



Agriculture and Markets

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

July 16, 2018

Mr. Stephen Goss
Audit Director
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Office of the State Comptroller
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Albany, New York 12236

90-day Response to Office of the State Comptroller Audit 2017-S-49

As required by Section 170 of the Executive law, the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (Department) is submitting its progress and implementation plan of the Department's Division of Animal Industry (Division) for the recommendations made in the Office of the State Comptroller's (OSC) audit 2017-S-49. The Department is constantly exploring opportunities to improve the efficiencies of its programs and is pleased to report the following:

OSC Recommendation 1

Review the specific deficiencies we identified and work with shelters to take corrective action.

Department Response 1

As noted in the report, OSC "identified relatively minor deficiencies at four shelters...". The Department has followed up with the four shelters that OSC identified and corrective action has been completed at 3 of the 4. The one remaining shelter has submitted its plan for the construction of a new facility which includes corrective action measures to address the identified deficiency. The Division continues to work with the shelter to achieve compliance.

OSC Recommendation 2

Evaluate the current dog record sampling process to determine ways to improve detection of dogs not held for the required redemption period.

Department Response 2

OSC reviewed records for 808 dogs and found nine instances where the dog was not held for the required redemption period, a compliance rate of nearly 99%. The Division will continue to

promulgate Article 7 of New York's Agriculture and Markets Law to help ensure dogs are being held for the proper redemption period.

OSC Recommendation 3

Take steps to ensure that inspections are completed within the designated time period, particularly those following an unsatisfactory rating.

Department Response 3

The Division has implemented a new process for supervisors and inspectors to help ensure inspections are being completed in the designated time period. Specifically, inspections with an unsatisfactory rating are being closely monitored in the Division's internal tracking system so proper follow-up can take place.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard A. Ball".

Richard A. Ball
Commissioner
New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets