free Research UK, London, UK** **2021-2023**

Science Director. I developed new strategies for the charity to achieve its goals, including: a new grant-giving approach to expedite a shift from animal to human-specific research; educational programmes for early-career researchers; tools for scientists to help transition to non-animal methods; helping to raise the profile of, and perception of expertise in, the charity; supporting Development and Public Affairs teams in their work to fundraise and achieve policy changes to support human-relevant research.

**Center for Contemporary Sciences (CCS), USA** **2020-2021**

Director of Science and Technology. I was involved in the planning of strategic educational, academic and policy programmes; building collaborative projects with investors, research institutes and industry; authoring reviews of human-specific research & testing methods, and conducting scientific workshops on Replacement. I also participated in media interviews and in scientific and political meetings, and conceived and supervised interns' projects.

**Cruelty Free International, London, UK** **2008-2020**

Senior Research Scientist. I researched and authored numerous scientific publications, conducted media interviews, and participated in many scientific and political meetings (parliamentary groups, the Home Office etc.) to further the group's mission.

**New England Anti-Vivisection Society (NEAVS), USA** **2006-2014**

Science Director. I played a key role in the campaign against chimpanzee research, including lobbying at US Congress, and publishing several detailed systematic and critical scientific reviews. These were pivotal to a *de facto* ban of federally funded chimpanzee research announced in 2011, after I submitted and presented my work to the Institute of Medicine's review panel.

**Animal Aid, Tonbridge, UK** **2005-2008**

Consultancy work included writing commissioned scientific reports, media interviews, and helping with the training of school speakers on the subject of animal research.

**Europeans for Medical Progress (now Safer Medicines), UK** **2004-2006**

Scientific Director. My roles involved researching medical and scientific literature to support the group's work, and conveying this to the public, politicians of the UK and European parliaments and other scientists by means of public lectures and debates.

**Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), USA** **2003-2009**  
Senior Research Consultant. I authored scientific papers critiquing animal research, and making the case for human-specific methods. I was a chief author of the Mandatory Alternatives Petition to the FDA, requiring the use of proven non-animal methods, and represented PCRM at meetings, including at the US EPA.

**Newcastle University, UK** **1998-2005**  
Wellcome Trust Senior post-doctoral research associate, Surgical and Reproductive Sciences. I investigated genetic pathways in human preterm birth, using human tissue and human cell culture.

## NOTABLE PUBLICATIONS

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- Cassotta M, *et al.* The future of Parkinson's Disease Research: a new paradigm of human-specific investigation is necessary...and possible. *ALTEX*, 2022; 39(4): 694-709.
- **Bailey J**, Balls M. Repeating Nonhuman Primate Tests of COVID-19 Vaccines is a Folly: Human Vaccine Development Must Focus on Human Biology. *Science*, 2020 (Oct 16); eLetter. [In response to: DOI: 10.1126/science.370.6513.154]
- Marshall J, **Bailey J**, *et al.* Poor translatability of biomedical research using animals – a narrative review. *ATLA*, 2023; 51(2), 102-135.
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- **Bailey J**. CRISPR-Mediated Gene Editing: Scientific and Ethical Issues. *Trends in Biotechnology*, 2019; 37(9), 920-921.
- **Bailey J**, Balls M. Recent Efforts to Elucidate the Scientific Validity of Animal-Based Drug Tests by the Pharmaceutical Industry, Pro-Testing Lobby Groups, and Animal Welfare Organisations. *BMC Medical Ethics*, 2019; 20:16.
- **Bailey J**. Editorial: Does the Stress of Laboratory Life and Experimentation on Animals Adversely Affect Research Data? A Critical Review. *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals*, 2018; 46(5), 291-305.
- **Bailey J**, Pereira S. Advances in Neuroscience Imply that Harmful Experiments in Dogs are Unethical. *Journal of Medical Ethics*, 2018; 44(1), 47-52. [Published Online First: 24 July 2017. doi: 10.1136/medethics-2016-103630]
- **Bailey J**, Taylor K. Nonhuman Primates in Neuroscience Research: Scientifically Unnecessary. *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals*, 2016; 44, 43-69.
- **Bailey J**, Thew M, Balls M. Predicting Human Drug Toxicity and Safety via Animal Tests: Can Any One Species Predict Drug Toxicity in Any Other, and Do Monkeys Help? *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals*, 2015; 43, 393-403.
- **Bailey J**. Monkey-based Research on Human Disease: The Implications of Genetic Differences. *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals*, 2014; 42, 287-317.
- **Bailey J**, Thew M, Balls M. An Analysis of the Use of Animal Models in Predicting Human Toxicology and Drug Safety. *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals*, 2014; 42, 181-199.

A full list of my publications is attached, and full copies of papers may be found at:  
<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Jarrold-Bailey/research>

## OTHER INFORMATION

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- My work is widely read and cited. On ResearchGate, my Research Interest Score is 902.6 – in the 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile, with approaching 20,000 reads greater than 1,600 citations. On the WBI repository ([wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org](http://wellbeingintlstudiesrepository.org)), I have greater than 23,000 downloads of my work.

- I am a Consultant Editor of the Journal of Animal Ethics, member of the Editorial Board of ATLA (Alternatives to Laboratory Animals), and a trustee of the American Fund for Alternatives to Animal Research (AFAAR).
- I have addressed, and participated in, meetings with many professional and lay audiences, groups and committees, and submitted detailed evidence to various inquiries. These include: the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Institute of Medicine's 2011 inquiry into chimpanzee research; the Indian FDA and CPCSEA; the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks; the European Medicines Agency; members of both houses in the UK parliament, politicians/policy makers in the European Parliament and Commission, and in the US House of Representatives and Senate, including lobbying activities. I have also taken part in televised and non-televised debates with pro-animal experimentation lobby groups and researchers.
- I have presented at many international scientific conferences, including World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences, and Centre for Alternatives to Animal Use (CAAT) scientific workshops on the use of dogs in research and testing.
- I was invited to give the Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME) annual lecture in 2015, on the basis of my work showing that animal testing of new human drugs is not scientifically defensible.
- I have participated in dozens of interviews and debates in the media on the subject of animal experiments and alternatives to them, e.g. for BBC television and radio, both national and local, in the UK; and for media across the European Union.

# **EXHIBIT O**

FROM THE DESK OF

## Laura Sharkey PhD, KPA-CTP

April 8, 2024

Honorable Rhonda Lanford  
Dane County Courthouse  
Room 5109  
215 S. Hamilton Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Dane County Case Number 2024JD00001

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am writing in support of appointing a special prosecutor to investigate and potentially prosecute Ridglan Farms Inc. with violation of Wisconsin State statute 951.14 3b.

This law regulates space requirements for animals, in this case, dogs, and states: “Enclosures shall be constructed and maintained so as to provide sufficient space to allow each animal adequate freedom of movement. Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns”.

As a Dr. of Microbiology, as well as a dog trainer, behavior expert, and breeder I would draw your attention to the last sentence of the statute. “Inadequate space may be indicated by evidence of debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns”.

The dogs housed at Ridglan Farms clearly display evidence of “debility, stress or abnormal behavior patterns” as a result of blatantly inadequate housing. The spinning, running back and forth in stereotypic patterns, literally running over each other, are clearly abnormal behavior patterns. These behavior patterns arise as a symptom of severe psychological distress. Any certified animal behavior expert will attest to this.

These conditions are unacceptable. The cages are the size for a parakeet. Can you imagine seeing even a single dog kept in a cage like these in a home? The dog never being taken out, or walked, or allowed to play. You would be horrified. Why is this acceptable for thousands of dogs kept by a corporation?

Please seriously consider granting this petition.

Sincerely,

Laura L. Sharkey PhD, KPA-CTP  
Owner  
WOOFs! Dog Training Center LLC  
Sharkey18@mac.com



Dear Judge Lanford,

I am writing to bring to your attention concerning matters related to Ridglan Farms in Blue Mounds. As a veterinarian committed to animal welfare, I have concerns about their practices that warrant thorough investigation.

There have been consistent reports and evidence indicating potential violations of animal welfare standards within the operations of Ridglan Farms. These allegations range from overcrowding and unsanitary living conditions including cages stacked upon each other with mesh wiring bottoms that allow urine and feces to pile up, inadequate veterinary care for the animals under their care, no access to the outdoors, and prominent stereotypical behaviors indicating extreme stress. A pet owner allowing these types of conditions would be charged with animal abuse.

In 2022, concerned citizens and members of congress raised concerns regarding a similar facility in Virginia: Envigo. After public outcry and concerns from lawmakers that the USDA was not enforcing the Animal Welfare Act, the facility was investigated and eventually shut down.

Given the gravity of these allegations and the importance of upholding animal welfare standards, I urge you to initiate a thorough investigation into the practices of Ridglan Farms.

Sincerely,

Megan Arce, DVM

# Dr. Pam Mache

Veterinarian



Dear Judge Lanford,

I am writing to you out of concern for the dogs being kept at the research facility Ridgman Farms in Blue Mounds. I am horrified to learn that the conditions these dogs are being kept in is deplorable and that the conditions are similar to the facility Envigo that was recently investigated and consequently shut down because of inhumane conditions.

I have been a veterinarian for over 30 years here in Madison WI, and part of my veterinary oath is to report any animal abuse I learn of. I ask that you please investigate this facility and take the necessary measures to end the harmful conditions these dogs are kept in. Some of the conditions that are specifically troubling is that the dogs are kept in cages with mesh bottoms and stacked upon each other resulting in dogs continuously being forced to live in excrement from the neighboring dogs. Many dogs never get designated exercise time outside. A sign of extreme stress in animals is circling, pacing and wall bouncing which many of these animals exhibit.

It is the responsibility of the USDA as well as the Wisconsin DATCP to ensure that animals being used for research are treated humanely and not subject to abuse per the Animal Welfare Act. I urge you to have the facility investigated.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pam Mache, DVM

April 7, 2024

Dear Judge Langford,

I write to ask you to support an independent investigation of Ridglan Farms. I am a small animal veterinarian in Verona, and graduated from the UW Veterinary School in 2007. I have recently learned of the appalling conditions the dogs are kept in at Ridglan Farms and am horrified that this is going on in my own county.

I treat dogs all day. They are thinking and feeling beings – perhaps you have a dog of your own and know that from personal experience. They are conscious of appropriate soiling behaviors (we use their reluctance to soil their environment in crate training as an aid to training puppies) so are not unaware of how disgusting it is to live in a wire kennel where their feces falls onto those unfortunate dogs below. Decent veterinary care is not being provided to these dogs. There are reports of surgeries of the eye – a very sensitive organ – being performed without anesthesia.

We can discuss the positives and negatives of animal testing, but even the most ardent supporter of animal testing can hardly claim that keeping dogs in this way does anything but harm their cause. There is nothing in raising animals for animal testing that requires the owners of this facility to treat the animals with such callous disregard of the basic decency that any good farmer displays to their animals.

3,000 dogs are kept in conditions that are completely inappropriate, and many display stereotypical behaviors as a result (circling, pacing, etc.) which is a result of animals being denied their most basic needs. We show the kind of people we are by how we behave to the least among us, and it seems the least we can do given the accusations made against Ridglan farms is to not look away. An investigation is needed.

Sincerely,

Amelia Fairchild, DVM

10888 Berg Rd

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To Whomever Might Be Concerned.

My name is Lowell Wickman. I am a veterinarian in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. I graduated in 1992 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. My initial focus was farm (dairy) animal medicine, but for the last 16 years I have been working as a small animal veterinarian and I currently own Badgerland Veterinary Clinic.

It has been brought to my attention by Dane4Dogs that Ridgland Farms is being investigated for a variety of issues related to the dogs they breed and distribute for scientific experimentation.

I have reviewed the issues of concern and would like to express my thoughts here within.

I acknowledge the use of animals in experimentation. My education, my career, and many advances in medicine and modern life have come as a result of such utilization of animals. We owe an unpayable and unimaginable debt to those non-human souls that have passed for the betterment of humankind. I also understand that for the foreseeable future we will continue to use animals for these purposes. That being said, I stress that we are morally and ethically obligated to provide the best possible care and conditions for all sentient creatures used for these purposes.

It appears the Ridgland Farms has failed in multiple ways over a period of many years/decades to meet these obligations.

All of the mistreatment is abhorrent, but perhaps the use of non-skilled, non-licensed, lay personnel to perform surgical procedures on these dogs without anesthesia, pain-control, and proper aftercare is most alarming. The described Ridgland "treatment" of the condition known as "cherry-eye" or prolapse of the gland of the nictitating membrane by Ridgland employees is simply inexplicable. This necessary surgical procedure is to be performed by a licensed veterinarian with proper training, anesthesia and aftercare to meet current standards of care. This is simply NOT what is described to be the case at Ridgland.

A proper correction of the "cherry eye" requires skill and training and knowledge of anatomy of the eye, the lids and associated tissues. Simple brutish removal of the inflamed tissues/gland is NOT acceptable. It certainly has never been acceptable to do this procedure without anesthesia, pain medication and quality aftercare. The gland is a necessary and important component of the health of the eye, and the well-being and comfort of the patient. Even with school-based training and knowledge, the correction requires a delicate approach and a surgical skillset that simply requires time and practice. I would NEVER allow a non-veterinarian to do this procedure. It is cruel and unusual treatment, and morally and ethically wrong. This does NOT meet the minimum standard of care which is required of a licensed professional. In fact, the existence of these sorts of practices would require me to report abuse to the authorities.

I have also seen issues of housing and minimum standards of care and I am simply discouraged that this farm is allowed to function without proper understanding of the basic

comfort and psychological needs of the dogs/puppies under their care. Any rational, caring, and appropriately raised person would NEVER allow this type of confinement of these dogs.

In short, Ridgman and other facilities may serve a currently necessary purpose. My hope is that societal needs will someday be met without the use/abuse of animals for experimentation. Until then facilities like Ridgman must comply with the law and meet the absolute minimum standards of the veterinary profession. All of us, even big businesses, must follow the rules.

With respect,  
Lowell Wickman, DVM

# **EXHIBIT P**



April 10, 2024

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am an attorney and the Founder and President of Beagle Freedom Project, a non-profit with a mission to help animals suffering in captivity and give them a chance at freedom. We rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home animals rescued from cruel conditions in cages, with a focus on canine survivors of laboratory experiments and puppy mills. In fact, we are the global leader in rescuing animals from research, and we have rescued approximately 3,400 beagles and other dogs since our organization's beginning in 2010.

Beagle Freedom Project also performs education and outreach initiatives, such as "BFP In the Classroom," as well as advocate for legislative and policy changes that will protect dogs and other animals like our signature legislation, "The Beagle Freedom Bill," which has now passed in 13 states mandating the release of dogs and cats once the testing is over to give them a second chance at life.

I have years of hands-on experience with rehabilitating dogs who are rescued animal testing laboratories as well as from breeding facilities that sell them to be experimented on, including dogs rescued from Ridgman Farms. I have witnessed firsthand the profound physical and psychological trauma that these dogs have, caused by living their entire lives in small cages, often alone, with wire flooring and without ever knowing love or connection. Rehabilitating such dogs to trust humans and other dogs requires time, dedication and patience, something my organization specializes in. Ultimately, these survivors adapt and become amazing companions but always have some level of PTSD.

I am disturbed, but not entirely surprised, to learn that in addition to keeping animals in these kinds of inhumane conditions, I have learned that Ridgman also has unqualified employees do "cherry eye" surgeries on dogs without pain killers or anesthesia. These surgeries that are required to be done per state law by a licensed veterinarian, are done at Ridgman by mere laypeople with no veterinary degree.

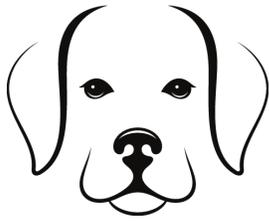
Sadly, I have read many reports of violations of animal cruelty laws in facilities like Ridgman during my years working for the animals, but this report is one of the most egregious I have read.

The dogs at Ridglan Farms deserve to have the laws of Wisconsin enforced to protect them. Since the local authorities seem to be declining to investigate and prosecute, I respectfully request that this Court appoint a special prosecutor to protect their rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon Keith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Shannon Keith



## **DOG RESEARCH EXPOSED PODCAST**

[www.dogresearchexposed.com](http://www.dogresearchexposed.com)

### **Re: Petition to appoint a special prosecutor to commence prosecution of Ridglan Farms**

Dear Judge Lanford,

I am the host and producer of the *Dog Research Exposed Podcast*, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ending the cruel and unnecessary use of dogs in chemical and biomedical research.

For the past two years our episodes have educated the public about why using dogs for harmful experiments is not only cruel, but also unnecessary. We explore all avenues of this topic including science, animal welfare, rescue, activism, and more. Within a short period of time, we've achieved close to 5,000 downloads—proving that citizens are more engaged in helping dogs bred and used for research now more than ever before. In fact, *Dog Research Exposed* is currently on a U.S. Tour, bringing our message to end dog testing to an even wider audience.

I'm writing because the criminal animal abuse that has been documented for years at Ridglan Farms is not being addressed. Since the Dane County District Attorney office has refused to prosecute, despite overwhelming evidence going back for years, a special prosecutor must be appointed to investigate Ridglan Farms. I have reviewed the petition in this case, and see ample evidence that Ridglan Farms uses practices that cause the dogs in their care serious psychological torment and physical harm. It is against the law for an individual pet owner to treat their dog this way, and it is also against the law for a business to do the same.

I also have personal experience with Ridglan Farms, as one of my beagles I adopted nine years ago was born in Ridglan and subsequently sold to a contract laboratory for pharmaceutical drug testing in Colorado. His name was Marty, and he was the most traumatized dog I have ever met. Between his cruel beginnings at Ridglan as a puppy, and then his treatment in the research laboratory, I couldn't even look in his direction without him having a full-blown panic attack. And this went on for months until he finally understood that I meant him no harm. Marty went on to live a happy life as a normal dog for over nine years with my family and we loved him very much.

I cannot say the same for Ridglan who caused Marty and so many thousands and thousands of dogs—past and present—so much pain and suffering. After so many years of abuse, it is time for this business to be held accountable. Please appoint a special prosecutor to prosecute Ridglan Farms.

Sincerely,

Ellie Hansen

*Dog Research Exposed Podcast*, Producer & Host

*Laboratory Dogs Rescued: From Test Subjects to Beloved Companions*, Author