

July 3, 2019

Acme Pet Store
100 Main Street
Anywhere, USA

Dear Pet Store Operator,

Please be advised that Virginia Code § 3.2-6511.1 prohibits a pet shop from selling a dog procured from a person who has received a citation for a direct or critical violation or received citations for three or more indirect or noncritical violations of regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pursuant to enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.), for at least two years prior to the procurement of the dog.

Accordingly, we wish to notify you that USDA inspection reports are currently deficient in citing non-compliant items. USDA has implemented other mechanisms for the documentation of citations for non-compliant items such as “teachable moment” forms, and field notes.

In order to be in full compliance with Virginia law, pet stores must now demand all records of non-compliant items identified and documented by USDA during its inspections. Such documentation of non-compliant items consists of not only a copy of the official USDA inspection report, but also “teachable moment” forms, “self-reporting” documents, all field notes that contain documentation of non-compliant items, and any other relevant documents including computer files that contain documentation of non-compliant items.

We appreciate your full compliance with the law in order to protect the public from acquiring a dog from an inhumane dog breeder and to ensure that your customers are acquiring a healthy animal.

Sincerely,

Bob Baker
Executive Director
director@maal.org
(314) 361-3944