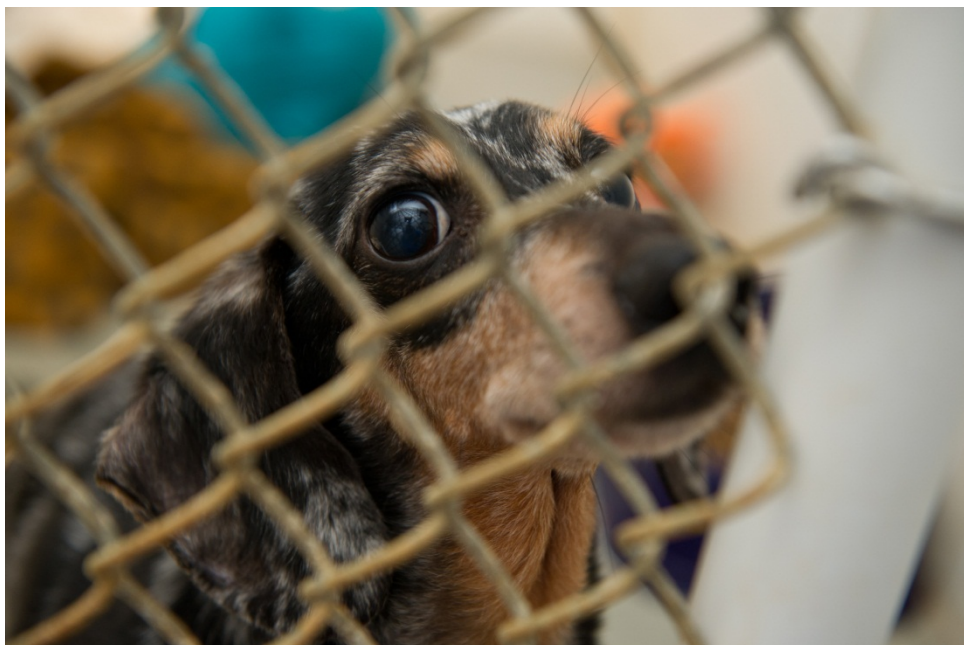


A Horrible Hundred

Problem Puppy Mills in the United States

In recent years The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has assisted in rescuing almost 10,000 dogs from more than 50 different puppy mills across the country. While The HSUS stands ready to assist law enforcement with closing down illegal puppy mills whenever feasible, there remain an estimated 10,000 puppy mills across the United States, and many of them are legal. Although most of the dogs at these mass-breeding facilities have no real quality of life, living continually in small wire cages with little or no personal attention, exercise or veterinary care, there are very few laws to protect them as long as they are being provided with food, water, and shelter.



Many dogs at Royal Acres Kennel in Magnolia, NC, were found with severe health issues. This dachshund suffered from paralysis as well as secondary infections from dragging his lower body along the concrete. With the assistance of The HSUS, authorities removed 58 neglected dogs from Royal Acres in February 2013, including this one, Ricky Bobby, who is now in a good home. But authorities declined to close down the puppy mill completely, and it continues to sell puppies online. /The HSUS 2013

But hundreds of puppy mills can't—or won't—meet even the most basic minimum standards required by law. Some facilities have been cited repeatedly by federal or state departments of agriculture for injured and sick dogs who had not been treated by a vet, keeping dogs in filthy conditions, subjecting animals to the freezing cold or stifling heat without adequate protection, performing invasive surgeries on their own animals without a veterinary license, and even in some cases shooting their unwanted dogs.

This report is a list of some of the nation's dog breeding kennels that are of high concern to The HSUS due to repeated problems with animal health or animal care. **It is not a list of all puppy mills, nor a list of all problematic facilities.** The list does not include other problematic puppy mill dealers, such as brokers and pet stores, unless the operators are also breeding dogs.

Consumers should be aware that dogs from many of these puppy mills are routinely sold at hundreds of pet stores across the country. Most of the puppy mills in this report sell puppies either to pet stores or to consumers online. For more information on how to purchase a puppy without supporting cruelty, please visit www.humanesociety.org/puppy.

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Barbara Gullett/Gullett Kennel – Russellville, AR: Dog Died After Tied to Pickup Truck

Gullett Kennel has been cited by USDA inspectors for repeated Animal Welfare Act regulation violations for sick and injured animals and other problems. At its most recent inspection in September 2012, the kennel was cited for two bulldogs in need of veterinary care, including one who had “green drainage” coming from the eye and another whose eye was “red with drainage,” and puppies were found in stacked, wire cages with excessive feces. In November 2011 in a USDA Consent Decision, Gullett was fined \$23,000 for four types of Animal Welfare Act violations and allowed to keep her license and continue breeding.

On October 5, 2010, a USDA inspector required Gullett to obtain medical care for several sick puppies who were coughing and had “serious nasal discharge” as well as three adult bulldogs with eye problems. The inspector also attempted to check on a sick bulldog who had been documented during the previous inspection and was told that the dog had died. When asked for an explanation, Gullett admitted that the bulldog had died after her husband “tied the animal onto the bed of a flatbed pickup truck then returned to the kennel.” Left unattended, the bulldog had fallen off the truck bed and hung herself, according to the inspector’s report. USDA #71-A-0748.

Tanni Morris/Tanni’s Precious Paws – Charleston, AR: Open and Bloody Lesions and Overpowering Stench

Tanni’s Precious Paws has been cited for numerous Animal Welfare Act regulation violations in recent years, including dogs with open and bloody lesions, excessive matting and skin problems, failure to make the facility available for inspection, and an overpowering stench in the kennel. One of the violations in 2011 was a “Repeat Direct NCI,” where “Direct NCI” refers to a noncompliance item that directly presented danger to the wellbeing of an animal. The Direct NCI was cited due to an incident in which a USDA inspector found a Papillon with evidence of severe dental disease during a November 2011 inspection; the dog’s mouth was in such poor condition that “there was some hair stuck in the front teeth of the dog’s mouth, and when the owner pulled the hair, a tooth came out with the hair.” The area started bleeding after the tooth was removed, per the inspector. When ordered to get dental care for animal, the licensee took the dog to the vet, who directed the owner to put the dog on antibiotics and then return in 5 days for treatment; the USDA inspector found approximately two weeks later that the owner had never taken the dog in for follow-up care and the dog continued to show signs of severe dental disease. The inspector noted, “dental problems can make it difficult for the animal to eat and can be painful.”

An additional dog found at the November 2011 inspection had such serious dental decay that she had only 8 teeth left, a third dog had several untreated skin lesions, and a small puppy was found “weak and trembling” and had not received veterinary care. The inspector also noted a “very strong ammonia and waste odor” in the building, and other problems. USDA #71-A-1287.

Gerald Watts – Marshall, AR: Repeated Failure to Provide Veterinary Care

Gerald Watts’s kennel was cited by a USDA inspector in December 2012 for unsanitary conditions and for four one-day-old puppies who were found in a cage with 1” by 1” wire flooring, which is a significant injury and entrapment risk for newborn puppies. The inspector noted she saw the puppies’ feet passing through the floor openings. Inspection reports from prior years show that Watts was warned about the danger of keeping puppies on wire flooring during previous inspections in 2008 and 2010.

Watts has also been cited repeatedly for dogs in need of veterinary care. He was cited in 2011 for an injured Boston Terrier who had been wounded three days prior but had not been treated by a vet, four matted dogs with excessively long nails; rodent infestation and no heating. In September 2010 the USDA issued an official warning for repeated failure to provide adequate vet care and other issues. In June 2009, Watts was cited for a USDA violation for a puppy with a golf-ball sized growth on his neck that the licensee admitted noticing for a week but had not treated. USDA #71-A-1095.

Sarah Young/Cedar Springs Kennel – Hardy, AR: Dead and Dismembered Puppies

Multiple serious violations have been documented by USDA inspectors at Cedar Springs Kennel as recently as February 2013, when a USDA inspector found two Cocker Spaniels with very visible eye problems who had not been treated by a vet; the breeder admitted that one of them had had the problem for “approximately 9 months.” The inspector also documented a repeat violation during the same inspection for approximately 131 dogs left out in the cold without adequate protection from the elements. The facility had 282 adult dogs at that inspection.

During a November 2011 inspection, a USDA inspector noted: “In one enclosure the dealer had housed two females which were due to whelp. During the inspection the adults were found together with three dead puppies in various stages of dismemberment.”

Many other problems have been documented at Cedar Springs Kennel over the years, including two “Repeat, Direct NCIs” in 2008 for a number of dogs with “extensive matting” and dogs in need of veterinary care. On May 7, 2008, when a USDA inspector inquired about one of the sick dogs who had been identified previously, he was told that “the dog died within a few hours of that last inspection and no consultation with a veterinarian had taken place.” USDA # 71-A-0676.

CALIFORNIA

Jenny Um/ Best Kennel – Littlerock, CA: Not the Best.

USDA inspectors cited this kennel in 2013 for four dogs in need of veterinary care, in 2012 for issues involving inadequate veterinary oversight and maintenance, and in 2010 for facilities in disrepair. But perhaps the most disturbing violation was documented in August 2008 when, according to USDA records, the operator showed inspectors a kennel with more than 250 dogs, but failed to inform the USDA of an entire trailer full of dogs located elsewhere on the property. According to USDA records, a call from animal control notifying USDA of the additional dogs led to a 24x60’ trailer, in which, according to the inspector, “the facility owner admitted to me she had additional adult dogs and puppies housed in the trailer that she had not disclosed during the previous two inspections.” The trailer contained 64 cages housing 53 adults and 147 puppies, bringing the total count to 393 animals.

According to the most recent USDA records (Feb. 2013), Um had 265 dogs and puppies on the premises. With so many dogs, Jenny’s Best Kennel appears to be selling wherever and whenever it can. In addition to the USDA license, which allows it to sell to brokers and pet stores, the kennel also advertises puppies online via jennysbestpuppies.com, via local classifieds, including Pennysaverusa.com, and on Facebook under “Jenny’s Best Puppies.” USDA # 93-A-0234.

GEORGIA

Kathryn Barber/ K-Bar Kennels – Patterson, GA: Dying Puppies Sold at Flea Market

The HSUS has received numerous consumer complaints about conditions of the puppies sold by K-Bar Kennels, including complaints from three buyers whose puppies died shortly after purchase. Two of the puppies who died had been diagnosed with liver shunt, a grave genetic condition that is often fatal. A third puppy allegedly died of parasitic and bacterial infection.

Records obtained from the Georgia Department of Agriculture show that K-Bar Kennels was placed under quarantine by the state due to an outbreak of Parvovirus on at least two occasions in 2008 and 2009. Parvovirus is highly contagious and often deadly to puppies.

In December 2009, an HSUS investigator visited the kennel undercover. The report and records were sent to local law enforcement. “K-Bar Kennels in Georgia stands out in my memory as one of the worst puppy mills I’ve seen in all my years looking at puppy mills,” the HSUS investigator recently recalled. “The collection of ramshackle, rundown structures included filthy raised rusted metal cages with uncoated wire



An HSUS investigator took this photo at K-Bar Kennels in 2009. State authorities placed the kennel under temporary quarantine for two different outbreaks of Parvovirus, but declined to shut it down. /The HSUS 2009

floors. Underneath all of these types of structures was a very large buildup of feces. The long-haired dogs at K-Bar all had excessive matting in their coats and two of the dogs I saw appeared despondent.” The HSUS investigator saw about 250 dogs on the property. Unfortunately, despite the history of complaints, local authorities declined to shut the kennel down and it remains in business.

K-Bar Kennel sells primarily at Keller’s Flea Market in Savannah, GA and also advertises puppies for sale using online classified ads and Facebook.

ILLINOIS

Philip Chupp/ Oak Valley Kennel – McLeansboro, IL: Dogs Matted from Head to Toe

In November 2011, USDA inspectors cited the operator of Oak Valley Kennel for 8 dogs with matted fur, including several who were so matted that the tangled fur “ran along the entire length of the legs in one solid mass down to the skin.” In addition, one dog’s dewclaw had grown “long enough to circle around and grow into the toe itself,” causing a swollen area that was “dark pink with possible infection.”

Additional issues found at the facility include: dogs kept outside without adequate protection from the cold, wind and rain in winter; dogs found in an indoor whelping room in the summer without a fan or other form of adequate ventilation when the inside temperature was measured at 99 degrees (June 2012); and unsafe enclosures with holes in the floors. USDA # 33-A-0497.

Tammy Coglainese/ Puppy Parlor (aka Poochie Puppy Parlor) – Lisle, IL: Pet Store with a Puppy Mill on the Side

Although primarily a pet store, this facility also breeds dozens of dogs in stacked wire cages in a back room. The Illinois Department of Agriculture has received at least 19 complaints about Puppy Parlor over the past few years. The HSUS has also received numerous complaints about the facility. Details of the problems were first reported in our expose of Chicago-area pet stores in 2012.

In October 2011, according to records obtained from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, 105 dogs (60 adults and 45 puppies) at Puppy Parlor were placed under quarantine due to an outbreak of canine Parvovirus – a deadly disease often associated with unsanitary and unhealthy living conditions. At least six puppies died from the deadly virus.



State inspectors documented adult breeding dogs stacked in cages three to four high in the back room of Puppy Parlor in October 2011. The photos were taken during an outbreak of Parvovirus which killed at least 6 puppies. /IL Dept. of Agriculture 2011

A 2011 photo taken by a state inspector shows what appears to be a back room area, where dozens of breeding dogs are confined in cages stacked four high; some of the dogs appeared to have barely enough room to turn around.

INDIANA

Marlin Bontrager—Rome City, IN: “Prolonged Suffering” in Weak Puppy

In June 2012, a USDA inspector found a multi-poo puppy at Marlin Bontrager’s kennel who was “very weak” and had not been taken to a vet. The inspector noted, “the failure to communicate the condition of the multi-poo puppy to the veterinarian results in prolonged suffering for this dog.” During the same inspection, the inspector noted that the temperature in parts of the kennel was over 90 degrees and

“the adult dogs were all heavily panting and the puppies were stretched out trying to be cooler on the wire. The excessive heat can cause serious illness or death in the dogs in the facility.” Additional problems cited during earlier inspections included dogs with enlarged and cloudy eyes; a pug puppy whose eye was “closed and encrusted with mucus,” puppies with their legs “hanging through the bottom of the flooring,” which is a serious injury and entrapment risk, and filthy conditions. USDA #32-A-0260.

Elam Fisher/ Morgan Creek Kennel – Williamsburg, IN: Dogs with Swellings and Ulcerations

In September 2012, the USDA cited Morgan Creek Kennel for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including dogs with “swellings and ulcerations” on their feet and excessively long toenails—common problems with puppy mill dogs who are forced to stand on unnatural wire flooring all day. On previous visits, inspectors documented numerous additional problems at Morgan Creek Kennel, including dogs suffering from sores and eye disorders, a lame dog who had feces matted into his hair and a swollen leg with an ulceration, overflowing trash, and other problems. In 2010 the facility received an official warning from the USDA for violations of federal regulations. The HSUS has also received complaints about the facility, which houses more than 300 dogs and puppies. USDA # 32-A-0298.

Kathryn and Vernon Lambright/ Clearspring Kennels – Wolcottville, IN: Oozing Neck Wound Went Unnoticed

In February 2013, Clearspring Kennels was cited with nine Animal Welfare Act violations, including a violation for a dog with an eye disorder, and a dog wearing a chain collar that seemed to have caused a significant 5-inch neck wound. The inspector noted that the wound had a strong odor and was leaking pus. The facility has been cited for multiple repeat USDA violations in prior years and in 2010 it received an official warning from the USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. USDA #32-A-0253.

Elmer Lapp/ Pine Hill Kennel – Hagerstown, IN: Bloody Puppies and Wormy Food

Pine Hill Kennel has accumulated some gruesome USDA violations in recent years, including repeated violations for improperly docking (cutting off) puppies’ tails. At its most recent inspection in February 2013, an inspector found puppies with recently docked tails which had been glued together at the base with expired surgical adhesive, a limping Boston Terrier, a matted shih tzu with dental disease, and more repeat violations for issues such as insects and feces in the dogs’ food, filthy conditions, and “rodent feces throughout the facility.”

Prior violations cited by USDA inspectors at Pine Hill Kennel have included: bloody puppies with recently docked tails found lying on a bloody floor (April 2010); repeat violations in May 2012 for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a limping shiba inu with an injured leg who had blood all over the floor of her enclosure; sale of underage puppies; beetles and worms found in the dogs’ food; conditions in some of the kennels that were so filthy that some of the dogs had no clean area to lie down on; having an unlicensed person cropping puppies’ ears instead of a licensed veterinarian, and many other problems. USDA #32-A-0363.

Steven Lapp – Modoc, IN: Cutting off Puppies’ Tails; Kennel “Overrun with Mice”

USDA inspections in 2012 and 2011 revealed numerous issues at this kennel, including “evidence that the kennel is overrun with mice” with “piles of mouse feces” in many of the enclosures; sick dogs who had not been properly treated by a vet; tail docking of dogs without a veterinary license nor evidence of any training to do so; expired medications and sale of underage puppies

In November 2011, inspectors found a female Maltese at Lapp's kennel who was matted with feces, as well as an underweight dog with her "ribs, vertebrae and pelvic bones prominent and easily palpable," and a puppy with "skin and underlying tissue missing from a portion of its tail." In addition, dogs were found living in filthy buildings that were so dark that inspectors had to use a headlamp to visualize them, which the inspector noted "will add to animal suffering if problems are unseen" due to the darkened conditions. USDA #32-A-0356.

Larry Miller /Railside Canine, Millersburg, IN: Blind Puppy with "Scratches and Wounds all Over Its Head" and Puppy with Missing Eye

Railside Canines has been cited by USDA inspectors for numerous serious animal care deficiencies over the past several years. Issues have been found as recently as March 2013 for a Boxer with "cuts and scabs along the rims of both ears" and patches of missing hair on her head and legs which had not been treated by a veterinarian. In addition, 15 dogs were found in concrete runs in 27 degree temperatures (F) without adequate protection from the cold. Just a month earlier (Feb. 2013), USDA inspectors found four other dogs in need of veterinary care, including two French bulldog puppies with diarrhea; the licensee told the inspector that he had noticed the problem for about a month but he had not contacted a vet, according to the report.

In February 2012, USDA inspectors found dogs in "an unheated shed" without adequate protection from the cold when the temperature was 32 degrees F., a dog with a large, untreated wound and scabs, and issues with unsafe housing. In January 2012, the kennel was cited for a repeat violation for filthy conditions, and two bulldog puppies were found with "severe eye deformities" who had not been treated by a vet. One of the puppies appeared to be "missing its left eye" according to the inspector, and the other was covered in "scratches and wounds all over its head and in its ears," had deformed eyes, and appeared to be blind, according to the inspector. The licensee was not able to produce any documentation showing that either of the puppies had been seen or treated by a vet for their injuries. Railside Canines has three different locations, all listed under USDA #32-A-0332.

IOWA

David and Joane Cline – Sully, IA: Numerous Repeat Violations, Unsafe Housing

At its most recent USDA inspection in February 2013, the Clines' kennel was cited for eight different violations, six of which were repeat violations, according to inspectors. The repeat violations included twelve dogs who had matted hair coats and dental problems; some dogs kept in unsafe housing with sharp points or inadequate protection from the wind and rain; and unsanitary conditions.

The Clines were previously notified about problems with unsafe housing. In 2011, the Cline facility received an official warning from the USDA for similar violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. The warning listed 13 violations, including two repeat and direct violations for "failure to construct and maintain primary enclosures free of jagged edges and sharp points."

In addition to the problems documented in USDA inspection reports, local residents have called HSUS and local authorities to report concerns about this kennel. USDA #42-A-1420.

Doug and Wendie Dettbarn/ Purple Heart Kennel – Strawberry Point, IA: Dogs in Need of Vet Care, including one with “A Mass the Size of a Baseball”

In 2012 the USDA cited Purple Heart Kennel for keeping dogs in outside kennels that did not provide adequate protection from the wind and rain, and for buildings in disrepair. In 2011, inspectors cited Purple Heart Kennel with seven different violations, four of which were “repeat” violations, including a lack of proper veterinary care for a pug with “green crusty material around both eyes,” and a dog with a mammary mass “approximately the size of a baseball,” neither of whom had been evaluated or treated by a vet for their conditions. Inspectors also noted a maltese and a poodle with excessively matted fur; the matting covering most of their bodies and the inspector noted that “excessive matting can cause discomfort and skin conditions.” In December 2010, an inspector noted that “three Yorkshire Terriers, one schnauzer, two lhasa apsos, two maltese, and five poodles” all had excessively matted hair coats. In 2009, inspectors cited the kennel for water bowls with “green slime” in them, a strong ammonia (urine) odor, and “at least a four-week build-up” of feces in some of the outdoor runs. USDA #42-A-1328.

Gary Felts/Black Diamond Kennel – Kingsley, IA: Fined \$18,000 by USDA

The USDA has documented numerous Animal Welfare Act regulation violations at Black Diamond Kennel, including recent violations for unclean, pest-infested kennels, inadequate ventilation, and unsafe housing. The kennel produced many breeds including dalmatians, mastiffs, and cane corsos. Most recently it has reportedly switched to a smaller operation, breeding Chihuahuas. In June 2010 the kennel was fined \$18,000 by the USDA for failure to provide vet care to some of its animals. USDA #42-A-0757.

Connie and Harold Johnson/ CW's Quaint Critters – Melvin, IA: Sickly Dogs and Repeat Violations

In July 2011, CW's Quaint Critters received an official warning from the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations. In June 2011 a federal inspector noted that there weren't enough staff available to take proper care of the large number of dogs on site, stating, “it is evident by the number of noncompliant items that there is an inadequate number of knowledgeable and/or supervised employees to carry out the level of husbandry and care required by the Animal Welfare regulations. There are 234 adult animals at the facility.” Despite or perhaps because of this notation, federal inspectors made six visits to the facility in 2012 alone, and five visits in 2011, finding violations every time they inspected the kennel (most USDA-licensed facilities are visited no more than once a year).

Some of the dozens of violations recorded at this facility between 2010 and 2012 include: a skinny beagle who was straining to defecate and was passing “clumps of red matter” that appeared to be blood; a sickly Maltese found hovering in the back of her cage; two beagles in an outdoor run covered with feces; repeat violations for two dogs with eye disorders; 120 dogs found in a whelping trailer who were living in darkness; dogs who were so severely matted outdoors that they had difficulty staying dry because the matted hair was dragging on the wet and dirty ground, and a total of nine repeat violations for the same previous dangerous and unsanitary conditions. USDA #42-B-0226.

Kenneth and Leatrice McGuire – North English, IA: No Vet Visit for Almost Three Years

In March 2011, the operator admitted to a USDA inspector that no vet had visited the facility since 2009; despite being repeatedly cited for having no attending veterinarian to regularly visit the facility, this serious issue was not corrected until 2012, according to USDA reports.

In March 2013 the McGuires' kennel was cited for three dogs in need of immediate veterinary care and several repeat violations for filthy and unsafe conditions. In November 2012, the kennel was cited for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including two Chihuahuas with eye problems and a long-haired Dachshund with matted fur, and a repeat violation for dirty conditions. In March 2012, an inspector found a

Yorkie with an eye disorder, as well as numerous repeat violations, including issues with run-down and unsafe housing and dirty conditions. USDA #42-A-0830.

Debra Pratt – New Sharon, IA: Dogs with Bulging Eyes and Dog’s Head Covered in Scabs

In February 2013, the USDA cited Pratt for numerous dogs in need of urgent veterinary care, including several dogs with red, swollen and bulging eyes, an untreated mass, indications of severe dental disease, and an English Bulldog with missing fur, red skin, and “scabs covering the majority of the ears and the top of the head.” In addition, the facility has failed five different times in 2013 alone to grant access to USDA officials who arrived to conduct an inspection, a serious violation of the Animal Welfare Act regulations because it left inspectors unable to check on the safety and welfare of approximately 185 dogs and puppies held in the kennel. Two of these failed access violations occurred in March 2013, after the sick dogs noted above were found and the USDA ordered Pratt to obtain treatment for the dogs.

Other problems cited in the past have included: animal wastes from the top tier of cages washing down into the animal cages below; unsafe housing, and a strong ammonia (urine) odor. In January 2012, the licensee received an official warning from the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act.

The HSUS has also received complaints from consumers who allegedly purchased sick puppies from this breeder. One of the sick puppies was sold through a pet store and the other online via PuppyFind.com. Pratt’s sale of puppies online is of special concern to The HSUS because at press time there were indications that Pratt might be cancelling her USDA license and selling all her breeding stock at auction. But unless authorities take specific enforcement action, Pratt will be able to continue to sell puppies over the Internet because currently direct-to-consumer sales do not require a USDA license. The HSUS has contacted USDA officials about these concerns. USDA # 42-A-1399 and 42-H-0005.

Lennie and Lonnie Rumley/ Tripple L Kennels – Leon, IA: Flies and Filthy Conditions

Tripple [sic] L Kennels has been cited by USDA inspectors for filthy conditions again and again since 2008, including issues with a “severe accumulation of feces,” build-ups of grime, strong ammonia (urine) levels, and pests and flies. Operators also failed to make the facility available for inspection on at least three occasions between 2010 and 2012. This violation is a concern because problem operators can easily avoid revealing poor conditions by appearing to be unavailable when an inspector arrives; it can also indicate a lack of oversight and proper staffing on the premises. In 2011, the facility received an official warning from the USDA for a repeated failure to make an adult available to allow USDA inspectors to inspect the facility, yet the facility committed the same violation again in 2012.

In addition to selling to pet stores, the facility also sells puppies online, via websites like PurebredBreeders.com. USDA #42-A-1294 (cancelled) and #42-A-1447 (current).

Linda Thorpe/ Sky Blue Ranch, Inc. – Winterset, IA: Dog Found Dead in her Cage

In October 2012, according to a USDA report, a state compliance inspector found a black and tan female, long-haired dachshund who was dead in her cage. The inspector noted the dog was already “severely stiff and had small matts in [her] hair coat and under [her] ears.” Inspectors also noted a strong ammonia (urine) odor in a portion of the facility that housed 130 dogs, as well as overall filthy conditions. Prior repeat violations included foul odors and build-ups of urine and feces. The HSUS also received a complaint from a buyer who allegedly purchased a very sick puppy from Sky Blue Ranch; the buyer claimed vet bills were over \$3,600. USDA #42-A-1140 and 42-H-0006.

Larry and Yvette Bolz/ B & S Kennels – Olpe, KS: Very Sick Puppy Not Taken to a Vet all Week

This facility has been cited repeatedly by USDA and Kansas state inspectors for unsafe housing and animals in need of veterinary care, including one very thin puppy “stretched out on the floor” who “vocalized as if in pain.” Staff at the facility stated that the puppy had been sick for more than a week and had not been taken to a vet, according to the USDA inspector (Sept. 2011). In 2010 the facility received an official warning from the USDA for violations of federal regulations due to conditions at the kennel. The HSUS has also received several complaints about conditions at the kennel. USDA #48-A-1582.

Marla and Roger Campbell– Newton, KS: “Very Thin” Mother Dogs and Filthy Conditions

In April 2013, USDA inspectors found two Boxers at the Campbells’ puppy mill who were “very thin, with back bones ribs, and hip bones clearly visible,” according to the inspector. Both of the dogs were females who were nursing litters of puppies. The inspector also found a bull terrier who had hair loss and cloudy eyes. The report also listed a number of additional violations, three of which were “repeat” violations, including unsafe housing, dirty feeders, and dogs kept outside in the cold without adequate protection from the weather. In 2012, USDA inspectors cited the Campbells for a dog with a bloody, swollen foot, a dog with eye problems, and keeping medications for use on the dogs that had expired in 2009. The puppy mill houses more than 200 dogs and puppies. It has also been cited repeatedly for filthy conditions, for keeping dogs in cages that were too small, for not making the facility accessible for inspection, and for numerous other problems. USDA #48-A-1549.

Kathy and William Clarke/ Clarke’s Hillside Kennel – Yates Center, KS: Had Dogs Put Down Rather than Provide Treatment

USDA inspectors have documented repeated problems with animals in need of veterinary care at Clarke’s Hillside Kennel, including a Boston Terrier with an open wound, several dogs found with foot injuries or limping (common conditions in puppy mills where dogs are forced to stand on wire flooring), and dogs with tick infestations and hair loss. On at least two occasions, when USDA inspectors required an animal to be seen by a vet, the licensee chose to have the animal euthanized rather than treat the dog’s medical condition. These dogs included a male gray poodle with a swollen foot and severe dental problems, and a female skipperke with hair loss. In addition, the licensee said a third dog that had been identified by the USDA for treatment was found dead in her kennel before she could be treated by a vet. The kennel has also been cited for unsanitary conditions, dirty food and water and unsafe housing. The puppy mill has about 150 dogs and has been in operation since 1995. USDA #48-A-1275.

Tim Deters – Baileyville, KS: Dogs with Bloody and Swollen Paws Standing on Wire Flooring

In September 2012, the USDA issued an official warning to Tim Deters for direct violations for vet care, housing, and ongoing cleaning and sanitation problems. Deters’ facility has been licensed since 2004 and has been repeatedly cited by inspectors for underweight animals, severely matted dogs, unsafe conditions, and sick or injured dogs who had not been treated by a vet.

In March 2013, inspectors recorded a repeat violation for six dogs at Deters’ facility in need of veterinary care. Several of the dogs had paw injuries common to puppy mill dogs who are forced to live on wire flooring, including several Yorkies with swollen paws and a shih tzu whose foot was so tender that “a bloody fluid was observed draining from the affected foot” when it was examined.

In March 2012 a USDA inspector documented a Yorkshire Terrier with a broken jaw who had not been adequately treated; her lower jaw moved freely from side to side, a condition the inspector noted “can be painful, lead to a decrease in appetite, and infection in the mouth.” USDA #48-A-1801.

Dianne Dick/ Puppie Trails Kennels – Rossville, KS: “Emaciated” and Sickly Dogs



Puppie [sic] Trails has been cited by both state and federal officials for multiple issues with animals in need of veterinary care, including dogs with evidence of severe dental disease, hair loss, scabs, underweight dogs, dogs with untreated wounds, and one dog who appeared “emaciated” with “prominent hip bones and spine” according to state inspection reports (October 2012).

USDA inspectors have repeatedly found dogs with swollen and injured feet at Tim Deters’ puppy mill in Baileyville, KS – a condition common in puppy mill dogs who are forced to stand on wire flooring. Inspectors also found dogs who were underweight, sick and injured. /The HSUS 2011

In 2012, the kennel was sent a warning by the state of Kansas for failing two of out of its previous four inspections, and in 2011 the facility received an official warning from

the USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. According to her 2011 and 2012 state inspection reports, the operator told state inspectors she sells her puppies through the Hunte Corporation. USDA #48-A-1237.

Justin and LaNae Jackson/ Jackson Kennels – Clifton, KS: More Than 600 Dogs

In March 2012, after twice traveling to the kennel earlier in the year and finding no one available to let them inside (a violation of the AWA), USDA inspectors found numerous problems at this enormous kennel that houses more than 600 dogs and puppies. A female Shiba Inu was found with an open, one-inch wound on the side of her neck, outdoor food receptacles were found “caked with bird droppings,” there were repeated issues with housing in disrepair, and inspectors noted a number of cleaning and sanitation deficiencies. In 2011, the kennel was cited for a number of additional issues, including unsafe conditions and housing in disrepair. USDA #48-A-1849.

Darlene and Charlene Koster/ Rainbow Ranch Kennel – Minneapolis, KS: Received Official Warning from USDA for Animal Welfare Violations

In September 2011, Rainbow Ranch received an Official Warning from the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations. This warning cited six non-compliances from different inspections during the years 2009-2011, including a direct noncompliance for failing to provide veterinary care. This issue refers to a June 2011 inspection where the inspector found ten animals in need of immediate medical attention: a Chihuahua who “has a sagging appearance to his lower jaw,” five boxers and a pug that “have wounds at the base of the ears” with flies buzzing around them, a schnauzer that had a wound on the left side of his body that oozed a “thick, bloody discharge” when the inspector palpated it, a Boxer with “patchy hair loss on her chest, shoulder areas, and sides,” and an English Bulldog that had a “pink, fleshy mass in the corner of the right eye.”



Dogs in small, stacked cages at Rainbow Ranch Kennel were seen gazing out at open, grassy plains in which they could not run and play. /The HSUS 2011

This facility has been monitored by The HSUS since 2007, when it was cited by USDA inspectors for having dogs in 86 degree temperatures without adequate cooling measures and several dogs without adequate shade. In more recent years, the kennel has neglected to allow access to USDA inspectors upon three of their last four attempted visits, a waste of inspectors’ time and taxpayer dollars as well as a serious violation of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. USDA #48-B-0271.

Keith and Lila Ratzlaff – Canton, KS: “Extremely Thirsty” Dogs Without Water in 90+ Degree Heat

USDA violations documented at the Ratzlaffs’ kennel include a dog with hair loss and



Note the lack of shade in these enclosures at the Ratzlaff's kennel. /The HSUS 2011

scabs across his entire head, a puppy with a sprained leg, lack of bedding in shelters, and accumulated feces. In July 2012, a USDA inspector noted that at least nine dogs didn't have any water, and "when water was offered during the inspection, many of the dogs drank voraciously in a manner that indicated they were extremely thirsty. One dog was timed drinking for a total of 2 minutes and 15 seconds. The temperature at the time of inspection was over 90 degrees [Fahrenheit]."

The facility has also been cited repeatedly for a lack of adequate housing and sanitation, fly and rodent infestations and excessive piles of feces, and federal inspectors noted multiple failed access attempts. USDA #48-A-1793.

Audrey Rottinghaus / Wendy Pets – Seneca, KS: Dog's Head Trapped in Broken Cage, Family History of Failure to Care for Dogs

In 2012 alone, the puppy mill linked to Audrey Rottinghaus, Wendy Pets (48-B-0313), was cited for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a limping dog and a dog with an open, swollen wound; housing so unsafe that a Yorkie's head was found entrapped in a gap in a cage lid, and initially refusing to let a federal inspector photograph a dog with oozing "blackish discharge" coming out of his ear, among other problems. Wendy Pets houses more than 100 dogs and puppies. USDA #48-B-0313.

Krystal and Sandra Rottinghaus – Seneca, KS: Repeat Violations for Emaciated and Limping Dogs

During her last routine inspection in April 2013, Krystal Rottinghaus was cited with a "Repeat, Direct" noncompliance by USDA inspectors for numerous dogs in urgent need of veterinary care, including several lame and limping dogs, a shih tzu who was so thin that her "backbone and hip bones were protruding," a Boston terrier with lesions on the surface of his eyes, and other serious repeat violations.

In April 2012, Krystal Rottinghaus was cited for 5 dogs in need of medical care and several issues with unsafe housing that could injure the dogs.

Krystal and Audrey (USDA licenses 48-A-2120 and 48-B-0313) are believed to be the daughters of Kale and Sandra Rottinghaus. Kale and Sandra essentially transferred their previously-licensed puppy mill, which had been cited again and again for horrific animal care violations, into Krystal's name on October 5, 2010. Since then, conditions clearly have not improved.



An HSUS investigator saw dogs at Krystal and Sandra Rottinghaus's puppy mill pacing restlessly in the cold. The facility has approximately 600 dogs and puppies and has been cited again and again for Animal Welfare Act violations. /The HSUS 2011.

Sandra Rottinghaus remains closely associated with Krystal's business. In June 2011 Sandra signed a Kansas kennel inspection report that noted an emaciated dog, a limping dog, matted dogs, and rusted and unsafe housing. According to the most recent records available from the USDA, more than 600 dogs and puppies are confined in the puppy mill. USDA #48-A-2120.

Helen Shelly/ Shadyhill Kennel – Hiawatha, KS: Multiple Dogs in Need of Veterinary Care

Shadyhill Kennel cancelled its USDA license in 2011 after receiving an official warning from the USDA, and after being cited for many repeat violations for animals in need of veterinary care, including dogs with eye problems and severe dental issues, matted and dirty dogs, improper medications stored at the facility that were intended for cattle, not dogs, inadequate space, and filthy conditions, among other problems. Although it is no longer licensed to sell to pet stores, the facility remains state licensed and can sell puppies over the Internet and directly to the public. The facility offers puppies for sale online via www.shadyhillpups.homestead.com.

MINNESOTA

Carole and Larry Harries/ Harries K-9 Ranch – Alpha, MN : Rodent Droppings Throughout Facility; Repeatedly Lacking in Proper Vet Care

In February 2013, the Harries were cited for a repeat violation by USDA inspectors for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a shih tzu whose teeth were so rotted that the inspector could see the roots of her teeth, and two dogs with excessive matting around the tail with feces matted into the fur. One of the dogs had an eye problem which inspectors had first pointed out more than a year prior and which had not been effectively treated. Other issues documented at the kennel included unsafe housing, dirty conditions, and "a large amount of rodent droppings" throughout the facility. USDA# 41-A-0023.

Ted Johnson / Funtime Kennels – Windom, MN : Urine Fumes Strong Enough to "Make the Inspector's Eyes Burn," per USDA

In April 2013, USDA inspectors found two Maltese dogs at Ted Johnson's kennel with such severe dental disease that they had lost most of their teeth. One of the dogs had only two teeth left, and one of her remaining two teeth "was loose and moved easily when touched." The dog was seen "excessively licking its mouth with its tongue hanging out of its mouth most of the time," according to the inspector. The USDA also noted that the ammonia (urine) smell in the facility "was strong enough to make the inspector's eyes burn."

In August 2011, Johnson received an official warning from the USDA for not providing proper veterinary care to several dogs. That October, Johnson told USDA inspectors who arrived at Funtime Kennels to conduct an inspection that no inspection was needed because he was cancelling his USDA license. The officials left without inspecting. Just a few months later, Johnson once again applied for a USDA license. Altogether, Johnson has held three different USDA licenses since 2008, and has had violations under each license number (#41-A-0466; # 41-A-0451 & #41-A-0459). Prior violations included additional dogs lacking in dental care, dogs with matted hair and overgrown nails, failure to provide adequate cage space, failure to provide proper vet care, strong ammonia (urine) odor, and unsafe housing.

Wanda Kretzman / Clearwater Kennel Inc. – Cushing, MN: 1,100+ Dogs in Wire Cages; Beetles Crawling in the Food; Urine Fumes that “Burned the Eyes”

Clearwater Kennel, which has 1,124 dogs as of February 2013, is one of the largest puppy mills in the country. The USDA has documented dozens of Animal Welfare Act violations at this kennel over a period of years, including violations in 2012 for seven dogs with bloody, inflamed and/or swollen feet, likely from straddling the painful wire flooring that is so common in puppy mills. The federal inspector noted that



USDA inspectors have documented as many as 1,124 dogs at Clearwater Kennel in recent years. It is one of the largest puppy mills in the country. /The HSUS 2008

“These dogs have noticeable conditions that are affecting their health, wellbeing and comfort,” and stated the dogs needed veterinary care. The inspector also noted that at least 24 dogs had beetles crawling in their food.

In February 2013, an inspector noted that the ammonia (urine) fumes in one of Kretzman’s buildings were so strong that the “inspector could feel the ammonia burn the eyes,” and noted the fumes “could cause respiratory issues” in dogs who were forced to live in those conditions. The inspector noted there were 188 dogs in the building who were exposed to the hazardous fumes.

The facility sells to pet stores across the country. Footage of the kennel was featured as part of The HSUS’s 2008 investigation of the Petland, Inc. chain of pet stores, as well as our 2012 investigation of Chicagoland pet store suppliers: http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2012/12/puppy-mill-investigation-chicago-121012.html. USDA #41-B-0190.

John & Lyle Renner/ Renner's Kennel – Detroit Lakes, MN: Fined \$5,286 for Violating Federal Regulations

In January 2013, Renner’s Kennel was fined more than \$5,000 by the USDA for repeat violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. Violations on previous USDA inspection reports include dogs kept in small cages without the minimum required space; lack of proper cleaning and sanitization, violations for dogs needing vet care, including a husky who could not bear weight on his leg, a dog with a missing eye and discharge, dogs with swollen/oozing paws (common in puppy mills with wire flooring), dogs without adequate protection from extreme temperatures, strong odors and accumulations of feces. USDA # 41-A-0248.

MISSOURI

Pamela Baldwin/ Samples Creek Kennel – Edgar Springs, MO: “Excessively Thin” Dogs with Ribs Protruding

In May 2011, Pamela Baldwin received an Official Warning from the USDA for not providing proper veterinary treatment to dogs in her care. Issues included a dog known as “Skooter” who “had a swollen area on the left, lower lip” and two other dogs who “had cloudy substances covering a large portion of the eyes.” A “loose, bloody discharge” was also seen on the ground of one dog’s enclosure, according to inspection reports.

Problems at Samples Creek Kennel seem to have only gotten worse since the official warning was issued. In May 2012, USDA inspectors documented a number of new, serious problems, including four dogs who were so thin that their ribs were showing, and dogs with scabs, hair loss and missing fur. Issues were found yet again August of 2012, when USDA inspectors found a silky terrier with a damaged, watering eye and a limping Bassett Hound, as well as 25 dogs who were “scratching frequently” and appeared to be infested with fleas. USDA #43-A-4762.

Edward Cannon/ E. Cannon Kennels – Novinger, MO: Both a Puppy Mill and a Kitten Mill

E. Cannon Kennels has more than 400 dogs and puppies, according to February 2013 USDA records. It has been cited by USDA inspectors for multiple problems over the years, including a dog with dental issues so severe that she could no longer keep her tongue in her mouth and the inspector could see the roots of her teeth; an ammonia (urine) odor so strong that federal inspectors noted a “burning sensation” in their noses; dirty conditions; and mold found in the dog kibble. In 2011, E. Cannon Kennels received an official warning from the USDA for violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations.

The facility was also breeding kittens when inspectors visited in July 2012, according to USDA records; 139 cats and kittens were counted in addition to 385 dogs and puppies. Issues with the cattery that have been documented by the USDA included a cat with a dark crusty discharge around both eyes, a flame-point Himalayan with clear mucus film in both eyes, accumulations of clutter, hair, dirt, and grime in the cattery, and a strong ammonia (urine) odor in the cat area. USDA #43-A-4206.

Tina Carr/ Simply Puppies – Hannibal, MO: Dead Dog Found Outside in the Bitter Cold

Simply Puppies has accumulated numerous federal Animal Welfare Act violations over the last several years, including a January 2013 violation for 22 puppies kept on one-inch wire flooring, which is an injury and entrapment risk; February 2011 violations for failure to provide adequate bedding when it was 13.6 degrees F. outside; and one dog who was observed to be shivering with frozen water droplets on the dog’s chin. In 2012, Carr received an official warning from the USDA for previous violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. In January 2011, Carr was cited by USDA inspectors for a “direct non-compliance” for a dead dog found by the inspector in a kennel with another dog. The report does not specify how the dog died, but indicates that it may have been due to the bitter cold temperatures: “At time of inspection a female Dachshund (#222) was found dead in an outdoor run with another live dog. [...]the outdoor temperature was 28 degrees F. There were approximately 20 short-haired Dachshunds that were in outdoor enclosures with no bedding available.” (USDA, Jan. 2011). USDA #43-A-5672.

See The HSUS’s Dirty Dozen reports for details at humanesociety.org/pupppymillresearch.

Brandi Cheney/ Circle B Farms, LLC – Huntsville, MO: Still Licensed by USDA after being linked to Previously Shuttered Kennel

No list of problematic kennels would be complete without Circle B Farms, LLC, operated by Brandi Cheney. Cheney has been associated with several different business names and breeding operations in Missouri. A previous facility, S & S Family Puppies, which was licensed to both Cheney and her mother, Diana Stephenson, was linked to more than 500 hundred pages of USDA enforcement records, including violations for sick and injured dogs who had not been treated by a vet, dead or dying dogs found on the property, dogs without adequate protection from the heat and cold, and more. S & S Family Puppies was finally shut down in May 2011, but Brandi continues to operate Circle B Farms, LLC (#43-B-3698), a second puppy mill in a different location. USDA inspections of Circle B Farms in 2011 uncovered a number of new, severe violations, including dogs in need of veterinary care, temperatures inside the kennel registering as high as 109.5 degrees F., failure to provide adequate lighting or electricity, and failure to provide adequate cage space. USDA #43-B-3698 and previous #43-B-0435.



USDA inspectors photographed several severely matted and injured dogs at a puppy mill co-owned by Brandi Cheney in 2008, and the facility soon accumulated more than 500 pages of enforcement records. The puppy mill was shut down in 2011, but Cheney now operates a different puppy mill under a new limited liability corporation in Huntsville, MO. /USDA 2008.

The HSUS has also received consumer complaints about sick puppies sold by this operator. See the HSUS's 2011 Dirty Dozen report update at www.humanesociety.org/pupmillresearch for more details.

Kimberly Coleman/ TLC's Kennel – Clinton, MO: Fined \$8,250 by USDA

TLC's Kennel has more than 300 dogs and puppies, but USDA inspectors were not able to check on their welfare in January 2013, when the operator failed to make the facility available during regular business hours for inspection (a violation). Previous violations at the kennel include dogs in wet or freezing weather without adequate protection, including 37 dogs which the inspector noted had "soiled or wet hair coats," and dogs kept in rusty enclosures with holes in the flooring, strong odors and flies throughout the facility. In 2010, the operator entered in to a settlement agreement with the USDA and was fined \$8,250 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. USDA #43-A-4973.

Lou Cox/ Lou's Country Kennel – Chillicothe, MO: Dogs with Ribs Protruding; Animals Outside in 23 Degree Weather

After accumulating dozens of pages of severe USDA violations between 1993 and 2012, and appearing in the HSUS's Missouri's Dirty Dozen update report (at www.humanesociety.org/puppymillresearch) in 2011, this kennel cancelled its USDA license for unknown reasons in March 2012. Unfortunately, that was not the end of the story, as the kennel remains state-licensed in Missouri in 2013. Horrific violations at this kennel documented by federal inspectors included: dogs with painful eye conditions who had not been treated by a vet despite repeat warnings; a seriously underweight mother Rottweiler with her rib and hip bones protruding, who had only two surviving puppies out of a litter of six, a dog who was so badly matted that the inspector could not see her eyes, and dogs "shivering in a crouched position" in 23 degree F temperatures. Inspectors also noted during one visit that the drinking water was frozen in all of the outdoor kennels.

Marsha Cox/ Mar-Don Kennel – Chillicothe, MO: Surfaces Covered in Feces; Dogs in Below Freezing Cold

Marsha Cox, a relative of Lou Cox, was named as one of our original *Missouri's Dirty Dozen* in a 2010 report on some of the worst puppy mills in Missouri [See HSUS's 2010 and 2011 Dirty Dozen reports for details.]

Marsha Cox's USDA license was cancelled in 2011 after she repeatedly refused access to inspectors and was cited for severe animal care problems, including keeping animals outside in below-freezing temperatures without adequate protection from the cold, underweight

animals, and sick animals who had not been treated by a vet. Although Marsha Cox has lost her USDA license, she remains Missouri state licensed in 2013.



USDA inspectors repeatedly found dogs at Marsha Cox's Mar-Don Kennel outside in the cold without adequate protection from extreme temperatures. The USDA revoked her federal license in 2011 but the state continues to allow her to operate in 2013. /The HSUS 2010

Kenneth Dake/ Dake's Kennel – Dixon, MO : Accumulations of Trash and Waste

Dake's Kennel has been cited for recurring violations since at least 2007. In December 2012, USDA inspectors found 10 violations, including a Golden Retriever with sores inside her ears, excessive accumulations of trash and waste, unsafe housing, and dogs without adequate protection from the weather when temperatures had been in the 30s at night. Prior violations include storing rat poison two feet away from the dog food, puppies found huddling together in a whelping trailer that was only 42 degrees F at the time of inspection, failure to provide adequate protection to dogs in the outdoor enclosures when the outdoor temperature was 34 degrees F at time of inspection, and excessive

accumulations of feces. Dake's Kennel received an official warning from the USDA in 2011 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. USDA # 43-A-5402.

LeRoy Detweiler/ Sunset Ridge Kennel – Princeton, MO: “Thin and Listless” Dog Died of Sepsis; Dogs Exposed to Heat Index over 114 Degrees F

Joseph and LeRoy Detweiler had a history of problems under their joint USDA license (#43-A-5447), including an official warning in 2012, but in January 2013 the USDA allowed the Detweilers to cancel the joint license and granted LeRoy Detweiler a new license, USDA #43-A-5786, at the same address.

Violations from the Detweilers' USDA reports include a lethargic and shivering mother Chihuahua with only one surviving puppy, sick and lethargic puppies lacking veterinary care, a “high death rate” in puppy litters (July 2010), repeated problems with excessive accumulations of feces, dogs kept in unsafe temperatures, including a heat index of 114.1 degrees F in one of the buildings, and many other problems.

Grave problems have been found by state inspectors as well. In May 2012, a Missouri state inspector visited the kennel and found a gravely ill dog. Wrote the inspector: “there is a King Charles Cavalier, dog number 406 that is thin and listless [...] This dog is not trying to stand up. The licensee is keeping a list of dogs that have been treated or that have been seen by the attending veterinarian. Dog 406 is not on that list.” The inspector updated the report five days later, noting that the dog had died after the licensee was required to take him to the vet: “The licensee took the dog immediately to Dr. Alumbaugh. Dr. Alumbaugh put the dog on IVs as soon as it got there. The dog died 2 hours later. The necropsy show[ed] that the intestine had adhered together, causing [...] septic death.”

Miriam and Neal Feldkamp—Lewistown, MO: Injured Dogs in Need of Vet Care; Puppies Coated in Grime

The USDA has found recurring violations at the Feldkamp facility as recently as January 2013, when the kennel was cited for three repeat violations, including a veterinary care violation for two dogs with untreated injuries: a shih tzu with an open, oozing lesion and a dachshund who was limping and had a swollen lower leg. Additional issues found at the same inspection included an excessive build-up of feces; when questioned, the licensee told the inspector that “she cleans the outside portions of the enclosures about once a week” but regulations require that enclosures be spot cleaned daily.

The kennel has also repeatedly been cited for puppies, some as young as three days old, who were found with their feet falling through the wire flooring, a significant risk for entrapment and injury and a violation of both USDA and state regulations.

In September 2012, USDA inspectors found whelping areas so filthy that a litter of shih tzu puppies had “coats that were soiled with a brown grimy organic material,” and in April 2012, USDA inspectors found that no vet had been to the facility in almost two years. USDA #43-A-3036.

Mary Foster and Cathy Griesbauer/ Country Pets – Montgomery City, MO: Extremely Thin Dog and Reports of Sick Puppies; Co-Owner was Head of Professional Pet Association

The HSUS has received numerous complaints alleging sick puppies purchased from pet stores who originated from Country Pets, an enormous puppy mill which houses more than 750 dogs and puppies. The kennel received an official warning from the USDA in September 2012 for failure to provide veterinary care and failing to allow access to inspectors on four prior occasions.

During Country Pets' most recent federal inspection in August 2012, after twice finding no one present when inspectors arrived to attempt an inspection, USDA inspectors found several dogs in urgent need of veterinary care, including a Shih Tzu with a lesion on her eye who was squinting and blinking, a Bichon with a mass in her mouth, and a weimaraner who was seriously underweight, with his "rib, spine, hip bones, sit bones, and long bones all prominent and easily visualized from a distance." None of the animals had been examined by a vet, according to the inspection report. During a 2011 visit, USDA inspectors found additional problems, including dogs in need of veterinary care, dogs found panting in excessive heat, and housing in such disrepair that dogs' legs were falling through the flooring.

One of Country Pets' co-owners, Cathy Griesbauer, has been linked to numerous efforts to defeat animal protection laws. She was the President of the Professional Pet Association in Missouri in 2010; the PPA actively fought the passage of Proposition B, a ballot initiative designed to improve the care of dogs in puppy mills. USDA #43-A-1843.

Rhonda Gear/ Country Babies – Galt, MO: Dogs without Shelter in 20 Degree Temperatures, Buildings Not Cleaned in Months

Country Babies was listed in the HSUS's Dirty Dozen reports in 2010 and 2011 (see www.humanesociety.org/pupymillresearch) due to severe ongoing animal care violations, but is still in operation in 2013. The facility has accumulated numerous ongoing violations, including repeat violations for dogs with untreated medical issues, failure to provide adequate shelter to the dogs, filthy conditions, rodent infestation, and more.

At press time, USDA public records show that the agency may be in the process of revoking Country Babies's USDA license. The full complaint highlighting many violations cited over the years can be found at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/enforcement_actions/2012/September/Animal%20Welfare%20Act%20\(AWA\)/Complaints/MO10047-AC%20Rhoda%20Louise%20Gear%20Complaint_Redacted.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/enforcement_actions/2012/September/Animal%20Welfare%20Act%20(AWA)/Complaints/MO10047-AC%20Rhoda%20Louise%20Gear%20Complaint_Redacted.pdf) Even if Gear's USDA license is revoked, The HSUS has concerns that the dealer will remain licensed with the Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) and continue selling directly to the public, as have so many others in the state (Marsha Cox, Lou Cox, Wendy Laymon). The HSUS has urged the USDA and MDA to ensure that, if this dealer is permanently shut down, the dogs should be transferred to reputable shelters and rescue groups to receive proper care. USDA #43-B-3613.

Beverly Hargis/Hargis' Sunshines Kennel – Hallsville, MO: Injured and Limping Dogs

Hargis' Sunshines Kennel has been cited for multiple USDA violations over the years, including numerous dogs who were matted and dirty and in need of medical care, dogs who were limping due to untreated injuries, dogs without adequate protection from the cold, a "strong ammonia odor," and housing and sanitation problems. In January 2012, Hargis' Sunshines Kennel received an official warning from the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations. Nevertheless, as documented at its most recent USDA inspection in November 2012, serious issues continued. The kennel was cited for having dogs with inadequate cage space, excessive feces in some of the enclosures, to the point where some of the dogs could not walk without stepping in their feces, and a foul odor. In addition to being licensed to sell to pet stores, the kennel also sells puppies online via puppyfind.com. USDA # 43-A-0209.

Renee Horton/ Horton Kennel – Curryville, MO: Dogs Walking in Diarrhea

In March 2012, after attempting to perform an inspection on three prior occasions and being denied access, USDA inspectors finally entered Horton Kennel for an inspection. They found a Boxer with two masses which had not been evaluated by a vet, a Cocker Spaniel with yellow-green discharge around her

eye which had not been treated by a vet, a large hole in the flooring of one enclosure filled with a murky brown liquid, and dogs without adequate shade who were panting in the sun.

Additional violations found at the facility in recent years include a fly infestation, multiple dogs found stepping in their own diarrhea; other dogs with untreated medical issues such as masses and ear problems; and a dog who was matted so severely over 60% of her body that her fur was “heavily twisted and ropery,” per USDA inspectors. USDA #43-A-2675.

Wilma Jinson/ Jinson Kennel – Stella, MO: “Obvious Veterinary Care Problems” per USDA Inspector; Fined by USDA

In December 2012, Jinson Kennel was cited for a number of USDA violations, including an emaciated Miniature Pincher who was so thin that “each of her vertebrae could be seen,” and a bulldog with a paw injury so swollen that “the tissue had split in the middle and was draining,” which the inspector noted “can be painful and can indicate infection.” Similar problems at Jinson Kennel have been longstanding. As previously described in The HSUS’s Dirty Dozen update report in March 2011 (http://www.humanesociety.org/assets/pdfs/pets/puppy_mills/missouris_dirty_dozen_update.pdf), this breeder is still in operation despite many violations for filthy conditions, sick and injured animals, and direct non-compliance with USDA standards of care.

In December 2010, Jinson was cited by federal inspectors for a “direct non-compliance” for several dogs with untreated medical issues, including a dog with red, swollen paws and a dog whose leg was “swollen and bent at an unusual angle.” When asked about the dog with the “bent” leg, the licensee told the inspector that “she was a climber and she fell,” but she had not had the dog treated for the obvious injury. The kennel was also cited for housing in disrepair, failure to provide the dogs and puppies with adequate shelter from the elements, puppies with their feet passing through the wire flooring, and dirty water receptacles.

In September 2010, the USDA issued Jinson an Official Warning for “failure to establish and maintain an effective program for the control of insects, external parasites affecting dogs, and [control of] birds and mammals that are pests” at the facility.

In July 2010, Missouri state department of agriculture inspectors found a whelping building that “is rotting and smells of mold,” a fly infestation, and dogs exposed to contaminated washdown runoff, among other issues.

Additional violations go back to at least 2007. The HSUS has also received complaints from several people who allegedly purchased sick puppies from Jinson Kennel. USDA #43-A-2656.

Wendy Laymon/ Shadow Mountain Kennel – Rogersville, MO: Banned from USDA, Yet Still Licensed in Missouri after Numerous State Violations

As reported in our 2010 and 2011 Dirty Dozen reports, on March 27, 2009 the USDA levied action against Wendy Laymon (dba Shadow Mountain Kennel) under docket #08-0089: http://www.da.usda.gov/oaljdecisions/090403_AWA-08-0089.pdf for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act. She was fined \$7,125 (held in abeyance) and banned from holding a USDA license for three years, yet Laymon continues to be licensed by the state of Missouri in 2013, allowing her to sell puppies directly to the public and online.

In August 2011 The HSUS submitted a complaint to Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster regarding a purported dog “rescue” group also run by Laymon, which was believed to be a front for discarding the kennel’s unwanted breeding dogs. The complaint contended that Laymon was violating the state’s consumer protection law by deceiving the public into believing that some of the dogs in her operation are rescued from other facilities, when in fact many of the “rescued” dogs could have been coming directly from her puppy mill. The AG did not formally respond to The HSUS’s complaint, but “Rescue a French Bulldog” is no longer licensed separately in Missouri as a nonprofit kennel in 2013. However, Laymon’s breeding operation is still licensed as a commercial kennel in Missouri:

http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2011/08/dirty_dozen_puppy_mill_08052011.html
Laymon’s kennel has been cited by Missouri Department of Agriculture officials for numerous violations in recent years, including selling an allegedly “rescued” French bulldog online without a rabies vaccination or health certificate (June 2012); several dogs with such long toenails that the nails had “curled back into the pad of the foot”; refusing to allow inspectors to look inside a building which appeared to be a kennel building but which Laymon claimed did not have dogs in it, and a period of more than two years during which Missouri state inspectors found there had been no documented veterinary visit to the kennel (2008 to 2010). Annual veterinary visits for commercial kennels are required by law in Missouri.

Jeff Burnside of Washington’s KOMO 4 News expanded upon the Laymon story in February 2013, reporting that consumers across the country were still claiming to receive sick puppies from the facility thanks to unregulated Internet sales: <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Loophole-lets-accused-puppy-mill-operator-sell-dogs-online-192901401.html>.

Rose Marlow/ Pet Degree Ranch – Wellsville, MO: Received Official Warning for Violating Animal Welfare Act Regulations

In January 2012, Marlow received an Official Warning from the USDA for violating federal regulations due to conditions at Pet Degree Ranch. The warning listed 19 violations pertaining to housing/facilities and four violations pertaining to veterinary care between December 2010 and December 2011. But the violations did not stop after Pet Degree Ranch received the warning. From January 2012 to March 2013, USDA inspectors recorded 17 violations pertaining to housing/facilities and one violation pertaining to veterinary care. Specific examples of repeated violations include dogs without adequate protection from the wind and rain; expired infant medication kept in kennel area as if used on dogs; outdoor housing for numerous dogs who had no bedding or other way of preserving their body heat when temperatures dropped below 35 degrees F; sharp and rusted parts of the kennel that were a danger to the dogs; and sick animals who had not been treated by a vet. USDA #43-A-4368.

Tom Nelson/ Oak Ridge Pets – Macon, MO: Dogs with Fresh Bite Wounds

USDA inspectors have repeatedly cited Oak Ridge Pets for dogs in need of veterinary care, including dogs with oozing eyes, lesions, and lameness. In November 2012, a USDA inspector found two dogs with eye problems so noticeable that “a yellowish build up” covered the entire eye, and other dogs with fresh bite wounds. The licensee told the inspector that eight dogs had died over the last several months due to “fighting.” In March 2010, puppies were found with their “feet and legs dangling” from gaps in the wire flooring and the operator was found to be repeatedly keeping animals in cages that were too small. USDA #43-B-3425.

Joe Overlease/ C & J's Cockers – Miller, MO: Multiple Consumer Complaints and Many State Violations

The HSUS has received a number of consumer complaints alleging sick puppies sold by C & J's Cockers, which sells cocker spaniels online and directly to the public. The kennel is not USDA licensed so it can't legally sell to pet stores, but it sells puppies via its own website, Cocker-spaniels.com, and online classified sites such as Nextdaypets.com.

Between May 2010 and February 2012, Missouri Department of Agriculture officials cited the puppy mill for a number of violations, including overcrowded and dirty conditions, safety concerns, dozens of matted dogs (1/26/2011), no proof of veterinary care (2/7/2012), and unsafe housing conditions (multiple dates). State records indicate that there are currently more than 300 dogs and puppies at the kennel.

The facility is owned by Joe Overlease, former president of the Professional Kennel Club of Missouri. Overlease was a vocal opponent of Proposition B, a 2010 ballot initiative that would have vastly improved the standards of care for dogs in commercial kennels in Missouri. Overlease's kennel has been state-licensed since November 2003, after state officials found him operating an illegal, unlicensed kennel and required him to obtain a license.

Overlease's current website contains misinformation about adoption and shelter pets, advising readers who are considering adopting a dog from a shelter that "You should have a good insurance policy that covers animal attacks on your neighbors and visitors. And you also need to make sure your children and grandchildren or others are closely supervised." Overlease goes on to state that adopting instead of buying a puppy "can become a very expensive nightmare in the long run." Complaints received by The HSUS indicate that purchasing puppies from puppy mills has become an expensive nightmare for many buyers.

Valente Rios/ Rios Kennel – Galt, MO: Dogs in Complete Darkness; Failure to Obtain Vet Care

Inspection reports show there are more than 300 dogs and puppies at Rios Kennel. The puppy mill has been cited for numerous USDA violations, some as recent as January 2013, for injured dogs who had not been treated by a vet, filthy conditions, inadequate space, and ammonia levels in a windowless whelping building so strong that inspectors' noses "began burning and then started running," according to USDA inspection reports.

Additional USDA violations included limping dogs with swollen feet, animals with so much feces in their enclosures that they had difficulty walking without stepping in it, and dogs caged in a windowless building in "nearly pitch black" conditions without access to the outdoors or adequate light.

Missouri state inspectors have found additional problems at the facility as recently as March 2012, when an inspector found dogs who did not have water and a Yorkie with an eye problem that had not been treated. USDA #43-A-5652.

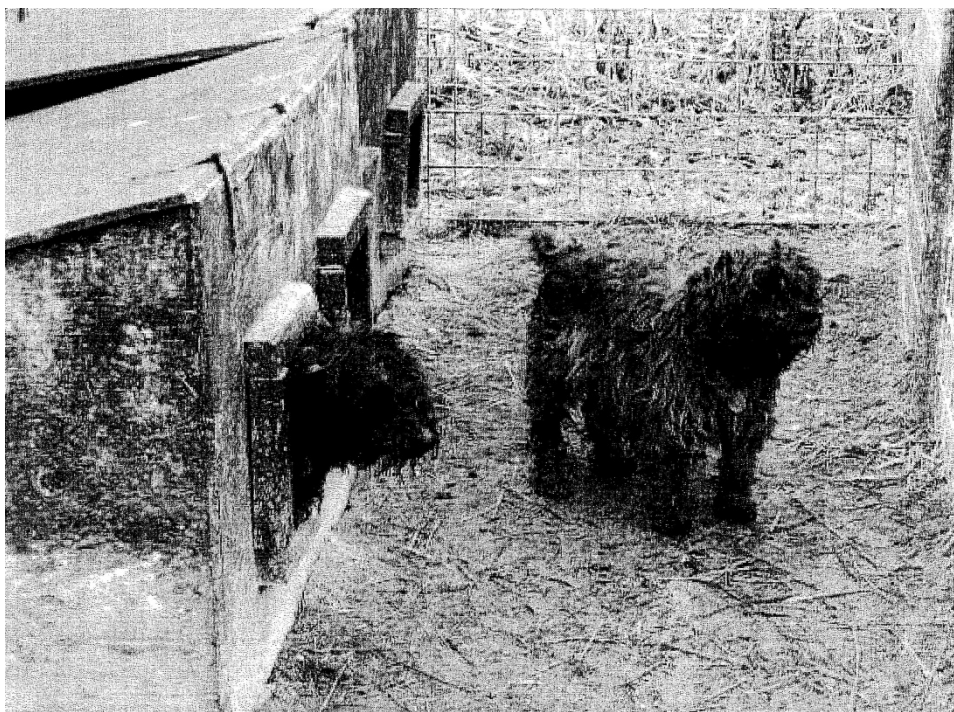
Donald Schrage/ Rabbit Ridge Kennel – Edina, MO: Starving Dogs, Open Wounds, Performed Surgery on Puppy without a License in Filthy Conditions

Donald Schrage's Rabbit Ridge Kennel has been cited for severe, repeat Animal Welfare Act violations for many years in a row, including violations as horrific as performing surgeries on his own dogs in filthy conditions; emaciated animals with their ribs, vertebrae and hip bones protruding; dogs with crusty eyes, scabs and lesions; dogs in excessive heat without adequate air flow, and a dog with an untreated

tumor. During one visit, USDA inspectors noted the kennel had only one full-time employee and one part-time employee to care for more than 300 animals.

The following USDA violations were documented in May 2012: “A female Lhasa Apso, tag #198, was observed to be very thin, her ribs, vertebrae, and hip bones are very prominent and easily visible, and she has a tucked abdomen. There is a very obvious loss of muscle of her front shoulders, front and back legs, making the long bones and shoulder blades visible.” In addition, “a male Boston Terrier, with no ID, was observed repeatedly licking the front of his muzzle. Upon closer observation there is an open wound approximately ½ inch in diameter under his left nostril. The skin in this open area is reddened.”

On August 3, 2011, a USDA inspector found that a black schnauzer puppy had recently had his ears cropped, even though the licensee “is not trained or qualified to safely conduct painful, surgical procedures involving the amputation of tissue” and the fluid Schrage allegedly used to sanitize his equipment was “discolored and yellow in appearance, did not smell like alcohol, contained a dead floating insect, and had no cap.” The inspector emphasized that surgeries conducted without appropriate training “could result in pain, distress, infection or injury of animals.”



CFR: 2.40 (b) (2)

USDA inspectors have documented horrific violations at Donald Schrage’s Rabbit Ridge Kennel in Edina, MO. /USDA 2011

The HSUS has urged both the USDA and the Missouri Department of Agriculture to shut this noncompliant kennel down and allow the dogs to be sent to shelters and rescue organizations for proper care and placement, and will continue to urge the authorities to take appropriate action. USDA #43-A-1957.

Amos Schwartz – Princeton, MO: Dogs Shivering in the Cold, Underweight Dogs and Open Wounds

Numerous violations have been documented at this kennel over the years, including an issue in February 2012 when a USDA inspector noted a Husky with an oozing eye and a bleeding mass, and a maltese with a dark purple swelling on his paw who was unable to put weight on it, among other problems. During the same inspection, a French bulldog was seen shivering in the cold without adequate protection. In November 2011, inspectors found an underweight husky so malnourished that “her hips and ribs could be easily visualized, even under her thick coat,” according to the USDA inspector. The inspector

also found an Old English sheepdog with an open wound, and other violations. The facility received an official warning from the USDA in 2012. USDA # 43-A-5349.

Kaye and William Waddell – Montgomery City, MO: Dog with Ulcerated Mass Was Not Treated for Four Months, then Euthanized

In March 2011, a veterinary medical officer with the USDA identified a lhasa apso at the Waddell kennel who had “a mass on the underside of her abdomen which was approximately 2.5 inches in diameter. The mass was covered with pink, raised bumps,” some of which appeared to be ulcerated, according to the report, and the “crater-like lesions were oozing blood.” Both the dog’s back leg and the enclosure had fresh blood on them, according to the report. The veterinary inspector informed the breeder that “open wounds are likely painful and allow bacteria and other disease-causing organisms access to the body,” and instructed the licensees in writing to get the dog to a veterinarian within a week and document her treatment. Instead, the inspector found out the following year (2/09/12) that “the licensee waited over four months to have the dog examined by a veterinarian” and at that point had the dog euthanized, violating regulations that require adequate and timely veterinary care for sick and injured animals.

Additional problems found at the Waddells’ facility include medications found in 2012 which had expired in 2001, 2005 and 2010. The inspector noted, “expired drugs may not work as anticipated, could become contaminated, and could harm the animals.” USDA #43-A-0439.

Joyce Young/ Young’s Ozark Kennel – Pottersville, MO: Puppies with their Feet Falling Through Wire Floors

Joyce Young received an official warning from the USDA in April 2012 for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations. With the exception of the year 2011, problems have been occurring at Young’s Ozark Kennel for many years; it has been in business since at least 2005.

In July 2010, a USDA inspector found ten dogs in need of veterinary care at Young’s Ozark Kennel, including four “excessively matted” dogs whose discomfort at being entwined in the matted hair was enhanced by the fact that it was over 90 degrees with high humidity. The inspector also found two lactating female dogs who were “very thin,” including a “beagle with six pups and a miniature pincher with three pups. Their spine and hips are prominent and their coats are dull,” according to the report.

Prior violations documented by USDA inspectors include puppies found repeatedly with their feet falling through the wire flooring, dirty food and water, and unsafe conditions. USDA #43-A-4644.

NEBRASKA

Barbara Crick / Cricks Kennels –Burwell, NE: Shot a Golden Retriever in the Head

The kennel has been cited for repeated problems with unsafe and shoddy housing and piles of feces, as well as dogs kept in extremely hot enclosures (over 91 degrees F) in August without adequate protection, and dogs kept in below-freezing temperatures in the winter (26 degrees F). In 2012, the operator was repeatedly cited for filthy and unsafe conditions. In 2008, a USDA inspector found a horrific sight: “a dead female golden retriever that had been tied to a post behind the east kennel and

shot in the head with a .22 caliber gun.” The operator was told that shooting a dog was not an acceptable method of routine euthanasia. One has to wonder if this was the first dog at Cricks Kennels to meet such a fate. USDA #47-A-0426.

Linda Hager – Crab Orchard, NE: “Not Home” Six Times in a Row when Inspectors Came?

After a history of being cited for very serious violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations, this operator appears to have suddenly become “unavailable” whenever federal inspectors pay a visit. As of March 2013, the kennel has denied entry to USDA inspectors at their last six attempted inspections, wasting taxpayer dollars and hiding the conditions of the animals on the premises – premises with a history of repeat animal welfare act violations and dismal animal care. Inspectors have not been able to visit the kennel since August 2011, at which time they found two dogs who were so ill that they had to be euthanized.

In May 2011, the USDA issued Hager a warning for issues involving insufficient vet care, unsafe housing, inadequate cleaning, drainage and sanitation, and other issues. USDA #47-A-0410.

Janice and Steph McCutcheon, and Krystal Wulf – Guide Rock NE: Dead Mice in Puppy Room

USDA violations at this facility have included: rodent droppings and nine dead mice found in the “nursery building,” in response to which the licensee stated that she had recently removed the dead mice from a dog’s water bowl (Jan. 2013); a Bassett hound with nails so long that it caused “rotation of the feet” when the dog was standing (Jan. 2012), a Mastiff with a bleeding wound on the tail (March 2011), and a French Bulldog with “circular pink lesions” on one paw; the paw was swollen and the nail was missing, according to the inspector, and the dog would not put weight on the paw (Feb. 2011). This puppy mill has two different locations, both licensed under USDA #47-A-0553.

NEW YORK

Clara and Dan Byler/ Bylers Kennel – Troupsburg, NY: No Vet at the Facility for almost Two Years; Dogs Found in the Cold Without Food or Water

Bylers Kennel was first licensed in August, 2010. Since then it has been visited by USDA inspectors seven times and has had violations noted on all seven of those reports.

During a January 2012 visit, a USDA inspector noted that not only was there no record of a vet having visited Bylers Kennel since April 2010, but a medicine cabinet was full of used syringes. The inspector noted, “these needles need to be discarded after use and a new needle used when giving vaccinations to prevent the spread of diseases.” The inspector also noticed bloody urine on the floor of one of the enclosures, a repeat violation, and recommended that the dogs in the enclosure be separated to determine which one needed to be treated. Additional violations found during recent inspections included dogs heavily matted and in need of grooming, whelping boxes “soaked with urine” and feces, dirty conditions, and unsafe housing.

In January 2011, USDA inspector found dogs in below freezing temperatures without adequate protection from the cold. The inspector also noted that some of the dogs did not have food. The inspector noted that when given food, “almost all the dogs began to consume the food immediately” as if very hungry. The inspector also noted that two of the dogs did not have water, and when offered water they drank “continually for several minutes.” USDA #21-A-0150.

Rebecca Graber – Waterloo, NY: Dogs with “Raw and Bloody” Wounds

This relatively new kennel has already been cited by USDA inspectors for multiple serious direct violations, including a violation in February 2013 for dogs in 22 degree temperatures without adequate protection, and sanitation issues. In August 2012, Graber was cited for many violations including filthy conditions, puppies with their feet falling through the wire floors (a serious injury/entrapment risk), dogs without shelter from the weather, and multiple dogs in need of veterinary care, including two dogs with “raw skin exposed that was bloody.” Violations noted on prior reports included still more violations for filthy conditions, improper medications used on dogs, inadequate shelter and inadequate protection from the elements. USDA # 21-A-0159.

Raymond Hoover/ Double R Kennel – Dundee, NY: Cutting off Puppies’ Tails

Double R Kennel has been cited with multiple violations over the years, including repeat violations for matted dogs; rodent and dog feces found on the floor of the area where the food was stored (March 2013); unsanitary “tools” used for docking (cutting off) puppies’ tails, which could lead to pain and infection (June 2010); dogs with oozing eyes and ears; filthy conditions; dirty syringes that were being re-used on dogs; and a French bulldog recovering from a C section who was housed in a dirty enclosure, which put her at risk of infection, according to the USDA report (June 2010). USDA #21-A-0065.

Alvin Shirk/ A & L Kennels – Dundee, NY: Emaciated and Wounded Dogs

A & L Kennels houses more than 300 dogs and puppies, according to recent USDA records. USDA inspectors have cited this facility in recent years for rodent infestations, a Boston Terrier with an eye injury, a Yorkie limping with raw flesh on the paw, a Jack Russell puppy with bite wounds, an underweight nursing westie who didn’t have any food at the time of inspection, who when provided with food during the inspection, ate “for several minutes,” an “emaciated” Dachshund with “obvious and prominent” skeletal structure showing, matted dogs and dirty conditions, and puppies kept on wire mesh floors, which is an entrapment and injury risk. USDA #21-A-0080.

Aaron Zimmerman – Dundee, NY: Urine Fumes so Strong they Hurt Inspectors’ Eyes; Repeat Violations for Puppies in Danger on Wire Flooring

Aaron Zimmerman’s facility has been cited again and again by USDA inspectors for facilities in disrepair, puppies with their feet falling through wire floors, and unsanitary and filthy conditions. Additional violations include lack of proper vet care, including dogs with hair loss and skin problems, piles of feces, and an ammonia level (from urine odors) so strong that it hurt inspectors’ eyes. Several of the problems have been documented repeatedly over a period of many years. In December 2011, a USDA inspector noted the kennel was so filthy that “it is evident that the facility has not been sanitized in at least two or more weeks.”

Aaron Zimmerman’s kennel has been in business for over a decade. The most recent reports available during the preparation of this report were from 2006, during which Zimmerman was cited for an underweight mother dog with “thin” puppies who were seen “shaking and seem[ed] to have difficulty moving around” and the inspector noted, “the owners do not feel that the mother is producing enough milk, but are not supplementing the mother [with] additional nutrients.” During the same inspection, Zimmerman was cited with a “repeat NCI” [noncompliant item] for puppies with their feet falling through the wire floors; in fact, the USDA inspector noted she had to free one puppy and one adult dog who had their feet trapped in the wire mesh and didn’t seem to be able to free themselves. Despite this very serious injury risk, inspectors found the same issue again and again over the years – including violations in 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2012. In addition, the issue with the “very strong ammonia” odor was repeatedly documented between 2006 and 2011. At its most recent inspection the kennel had more than 100 dogs. USDA #21-A-0075.

Nathan Zimmerman – Penn Yan, NY: Repeatedly Keeping Puppies on Dangerous Wire Floors

Although he has been cited again and again by USDA inspectors for the violation, Nathan Zimmerman has been found repeatedly keeping small puppies on wide and unsafe wire flooring. Wire flooring presents an entrapment risk for small puppies, whose feet often fall through the wire, leaving the animals trapped or causing them to injure themselves in an attempt to get free.

Wire flooring can also lead to foot injuries in dogs of any age, which may be the cause of a cocker spaniel found by USDA inspectors in January 2013 with a swollen paw who was unable to put weight on her foot. During the same inspection, the inspector noted two Chihuahuas who were kept on wire flooring with gaps of 1.5" square – an obvious entrapment risk and discomfort issue for tiny breeds like Chihuahuas, whose feet are often smaller than the gaps themselves.

Nathan Zimmerman's kennel has been in business for more than a decade. During previous inspections, USDA inspectors cited Zimmerman for filthy conditions, puppies with their feet falling through the wire flooring, an emaciated 5-week-old puppy, and cutting the tails off puppies on site without specific veterinary guidance. USDA #21-A-0103.

NORTH CAROLINA

Roger and Marilyn Hall/ Royal Acres Kennel – Magnolia, NC : 58 Suffering Dogs Removed in February 2013

Royal Acres sells small-breed and "designer" puppies online via www.royalacreskennel.com. On their website, the operators describe their heated and air-conditioned indoor kennel and claim "we feel that our adults should be treated with the same love and kindness as our puppies. Because if not for them, we wouldn't be able to share these adorable babies with you."

Unfortunately, when HSUS's state director, Kim Alboum, visited the kennel, she found that care was severely lacking. Said Alboum: "We walked to the second row of housing and found several suffering



Dogs surrendered by Royal Acres Kennel were found with severe, untreated medical issues like tumors, infections, and dental disease so advanced that parts of some of the animals' jaws had rotted away. /HSUS 2013

dogs. [The breeder] explained that these were all old dogs but I only saw only a few that truly looked old. The rest had hair loss, major dental infection, broken bones, eye infection, etc. [The owner] stated that the dogs are seen by a vet but in a statement immediately following stated that the [paralyzed dog] had not seen a vet in at least a year. She said she just can't get rid of the old dogs, which is interesting because she sold nearly 100 at the Ohio Dog Auction in 2010."

In February 2013, with the assistance of Alboum, local law enforcement, and The HSUS, 58 dogs with severe medical problems were removed from Royal Acres kennel after veterinarians determined they were in need of care that the kennel was not providing. Conditions included blind dogs, dogs with dental decay so severe that several of the dogs' jaws were disintegrated and they could no longer keep their tongues in their mouths; tumors; infections; and a paralyzed dachshund who had injured his private parts by dragging them along the dirty ground for so long on nonworking legs. Witnesses said the ammonia levels in the facility burned their eyes.

Unfortunately, even though 58 dogs were relinquished and are now in good homes, authorities were required to leave more than 40 dogs behind at the property because of a lack of clear and adequate legal standards in the state.

Joe and Cynthia Williams/ NC Great Danes, aka Promise [sic] Land Danes – Wilson, NC: Big Dogs, Little Food



A mastiff surrendered by the Williams was clearly malnourished, yet was nursing puppies. /The HSUS 2012

In August 2012, 28 large-breed dogs, including Great Danes, Mastiffs, and Doberman Pinschers were rescued from the kennel known as NC Great Danes in Wilson, NC. Several of the dogs were underweight and suffering from untreated masses, infections or injuries. Although the animals were eventually surrendered for treatment, the cruelty case against the kennel's operators was dismissed on procedural technicalities. The facility remains in business, selling puppies through online classifieds sites such as PuppyFind.com

and Hoobly.com. They have now changed the kennel name to Promise Land Danes and sometimes do not use any kennel name at all, just the breeders' last name.

In her online puppy ads, the breeder mentions that she is AKC inspected. Most of the kennels recently shut down in NC have been “AKC inspected,” yet AKC continues to obstruct the passage of stronger animal protection laws in North Carolina.

OHIO

Harvey Burkholder/ H & A Kennels – Shiloh, OH: Sale of Underage Puppies, Severe Dental Disease

Violations have been occurring at Burkholder’s kennel for many years. In 2012, the operator received an official warning from the USDA for eight kinds of violations recorded by inspectors between June 2010 and September 2011 during five different inspections.

One USDA inspector noted in March 2011 that a “dog was observed sitting in the back of the cage holding its mouth in an odd position.” According to the inspector, “Upon further examination it was observed that the lower front teeth were very loose and able to move back and forth” when the inspector touched them.

The inspector also noted that several additional dogs in the kennel had been diagnosed “grade 5 out of 5 for dental disease,” which is the most severe stage of periodontal disease in dogs and can lead to missing teeth, pain, bone loss, and/or an inability to eat properly. The inspector noted that neither the kennel owner nor his vet were doing anything to treat the dogs; in fact “the veterinarian gave no treatment instruction to the Licensee except to discharge the dogs to a rescue within 6-12 months or after done weaning a litter of pups,” according to the report. The inspector noted that the severe dental disease could be causing “unnecessary pain and suffering” for the dogs.

Additional violations documented at H & A Kennels in recent years include filthy conditions, sale of underage puppies, repeated failure to keep kennels clean, a repeated failure to treat animals with serious medical conditions. USDA #31-A-0061.

Tom Coleman/ Lone Oak Kennel – Danville, OH: Dogs Found Dead in Kennel; Violated a Quarantine for Contagious Disease

Before moving to Ohio, Tom Coleman was state licensed as a pet dealer in Georgia, but in February 2012 the Georgia Department of Agriculture revoked his license for violations of the Georgia Animal Protection Act. The revocation stemmed from repeated incidents during which Georgia inspectors found sick and sometimes deceased dogs in Coleman’s kennel who tested positive for Brucellosis, a serious zoonotic disease, followed by Coleman’s failure to properly contain the disease and comply with a quarantine.

According to Georgia state records, Coleman’s facility, then known as Copper Lake Kennels, was placed under quarantine due to dogs in his facility testing positive for Brucellosis. During a February 2012 inspection of Coleman’s facility, it was discovered that he had violated the quarantine by removing the infected dogs. According to Georgia state records, Coleman told the Georgia Department of Agriculture that he had “moved to Utah and had taken the [quarantined] dogs with him.” The Georgia Department of Agriculture later discovered that he had actually “moved himself along with the dogs to Ohio,” according to state records.

Canine Brucellosis is an increasingly less rare bacterial disease which is highly contagious to other dogs and can even be spread to humans.¹ In recent years it has become more prevalent in Ohio.

Coleman was also federally licensed but his USDA license was cancelled in January 2012. Animal Welfare Act violations cited on Coleman's USDA inspection reports included: four schnauzer puppies with recently cropped "raw and unhealed" ears that were "laying on the wire in feces;" waste under the wire enclosures that "has been allowed to accumulate to excess for at least a week" that was causing a strong odor of ammonia (urine) and feces, Yorkies in cages with wire flooring that had large openings (1.5 inches) that were causing their feet to fall through, and a cocker spaniel in a cage with her puppies that had "no clean area for the dogs to lay down" due to accumulated feces.

Ohio state records show that the Ohio Department of Agriculture also quarantined Coleman's facility in March 2012 and again in May 2012, after being alerted by the Georgia Department of Agriculture about Coleman's history and the disease risk. March 2012 records show that Ohio state officials found "approximately 400 dogs" on the new property. Although Coleman's USDA license was cancelled and his Georgia license revoked, according to the most recently available Ohio county records, he still has a 2013 Knox County dog kennel license with approximately 225 dogs at his facility.

Vicky Galle/ Purrfect Endings Farms – Mt Vernon, OH: Not a "Purrfect" Ending for Dead Dog Found in Kennel

During a September 2009 USDA inspection of Vicky Galle's facility, a USDA inspector reportedly found 11 puppies in cages inside a van without any food or water. According to the report, Galle stated she had picked up the puppies from a breeder the previous day, and upon arriving back at her facility, left the puppies in the van overnight without giving them any food or water. During that same inspection, the USDA inspector reportedly also found a Husky tethered inside a barn by a choke collar, and a German Shepard puppy in a cage so small the puppy could not sit or stand up in it.

During a March 2010 USDA visit, an inspector reported seeing a recently euthanized dog who was "awaiting disposal" and had been placed within view of the other dogs in the kennel; the inspection report did not state why the dog was euthanized or what method was used, nor did it state who euthanized the dog. According to the same inspection report, Galle was also cited for using expired vaccines, having dirty food and water receptacles, accumulations of dirt and grime, and a "fresh rat hole" found inside the kennel. Even though she is no longer USDA licensed, online research reveals that Galle continues to offer puppies for sale to the public.

Galle cancelled her USDA license in 2010, but she continues to hold a Knox County, Ohio license in 2013, which allows her to sell dogs directly to the public or online. Galle is also the current President of the Ohio Association of Animal Owners (OAAO), which according to their website, is committed to "educate animal owners in their responsibility to animal care and public safety". In recent years, OAAO has opposed multiple animal welfare bills in the state. USDA #31-B-0154.

¹ According to the Centers for Disease Control, "in humans brucellosis can cause a range of symptoms that are similar to the flu and may include fever, sweats, headaches, back pains, and physical weakness. Severe infections of the central nervous systems or lining of the heart may occur. Brucellosis can also cause long-lasting or chronic symptoms that include recurrent fevers, joint pain, and fatigue." While Brucellosis is more prevalent in countries that do not have effective domestic animal health programs, The HSUS has received a disturbing increase in the number of reports of outbreaks at commercial dog breeding facilities within the last few years.

Lanzie "Junior" Horton - Millersburg, OH: Shut Down and Convicted of Animal Cruelty in VA; Moved to OH

In November 2007, following an HSUS investigation of Virginia puppy mills, The HSUS assisted local animal control authorities in removing approximately 800 dogs from Horton's Pups, owned by Lanzie Carroll "Junior" Horton in Hillsville, VA. In addition to finding dogs in deplorable conditions, The HSUS's investigation revealed that Horton was unlawfully selling puppies to pet stores without a USDA license. As a result of the investigation, the subsequent raid, and the conditions found, in May 2008 Horton was convicted on 14 counts of animal cruelty and 25 counts of animal neglect. The VA district court fined Horton \$4,750, but local authorities allowed him to keep his county kennel license for up to 250 dogs.

In January 2009, improved commercial dog breeding laws went into effect in the state of Virginia. In addition to higher care standards, the new law prohibits anyone who has been convicted of animal cruelty from operating a dog breeding business within the state. In January 2009, an inspection of Horton's property in Hillsville, VA uncovered numerous violations of the new law and he was subsequently found guilty of more charges. Due to his animal cruelty convictions, Horton is no longer permitted to operate a commercial dog breeding facility in Virginia.

After the Virginia law went into effect, Horton was interviewed by a local newspaper and insinuated that he would move his dog breeding business out of Virginia, stating: *"If they [Virginia] want to be a communism state, they got other states you know, that you got rights in, you can do what you want to do."*

Horton has since moved his kennel to Ohio where he holds a 2013 Coshocton County dog kennel license. Due to the lack of regular kennel inspections in



An HSUS investigation in 2007-2008 resulted in Lanzie "Junior" Horton's conviction on multiple animal cruelty charges. Approximately 800 dogs were rescued from his kennel. But when VA refused to allow him to operate a kennel due to his history, he moved to Ohio, where he found the laws more permissive. /The HSUS 2007

Ohio (an issue that may change soon because Ohio recently passed a new law) it is unknown how many dogs Horton has and in what conditions he is keeping them, but local sources say he is still heavily involved in the dog business, has hundreds of dogs inside trailers, and has attended several dog auctions in Ohio.

In January 2013, The USDA fined Horton \$14,430 for selling puppies to pet stores without a license, a result of evidence uncovered during The HSUS's 2007 investigation.

Isaac Martin – Shiloh, OH: USDA Inspector Noted, “This Dog is Suffering”

Isaac Martin has been licensed by the USDA (# 31-A-0015) for over 15 years, and in that time has accumulated dozens of pages of USDA violations, an official USDA warning, an official USDA complaint, and a consent decision from the USDA to cease and desist from continuing to violate the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations. Horrific violations at the facility documented in federal inspection reports include: a poodle with a severely imbedded collar that caused an open, untreated neck wound so gruesome that the USDA inspector noted on the report “this dog is suffering;” a dog with a loose tooth that fell out when the USDA inspector “lightly touched the tooth,” its root “covered in pus;” and the operator admitting to using dirty wire cutters to cut off puppies’ dew claws.

Despite numerous absolutely shocking violations of basic animal care, and the recent (2012) fine and order, Isaac Martin remains USDA licensed and is also county licensed in 2013. At press time he still had multiple USDA violations on his most recent inspection reports (Oct 2012). At last count (October 2012) Martin had more than 100 dogs on his property. The HSUS has urged the USDA to permanently revoke Martin’s license. USDA #31-A-0015.

Dan Mast/ Pine Grove Kennel– Millersburg, OH: Six Years in a Row of Vet Care Deficiencies

In January 2013, Pine Grove Kennel was cited for a “Direct, Repeat” noncompliance when USDA inspectors found two dogs in need of veterinary care at the facility. It was at least the sixth year in a row that Pine Grove Kennel was cited by USDA inspectors for a failure to maintain an appropriate veterinary care program. The puppy mill has also been cited repeatedly for

unsanitary conditions, and in September 2012 an inspector noted rat droppings

in the kennel. In August 2009, the USDA sent Dan Mast an Official Warning for violations of federal regulations for failing to “maintain adequate veterinary care programs that include availability of appropriate facilities, personnel, equipment and services” and for sanitation issues. USDA #31-A-0241.



CFR: 2.40 (b) (3)

A USDA inspector who found this poodle with a severe neck wound at Isaac Martin’s facility noted, “this dog is suffering.” /USDA, 2009

David Miller/ Clear Springs Kennel – Millersburg, OH: Sick and Injured Dogs

Clear Springs Kennel was cited for numerous USDA violations in January 2013, including seven dogs in need of veterinary care. The dogs were suffering from a variety of problems, including lesions, masses, dental disease and abscesses. When ordered to get veterinary care for the dogs, the operator elected to have two of the male dogs, a Yorkie and a Maltese, euthanized rather than provide further care, according to USDA records. The euthanized dogs had had symptoms of dental disease and were matted around the face – treatable conditions which indicate that the operator simply didn't want to pay for the needed treatment. The USDA inspector noted that many of the other dogs in need of care were suffering from wounds on their feet, which is common in dogs who are forced to stand continually on wire-floored cages in puppy mills. Clear Springs Kennel has been operating since at least 2005 under USDA license #31-A-0149.

Ervin Raber/ Golden View Kennels – Baltic, OH: “Potentially Devastating” Zoonotic Disease; Sick and Injured Dogs

As the former president of the Ohio Professional Dog Breeders Association and owner of a puppy mill housing approximately 200 dogs, Ervin Raber has been a frequent opponent of legislation designed to improve Ohio's puppy mill laws. He may have had good reason to oppose stronger oversight, given the history of substandard conditions found at his facility.

USDA licensed breeders are generally inspected once every one to three years, unless there are many issues at the facility that warrant additional inspections. In 2011 alone, Ervin Raber had seven USDA inspections. During one of the most problematic inspections in May 2011, the inspector noted that approximately 90 dogs were improperly tested and had been “removed from the kennel” due to a Brucellosis infection. Brucellosis is a once-rare bacterial disease which is highly contagious to other dogs, and can even be spread to humans. The report does not state who removed the dogs or what their fate was.

The lack of proper treatment and quarantine of infected dogs such as that seen at Golden View Kennels may be leading to a higher prevalence of the disease in some parts of the country. According to researchers with the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, “As soon as canine brucellosis is diagnosed in a kennel, vigorous measures must be implemented until the disease has been eradicated. Infected kennels should be quarantined, even though most states/countries do not have formal regulations. Lack of such measures has lead [sic] to widespread, even international, spread of *B. canis* infection. [Shin, S., and L. E. Carmichael. "Canine Brucellosis Caused by *Brucella Canis*." *Recent Advances in Canine Infectious Diseases*. International Veterinary Information Service, 23 Nov. 1999. Web. 23 Apr. 2012.]

Other USDA violations noted on Raber's 2011 and earlier inspections include: repeat violations for sick and injured animals; dogs with untreated medical issues; strong ammonia (urine) odor; excessive accumulations of feces; rodent infestation; and dogs crowded in enclosures that were too small.

The HSUS has also received complaints about the facility. USDA #31-A-0124.

Jonas Raber/ Sunset Kennels – Millersburg, OH: Chose to Euthanize Five Dogs Rather than Provide Treatment; Dogs Found with Ulcerations and Open Wounds

Federal records show that when USDA inspectors directed Jonas Raber to get veterinary care for seven dogs in November 2012 for issues such as dental disease and skin lesions, Raber chose to have his

veterinarian euthanize five of the dogs rather than provide medical care; of the two remaining dogs, only one was treated by a vet and the other was not treated (a violation).

Sunset Kennels has been cited for 26 Animal Welfare Act regulation violations since March 2011 alone, including violations for dogs with untreated masses and open sores, missing hair, scabs, and ulcerations; failure to properly clean and sanitize the facility on a regular basis; dogs exposed to temperatures over 90 degrees without ventilation; and piles of feces that were six inches high under the cages. USDA #31-A-0235.

Daniel Schlabach/Evergreen Designer LLC – Charm, OH: Too many Violations? Just get a New License!

Over the years, Daniel Schlabach has been cited for numerous USDA violations, including dogs with untreated injuries and illnesses that required veterinary care, failure to protect the dogs from the weather, general filth, and ammonia (urine) odor. In June 2010, the USDA issued the licensee an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations.

On May 10, 2011 Schlabach cancelled his USDA license. On the very same day, a new USDA license was activated under the name Evergreen Designer LLC. Ohio Secretary of State business registration records list Daniel Schlabach as the registered agent for Evergreen Designer LLC. Despite the name change, conditions at this facility with nearly 300 adult dogs seemed to only get worse the following year. In addition to an increase in the number of dogs at the facility, the operator was cited in November 2011 for many dogs in need of veterinary care, including a dog with such severe skin problems that she had “thick, hairless skin covering her tail and around her rear end” and the same dog had a “firm, walnut-sized mass in her left mammary gland,” another dog was underweight, another had a runny nose and was coughing, another had “scabs and ulcerations” on the muzzle, an additional dog was limping and had “red, raw skin” on the paw, others were found with diarrhea; and there were unsanitary conditions, according to the report.

Although there were no new violations noted in 2012, the history of this facility continues to make it one of high concern to The HSUS in 2013, especially since the USDA has not inspected it since June 2012. USDA # 31-A-0412.

Wayne Troyer – Sugarcreek, Ohio: Dog Named Judy Shot in the Head

A person reviewing online inspection reports on the current USDA website would assume that Wayne Troyer of Sugarcreek, Ohio has a fairly clean history. Under his current license number, granted in 2010, Troyer has only one recent violation, for not making the kennel available for inspection in February 2011. But prior to being granted his current license (#31-A-0391) a Wayne Troyer at the same address (#31-A-0248) racked up a horrific list of Animal Welfare Act violations for neglecting to provide proper medical care to his dogs, which included shooting at least one dog in the head.

During a May 2009 inspection, a USDA inspector documented a “female brown and white dog (tag #7) named ‘Judy’” who appeared to have eye problems and needed to be seen by a veterinarian. When the inspectors came back to follow up on the dog about 6 weeks later, the inspector reported that the licensee’s wife told him they had “got rid of the dog.” When pressed for details, she admitted Troyer had killed Judy by shooting her in the head. Troyer later explained he had done so in order to “save the cost of veterinary attention.” According to the report, Troyer told the inspector that he had previously noticed Judy’s condition, but had wanted to “get one more litter out of the dog” before he “took care of” her.

In an April 2010 settlement agreement, the USDA fined Troyer \$500.00 for shooting Judy. He is still licensed and in business in 2013. USDA #31-A-0391.

Abe Yoder/ YLA Kennels – Baltic, OH: Poodle with a Broken Jaw is Left to Suffer

In October 2011, USDA inspectors noticed a miniature poodle at Abe Yoder's facility whose "lower jaw moved freely with minimal pressure." When the inspector asked the licensee about it, he stated that the veterinarian had told them that the jaw was broken, but that the veterinarian "didn't really say anything about it."

Additional documented violations at the facility have included several dogs with untreated injuries, such as sores on their paws, hair loss, and puncture wounds; use of expired antibiotics; dogs with matted fur; pooling of animal waste under the cages; puppies with their legs stuck in the wire flooring who were unable to move; strong ammonia (urine) odor; broken wire flooring causing large gaps that the dogs could get stuck in; dirty conditions; and a pest infestation. USDA #31-A-0420.

Jacob Yoder/ Jay Kennels – Millersburg, OH: Death of Puppy Stuck in Wire Flooring

Wire flooring in dog kennels does not promote proper sanitation, adequate comfort, or safety for dogs and puppies. It frequently leads to entrapment or injury as puppies' paws and toes become wedged or trapped in openings intended for feces. A prime example of the dangers of wire flooring is depicted in an October 2007 inspection of Jay Kennels. The USDA inspector found two puppies with their feet falling through the wire flooring, one of which also had both his upper and lower jaw stuck in the wire, perhaps because he had been trying to free himself. When pulled free, the puppy was weak, had a very slow heart rate, and was having difficulty breathing. The puppy later started convulsing and was euthanized.

Additional violations at this facility include: a direct care violation in 2012 for a dog with oozing, crusted eyes; a violation in 2011 for dogs with severe dental disease that was causing loose teeth, swollen gums and pus in the dogs' mouths; waste from upper enclosures that was potentially draining onto dogs in the lower enclosures, an "extreme" accumulation of excreta under the washdowns, and generally filthy conditions. USDA # 31-A-0265.

Owen Yoder – Millersburg, OH: Continued to Violate the AWA Regulations after Official Warning

In October 2008, the USDA issued an Official Warning to Owen Yoder for serious violations that had been noted on multiple USDA inspection reports. One of these violations included a dog with a "severe ear injury" that the licensee stated had been caused by grooming clippers, which "had left a flap of skin just hanging," according to the inspector. In the Official Warning, the USDA stated that future violations would be subject to more severe penalties, including up to \$3,750 in fines per violation.

Yoder was again cited in 2009 for similar violations involving dogs in need of medical care, and inspection reports as recent as August 2011 listed several dogs in need of medical care, including 50 dogs who had "grade 3 or higher" dental disease. In 2012, Yoder again received an official warning from the USDA for violating federal violations at his kennel.

Additional violations over the years included: dogs with scabs on their feet or swollen feet (common in puppy mill dogs who are forced to stand on wire flooring all day), dogs with matted and feces-encrusted fur, several litters of puppies with their feet passing through the wire flooring (an entrapment and injury risk), multiple attempted inspections in which the inspector was not given access, keeping dogs and puppies in dark buildings, and a heavy accumulation of grime, fur, dirt, dust, and debris. USDA #31-A-0198.

Roman Yoder – Baltic, OH: Dying Puppy Denied Veterinary Care

In January 2013, Roman Yoder was cited by USDA inspectors for having four dogs with illnesses or injuries requiring veterinary care, unsafe enclosures, and dirty conditions. In August 2011, federal inspectors cited Roman Yoder for several pages of USDA violations, including a Direct Non-Compliance for a severely lethargic puppy that was “lying flat out and was unable to rise.” The USDA inspector reportedly asked that the veterinarian be contacted immediately regarding this puppy. However, according to the report, the licensee’s wife “placed the puppy back into the whelping box and did not contact the veterinarian at time of inspection.” By the time of the exit interview, the inspector noted that the puppy had died.

During the same August 2011 inspection, 24 dogs were observed to have dental issues, several with red and swollen gums, and yellow/green fluid accumulation along the gum line, 11 dogs were observed to be matted or excessively dirty, 10 dogs were observed to have excessively long nails, seven dogs were observed to have ear issues with increased redness and debris build-up, and some of the dogs were observed with additional medical issues, such as eye discharge and skin ulcerations.

USDA inspectors attempted to do a follow up inspection in September 2011, but the inspectors were unable to access the facility. Lack of access is a violation because licensed operations are required to be available for USDA inspection during reasonable business hours, and those who do not make an effort to make their facilities available often have something to hide. USDA inspectors again attempted to inspect the facility in October 2011, at three separate times during the day, but they were again unable to access the facility. Finally, in November 2011, USDA inspectors were able to conduct a follow-up inspection, at which point it was discovered that several of the dogs from the August inspection, who were supposed to have been seen by a veterinarian no later than August 11th, had not yet been seen by a veterinarian and “their health and well being continues to be compromised,” according to the inspectors’ report. USDA #31-A-0269.

OKLAHOMA

Clarence Anderson – Locust Grove, OK: Dog’s Wound “Deep Enough to Expose the Tendons” per USDA Inspector

Anderson’s facility has been cited for numerous issues by USDA inspectors over a period of several years, including a dog so sickly she could barely stand, dogs so unkempt that matted balls of dirt and fur were hanging off them, a shih tzu who had been “groomed” so hastily that she had bloody wounds, and a dog whose face was so matted that he could not see through one eye, and when the inspector removed the matted fur over his eye, “the eye was completely closed, covered with a crusty brownish yellow material.” In August 2011, inspectors found a female shih tzu with a wound on her paw so severe that it was “deep enough to expose the tendons in the paw,” according to the inspector’s report. USDA #73-A-2549.

Becky and Guy Franks/ First Class Puppies – Antlers, OK: No Dry Place to Stand

During a September 2012 visit from USDA inspectors, First Class Puppies was cited for six dogs in need of veterinary care, including a shiba inu with a foot injury who was so lame she was seen falling down, and numerous dogs with eye conditions. Inspectors also found unsafe housing, dirty conditions, and dogs kept in pens full of greenish standing water with no dry place to stand. At its last inspection, the USDA inspector found 321 dogs and puppies at the facility. The HSUS has received reports of sick puppies

allegedly sold by First Class Puppies, one via a pet store and another via www.PurebredBreeders.com, which is a large online seller of puppies, many of whom come from puppy mills. USDA #73-B-1838.

Shirley Machin – Ada, OK: Inspector said Beagle with Torn and Mangled Face “Had to Have Been in Pain and Suffering” per USDA Inspector

In February 2013, USDA inspectors found a beagle with “missing soft tissue on the nose and lip” which had mangled the animal’s face. The inspector reported that part of the beagle’s nose was missing and her teeth and gums were exposed due to the missing flesh. In addition, the beagle was “making an odd breathing noise due to not having all the nostril intact,” according to the USDA inspector. The licensee said the injuries were caused by another dog months earlier, but there were no records showing the beagle had ever been treated for her severe injuries. The USDA inspector wrote, “When the injury occurred, the dog had to be in pain and suffering due to the severity of having her lip and nose ripped away from the face by another dog and not having the proper vet care needed at time of injury.” After the USDA inspector insisted that the animal be seen by a vet, the operator elected to have the beagle euthanized rather than treated, “due to the maintenance requirements for the dog.”

Prior violations at Machin’s kennel include unsafe housing, excessive feces, contaminated food and water, dogs in an outdoor enclosure with only small plastic barrels as shelter, and an inadequate plan for veterinary care. USDA #73-A-2522.

Connie and Jimmy Jr. West/ West's Kennel – Strang, OK: Puppies Walking in Feces

In February 2013, federal inspectors cited West’s Kennel for a “Repeat Direct” noncompliance due to four dogs who were in urgent need of veterinary care, including a female Chihuahua with a “blue and watery eye” who also had bleeding wounds on her front legs, and a male Chihuahua who had a “reddish tinged fluid” draining from his eye and a “mass of tissue protruding from the middle of the eye.” The inspector noted that both dogs were blinking constantly and winced as if in pain when the inspector tried to examine their eyes. The inspector also found two other dogs with such bad dental problems that pockets of a “white creamy” pus-like substance were present between one of the dog’s teeth and gums.

Additional recent USDA violations include puppies observed walking in feces due to inadequate cleaning, repeated failure to grant access to inspectors, a pug with a puncture wound and red, inflamed skin, and a Welsh Corgi with such long nails that she couldn’t stand properly. USDA #73-A-1872.

PENNSYLVANIA

Henry and Nancy Swarey/ BowWow Hollow Pets – Mifflintown, PA: Consumer Complaints

The HSUS has received numerous consumer complaints alleging overcrowded conditions and sick puppies allegedly sold by BowWow Hollow Pets, aka BowWow Hollow Kennels. In 2011, the state’s Office of Dog Law issued a warning to the kennel for inadequate cage space. There were 121 puppies on the premises at the time. In November 2011, the state’s Office of Dog Law ordered the kennel to obtain veterinary examinations on ten dogs, including puppies who seemed lethargic or ill, some of whom had bloody matter dripping onto the shavings in their cages.

The kennel is licensed in the state to keep and sell more than 500 dogs a year and is also licensed as a B dealer by the USDA, meaning they can sell an unlimited number of puppies bred both onsite and by

others. In addition, the facility sells puppies over the Internet via www.bowwowhollowpuppies.com and www.Lancasterpuppies.com. LancasterPuppies.com is a website offering puppies from numerous questionable dealers in PA, OH, and nearby states.

During the facility's most recent USDA inspection in 2012, federal inspectors cited BowWow Hollow Pets for selling puppies from undocumented dealers. This is a serious violation because selling puppies from undocumented sources could mean the puppies are coming from illegal or unlicensed puppy mills and are essentially being "laundered" under the broker's USDA license. USDA #23-B-0190.

Marlin Zimmerman/Turkey Hill – East Earl, PA: Dogs Living in Darkness; Recurring Violations

This puppy mill is licensed by the state of PA to sell more than 500 puppies a year. Yet state kennel inspection records show the substandard kennel has had violations almost every year. In 2012, the Pennsylvania Office of Dog Law issued verbal and written warnings to the kennel for various issues, including dogs without adequate cage space, dogs without adequate exercise runs, dogs whose indoor enclosures were so dark that inspectors couldn't see the animals without a flashlight, and inadequate ventilation with strong urine fumes. Inspectors also ordered veterinary exams on some of the dogs due to the conditions witnessed.

Problems at the kennel have been tracked closely by reporter Amy Worden with the *Philadelphia Inquirer* as detailed in a March 2012 article titled "Turkey Hill Kennel Enters 5th Year of Noncompliance." <http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/pets/Turkey-Hill-kennel-enters-fifth-year-of-non-compliance.html>.

In addition to the state violations, the USDA has also found violations of federal regulations at Turkey Hill. USDA #23-A-0268.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Robert Engbrecht/Dakota Kennel– Marion, SD: Violations at Last Six Inspections; Dogs in the Cold

USDA inspectors have found violations at Dakota Kennel during each of their last six inspections, including three "repeat" violations in a row for dogs kept in the cold without an adequate source of heat. The kennel has also been cited for numerous issues related to a lack of proper veterinary care and dirty conditions.

In March 2013, USDA inspectors instructed the operator to get veterinary care for two dogs with signs of periodontal disease. One of the dogs was a male poodle with dental issues so severe that they seem to have resulted in bone loss in the jaw, a common condition in puppy mill dogs: the inspector noted that the poodle's "gums were reddened and swollen" and his "bottom jaw was loose and moved when touched." The inspector also noted that "there was crepitus [a crackling sound] when the jaw was touched" and that the dog jerked his head away when the teeth were touched and was panting when placed back in the enclosure. The inspector noted that "dental disease in dogs can be painful and can affect the overall health of the animal" and instructed the licensee to have the poodle examined by a vet and come up with a treatment plan. When the inspector re-inspected the facility two days later to check on the treatment plan, he learned that the poodle had been taken to a vet and euthanized instead of treated. USDA #46-A-0190.

Gary Scheetz/ Lakeview Kennels, Inc. – Parkston, SD: Dogs without Water, Refusing Inspections

In January 2012, Gary Scheetz received an official warning from USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations. Previous violations included repeated failure (more than a dozen times) to grant access to inspectors, sick animals, filthy conditions, and dogs without water.

On April 29, 2010, USDA inspectors reported that the owner pretended he wasn't home and then tried to leave when he thought the inspector was gone. When the inspector asked to see the property and dogs, the licensee refused several times, claiming that he had an appointment. Records state that the licensee kept asking the inspector to make an appointment to come see the facility and the inspector kept replying that he was not allowed to do that (USDA inspections are unannounced), to which the licensee replied, "Just set up an appointment with me the day before, I cannot get a lot of the things corrected in a 3 to 4 hour time frame, not the big things that matter anyways." When the inspector asked if the licensee was refusing an inspection, the licensee shut his car door in the inspector's face and left, according to the report.

Lakeview Kennels cancelled its USDA license in 2012 and reportedly surrendered numerous dogs to officials in December 2012. But there is concern that the kennel may still be in business in South Dakota, especially due to its remote location, in a state with no puppy mill laws and no felony animal cruelty laws, in a county with no local department of animal control.

TEXAS

Melva Langford–Whitewright, TX: Dogs Smearred with Feces

On February 27, 2013, USDA inspectors found a number of animals in need of attention at the Langford facility, including a rat terrier with an injured eye and several dogs with feces matted around their rear ends and other parts of the body. Feces adhered to the rear end with matted fur can pose a significant health risk to dogs because it can prevent them from moving their bowels normally, in addition to the obvious sanitation risks. Inspectors also found dirty food receptacles with accumulations of rust and/or dirty and old food. In 2011, inspectors found green water and/or "green slime" in some of the water bowls. In 2008, an unspecified number of dogs were found with "a significant amount of hair loss" and were scratching, and inspectors found a number of sanitation issues and a rat infestation. Problems at this facility have been documented since at least 2007, when USDA inspectors also found feeders with "dirt and debris" in them and an "active rodent population." #74-A-1230.

Pam Sims/ Pam's Cockers and Schnauzers – Winnsboro, TX: USDA Revoked her License but She's Still Selling Online

In 2007, 61 adult dogs were removed from the property of Pam Sims, Pam's Cockers and Schnauzers, due to severe dermatitis and other problems (see photo). The USDA revoked Sims's license in 2009 after years of animal welfare violations including a high concentration of ammonia (urine fumes), failure to provide adequate shelter or protection from inclement weather, failure to provide vet care to dogs with severe skin problems, animals with open wounds caused by biting and scratching at infected skin, and severe accumulations of feces.

Even though the USDA revoked her license by court order, it appears that Sims has remained in business to this day, taking advantage of the Internet sales loophole that allows her to sell directly to the public without any federal oversight: As of March 2013, Sims still has an active online profile on Puppyfind.com, a classified ad site used

by a number of questionable breeders and puppy mills to sell puppies to unseen buyers across the country.



The USDA revoked Pam Sim's license to sell to pet stores in 2009 due a repeated failure to adequately care for dogs, but she continues to sell puppies online via websites like PuppyFind.com. /USDA 2007

A review of Sims' PuppyFind page in March 2013 found 6 puppies for sale, all cocker spaniels born in 2013. According to her profile on PuppyFind, Pam Sims has been a member of PuppyFind since 2004.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Puppy –Martinsburg, WV: Unlicensed Breeders?

The HSUS has received numerous complaints about this storefront operation, which on its website, wvpuppy.com, identifies itself as a local "network of breeders." The complaints range from allegations of sick puppies sold to the public, consumers who claim to have witnessed dirty and overcrowded conditions in the store, and the sellers' lack of transparency about where the puppies really come from.

The seller's website claims the storefront is operated by a network of "family breeders located in the West Virginia panhandle area," but there are no USDA-licensed dog breeders in the state of West Virginia. Breeders who have more than a handful of breeding dogs and who sell those dogs through pet stores are required to be licensed by the USDA. In 2009 The HSUS Puppy Mills Campaign filed a complaint with the USDA due to the large number of animals being sold from this facility, with the concern that some of them could be coming from unlicensed breeders. The USDA did not respond regarding the results of any investigation.

WISCONSIN

Gerald Schulz / Pretty Penny Kennel – Plymouth, WI: Years of Complaints

The HSUS has received numerous complaints about this operator since 2007, including complaints about the alleged treatment of the dogs, poor conditions, and sick puppies reportedly sold to buyers. Local residents say Pretty Penny Kennel has hundreds of breeding dogs, most of whom spend the majority of the bitter cold Wisconsin winters in outdoor hutches with very little protection from the elements.

Wisconsin passed a kennel licensing law in 2009 that requires large commercial breeders to abide by certain standards of care, but state inspection reports show that Schulz often does not comply with even those basic requirements. Sources say local law enforcement gets complaints about the kennel almost every month, but so far they have not agreed to shut it down.

Adult breeding dogs rescued from the Schulz facility have reportedly suffered from many problems, including malnourishment, tumors, fear, aggression and severe infections.

A local anti-puppy mill group, the Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project, Inc., (www.nowisconsinpupmills.com) has been gathering information on the history of problems at the kennel for many years, and along with The HSUS and other advocacy groups, has been encouraging local authorities to take stronger action.

WYOMING

Sharon Curless/ Ruff Pine Kennel – Pine Bluffs, WY: Dogs Died Without Adequate Veterinary Treatment

This kennel has been cited multiple times in 2012 and earlier for dogs in need of veterinary care, dogs with inadequate shelter from the wind, rain and cold, and housing in disrepair. In 2008, Curless was cited for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to two Pomeranians who were in a fight with another dog; both died the next day without ever seeing a vet, according to USDA inspection reports. In 2007, USDA inspectors noted that a pug died after the owner noticed abnormal tissue protruding from her vaginal area; the pug had not been seen by a vet. Ruff Pine Kennel received an official warning from the USDA in December 2012 for violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations. As of 2012, Ruff Pine Kennel housed approximately 180 dogs and puppies under USDA license #83-A-0031.

CONCLUSION

Many readers will be confused or even outraged that the puppy mills listed in this report are still in business.

The reasons that these kennels are still operating are many. In some cases, animal protection laws simply aren't strong enough to require the facilities to be regularly inspected, and although cruelty laws may apply, without inspections there are limited opportunities to uncover evidence or check on the animals' welfare. In addition, many states define animal cruelty only as the deliberate torture, maiming or killing of an animal, with little

regard for conditions that lead to painful veterinary issues or to psychological deprivation or emotional suffering.

In other cases, local authorities seem to be protective of the kennels, and offers of assistance from “outsiders” to help in closing them down are sometimes rebuffed.

Another problem lies in the limited powers of inspecting agencies. The United States Department of Agriculture, for example, which cited most of the kennels listed in this report for egregious violations, lacks the authority to enforce state laws, including animal cruelty laws. They may fine repeat violators and eventually revoke an operator’s license, but the process often involves legal challenges that can drag on for years. However, The HSUS believes that the USDA has authority to undertake far more enforcement actions than it does.

The Humane Society of the United States is not a law enforcement agency and cannot close down kennels without the help of local authorities, but we will continue to monitor problematic kennels and press local and federal authorities to take action. As always, we stand ready to help hands-on with any closures or removals permitted by law.

To fight puppy mills and uncover cruelty, consumer support is essential. Voters must advocate for clearer and stronger laws at both the state and federal levels. Pet lovers can help stop puppy mills by pressuring their legislators to pass stronger protections for dogs, refusing to purchase any puppy without personally visiting the facility, and by reporting any suspected cruelty immediately to local authorities or to The HSUS’s Puppy Mill Tip Line at 1-877-MILL-TIP.

Methodology

- Because it is not possible to list all of the problematic puppy mills in the country in a single report, the facilities listed in this report were selected based upon a number of factors. Factors included, but were not limited to:
 - The availability of state or federal kennel inspection reports, or related documents received via public records requests and the quantity or nature of violations found on those reports;
 - The severity of violations;
 - The size of the facility and/or the number of years that violations have been occurring;
 - Availability of consumer complaints;
 - Judicial decisions such as prior animal cruelty convictions, if known
 - USDA official warnings or fines;
 - Availability of photographs or other visual documentation; and
 - Indications that the facility was still in business at the time of publication
- Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation.
- If a breeding facility is not listed in this report, it may be due to a lack of available records and/or a lack of space, not a lack of significant problems.
- Retail pet stores were only listed if they are also breeding dogs.

Terms Used

“AWA”

AWA stands for the Animal Welfare Act, a federal law which the United States Department of Agriculture is charged with enforcing. The AWA was signed into law in 1966. Its regulations outline basic requirements for the care of animals in research, exhibition, transport, and by animal dealers, which includes commercial breeders that sell warm-blooded animals, such as puppies and kittens, for resale to pet stores and other dealers. Currently there is a significant loophole in the AWA regulations that allows breeders who sell animals over the internet or by mail or phone to avoid federal regulation. The USDA is currently (as of May 1, 2013) considering a rule to address this loophole.

“USDA licensed”

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) oversees approximately 2,500 puppy mills in the U.S. Currently, only puppy mills that sell their puppies for resale (to pet stores or brokers) are required to be federally licensed and inspected by the USDA. These facilities are required to abide by the basic standards of care outlined in the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations. However, thousands of pages of federal kennel inspection reports studied by The HSUS demonstrate that many USDA-licensed facilities continue to operate for years even when USDA inspectors have documented repeat violations of the AWA.

“Direct Sellers” and “Internet Sellers”

About two thirds of all the puppy mills in the country are not required to meet any minimum federal standards of care because they sell directly to the public (retail) instead of to pet stores or middleman brokers (wholesale). In many states, such as AR, MN and SD, large-scale breeding facilities aren't even required to be routinely inspected by any state agency. Other states, such as PA, MO, and WI, do have laws that require large-scale breeding facilities to be regularly inspected, but even in these states it is very uncommon for authorities to shut down facilities even after citing them for repeated violations.

Although there are animal cruelty laws in all 50 states, it is very difficult to charge anyone for these crimes if large-scale breeding facilities are not required to open their facilities to inspections to begin with.

“Direct Sales Loophole” or USDA “Retail Rule”

At press time, The United States Department of Agriculture was still considering closing a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act regulations which has been under discussion for years. The current loophole allows commercial breeders, including Internet dealers, to sell large numbers of puppies sight-unseen directly to the public without federal oversight because they are classified as “retail” sellers, even though most of them do not have a storefront like a traditional pet store. If the proposed rule is finalized, most of these large-scale puppy breeders would be required to obtain a USDA license, just like facilities that sell to pet stores. Brick and mortar pet stores and small hobby breeders would still be exempt.

Citizens can help by asking their lawmakers to contact the USDA and voice their support for finalizing the “retail pet stores rule.” Legislation pending in Congress, called The PUPS Act, would also close this loophole, a change that is long overdue.