



## COLFAX VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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Dr. Edward J. Fritz & Associates

1333 Highway 174  
Colfax, CA 95713  
Telephone: (530) 346-2297  
Fax: (530) 346-6067  
cvh@psyber.com

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RE: CO4158038

**Summary:** On Friday, December 9, 2016, I was part of the team investigating a canine breeding operation located at 590 and 600 Rogers Lane, Auburn, CA. My purpose was to provide investigation services from a veterinary perspective.

Upon arriving at the building holding the dogs in question, I found a moderate sized barn sectioned into several smaller rooms. The first large room had roll-up garage doors and held some tools and storage containers. There was a grooming bench present. I also identified a single collar with what appeared to be an old shock type mechanism. There was a small refrigerator in which I found several 10 ml tanks of expired rabies vaccine and another package of expired parvo virus vaccine. The packaging had black mold growing on it. There were also many syringe and needle combinations loose in the refrigerator.

There were two smaller rooms with space heaters on and multiple wire pens each housing a mom and puppies. These pens were packed with feces stained newspaper and a mix of urine and feces throughout the pens. In one case, there was canned food spread out on the newspaper in one side of the pen with feces mixed in on top of it. A puppy was observed eating the canned food around the feces. The newspaper was compacted and extended outside the pens mixed with days-old old food. In most cases, water was present in the kennels but polluted with food, feces, and newspaper.

The third area of housing was an unheated section of the barn. This consisted of two groups of elevated wire pens housing 1 – 3 adult male and female dogs in a total of six sections. There were larger bowls with dry kibble. Varying availability of water from none to bowls contaminated with food and feces. Some of the dogs were demonstrating stereotypical behavior of pacing back and forth. This is behavior seen in animals who have been caged for extended periods of life. Multiple days- worth of feces were packed in the wire floor and accumulated below the cages. Most of the dog's hair coat had been clipped short but of concern when housed in an unheated section of the barn without any bedding present.

On preliminary exams, most of the dogs were in good flesh. I found dried feces packed between the digits of their feet and forming mats of hair and feces between their pads. Most of the adults had very severe dental disease with the teeth covered in heavy green tartar. Several had very dirty ears and most had very long, overgrown toenails. No fleas or external parasites were seen. There were several fly adhesive tape traps full of dead flies and the body of at least one dead rat.

The adult dogs and puppies were inventoried, identified, and photographed then transported for further exams and care.

I examined the mothers and puppies the next day and catalogued issues primarily with ears, teeth, and overgrown nails. The fifteen adults from the unheated room have been housed separately. They have been bathed, groomed, ears cleaned, nails trimmed, tested for internal parasites including heartworm and vaccinated.

The majority of these dogs will require further treatment including dental cleanings and periodontal therapy including x-rays and extractions.

In my professional opinion, these dogs were severely neglected. While there was some food and water present, it was of poor quality or contaminated. There was heat provided where the puppies were kept but the kennels were not clean and covered in feces. The fifteen adults kept separately had their coats clipped short and were provided no bedding or source of heat. Most of the adults had severely overgrown nails and feces matted into their feet. There was a lack of proper veterinary care for immunization and medical treatment issues like the severe dental disease which can be a source of infection and pain. There was no sign of any environmental enrichment or exercise activity. The dogs appeared to be housed for the sole purpose of breeding and producing offspring for sale.

Sincerely,



Edward Fritz, DVM