



**Department of
Agriculture**

Governor John R. Kasich • Lt. Governor Mary Taylor
Director David T. Daniels

**Division of Animal Health
Commercial Dog Breeders Office**
8995 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 614-728-6286 • Fax: 614-752-3065
www.agri.ohio.gov • candice.miller@agri.ohio.gov

June 7, 2013

Via U.S. Mail

Ms. Norma Bennett Woolf, President
Ohio Valley Dog Owners Inc.
6241 N. State Route 48
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

**Re: Request for Clarification on Animal Rescue Registration
Ohio Valley Dog Owners Inc.**

Dear Ms. Woolf:

This letter is to acknowledge your request for clarification regarding animal rescue registration requirements under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 956 as directed to Representative Ron Magg. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to your request.

Please note that the Ohio Department of Agriculture cannot give you legal advice and any legal questions you have about your specific operation should be referred to an attorney. Further, any information contained in this letter is an explanation of the law as it exists at the time of the letter's writing.

1. Animal rescues regardless of their location must register with the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) if they have foster homes within the State of Ohio. These foster homes are subject to Ohio laws and therefore are subject to the registration requirements.
2. Adoption coordinators for national or regional clubs would be required to register as rescues pursuant to O.R.C. Section 956.01(B). The law includes non-profit rescues which offer spayed or neutered dogs for adoption and charge adoption fees to cover the costs of the organization or individual. If the organization or individual is for-profit, they may fall under the definition of dog retailer under the law and would be subject to additional requirements beyond registration.
3. In-state animal rescues would be required to list out-of-state foster homes, as they are required to list all foster homes used.
4. If a foster home has been used, the foster home must be listed.
5. O.R.C. Section 956.01(B) specifically provides for the practice of offering spayed or neutered dogs for adoption, and such practice of spaying or neutering dogs and then offering them for adoption is not forbidden. However, to remain defined as an animal rescue under the law, clear record-keeping distinguishing breeding as a for-profit business versus the separate non-profit animal rescue would be essential.

I hope this information is useful to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (614) 728-6286.

Sincerely,
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Candice Miller
Program Administrator

cc: Janelle Mead, Deputy Director
Erin Honnold, Legislative Liaison

