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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nash County Takes Action to Correct Animal Shelter Violations

Nash County, NC – Nash County administrators are taking action to correct violations found at the Nash County Pet Connection Center. As of this afternoon, the employee mentioned throughout the report from the NC Department of Agriculture is no longer employed by Nash County.

Nash County is working with state authorities to ensure transparency and accountability while preparing to make other changes at the Pet Connection Center, including:

- Conducting a full internal review of the facility and its staff,
- Developing an improvement plan that will raise the standard of care and oversight, and
- Implementing new training and policies to help prevent future concerns.

Following the notice from the State, Chairman Wayne Outlaw shared these thoughts on behalf of the Nash County Board of Commissioners.

"The findings are deeply troubling," said Outlaw. "They include reports of animals not having access to water, pets being euthanized within 24 hours of intake, and an instance of an employee not being truthful during an official inquiry. These are not minor issues. They are unacceptable, heartbreaking, and they do not reflect the values we hold as a county, especially when it comes to the humane and responsible treatment of animals in our care."

Our Board is as upset and concerned as the public, and we take this matter extremely seriously. As Chair of the County Commissioners, I want to assure our residents that we are taking immediate and decisive action to correct these deficiencies. We owe it to our constituents, our staff who do the right thing every day, and most importantly, to the animals who cannot speak for themselves, to get this right.

We will restore integrity and compassion to this operation. Nash County is committed to ensuring that all animals housed at the facility receive humane treatment and that operations meet or exceed all legal and professional standards."

To engage with the community, Nash County will host a "Rescue and Recruit" event at the Pet Connection Center on Saturday, June 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event will offer the public a chance to visit the Pet Connection Center, learn about volunteer opportunities, and adopt pets, with all adoption fees waived. On-site interviews will also be conducted for individuals interested in full-time or part-time positions at the center. Free hot dogs and drinks will be provided while supplies last. The Pet Connection Center is located at 3600 Eastern Avenue, Rocky Mount.

Nash County Administration and the Board of Commissioners welcome input from residents, animal welfare advocates, and experts as progress is made towards a better future.

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