

1 02 NCAC 52B. 0214 is amended with changes as published in 37:18 NCR 1870-1872 as follows:

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3 **02 NCAC 52B .0214 IMPORTATION REQUIREMENTS: RABBITS, OR ANY SPECIES IN THE**
4 **ORDER LAGOMORPHA, INCLUDING HARES AND PIKAS**

5 (a) An import permit from the State Veterinarian is required for the importation of a rabbit, or any species in the order
6 of Lagomorpha, including hare and pika, into the State of North Carolina originating from:

- 7 (1) any country or state with Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus-2 (“RHDV-2”) detected; or
8 (2) a state or country without RHDV-2 if the animal makes any intervening stop in a country or state
9 with RHDV-2 detected, if the animal is commingled or exposed to any other animal in the order of
10 Lagomorpha not being shipped directly from the point of origin together, or if the imported rabbit
11 is exposed to materials such as cages, beddings, and supplies that have been in contact with another
12 animal in the order of Lagomorpha not shipped directly from the point of origin together.

13 (b) The import permit application shall be accompanied by an official health ~~certificate~~certificate, as detailed in 02
14 NCAC 52B .0202, certifying the animal to be free from any contagious animal disease, including RHDV-2, as
15 follows:

- 16 (1) If the animal is shipped directly without any intervening stops, without commingling or exposure to
17 any other animal in the order of Lagomorpha not being shipped directly from the point of origin
18 together, and without exposure to materials such as cages, beddings, and supplies that have been in
19 contact with another animal in the order of Lagomorpha not shipped directly from the point of origin
20 together, then the official health certificate shall be obtained within 7 days of the date of importation
21 into North Carolina.
22 (2) If the animal is shipped with intervening stops, with commingling or exposure to another animal in
23 the order of Lagomorpha not being shipped directly from the point of origin together, or with
24 exposure to materials such as cages, beddings, and supplies that have been in contact with another
25 animal in the order of Lagomorpha not shipped directly from the point of origin together, then the
26 official health certificate shall be obtained from the ~~location~~country or state of the last intervening
27 stop, commingling, or exposure, and within 7 days of the date of importation into North Carolina.

28 (c) No permit is needed for rabbits, or any species in the order of Lagomorpha, including hare and pika, brought into
29 the State on a temporary basis for the sole purpose of seeking veterinary services by a North Carolina licensed
30 veterinarian, lasting only until the end of the veterinary service visit, and the animal is brought directly to the veterinary
31 clinic and departs from the veterinary clinic to the originating state with no intervening stops.

32 (d) The application for an importation permit shall include the state of origin, ~~health certificate inspection date~~
33 date that the official health inspection was conducted, the owner’s name, address, and phone number at the time of
34 import, the import destination within the State of North Carolina, the name, address, and phone number of the person
35 with control and responsibility over the animal at the import destination, and any federal licensing, permit, and
36 documentation required for the importation of the animal if imported from outside of the United States of America.

1 (e) A rabbit, or any species in the order of Lagomorpha, including hare and pika, requiring an import permit that is
2 imported into North Carolina shall be accompanied by an official health certificate with the import permit number and
3 shall be made available for inspection by the State Veterinarian or his or her designee upon request.

4 (f) An intervening stop is defined as a stop in a country or state longer than 24 hours but less than 10 days. The
5 location of any stop for longer than 10 days shall be deemed the new country or state of origin.

6 (g) Health certificates issued outside of the United States shall be issued in English and by a veterinarian with a valid
7 license to practice veterinary medicine in the country of export.

8 (h) The requirement for an entry permit and official health certificate are waived for a rabbit, or any species in the
9 order of Lagomorpha, including hare and pika, for [exhibitions/shows]exhibitions or shows that adhere to the
10 following guidelines:

11 (1) A licensed and USDA accredited [veterinarian]veterinarian, specifically a professional
12 veterinarian who has completed formal training from the National Veterinary Accreditation
13 Program (NVAP) in the state in which they are licensed to practice veterinary medicine, performs
14 a health assessment outside of the [exhibition/show]exhibition or show venue prior to any
15 commingling of animals from [other]separate origins, and prior to entry of the
16 [exhibition/show]exhibition or show venue. For the purposes of this subchapter, a health
17 assessment conducted by a licensed and USDA accredited veterinarian involves the veterinary
18 examination of an animal to ensure that the animal is in good health and well-being, as well as free
19 of any visible signs of pain, distress, suffering, or displaying any symptoms consistent with
20 RHDV-2. If an animal is found to exhibit any symptoms consistent with [RHDV2]RHDV-2, that
21 animal as well as any [cohorts (same origin/traveled together/commingled)]cohorts, which
22 includes animals from the same origin, animals that traveled together, or animals that where
23 commingled, will be excluded from the [exhibition/show]exhibition or show and must return
24 [directly] without any commingling of other animals directly to [the]its origin location.

25 (2) The [exhibition/show administrators,]exhibition or show administrators, upon request from the
26 NCDA&CS Veterinary Division, shall provide the name, address, phone [number]number, and
27 number of animals for every participant in the [exhibition/show]exhibition or show for NCDA&CS
28 disease epidemiological investigation and testing purposes.

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30 *History Note: Authority G.S. 106-317;*
31 *Emergency Adoption Eff. July 13, 2021;*
32 *Temporary Adoption Eff. September 24, 2021;*
33 *Eff. December 1, 2022;*
34 *Amended Eff. December 1, 2023.*

02 NCAC 52J .0901 is amended with changes as published in 37:18 NCR 1872 as follows:

CHAPTER 52 – VETERINARY

SUBCHAPTER 52J – ANIMAL WELFARE SECTION

SECTION .0900 – ANIMAL SHELTER SUPPORT FUND

02 NCAC 52J .0901 ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Eligible expenses include:

- (1) Veterinary costs – ~~Reimbursement~~Grant money may be requested for veterinary expenditures incurred for the assessment, diagnostic and triage evaluation, medical treatment, minor surgical treatment, medications, first aid and minor medical supplies, vaccinations, parasite control/treatment, or euthanasia of animals housed at the ~~shelter at the time of the event or impounded during the interim or transition period,~~shelter.
- (2) Sanitation costs – ~~Reimbursement~~Grant money may be requested for expenditures related to sanitation of the ~~affected~~ shelter, including detergent/disinfectant supplies, cleaning supplies, labor costs for the sanitation of the shelter, and waste and carcass disposal costs.
- (3) Animal sustenance and supplies – ~~Reimbursement~~Grant money may be requested for expenditures for animal food, provision of water to the shelter, and food and water bowls or buckets, as well as labor costs for the feeding and watering of the shelter animals.
- (4) Temporary housing and sheltering of animals – ~~Reimbursement~~Grant money may be requested for expenditures for animal cages and kennels, animal transport carriers, fencing panels for runs, tarps, fencing, dog or cat houses and other construction supplies, as well as labor costs or equipment or facility leasing expenses incurred during the construction or repair of temporary animal housing.
- (5) ~~Administrative Costs – Grant money may be requested for administrative costs~~ only if such costs are directly required for the facility to comply with the North Carolina Animal Welfare Act (AWA) or the rules adopted by the Board of Agriculture implementing that Act, such as salaries, wages, mailing, copying, and printing.
- (6) ~~Capital Expenditures – Grant money may be requested for capital expenditures for~~ facilities and equipment costs only if such costs are directly required for the facility to comply with the AWA or the rules adopted by the Board of Agriculture implementing that Act, facility repairs, purchase of land or building(s) and equipment costs such as kennels, runs, or automated sanitation systems.
- (7) Grant money may be requested for administrative costs and capital expenditures as described in Subsection 5 and 6 above only if only if such costs are directly required for the facility to comply with the AWA (NCGS § 19A -20 – 31) or the rules adopted by the Board of Agriculture (02 NCAC 52J) implementing that Act.

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History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-67; 19A-68;
Temporary Adoption Eff. November 29, 2016;
Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. September 11, 2017;
Eff. November 1, 2017;
Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.
Amended Eff. December 1, 2023.

1 02 NCAC 52J .0902 is amended with changes as published in 37:18 NCR 1872-1873 as follows:

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3 **02 NCAC 52J .0902 APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

4 (a) A local government applying for ~~reimbursement~~ grant money from the Animal Shelter Support Fund (the
5 ~~Fund~~) Fund shall submit the ~~request for reimbursement~~ completed application ~~[form]~~ to the Animal Welfare Section
6 (AWS) of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer ~~Services~~. Services via email to
7 agr.aws@ncagr.gov or by mail to Animal Welfare Section (AWS), NCDA&CS, 1030 Mail Service Center, Raleigh,
8 NC 27699.

9 ~~(b) The request shall:~~

- 10 (1) ~~be received by AWS by mail, email, or fax within 60 days of the date the eligible expense was~~
11 ~~incurred;~~
- 12 (2) ~~include a completed "Animal Shelter Support Fund Reimbursement Application" with the county~~
13 ~~name, tier of county, facility name, facility license number, and contact information. This~~
14 ~~application can be found on the AWS website (<http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/AWS/>);~~
- 15 (3) ~~include an itemized listing of eligible expenses for which reimbursement is sought;~~
- 16 (4) ~~include proof that matching funds have been provided; and~~
- 17 (5) ~~include proof of payment of the eligible expense. If the payment of expense occurs after the~~
18 ~~application was submitted, proof of payment shall be submitted to AWS within 30 days of payment~~
19 ~~of the expense.~~

20 (b) Application ~~[forms and]~~ instructions are available online at: <https://www.ncagr.gov/vet/aws/>.

21 [To be eligible for consideration for grant funds from the Fund, applicants shall complete the Animal Shelter Support
22 Fund Application Form.] This application shall contain the following information:

- 23 (1) [local government information including] the name and contact information for the [municipal
24 official that oversees the operation of the government animal shelter;] local government official that
25 will administer the grant money, and the name and contact information for the local government
26 official that oversees the operation of the government animal shelter;
- 27 (2) name, [address] address, and contact information for the animal shelter for which the funds are being
28 applied;
- 29 (3) a copy of the AWS Order of Suspension, AWS Order of Revocation, or AWS Facility Compliance
30 Inspection report citing the specific [violation(s)] violation or violations for which the county is
31 applying for the grant [funds; or] funds or the date and description of the incident and damage
32 incurred by the unforeseen catastrophic disaster such as a hurricane, tornado, fire, flood, or other
33 natural or man-made disaster at the animal shelter;
- 34 (4) [the date and description of the incident and damage incurred by the unforeseen catastrophic disaster
35 at the animal shelter;] an explanation of how the applicant will use the grant funds to resolve or
36 mitigate the cited violation or violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and its rules and how

1 the applicant will ensure further compliance with the AWA (NCGS § 19A -20 – 31) and its
2 associated rules (02 NCAC 52J); and
3 (5) ~~[an explanation of how the use of the grant funds will resolve or significantly mitigate the cited~~
4 ~~violation(s) of the AWA and its rules and how the applicant will ensure future compliance with the~~
5 ~~AWA and its associated rules.]~~ an itemized listing of the costs for which funding is sought.
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7 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 19A-67; 19A-68;*
8 *Temporary Adoption Eff. November 29, 2016;*
9 *Temporary Adoption Expired Eff. September 11, 2017;*
10 *Eff. November 1, 2017;*
11 *Readopted Eff. September 1, 2022.*
12 *Amended Eff. December 1, 2023.*

1 02 NCAC 52J .0903 is adopted with changes as published in 37:18 NCR 1873 as follows:

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3 **02 NCAC 52J .0903 EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS**

4 (a) Each completed application shall be evaluated by [~~AWS~~] the Animal Welfare Section (AWS) [~~staff based on the~~
5 information provided in the application.] ~~staff.~~

6 (b) The staff shall review all applications for completeness. If an application is incomplete, the applicant shall be
7 asked to reapply with a new, completed application.

8 (c) The following [~~general~~] criteria shall be used to evaluate the applications:

9 [~~(1) — the completeness of the application including supporting documentation;~~]

10 [~~(2)~~](1) the thoroughness of the explanation of how the compliance violations will be resolved or
11 significantly mitigated with the use of the grant funds;

12 [~~(3)~~](2) the thoroughness[~~completeness~~] of the explanation of the plans to ensure future compliance with
13 the AWA [~~and its associated rules; or~~] (NCGS § 19A-20 – 31) and its associated rules (02 NCAC 52J);

14 [~~(4)~~](3) in the incidence of an unforeseen catastrophic occurrence, such as a hurricane, tornado, fire, flood,
15 or other natural or man-made disaster, the thoroughness of the explanation of how the grant funds will be
16 used to mitigate the damage done by the incident;

17 [~~(5)~~](4) the amount of funds available;

18 [~~(6)~~](5) the amount of funds requested; and

19 [~~(7)~~](6) the order in which the application was received.

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21 *History Note: Authority G.S. 19A-67; 19A-68;*

22 *Eff. December 1, 2023.*