

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

REC'D- USDA/OALJ/HCO  
2024 MAY 16 11:09 AM

In re:

SYLVIA KURTZ, an individual,  
doing business as VALLEY  
KENNEL,

Respondent.

AWA Docket No. 24-J-0055

COMPLAINT

There is reason to believe that the Respondent named herein has willfully violated the Animal Welfare Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.) (AWA or Act), and the regulations (9 C.F.R. Part 2) (Regulations) issued thereunder. Therefore, the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issues this complaint alleging the following:

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

1. The Respondent Sylvia Kurtz (“Respondent”) is an individual who resides in the State of Wisconsin.
2. The Respondent’s mailing address will not be provided in the complaint to protect her personal privacy, but will be provided to the Hearing Clerk’s Office, United States Department of Agriculture, for the purpose of serving this complaint and future documents.
3. At all times material herein, the Respondent did business as Valley Kennel.
4. At all times material herein, the Respondent operated as a breeder as that term is defined in the Act and the Regulations and held a USDA Class A “Breeder” license number 35-A-0394.

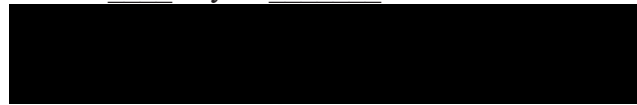
ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

5. On or about September 28, 2023, the Respondent violated the Regulations (9 C.F.R. § 2.126) by failing to provide APHIS with access for inspection and/or to have a responsible adult

available to accompany APHIS officials during inspection. 7 U.S.C. § 2146(a), 9 C.F.R. § 2.126.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that for the purpose of determining whether the Respondent has, in fact, violated the Act and regulations promulgated thereunder, this complaint shall be served upon the Respondent. The Respondent shall have twenty (20) days after service of this complaint in which to file an answer with the Hearing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1400, in accordance with the applicable Rules of Practice governing proceedings under the Act (7 C.F.R. §§ 1.130-1.151). Failure to deny or otherwise respond to any allegation in this complaint shall constitute an admission of the allegation. Failure to file an answer within the prescribed time shall constitute an admission of the allegations in this complaint and a waiver of hearing. Complainant requests that this matter proceed in accordance with the Rules of Practice governing proceedings under the Act, and that such order or orders be issued as are authorized by the Act (7 U.S.C. § 2149), as warranted under the circumstances.

Done at Washington, D.C.  
this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 2024



Dr. Michael Watson  
Acting Administrator  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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