

## **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