



VIA: USPS Certified Mail  
Shipping Event: 1st

November 17, 2011

Misty Denny  
DBA Tarheel Pet Transport  
3910 Cool Springs Church Road  
Franklinville, NC 27248

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

Dear Sir or Madam:

### Why You Are Receiving This Letter

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described in the attached Settlement Agreement. Our agency, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is responsible for enforcing the AWA, and other agriculture laws that help prevent the spread of animal and plant pests and diseases, and ensure the welfare of animals.

After providing you with an opportunity for a hearing, we may impose civil penalties of up to \$10,000, or other sanctions, for each violation described in this Settlement Agreement. We are offering you the opportunity to resolve this matter by paying an amount that is much lower than the maximum civil penalty.

### What You Need To Do Immediately

You should review the information in this Settlement Agreement, including the citation and notification of penalty.

- If you agree to waive your right to a hearing and pay the penalty, then do the following:
  - Pay the amount due, \$1,357, by **December 28, 2011**. You can pay by check, money order, or credit card. For your convenience, we have included additional instructions for making payments.



- If you are unable to pay the full amount due by **December 28, 2011**, you may be eligible for a payment plan. To request a payment plan, you must use the enclosed form to submit a written response to this letter by **December 28, 2011**, that indicates you wish to pay the penalty and waive your right to a hearing. You must also submit a copy of your most recent federal tax return. As part of your response, please include a phone number and an email address so that we may contact you.
- If you do not agree with the terms of this Settlement Agreement, submit a written request for a hearing, with your Reference Number, to our office by **December 28, 2011**, at 4700 River Rd., Unit 85, Riverdale, MD, 20737.

### **If We Do Not Hear From You**

If we do not receive a payment or hearing request from you by **December 28, 2011**, we will forward this matter to our Office of the General Counsel for litigation.

### **What To Do If You Need Help**

If you have any questions concerning this letter, contact Deborah Press at (301) 734-4969, or call our main office at (301) 734-8684.

## **CITATION AND NOTIFICATION OF PENALTY**

We believe that you violated the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA), as described below.

### **Date of Violation: January 28, 2010**

#### **9 C.F.R. § 2.131(b)(1) Handling of Animals**

You failed to handle an animal as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that did not cause trauma, behavioral stress, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Your representative transported a bulldog puppy in a manner that caused physical harm.