

How to fill out Office of Inspector General form:

**Under Guidance** : Do you have allegations of fraud, waste, abuse or mismanagement related to a USDA agency, program or employee? **YES** (proceed to the hotline forms)

**Do you want to be anonymous?** (Your email address will not be available to OIG) Yes or No

**Are you a current or former USDA agency employee?** Yes or No

**Alleged Subject information:** USDA employee Scott Welch

**Allegations:** Bribery, Health/Safety Problem, USDA Employee Misconduct ,Waste/Mismanagement

**Agency** : Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

**Allegation Description:** Copy and paste the letter on the second page of this document.

**Does this allegation involve SNAP/WIC/EBT/Food Stamp benefits?** No

**Has this matter been reported anywhere else?** Yes if filed on the USDA Animal Welfare Complaint site, (also available in the Link tree)

Check box: I attest the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and understand that knowingly and willfully providing false information is a violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001.

## **Formal Allegation: Misconduct by Dr. Scott Welch & Animal Welfare Act Non-Compliance**

**Subject:** Request for Investigation into Ridglan Farms, Inc. (USDA License #35-A-0009 / #35-R-0004)

### **To the Inspector General:**

I am formally requesting an investigation into persistent Animal Welfare Act (AWA) violations at Ridglan Farms, Inc., and specific oversight failure by **USDA Inspector Dr. Scott Welch**. Despite the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) documenting hundreds of violations, Dr. Welch has consistently "rubber-stamped" this facility, overlooking systemic neglect. Furthermore, I request that this investigation specifically examine the possibility of financial impropriety or the receipt of bribes by Dr. Welch in exchange for withholding or falsifying violation reports over the past 10 years. The stark disparity between independent state findings and Dr. Welch's federal reports raises serious questions regarding his impartiality and professional integrity.

I urge the Office of the Inspector General to review all communications, financial records, and inspection logs related to this facility to ensure the AWA is being upheld and that federal oversight has not been compromised by corruption.

### **Key Allegations of Official Misconduct & Federal Non-Compliance:**

- **Inspector Negligence:** Dr. Scott Welch failed to report or address critical issues identified by state authorities, including 311 documented code violations.
- **Medical Neglect:** Unlicensed workers reportedly perform surgeries (e.g., "cherry eye") and mass devocalization of vocal cords without proper anesthesia or pain management.
- **Sanitary & Health Crisis:** Documentation shows high ammonia levels and stagnant waste. Recently, 22 dogs rescued from Ridglan Farms tested positive for *Giardia*, indicating a severe failure in professional husbandry standards.
- **Physical Harm:** Dogs suffer from foot ulcers and ruptured cysts due to rusted, sharp-metal caging, and pace or spin frantically, both signs of severe psychological distress.
- **Record-Keeping Failures:** As recently as January 2026, USDA reports confirmed a lack of veterinary treatment records and a failure to justify the number of animals used in protocols.

### **Urgent Request for Action:**

Given the facility's pending state license surrender on July 1, 2026, and thousands of beagles still in immediate danger, I urge the OIG to:

1. **Revoke Ridglan's Federal Licenses:** Immediately terminate their Federal Breeding and Research licenses.
2. **Initiate Emergency Confiscation:** Exercise oversight authority to seize these animals and transfer them to reputable rescues for urgent medical treatment.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]