

The Horrible Hundred 2021

A sampling of problem puppy mills and puppy sellers in the United States

The 2021 Horrible Hundred is a list of problem puppy breeders and sellers in the United States. Since 2013, the Humane Society of the United States has published the report annually to warn consumers about common problems at puppy mills and puppy selling dealers, including the brokers that sell to pet stores. Documented problems at many of these facilities have included sick or injured dogs, inhumane and unsafe conditions, and a lack of protection from the heat and cold.

Every year, HSUS researchers study hundreds of pages of reports and records to identify pet seller issues that the public should be aware of. But despite the significant problems outlined in this report, *the Horrible Hundred is not a list of the worst dog breeders*. There are approximately 10,000 puppy mills in the U.S., and many puppy mills are not inspected at all, thus no verifiable records on their conditions exist.

The HSUS shares this information with the following goals:

- To inform the public and warn consumers about problem puppy sellers, especially those who sell online or through pet stores, concealing their operations from public view.
- To urge government oversight agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture and state regulators, to live up to their enforcement obligations.
- To encourage government decision-makers to properly fund and support humane law enforcement and oversight agencies, and to prioritize dog law enforcement.
- To encourage policy-makers to pass stronger rules and laws to protect dogs.



Missouri state inspectors found many violations at Earl Light's Corn Creek Kennel in 2020-2021, including cages like this one that were rusted and had holes and sharp points that could injure the dogs, but the USDA has not cited the kennel for any recent violations, nor visited it in almost two years. Photo by Mo. Dept of Ag, 2020.

The period of time between our May 2020 Horrible Hundred report and our May 2021 report has been one of the most troubling in modern history. The global pandemic put many inspection programs on hold, yet the puppy-selling market was busier than ever in 2020 due to the increasing demand for new dogs from home-bound Americans. Deadly weather events in some parts of the country put more animals at risk than ever before,

highlighting the need for large breeding operations to have safely constructed kennels as well as emergency plans, fire prevention and weather protections in place. But at the same time, pet stores were considered essential businesses in many areas, and the market for dogs was strong, according to [news sources](#). Now more than ever, dogs need our protection, and kennel laws should be strictly enforced to make sure animals are protected in the next disaster.

Since we released our 2020 report, some of the dealers listed in that report appear to have closed. One of them is Amanda Gouge, who operated Ellie May's African Beauties, the North Carolina American Kennel Club breeder whose emaciated Weimaraner appeared on the front cover of [last year's report](#). Gouge was found guilty of animal cruelty in August 2020 and was required to forfeit the dog in our cover photograph, along with dozens of others, and to pay \$5,000 to the county for expenses incurred. The dog on our cover and dozens of others were surrendered and have now been adopted into new homes through a network of shelters and rescue partners.

Another dealer from our 2020 report who has closed is Audrey Rottinghaus, who ran Wendy Pets in Kansas, which had its state license suspended shortly after inspectors found the operator had killed two dozen dogs by gunshot. Kansas authorities suspended Rottinghaus' license for at least two years and required her to sell or give away all but four of her surviving dogs as part of a May 2020 consent agreement. But it appears the United States Department of Agriculture¹ did nothing to cite or penalize the dealer. Rottinghaus apparently cancelled the Wendy Pets USDA license in August 2020. But because the USDA did not revoke the license nor cite the breeder for a single violation, the owner can re-apply for a new USDA license at any time. In fact, members of the Rottinghaus family have held nearly half a dozen licenses in Seneca, Kansas, over the past two decades, regularly cancelling any USDA licenses that fall under scrutiny and then obtaining new ones. If USDA will not penalize breeders who shoot dozens of dogs, one has to wonder how much animal suffering they are overlooking at other operations.

Next door to Kansas, Missouri is another state with a significant puppy mill problem that has taken action against some Horrible Hundred dealers. Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt sentenced a notorious repeat offender who was in our prior report, Marlisa McAlmond (Cedar Ridge Australians), [to 30 days in jail](#) for killing 21 dogs who the agency had instructed her to turn over for rehoming². McAlmond also lost her state license, but it was



In 2020 and 2021, HSUS undercover investigators photographed dogs in cramped, stacked cages at several facilities that sold to pet stores, including Petland. The conditions shown here, at a Petland supplier called Whispering Oaks Kennel in Coffeyville, Kansas, are not indicative of a high-quality breeder, yet Petland claims to purchase only from breeders with above-average standards. Photo by the HSUS, 2021.

¹ The USDA is charged with enforcing the federal Animal Welfare Act by licensing and inspecting dog breeding operations in every state if they have five or more breeding females and sell puppies as pets sight-unseen, for example through pet stores, middleman brokers or online. The USDA does not license pet breeders who only sell to buyers in person.

² Attorney General Schmitt had sued McAlmond in 2019 for violations of the Missouri Animal Care Facilities Act. When McAlmond continued to violate the law, Schmitt filed for a temporary restraining order. As a result, the parties entered into a consent order which

too late for the animals she killed. The horrific case highlights the cruel disregard some commercial breeders have toward the animals they claim to love. Schmitt's office also took action against two other repeat offenders who were in our previous reports, Marilyn Shepherd/Williams (Cedercrest Kennel aka [Pup 4 U](#)), and American Kennel Club breeder Cory Mincey ([Cory's Cuties](#)/Puppy Love Kennel). Unfortunately, although the state penalized Shepherd and Mincey, both are still allowed to operate as hobby breeders in Missouri, keeping smaller numbers of animals. Both are offering puppies for sale online as of May 3, 2021.

While some states continued strong efforts to monitor problem kennels, even during the pandemic, some states seemed to significantly decrease their frequency of inspections. Nationally, USDA's enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act at commercial breeding kennels, which was already weak before the pandemic, continues to be nearly non-existent, partly because the agency limited in-person inspections during the pandemic.

For at least three years in a row, the USDA has failed to revoke a single dog breeder license or significantly fine or penalize any problem dog breeders under the Animal Welfare Act. And once again this year, a comparison of state inspection reports and USDA inspection reports continues to show that USDA is failing to cite or even inspect some dealers with a history of state-documented humane care deficiencies. For example, Missouri inspectors cited repeat offender Earl Light (Corn Creek Kennel, Newburg, Missouri) in 2020 for issues such as kennel flooring covered in feces, cages rusting apart, matted dogs and more — but USDA has not cited Corn Creek Kennel for any issues for several years, and, as of May 3, 2021, had not even inspected the breeder since May 2019. As a result of USDA's lack of enforcement, breeders like Corn Creek Kennel can continue to sell to pet stores all over the country, sporting virtually unblemished USDA records.



Missouri's Department of Agriculture recently gave a new state license to Deanna Brundage, whose USDA license was revoked in 2008 after seven of her dogs were shot in the head and others were found ailing or emaciated. Photo by Mo. Dept of Ag, 2020.

Obtaining records for this year's report was difficult due to the pandemic-related restrictions on inspections. Although the USDA did perform some inspections in person, based on COVID-19 data and precautions in certain states, they also performed some inspections remotely by phone or video call. The USDA also [instructed its](#)

was approved and decreed by a judge on Sept. 10, 2020, and transferred ownership of the animals to the state. The order required McAlmond to surrender approximately 84 dogs to the state by Sept. 22, 2020, but instead she killed 21 dogs and transferred the rest to third-party associates. Schmitt filed a complaint on Oct. 28, 2020, charging McAlmond with 24 counts of criminal behavior including 21 counts of animal abuse, two counts of felony property damage and one count of felony canine cruelty.

[inspectors](#)³ NOT to reveal on an inspection report if an inspection was conducted remotely, which could mislead readers of inspection reports into thinking an inspector actually visited in person. USDA also greatly expanded breeders' ability to refuse unannounced inspections, which are normally mandatory, due to pandemic concerns.

Partly because of the scarcity of meaningful USDA inspections, the HSUS [sent undercover investigators](#) to visit and photograph puppy mills that the USDA has not recently inspected or has listed as compliant with the Animal Welfare Act regulations. We conducted these visits in July 2020 and again in March and April of 2021, photographing from the road. What we found was disturbing. In some cases, while the USDA did not cite certain breeders for any violations, our photographs showed dogs living in puppy mill-like conditions, confined to small, stacked wire cages, with scant shelter from the elements, and with no room to run or play. In some cases, our investigators filmed dogs circling repeatedly in their small cages, apparently psychologically distressed and deprived of adequate enrichment and human contact. Dozens of pet stores across the country, including at least 21 Petland-linked stores⁴, have purchased puppies from some of the dealers in this report. We revealed some of these photographs in our [November 2020 report](#) on USDA-licensed puppy mills that sell to pet stores, and included some of the breeders in this Horrible Hundred report.

Despite cracking down on some of its most notorious repeat offenders, Missouri continues to have the largest number of puppy mills in this report for the 9th year in a row (21), followed by Ohio (16), Iowa (11) and Nebraska and Pennsylvania (eight each). However, states with no dealers in this report are not necessarily doing better at preventing puppy mills. HSUS researchers are unable to get local inspection records from states that do not have kennel inspection laws or those that have all but suspended inspections during the pandemic. Some states, such as Minnesota, do not share kennel inspection records with the public at all, and some states, such as Oklahoma, that do have inspection laws have chosen to rarely enforce them. States that have transparent kennel inspection programs, or that do a better job of enforcement, often have more dealers in the report simply because more records of their violations are available.

About 40% of the dealers in the report are USDA-licensed, but it appears that many more of the breeders listed in this report are operating in a manner that would require a USDA license, yet they have not obtained one, partly due to the steep plunge in USDA enforcement since 2017. About 40% of the 100 dealers in this list are “repeat offenders” who have appeared in one or more of our prior reports. At least eight of the dealers in this report have been linked to [Petland](#), the largest chain of puppy-selling pet stores in the country, although it's very likely that number is much higher; because Petland purchases mostly from brokers (re-sellers), many of its breeders cannot easily be linked to the stores, and the HSUS does not have access to all sourcing records.

Many of the sellers in this report were offering American Kennel Club -registerable puppies or promoting themselves as AKC breeders, which is an issue because the AKC regularly opposes laws that would help crack down on puppy mill cruelty.

Although some of the puppy mills listed in this report have been accused of illegal conduct, inclusion in the Horrible Hundred report is not intended to indicate that any individual has broken the law. Not all the issues mentioned herein are currently violations of federal or state laws, although many would agree they are inhumane. Stronger laws and regulations at both the state and federal level are needed to protect these dogs.

³ According to “SOP for Remote Routine Inspections,” page 3, published online by USDA Animal Care on Dec. 16, 2020. Last accessed on April 5, 2021.

⁴ Two of the Petland-linked stores operate under the name Safari Stan's.

For more information on why certain dealers or breeders were included in this report, please see the Methodology section at the end of the report.

Readers can help stop this cruelty by refusing to buy a pet from any breeder they haven't met in person and whose facility they haven't visited. To avoid supporting an inhumane breeder, buyers should never purchase a puppy from a pet store, over the internet or at a third-party location such as a parking lot. Buyers should make sure to visit a breeder and [see the conditions](#) in which their puppy was born and raised.

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⁵ Minnesota has a kennel inspection law but its records are not releasable under public right-to-know laws.

⁶ Texas has a routine kennel inspection law but generally does not enforce it; scant records were available.

⁷ It appears that inspection information was limited due to COVID-19.

ARKANSAS

Margaret Manning/ Mannings Kennels, Pocahontas, Arkansas: HSUS undercover investigator photographed dogs in crooked, hutch-like cages; USDA has failed to cite the breeder for any recent violations despite visibly poor conditions. In July 2020, an HSUS investigator photographed ramshackle, cramped enclosures at the property of USDA-licensed breeder Margaret Manning. Photographs show that the outdoor portions of dogs' enclosures were leaning, contained crooked open gaps that could endanger the animals, and were partly composed of what appeared to be unsealed wood, which does not seem to meet USDA guidelines as a material that can be readily cleaned and sanitized. The dogs in the enclosures had a minimal amount of space. Several of the glaringly unsafe housing issues appear to be violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations, which require dogs to be kept in sturdy and safe enclosures that give them a certain amount of space. Shockingly, USDA has not cited the breeder for any housing or animal care violations over the past three years, even though the conditions HSUS photographed do not appear to meet the bare minimum housing standards that the USDA is charged with enforcing under the Animal Welfare Act regulations.



The HSUS reported the issues to USDA after our November report was published and requested an investigation. On April 2, 2021, the USDA responded that they visited but did not find any violations at the facility. In an email, a USDA official relayed that “some of the support structures [...] while bowed, were structurally sound” and said they felt the facility was clean. A March 29, 2021 inspection report lists the facility as compliant. Transport records show Manning sold to Southpaw Pets, a Missouri broker that distributes puppies to pet stores all over the country. USDA #71-A-0865.

HSUS undercover investigators photographed dogs in cramped, ramshackle cages at Mannings Kennels in Arkansas, which is USDA licensed to sell to pet stores across the country. The USDA stated it found no violations at the operation, highlighting its weak standards. Photo by HSUS, 2020.

Teresa Taylor /Taylor’s Puppy Boutique, Harriet, Arkansas: Received a direct violation from USDA for two dogs with signs of “severe periodontal disease;” both dogs had red and swollen gums and one had missing teeth. In February 2021, a USDA inspector issued a “direct” violation to Taylor’s Puppy Boutique. A direct violation is one of the most significant violations that can be documented by USDA inspectors, because it indicates a dog’s health or wellbeing was visibly impacted by an apparent failure to follow the Animal Welfare Act regulations. The violation was for inadequate veterinary care due to “two Yorkshire Terrier dogs [who] were identified as having severe periodontal disease.” The inspector wrote: “a 9 year old male, microchip 0A01420770, and a 4 year female, microchip 7E10170405, both had a heavy accumulation of hard brown material, consistent with tartar, covering all of their teeth. The gums were red and swollen and had receded from the teeth. A creamy grey material was present along the gumline. The male yorkie was also missing some teeth. Dental and

periodontal disease is painful and can lead to discomfort, poor body condition from refusal to eat, and severe infections in the mouth and other organs.” The facility had more than 90 dogs and puppies on site at the time of the inspection. Taylor’s Puppy Boutique has held five different USDA licenses since at least 2004 and was once licensed as a B dealer⁸; it apparently repeatedly cancels the licenses and obtains new ones. USDA inspection records indicate the kennel was issued two “teachable moments” in 2019, but it did not have a record of the teachable moments in their online database. Shipping records reviewed by the HSUS show Taylor’s Puppy Boutique sold to at least a dozen pet stores in North Carolina, New York, Nevada and Florida. USDA #71-A-1384.

GEORGIA

Kathryn Barber / K-Bar Kennel, Patterson, Georgia: More than 125 dogs, strong odors and poor housing at facility that sold at a flea market; recurring issues go back more than a decade (repeat offender). The HSUS began receiving complaints about sick puppies sold by K-Bar Kennel in 2010, and the facility appeared in Horrible Hundred reports in 2013 and 2020. Issues have been recurring intermittently for more than a decade. During two visits in May and June 2020, state inspectors noted housing issues and/or strong odors. During a follow-up inspection in October 2020, inspectors noted that exhaust fans were still not adequate for the number of animals at the facility, which had soared from about 75 dogs to 130 dogs / puppies. In May 2020, there were violations for inadequate ventilation, sanitation, structural strength and dogs who didn’t have enough space.

As we noted in our prior report, during a May 28, 2019, state inspection, K-Bar Kennel was found to have violations for three issues: inadequate shelter from the elements, inadequate structural strength and inadequate ventilation. There was a strong ammonia (urine) smell in the puppy house, according to the inspection report, as well as enclosures in disrepair, and six enclosures without shade from the extreme heat. There were 130 animals on the property at the time of the inspection. During a scheduled reinspection in July 2019, the violations had been corrected, but the licensee still had not installed the new ventilation system and needed to comply with new rules to keep mother dogs and puppies off wire mesh flooring. When inspectors tried to visit the kennel in November 2019, there was no one there to let them in for the inspection, which is a violation - a similar violation was also noted in 2020.

K-Bar Kennel also appeared in our 2013 Horrible Hundred report after the HSUS received numerous consumer complaints about conditions of the puppies sold by Barber, including complaints from three buyers whose puppies died shortly after purchase. Records obtained from the Georgia Department of Agriculture showed 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 due to concerns about filthy conditions, ramshackle cages, excessive feces and many dogs with excessively matted fur. The investigator said they saw about 250 dogs at the kennel at that time. K-Bar Kennel has sold many of its puppies at Keller’s Flea Market in Savannah, Georgia, and has also advertised puppies for sale using online classified ads and Facebook. GA #3684600. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

James Cliett / Triple C Kennel, Jacksonville, Georgia: State inspectors found repeated problems at “urgent facility” with more than 100 dogs; puppies were found on dangerous, sagging wire flooring and in unsanitary conditions; some dogs were crowded and did not have enough space. Georgia state inspectors visited Triple C Kennel repeatedly in 2020 and at least once in January 2021, and often found violations. One of

⁸ A “B dealer” is a pet dealer licensed by the USDA to re-sell pets bred by other breeders, either instead of or in addition to animals the B dealer has raised. In the context of this report, most B dealers sell puppies to pet stores.

the most concerning visits was in October 2020, when an inspector noted, “This is an inspection on an urgent facility” seemingly due to a history of prior issues. During that visit, the inspector wrote, “enclosures [were] being used in the puppy room [that] were not sufficient anymore and needed to be changed,” adding that other areas showed that “in most of the brooder boxes underneath the shelter area, the dogs were housed in very tight, close quarters.” In addition, there was a drainage issue in one area and “it looks as though the owner had dug a shallow hole and ditch for the excessive water, feces and urine to escape from the area.” A prior report noted the wastes and feces drained into a lagoon. In addition, the inspector noted: “Mr. Cliett stated that he was short handed with help and busy with other jobs as to the reason why he hadn’t finished his puppy room or the other enclosures not being used. [Inspectors] told [him] that he needed to decrease on his number of animals due to not having enough time on his hands. We all agreed that within 6 months the total number of animals should be around 100.”

But even with the bar set so low, when inspectors returned in January 2021, they found additional violations, and the number of dogs had only increased since the prior inspection. The inspector noted, “For these reasons, having multiple violations and repeat violations, we are giving Mr. Cliett 30 days to get breeding stock down to 100 animals and to get the puppy room in compliance.” The inspector also noted: “Inside the puppy room there were 20 stacked, wire enclosures that had medium size to small dog breeds inside them with puppies. Resting spaces were provided but did not meet the requirements that allowed the puppies to have adequate bottoms to prevent them from falling through the wire enclosures. Also, some of the enclosures in the puppy room, did not support the size [of the] animals inside the enclosure, causing the wire to bend on the bottom.” And, “in the puppy room area, sanitation did not meet the requirements due to there being feces and food buildup underneath and inside of the enclosures.” Issues were found at prior inspections as well. Former GA #36106393, New GA #36105898.

[Tonya Lewis / Tonya’s Tiny Companions, East Dublin, Georgia: Breeder previously charged with animal cruelty still sells on PuppyFind.com; had a 2020 repeat violation related to poor conditions; dogs were “able to drink \[their\] urine from drain” \(repeat offender\).](#) In June 2020, state officials issued a repeat violation to Tonya Lewis for failing to correct drainage issues in her kennel. Even after Lewis had been warned the prior month to protect dogs from accessing the open drain, the inspector noted that dogs still had access to the drain and were “able to drink [their] urine from drain.” The kennel had been cited for additional issues earlier in the year as well, and the HSUS has received complaints about conditions.

Concerned citizens in Georgia have long had their eyes on Tonya’s Tiny Companions, and many are shocked that it remains licensed in 2021 despite past animal cruelty charges and repeated issues found by state inspectors. We listed Tonya Lewis in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report after authorities charged her with [20 counts of animal cruelty](#). Her case was still pending during the time of that report, but it appears that she was never convicted, despite many dogs being found in very poor condition.

The cruelty charges were filed in August 2016, but several diseased dogs and puppies were reportedly found at Lewis’s property after that, according to Georgia Department of Agriculture records. The issues included: dogs with hair loss and/or skin issues; dogs crowded into cages that were too small, rusty and in disrepair; and a female husky who had previously been diagnosed with demodectic mange in 2015, and had given birth that year to puppies who tested positive for mange. Despite her knowledge of the husky’s condition, the breeder allowed the dog to give birth again to puppies in 2016. Those puppies also had signs of mange and were sold or given away anyway (state inspection report, Sept. 16, 2016). Lewis had originally promised to get the mother dog with mange spayed so that she would have no more puppies, but she did not do so, according to the state inspection report. Records also indicate that a USDA inspector visited with the Georgia Department of Agriculture inspector on at least one visit (Sept. 29, 2016), and it was determined that the facility most likely required a federal license. As of April 7, 2021, it appears there is still no USDA license listed in the USDA’s online database

for Tonya Lewis or any similar business name in East Dublin, Georgia, although it is unknown if she is selling in a manner that would require a USDA license currently.

Local advocates posted photos online showing [miserable conditions](#) at the kennel and [posted](#) state records showing violations in 2016-2020 as well as repeated complaints. Along with many other puppy mills that have appeared in our Horrible Hundred reports, Lewis [offers puppies for sale](#) on PuppyFind.com, a site that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to puppy mills and questionable breeders, including many that sell online without the required federal license, and some that have been charged with animal cruelty in the past. The facility did pass two recent inspections, one in late 2020 and one in early 2021, but concerns remain about its ability to stay in compliance due to its history. GA #3697454. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Sandra and Donald Smith / D & S Critter Farm, Covington, Georgia: Breeder was required to downsize by the state and later placed under probation; complaint related to too many animals, unsanitary conditions.

After failing at least two state inspections in 2019 for issues such as keeping dogs in poor housing and strong urine odors, inspectors asked D&S Critter Farm to reduce its breeding dogs from more than 80 dogs by 20, and apparently gave the operation a stop order until June 2020. But state officials investigating a complaint in June 2020 regarding “too many animals, unsanitary conditions and [a] foul odor” found that, although the sanitation and housekeeping issues had been resolved, the breeder still had more than 20 dogs. Inspectors lifted a stop sales order after the June 2020 visit, but noted that the breeder still had not reduced her number of dogs to 20. The state inspected again in October 2020 and found the breeder still had not complied with the request to reduce to 20 dogs. In January 2021, inspectors were inspecting monthly because the breeder was on probation, state Department of Agriculture records show.

The breeder did pass an inspection in January 2021 and had finally downsized to 20 dogs, but the HSUS has concerns about how long the operation will stay in compliance given several failed inspections. The farm also sells birds, goats and other animals. D & S Critter Farm, also known as [DS Critter Farm](#), has a website and a presence on Facebook. GA #3674430.

Constance (Connie) Whigham / Connie’s Siberian Huskies, Thomasville, Georgia: State inspectors found humane care issues and “history of repeat violations” at AKC / CKC breeder’s facility, including excessive feces, strong odors and other violations. During a Jan. 14, 2021, inspection, Connie’s Siberian Huskies failed in seven different categories, including humane care, housekeeping, sanitation and waste disposal. State inspectors noted issues such as a “build up of waste,” a “strong odor of urine and ammonia” that “is pungent and irritates the nose and throat,” cracks and holes in some of the floor, feces not being properly removed, enclosures with structural issues that could injure the dogs, excessive trash and debris, and more. At the end of the inspection, Connie’s Siberian Huskies was notified to come into compliance with the state’s commercial kennel regulations for dog care, and it was noted that “failure to do so would result in increased sanctions and could ultimately lead to an Administrative Review of establishment history of repeat violations.” Even after that warning, when inspectors returned on Jan. 25, 2021, state records show that six of the seven violations remained. The breeder blamed the failure to come into compliance on a family member’s leg injury, however inspectors’ notes about the condition of the kennel make it clear that there was evidence that conditions had been unsanitary and rudimentary for quite some time. State inspectors noted that they would continue to make unannounced inspections.

Connie’s Siberian Huskies sells “AKC and CKC⁹ husky puppies,” according to [its website](#), connieshuskies.com, indicating that the breeder registers animals with both breed registries. The breeder also has pages on Facebook and Instagram. In the background of some of the Instagram photos, nursing mother huskies can be seen in rudimentary enclosures with whelping boxes that appear to be made of unsealed wood, which is not considered

⁹ Continental Kennel Club

a quality material for dog kennels because it cannot be easily washed and sanitized. Some of the whelping boxes that hold puppies appear to have [unsealed plywood floors](#) soaked with urine. GA# 36106746.

ILLINOIS

[Teresa Heaver / Kabeara Kennels aka Kabeara Samoyeds, Lockport, Illinois: Ongoing concerns about cramped conditions at AKC breeder's kennel; dogs in cages had barely enough room to turn around; state investigated complaint about puppy who died five days after purchase \(repeat offender\)](#). Even after we included Kabeara Kennels in our May 2020 report for keeping dogs in crowded cages in puppy mill-like conditions, photographs taken by state investigators in late 2020 show that conditions continued to be much the same. Photographs from fall 2020 showed some of the dogs housed in plastic crates, and other dogs in small, metal red cages with no solid resting area, bedding or toys. Most of the dogs did not even seem to have enough space to lay down with their legs fully extended. The conditions in state photographs, while not identified as illegal by state inspectors, contrast sharply with the photos on the breeder's [website](#), which show puppies on clean blankets and playing in a back yard. In addition, the kennel website still claims "[we ship](#) throughout the United States," even though the operation does not appear to have a USDA license, which federal law requires for breeders with more than four female breeding dogs and who ship to buyers sight-unseen.

The HSUS and state officials have also received complaints from puppy buyers who purchased dogs or witnessed poor conditions at the kennel. Additional reports of sick puppies have been [posted online](#), and at least one buyer complaint was recently investigated by state officials. State records show inspectors visited Kabeara Kennels in October 2020 to investigate a complaint about a puppy purchased in August who died just five days later. State records note, "Complainant is concerned about cleanliness of the facility, flies all over, and has pungent smell. Also concerned with validity of vaccination records." On Oct. 1, 2020, state documents report that the kennel owner "stated that she would refund the purchase price of the puppy if the complainant brought the dead puppy back to her to be identified via microchip. The complainant brought the puppy back and was refunded." State records indicate the breeder may have given some of the vaccinations herself, which is not illegal but could be a problem if the vaccines were not properly stored or administered. Although the state did not list any violations on the October inspection report, the photographic evidence shows dismal conditions, and the images, combined with complaints, show there is still ample cause for concern at Kabeara Kennels.

A search on the USDA website on April 7, 2021, found no results under "Kabeara" or the owner's name, and there were no active dog breeder or dealer licenses in the online USDA database for any breeders in Lockport, Illinois. IL #8125. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Martha Pearce / The Puppy Patch, Clay City, Illinois: Investigating complaint about "malnourished and thin" puppies, state inspector found "very strong" odors, excessive feces and dirty conditions and fined owner \\$1,000; breeder downsized and relinquished her kennel license, but may still be in business with a smaller number of dogs](#). State inspectors visited The Puppy Patch repeatedly between August 2020 and October 2020, following up on complaints about puppies who looked "malnourished and thin," a puppy sold with multiple maladies, and allegedly poor conditions, state reports show. Inspectors found many deficiencies, including excessive feces and filthy conditions, "very strong" odors and more. Many photographs were taken to document the dreadful conditions. The breeder was fined \$1,000 in October 2020 for repeatedly failing to address some of the issues. Just a few of the issues documented in state reports from October 2020 included:

“We went to the whelping building first and when she opened the door to the building[,] the odor was very strong”.

“A couple of the runs had soupy feces on the floor. Some of the dogs bellies were wet and had some liquid feces on them.”

“Several areas on the concrete floor (of some whelping areas) had soupy feces on it. I asked her why they were not cleaned better. She said her water hose had low pressure.”

Some of the smaller run area had “a couple [cages that] had dirty drinking water. When I opened the door to get to the inside area there was a strong ammonia [urine/feces] smell. I went inside and three of the inside areas had liquid feces on the floors where the dogs had brought it in on their feet.”

“The smaller runs draining trench had standing dirty feces water in it [...] because the feces and water was standing in the trench, there was an ammonia odor present for the outside runs [...] This run off in the trench is just standing and there is a strong smell constantly at the end of the dogs’ runs.”

“I [the inspector] explained again why the records were necessary especially if a health issue such as parvo was involved so the puppies could be traced. I told her I have explained this to her before. She shrugged her shoulders and told me her records were none of my business.”

After the licensee repeatedly failed to address problems, she was compelled to downsize her operation to between five and 10 breeding dogs. This smaller number would allow Pearce to relinquish her breeder’s license (which she did in November 2020) as she would have fewer than the number of animals required for a license. However, even with five breeding females, the breeder could still produce 50 or more puppies a year and has been known to sell on PuppyFind in the past. The HSUS has repeatedly linked PuppyFind to unlicensed breeders and problem puppy mills. As of the last local inspection information available (November 2020), the breeder still had 10 dogs. No newer updates were available at the time of this report. Former IL #22-28.

Javin Raber and David Raber / Walnut Valley Puppies, Flat Rock, Illinois: USDA issued direct violation for inadequate veterinary care after “very thin” dog was found “in obvious discomfort,” noting, “all of the ribs, spine and hips could be felt easily;” breeder dropped his USDA license but still appears to be advertising puppies online under Walnut Valley Puppies. During a routine inspection in November 2020, a USDA inspector issued a “direct” violation, one of the most serious kinds of violations, to Javin and David Raber for a dog who was clearly thin and needed veterinary attention.

The inspector wrote: “There is a Burnese Mountain Dog (F, Queenie, #103) that was observed to be shaking her head continuously during the inspection, and walking with her head low between her shoulders while tilting her head from side to side in obvious discomfort.” The inspector wrote: “Upon examination after lifting the ears there was a large amount [of] fluid filling up both ear canals, spilling over the rim of the ear into the fur. The liquid was cloudy and drained out of the ears during examination. There was a slight greenish tinge of the liquid located at the hairline by the right ear. The right ear had a brown gummy substance inside the canal and crevices, while the inside of the left ear appeared to have some redness, thickening and irritation. Both ears appeared sensitive to the touch as the dog would pull away or lean into any handling of the ears. The hair coat had a dull appearance, and the body condition appeared very thin. Upon examination all of the ribs, spine and hips could be felt easily, and the dog appeared to be underweight and warm to the touch. The ears and loss of condition had

not been observed before the inspection, and there had been no veterinary contact or treatment for these conditions.”

The inspector ensured that the licensee “contacted” his veterinarian during the inspection, but there is no indication during the follow-up inspection whether veterinary records were ever checked to see if the dog improved.

A few months after the problematic inspection, in February 2021, Javin Raber cancelled his USDA license. But it does not appear that he went out of business. Javin Raber is now linked to Walnut Valley Puppies, an online seller that does not appear to have a USDA license. On their website Javin also mentions his father David, and says David is one of the primary caretakers of the dogs. Javin also has a personal professional website that identifies him as a “dog breeder” and “dog show handler” at: javinraber.org, which lists the same address he had with USDA, and trumpets his links with Walnut Valley Puppies (walnutvalleypuppies.com/about-us). Walnut Valley is in Flat Rock and until recently, the address on their website was the same address as the one the Rabers had with the USDA. Former USDA #33-A-0586. IL #022-111.

Jennifer Schlueter / Schlueter Kennel, Walsh, Illinois: State inspection found makeshift kennels and a shih tzu with a reddened eye; state investigated a complaint about unhealthy dogs. State records show that inspectors visited or called Schlueter Kennel several times in late 2020 and noted a number of issues. In August 2020, the state received a complaint that the “condition of many of the dogs are described as unhealthy and lacking food and water. Dogs were also chained to a fence.” State officials attempted an inspection on Sept. 2, 2020, but no one was available to let them view the kennel. When they made contact again on Sept. 10, 2020, the breeder told them a building was being replaced “that [had] caught on fire,” and the breeder implied that because of COVID-19, she wasn’t going out to the kennels to check on dogs or clean up until the construction workers left at about 2:30 p.m., indicating that the dogs were not getting care for much of the day. It appears that state officials did not actually get on the property until Sept. 23, about a month after the complaint was received. At that time, even though it was a scheduled inspection and the breeder had had a month to address issues, inspectors noted several concerns, including a shih tzu who had “an eye that looks irritated or real red,” dogs who needed to be tested for brucellosis and others who needed grooming, and several dogs who were running loose and not safely contained. The inspection report also noted that one kennel was unusable due to cracked concrete, whereas other kennels were makeshift but adequate, stating, “the kennels are rusty and have been repaired with makeshift metal/woven wire/other chainlink.” The inspector noted, “It isn’t pretty, but it works for keeping the dogs in their kennel runs.” IL #022-38.

INDIANA

Floyd Borntreger / Kuntry Lane Kennel, Salem, Indiana: USDA issued a critical violation for dog who was not safely contained and who was later hit by a car and killed; owner was also found re-selling puppies from unlicensed breeders to pet stores without a broker license. During a January 2021 inspection, the USDA gave Borntreger a “critical” violation, arguably its most serious category of violations, for failing to keep a dog safely contained in his facility. The issue happened in October and the inspector wrote: “On Oct. 5, 2020, an adult female Bernese Mountain Dog (ID# 916-54) escaped from her enclosure at a breeding facility and was unable to be recaptured. She was spotted occasionally over several days/weeks in the surrounding areas but was later hit by a vehicle and died due to her injuries on Oct. 17, 2020.”

In addition to that violation, the USDA inspector noted that Borntreger appeared to be dealing dogs bred by others, which is not permissible under a Class A license because it could be indicating the breeder was selling dogs from unlicensed breeders who are not inspected or regulated (essentially laundering puppies from unlicensed breeders using the licensed breeder). The inspector wrote, “Licensee currently has an ‘A’ breeder license and has brokered animals without first obtaining a ‘B’ dealer license. Four (4) puppies were purchased from hobby breeders and then re-sold to a pet store on Dec. 12, 2020.” Former USDA #32-A-0813; new USDA #32-B-0259.

John Graber, Marie Graber and Lewis Graber, Grabill, Indiana: Golden retriever with noticeable skin issues had not been taken to a veterinarian for treatment; breeder admitted knowing about the issue but not treating the condition. During a December 2020 USDA inspection, the Grabers were given a veterinary care violation for a dog with a very noticeable condition that apparently had not been treated by a veterinarian. The inspector wrote, “a female Golden Retriever ‘Nicole’ was noticed to have a heavy accumulation of crusty black/brown dry matter adhered to the hair on the top of her head. In addition, the skin underneath appears dull and flakey in several areas. The facility did identify this issue about a week ago, but has not started any treatment for the current skin issue. In addition; this facility does not currently have guidance provided in their program of veterinary care and has not communicated with their veterinarian on the proper course of treatment for this dog. Health issues that are left untreated can cause pain and discomfort to the animals.” In addition to that violation, the USDA issued two “teachable moments” at the same inspection. Teachable moments are unofficial violations that USDA did not add to the official report. Those issues were failing to have proper ID for two dogs or acquisition forms on all of the puppies and dogs. The latter could be a significant issue because it could indicate that a licensed breeder might be obtaining or selling some puppies from other, unlicensed breeders who have not been inspected or regulated. USDA #32-A-0829.

Enos Miller / Pigeon River Pups and All Star Family Pets, Shipshewana, Indiana: State officials responding to complaints found unlicensed broker, “too many pups” in some enclosures; while unlicensed, the breeder was selling on LancasterPuppies.com. In early January 2021, Indiana’s Board of Animal Health “received multiple complaints regarding Enos Miller’s kennel not meeting the state’s commercial dog breeder broker program requirements,” according to state records. State records show the BOAH went to inspect the property on Jan. 25, 2021, and found some issues with overcrowding, and the dealer admitted he was not licensed by USDA as a broker. Quotes from the inspection include: “Two pens had a couple too many pups based on their size,” and, “In talking to Dr. Greg Ashley, his veterinarian, prior to the visit I found out that Mr. Miller has recently started brokering dogs for other people. It seems this started out as a small venture and in the last 6 months has blossomed. Dr. Ashley mentioned that Enos recently brought in 50 puppies for puppy checks prior to being offered for sale to the public. When I talked to Enos Miller when setting up the visit, I asked if he would be selling over 500 puppies a year, and he said he probably would.”

The dealer noted that he has a breeding business, Pigeon River Pups, and that his newer broker venture is called All Star Family Pets. Miller stated he would get his application into BOAH and USDA and it appears that in March 2021 he became licensed as a broker under Pigeon River Pups, USDA #32-B-0258. There is no indication that USDA ever penalized Miller for brokering large numbers of animals before he was legally licensed to do so.

Like many questionable or unlicensed breeders and dealers, the state records indicate Miller was selling on the website LancasterPuppies.com. Miller was found with 58 breeding females during that inspection and an unknown number of male dogs. USDA #32-B-0258. IN #CB0007KA.

Jacque Minicus, Star City, Indiana: State inspector found many of the adult dogs were noticeably thin, with four of them “appearing very thin;” breeder agreed to surrender approximately 17 of the 48 dogs. A state inspector who made a pre-announced inspection on Jacque Minicus’s property on Jan. 22, 2021, found dozens of dogs, many of them noticeably underweight and lacking rabies vaccines, during a period of frigid weather, state records show. There were 48 dogs on the property at the time of the inspection. According to notes taken on that date, the inspector noted the breeder was “overwhelmed by the expense and the amount of work required to maintain all of these dogs.” The inspector added: “Several of the dogs are still in below normal body condition and vaccinations are not current. Old bedding is once again piling up in the kennels.” Twenty-one of the dogs were breeding females and the inspector noted that “many of the adult Danes appeared somewhat thin with four of them appearing very thin at approximately BCS 2.0” [Body Condition Score; 2 is underweight]. Historical weather data shows that temperatures in the area were well below freezing on that date, with temperatures in nearby West Lafayette, Indiana, as low as 15 degrees.

The inspector also noted an accumulation of feces and old bedding, and stated: “[Breeder] will be under the number of intact adult female dogs by Sunday so that she is not required to comply with BOAH [Board of Animal Health licensing rules] [...] however, she is behind on rabies vaccinations for her dogs. She also provided me a list of 17 dogs that she is willing to surrender immediately with plans to reduce the numbers further in the future.”

Records viewed by the HSUS did not indicate if the breeder followed up and downsized, but concerns remain for any of the dogs who remain on the property, especially those who were underweight and exposed to cold weather. License information unknown.

Becky and Rex Rosenberger / Clearview Basset Farm, Brookville, Indiana: Breeder found operating without a license; repeatedly failed to correct issues found by state inspectors, including inadequate housing for the dogs and poor protection from the elements. The state Board of Animal Health made several visits to Clearview Basset Farm between July 2020 and January 2021, and documented a number of recurring problems, state records show. In July, the inspectors arrived to check out a complaint, and found the breeder had 57 dogs in multiple buildings; the large number of dogs would require them to have a state license, but they did not, and it appears they had been operating for quite a while without a license, based upon complaint details. Issues found at the July 1, 2020, visit included kennels that were not in adequate repair, all of which would need to be fixed to obtain a license, a lack of temperature control in some of the buildings and a lack of flaps on dog houses to protect dogs from harsh weather. In addition, many of the dogs did not have rabies vaccines, which would be a basic, minimum sign of any veterinary oversight. At a follow-up visit in October 2020, the Board of Animal Health found many repeat issues that had not been corrected, mostly related to structural maintenance. The report notes that “many dogs needed their nails trimmed,” and simple things like door flaps on dog houses, which are needed to protect the dogs from the wind, snow and rain, still had not been addressed. When the inspectors returned yet again in January 2021, they found one of the issues cited previously--- chewed dog houses-- still had not been addressed, and there were sharp edges present in some areas even after the repairs that could injure the dogs. As of April 2021, the facility did appear to have obtained a license. IN #CB00086Y.

Steven Yoder, Lagrange, Indiana: Inspectors found “very thin” puppies and coughing puppies; at least one had signs of mange and had not been treated by a veterinarian; breeder appeared to be operating as an unlicensed broker by selling dogs on BuckeyePuppies.com and LancasterPuppies.com. In July 2020, state inspectors arrived at Steven Yoder’s property to investigate a complaint about an unlicensed breeder/broker who allegedly was picking up puppies from various sources and re-selling them. According to the state’s report: “Mr. Yoder said he has been picking up puppies from local farms in the area and advertising those puppies for

sale on the internet site Buckeye Puppies or Lancaster Puppies. He said when a puppy sells, he gets paid from the internet advertising site, and then he pays the breeder. He said about 75% of the puppies are picked up by the buyers and the other 25% are shipped [to the buyers] by transport companies.” The inspectors concluded that it looked like Yoder needed a USDA broker license, which he did not have, and stated he should contact the USDA about the matter. In addition to the licensing concerns, the inspection report noted a number of housing deficiencies as well as humane concerns. According to the inspection report, the dealer “took us to the barn where there were 3 pens that looked like horse stalls with 50-60 puppies in them. The pens had plywood walls and wire along the front that was not secured well. Mr. Yoder was using bagged shavings in the pens, and the floor area looked mounded up like he just put clean shavings over feces and kept layering it.” Some of the puppies were also overcrowded in their pens, and some did not have access to water because it was not being provided in spill-proof containers. There were numerous other issues noted, including some puppies running loose, and Yoder admitted he had no way of tracking which puppies came from which breeders.

At a follow-up inspection on Aug. 12, 2020, the state noted that the breeder said he spoke to USDA and submitted a license to be a broker. But several issues remained, including: “The health of the puppies was still a concern. We counted 18 puppies present in the kennel. We heard several puppies coughing, and Mr. Yoder said he is treating some of the puppies for kennel cough. A few of the puppies were still very thin and Mr. Yoder said he would have them looked at by a veterinarian. [...] There was also a puppy that had signs of mange with hair loss around both eyes. Dr. Lamb told Mr. Yoder he needed to have that puppy looked at by a veterinarian to make sure he uses the correct treatment. Mr. Yoder had used a pour on Ivomec [an anti-parasite drug] at the recommendation of a friend on this puppy. We again voiced concerns about him bringing puppies from different farms and putting them all together without knowing the health of those puppies in regards to vaccinations, deworming, and illnesses.”

As of May 5, 2021, it appears Steven Yoder is still not licensed by USDA as a broker. As of that date, there were no active dealer (B) licenses in Lagrange. There is a Steven Yoder in Lagrange who has a USDA breeder license (32-A-0670), but that individual has a different address, and has been licensed for several years.

Websites like BuckeyePuppies.com and LancasterPuppies.com are of great concern to the HSUS due to complaints about sick puppies and reports of unlicensed brokers like Steven Yoder. License status unknown.

IOWA

Ricky and Mary Brodersen / Mystical (Cockers), Kiron, Iowa: AKC “Champion Show Dog” breeder who sells on PuppyFind.com and was previously sentenced to jail time for animal neglect was found operating in 2020 without a license, had dogs living in 2 feet by 3 feet stacked enclosures; previously Mary had 88 animals seized and five were found dead in 2012. In September and October of 2020, state inspectors found a long list of problems at an American Kennel Club- linked kennel, Mystical Cockers. One of the most concerning issues was the fact that the dogs seemed to be living in very small, cramped quarters; inspectors noted in October 2020 that some of them were living in cages that were roughly 2 by 3 feet and were stacked two to three levels high, with wire floors — classic puppy mill conditions. Although it is not necessarily illegal, permanently housing dogs in such enclosures is not a sign of a quality dog breeder, regardless of kennel club affiliation.

Mystical Cockers has a tragic history. In February 2012 the Sac County Sheriff’s Office charged Mary Brodersen with 88 counts of simple misdemeanor animal neglect and five counts of serious misdemeanor animal neglect

after a raid on Brodersen’s previous puppy mill in which 88 animals were removed and five dogs were found dead. According to [Radio Iowa](#), many of the surviving dogs suffered from “skin, ear and bladder infections” and had been living in “filthy conditions with their coats matted in dried feces.” On Aug. 3, 2012, Mary Brodersen was [sentenced to jail time](#) for 44 counts of animal neglect and ordered to pay more than \$25,000 in restitution.

Tax records seem to indicate that Mary and Ricky Brodersen own two properties — the one that was raided in 2012, and the other address where Mystical is now licensed. Mary Brodersen currently describes herself as an AKC breeder, but AKC meeting minutes show that [the AKC suspended](#) a Mary Brodersen in Kiron, Iowa, from all AKC privileges for 15 years and imposed a \$3,000 fine in 2013 for “conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs” — presumably based on violations linked to the animal neglect conviction from 2012. But it appears that Mystical Cockers continued, and is still offering, AKC dogs for sale in 2021, albeit using a different family member’s first name and their new address.

It appears that Mystical has circumvented the AKC suspension by simply registering dogs under Ricky Brodersen’s name instead of Mary’s. The AKC was likely well aware of the shell game, because state records indicate they inspected Mystical as recently as 2018.

The name Mary Brodersen also appears on a [2020 state report](#) linked to the current business. The pre-license inspection for the kennel shows that Mary Brodersen was the individual who first met with a state inspector about obtaining a license, and Mary described the AKC-registered cocker spaniels on the property as belonging to her. However, an October inspection report mentioned that on registration paperwork, most of the dogs are registered to Ricky Brodersen (sometimes spelled Ricki Broderson). The name “Ricki Brodersen” is listed as the owner on the commercial breeder license list on the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship website, and Mystical is listed as the company name. The October state inspection report states, “Of the 35 adults on hand today, 33 are registered [with] AKC to Ricky Broderson, two are registered to other individuals, but these two dogs have lived with the Broderson’s for years...”

State inspectors found issues at several 2020 visits to Mystical. Other animal care issues noted during a September 2020 visit included incomplete vaccine records, and the owner stated that they gave their own parvovirus and distemper vaccines to dogs and admitted that some of their AKC breeding dogs did not have their rabies vaccinations. At that visit, the business was not state-licensed, but Mary admitted that the business met the requirements for a license. Mary Brodersen told the inspector that “she owns 35 AKC Champion cocker spaniels and currently has a litter of puppies that are 4 weeks old. She agreed that the licensing requirement applies to her,” according to the state report. Mary Brodersen also described frequently traveling to AKC dog shows during that conversation.

During a follow-up consultation in October 2020, during which state inspectors still seemed to be giving the breeder time to come into compliance before issuing a license, there were additional issues noted related to clutter, materials that could be dangerous to dogs, dirty conditions and a lack of adequate disinfection measures, which could lead to “a danger of disease transmission.” The inspector noted, “I recommend that you set up a schedule of daily cleaning and weekly disinfection as these dogs are often traveling to dog shows and the risk of bringing an illness back to the kennel is higher than normal.”

Records of vaccinations given to dogs were still not completely updated and some of the dogs did not even have solid resting areas in their cages. The inspector noted, “This is a lot of work for one person.” The inspector also noted that: “AKC inspector Dennis Foley performed [a] compliance inspection at the previous location in town

on 7/31/2018. No serious deficiencies were noted on this report.”¹⁰ This indicates the AKC was probably well aware that their suspended breeder was still working with dogs and may also have known the facility was not state or federally licensed.

Mystical’s [website](#) claims, “We breed and raise quality AKC Grand Champion Confirmation Cocker Spaniel Puppies and Champion Show Dogs.” Mystical’s [PuppyFind.com page](#)¹¹ offers worldwide shipping to any buyer. Even though Mystical Cockers appears to be offering shipping for some puppies, as of May 3, 2021, a review of the USDA’s license list indicates Mystical Cockers does not have the USDA license that would be required to sell puppies online sight-unseen. The business finally passed an official state inspection in November 2020 but would still require a USDA license to ship puppies to buyers. IA #11634.

Ruth (Ruthie) Ewoldt / Furkids, Toronto, Iowa: Inspectors found problems during four state visits in 2020 and 2021, including “odors and stench,” excessive feces, cluttered conditions and poor veterinary care; appears to have sold to at least one pet store without proper license. During four visits within less than a year, state inspectors found multiple problems at Furkids kennel, state records show. The first failed inspection was in June 2020, when the inspection was noted as “noncompliant,” but the owner began coughing and stated she was ill, cutting the inspection short. When inspectors returned in September 2020, a long list of issues was found, including excessive debris and dirty conditions, an expired veterinary inspection form, dogs who had no vaccine records and at least one puppy who had no acquisition records (the latter could be an indication that one or more dogs could have been illegally obtained from other, unlicensed breeders for resale). In addition, records indicated puppies had been sold, at least one into another state, without required veterinary documents. There were also issues with poorly constructed housing for the dogs, among many other problems. There were about 56 dogs and puppies on the premises during the September inspection. When state inspectors returned a third time in November 2020 for a state consultation, many problems were still present, including “non-compliances regarding disease prevention protocol,” such as an incomplete veterinary plan, and some of the animals still weren’t being properly vaccinated, state records show.

One inspection later in November 2020 was marked compliant, but the compliance didn’t last long. When inspectors went out again in April 2021 to investigate a new complaint, they found even more of the same kinds of issues found during earlier visits, including dirty conditions, excessive feces in some areas, and veterinary care and vaccine protocols that were still not being followed. Inspectors noted that “odor and stench can not be masked with air fresheners and sprays.” In addition the report notes, “cleaning frequency needs to be increased [...] I witnessed a pet sit to scratch itself and then land in a pile of feces.” A final issue noted on the April 2021 report was that at least one puppy had been sold to a pet store, Teske’s Pet Center in Bettendorf; Furkids does not appear to have a USDA license, which would be required for such a sale to be legal. IA #11241.

Connie and Harold Johnson / Furbabies Forever (formerly CW’s Quaint Critters), Melvin, Iowa: Repeatedly failed to let inspectors into the kennel, has dodged many inspection attempts since 2016; inspectors who finally gained access in February 2021 found multiple issues (repeat offender). Furbabies Forever (formerly CW’s Quaint Critters) has dodged almost all inspection attempts for five years in a row, including three attempted state inspections in a row between Aug. 31, 2020, and Feb. 1, 2021. Failing to make licensed kennels available for inspections is a significant violation because it leaves animals completely unprotected and could

¹⁰ AKC inspections are generally paperwork inspections and not animal welfare inspections; numerous AKC breeders have been charged with animal cruelty or were closed down for poor conditions shortly after the AKC gave them a passing inspection.

¹¹ The HSUS has repeatedly linked PuppyFind.com to unlicensed breeders as well to individuals with previous animal cruelty and neglect convictions.

indicate the dealer is avoiding letting inspectors see the conditions of the dogs. When state inspectors finally gained access on their fourth attempt (Feb. 3, 2021), they found a number of problems, including a lack of “substantial solid resting surfaces,” incomplete vaccination documents and outdated veterinary records, and three dogs who were apparently unkempt and three dogs had nails that were too long; the inspector also ordered the licensees to have the dogs groomed.

As we noted in five of our previous Horrible Hundred reports, Furbabies Forever / CW’s Quaint Critters has a long history of dodging many of its federal inspections, and when inspectors do get in, they usually find violations. For example, before a completed inspection in February 2019, it had not been inspected since 2016, when USDA inspectors found violations for a strong odor, puppies on dangerous wire flooring, and inadequate identification. The operation cancelled its USDA license in September 2019, when, according to the USDA inspection report in February, “The licensee surrendered their license before the inspection could be conducted” and “no exit briefing was conducted.” The kennel is still licensed by the state, however, which means it can legally sell directly to puppy buyers but cannot ship puppies sight-unseen online or sell to pet stores or brokers.

Furbabies Forever’s repeated failure to let inspectors into the kennel causes grave concerns about the safety and welfare of every animal on the property. The operation did pass one state inspection in March 2021, but at that inspection there was a repeat issue noted with six more dogs in need of grooming and another dog with nails that were too long. The need for repeated visits to conduct one passable inspection is unacceptable and indicates that the operation may have cleaned up for that inspection only because it had a prior expectation of inspection due to the multiple previous attempts. IA# 4660. Former USDA #42-B-0226. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Steve Kruse / Stonehenge Kennel, West Point, Iowa: Massive broker with nearly 700 dogs has been found with more than 50 injured or sick dogs since 2015; had March 2021 direct, repeat violation for six dogs in need of care, including an emaciated Boston terrier and a bulldog who could not put weight on her leg \(repeat offender\).](#) Even after appearing in several of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to severe and numerous humane care violations, Steve Kruse’s Stonehenge Kennel still had a massive number of dogs (691) at a March 2021 USDA inspection, and at least six of those dogs were in need of care or veterinary treatment, USDA inspectors found.

According to an inspection report dated March 11, 2021, the USDA cited Kruse with a single direct, repeat violation for the six dogs, which included a female Boston terrier with “an emaciated body condition.” Inspectors stated that: “Inspection of the dog revealed that the backbone, ribs, and hip bones were visibly prominent and easily felt with little fat and muscle covering them. Emaciated body condition could indicate a serious underlying health issue.” Other issues included a bulldog who seemed to have a leg injury and wasn’t putting weight on her leg, a Samoyed with an “abnormal condition of the right eye and poor dental health,” and with “an excessive amount of yellow drainage [from her eye] spreading down the face.” A husky had an eye that was “protruding outwardly,” with the white of the eye reddened and “an approximately dime sized white, cloudy material covering the surface [of the eye].” Another dog, a Wheaten terrier, was so badly matted that the matts on her chest were “thickened and tight” and “the legs are covered in layers of matted hair.” A second Wheaten terrier had a broken tooth and was excessively drooling, with signs of dental disease. In addition, a four-month old puppy was found housed with an older dog who was behaving “aggressively” toward the puppy when the puppy tried to approach the food bowl. The latter is a violation because licensees are required to be mindful of compatible grouping, especially when housing puppies with adult animals.

Unfortunately, many similar issues have been found at Kruse’s puppy mill over the years, including dozens of dogs with open wounds, lameness, eye injuries and hair loss. At a March 2020 USDA inspection, Kruse, a B dealer

who is licensed to sell an unlimited number of puppies to pet stores or online, had 670 dogs in all, meaning that his numbers have only increased in 2021.

Kruse has been in three prior Horrible Hundred reports for egregious animal care issues. In our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, we revealed that the USDA found him with at least 41 dogs in need of veterinary care between 2015 and 2017, including some with deep lacerations, oozing wounds and lameness. In our 2016 Horrible Hundred report, we reported that, in addition to some dogs with bloody wounds, some dogs had feces mixed in with their food, and at least one dog didn't even have enough space in their small kennel to wag their tail. In December 2015, Kruse received a 21-day USDA suspension after throwing a bag containing two dead puppies at a USDA inspector.

Injured dogs found in 2016 at Stonehenge Kennel included a Labrador retriever with a large, 5-6 inch diameter swelling on her chest; an olde English bulldog with watery fecal material covering her hind end, with fur that was wet and stained by the feces and with open sores; a bulldog with a growth on her leg the size of a ping-pong ball; a bulldog who had a limp, eye discharge and a wound on her foot; a Labrador retriever with lacerations on her ear that were oozing a yellowish-green discharge; a shiba inu and a labradoodle with open wounds on their abdomens in the area where a surgical birth could have occurred; these wounds were deep and oozing; and a shiba inu puppy who was vomiting and lethargic; when removed from the enclosure, the puppy "hung limply when held."

Many other issues that are too numerous to mention in this space leave HSUS with grave concerns about the welfare of every animal in Kruse's possession. USDA #42-B-0182; IA #4576. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Kurt and Hollie Pille, Saint Anthony, Iowa: Some dogs had no protection from the cold and most had only frozen water in January 2021; state found violations for numerous dirty and unsafe conditions. During a January 2021 visit, state inspectors found dogs exposed to the cold at the Pilles' kennel, as well as dangerous and dirty conditions, state records show. The water in most of the dogs' enclosures was frozen. Historic weather records show the temperatures in that area were in the 20s at night and average temperatures in the area were about 34 degrees in January. Other issues found at the January inspection included a "lack of roofing" in an outbuilding that put the dogs at risk of falling debris, dirty conditions and dogs exposed to unfinished walls and exposed insulation with a "risk of insulation ingestion." The inspection report also noted "spilled dry kibble on the floor of pen, underneath numerous used bags of food," which indicated that "routine cleanliness has not occurred to reduce the infestation of vermin." During a follow-up visit later that same month, some of the issues had been corrected, but when the state went to inspect again on Feb. 2, 2021, they were called as inspectors were en route and told not to come due to a "family emergency." A prior attempted state inspection in December 2020 was "not attended, nor cancelled," indicating that the breeder stood up the inspectors. The fact that three inspections were aborted within a period of just a few months is a concern. There were more than 30 dogs on the premises at the January inspection. One inspection in March 2021 was compliant. IA #11221.

Chris and Tammy Riddle / 6R Uplands Kennel, Gilman, Iowa: Failed at least two 2020 state inspections for issues such as strong urine odors, failure to provide dry, safe and sanitary conditions for dogs; open bag of rat poison. State inspectors found nine different issues of concern during a June 17, 2020, inspection at 6R Uplands Kennel, including issues with unsafe housing, dirty conditions, standing water, fecal run-off that was not being drained or properly removed, one part of the kennel that was "crowded," and "the strongest odor of urine" in the whelping kennel. Inspectors also found an "open bag of rat poison, not in use and not properly stored out-of-sight," and the veterinary inspection form was not available to the inspector. At the time of the



inspection, there were about 60 dogs and puppies on the premises. During a re-inspection later the same month, the kennel was found noncompliant again for failing to fix rusty kennels. The operation was finally found compliant in July 2020 and passed one other inspection in the fall. Previous issues noted at the kennel by state inspectors included issues with kennel composition (“raw wood”) and some dogs missing certificates of veterinary inspection (2019); concerns about ability to clean (2016); and dogs with kennel cough, “waste accumulation,” and rusty, sharp edges on the building interior (2015). IA #610.

Tim Shimek / Shimek’s AKC Siberian Huskys [sic], Waucoma, Iowa: AKC breeder cited for facilities “in need of considerable repair and major cleaning;” inspectors had concerns about “number of dogs being cared for by 1 person.” During a June 2020 state inspection, Shimek’s AKC Siberian Huskys was found “non-compliant” due to six different issues, including kennels in disrepair, food and water bowls that were not sanitary, and a veterinary inspection form that was “not completed,” indicating that there had been no recent veterinary visit to the facility. Inspectors noted: “The number of dogs being cared for by 1 person is concerning. Facilities are in need of considerable repair and major cleaning and [disinfecting].”

There were about 40 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. It appears there have been concerns in prior years as well; the state’s inspection list online indicates “reinspection[s]” were required in 2016 and 2019. The 2019 violations were related to deficiencies in waste disposal, structures and personnel — categories similar to those found lacking in 2020.

There was also at least two “attempted” inspections, one in May 2020, and one in April 2021, during which no one made the kennel available for inspection. Attempted inspections are a concern because they could indicate a licensee was dodging inspectors and avoiding letting anyone see the kennel. IA #10817.

Henry Sommers / Happy Puppys [sic], Cincinnati, Iowa: Repeated problems with foul odors and unsanitary conditions; poor housekeeping left dogs with “a higher risk of becoming ill,” per USDA report; breeder has had recurring issues since 2014 (repeat offender). Even after appearing in four of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to issues such as injured dogs and unsanitary conditions, Henry Sommers was cited for more issues, including violations related to foul odors and poor housekeeping, in 2021. During a Feb. 4, 2021, inspection, USDA inspectors noted that many surfaces in the building “had a layer of dirt/grime/dust/waste indicating they had not been cleaned or sanitized in many months.” For example, “There was a 5-gallon bucket filled with fecal-contaminated washdown water which was emitting a foul odor that had been left just a foot away from an enclosure housing two dogs.”

In addition: “Some of the electrical outlets, directly connected to the outside of the dogs’ enclosures had a build-up of waste. The dogs were raised a few feet off the floor in their enclosures, but the floor beneath them was very unsanitary and the actual flooring was barely viewable beneath the layer of built-up brown/black organic material.” And: “There were multiple items being stored in the housing building which were collecting thick layers of dust, such as an old fan and unused flooring material. Additionally, the white PVC pipes leading from the washdowns to the outdoor sewage, had an external buildup of brown grime and the areas between the pipes and the wall had a buildup up of dust, grime, and dead bugs. These unclean/unsanitary surfaces were all within just a few feet (less than 6) of the dogs and in some cases just inches away, right outside their enclosures.” The report concluded, “Adult dogs and puppies are at a higher risk of becoming ill when they are housed in unsanitary conditions.”

As we noted in some of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, Sommers was cited for similar issues in the past, as well as issues with sick or injured dogs. In September 2019, Sommers received a direct, repeat violation (one of

the most severe violation categories) from a USDA inspector for a veterinary care issue related to a Maltese dog with “hairless areas along the left flank, left hind leg, in front of the base of the tail, and behind the left shoulder. These affected areas were slightly reddened and contained small areas of crusty, scab-like material.” The inspector noted that “this dog’s condition had not been noticed and she is not currently receiving any treatment.”

And as we noted in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, Sommers was cited for multiple repeat violations in earlier years as well. For example, in May 2017, the USDA cited Sommers for a repeat violation for a Yorkie who had a large area of missing fur and thinning hair, and for unsafe housing which contained large gaps that could injure the dogs. In February 2017, USDA cited Sommers for a direct, repeat violation after an inspector found multiple dogs with veterinary issues, which included: a Yorkshire terrier with hair loss and brown, scabby skin; another Yorkie who could not put weight on her leg and whose “entire foot [was] swollen to approximately twice its normal size;” a Maltese puppy who had swollen eyelids with yellow, caked-on discharge; a bichon with an open wound on her neck; and other dogs with evidence of dental infections, matted fur and/or severely overgrown nails. The licensee was cited with only one direct, repeat violation, even though multiple dogs were affected. There were also repeated issues with failing to make the kennel available for inspection.

Sommers received an official warning from USDA in January 2016 for repeated veterinary care violations, but even after receiving that warning, he was found with sick and injured dogs again and again between late May and November of 2016. On May 23, 2016, a USDA inspector found a puppy who appeared “lifeless and unresponsive” with partially closed eyes and pale gums. The inspector also described her as “weak and limp while being held” and “cold to the touch”—the puppy was in such dire condition that the inspector “stopped the inspection and requested the licensee seek immediate veterinary care for the puppy,” according to the USDA report.

Serious issues at the operation stretch back to at least 2014, when a USDA inspector found that a veterinarian hadn’t visited the facility since 2012, and a Boston terrier was limping. Photographs from the USDA showed filthy cages and excessive feces. IA# 9802, USDA #42-A-1329. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Vickie Ubben, Milo, Iowa: State inspector noted “significant” strong odor, some dogs in wire cages stacked three high, some dogs had “no comfort resting areas” and some didn’t have enough room to extend their legs. During a state inspection in June 2020, a number of concerns were found at Vickie Ubben’s kennel. The inspector noted that there was a significant odor of ammonia (urine) upon entry that was noticed even though the inspectors were wearing masks. The inspector also noticed cramped conditions, with some bulldogs who didn’t even appear to have enough room in their enclosures to lie down with their legs extended, as well as excessive feces in the exercise runs, wire kennels stacked three high that had “accumulated hair and feces” around them, “no comfort resting areas” for some of the dogs, and more. In addition, the adult dogs had not been vaccinated for rabies, which many would consider to be a basic, minimum requirement for adequate veterinary care. There were 88 dogs at the time of the inspection. The facility did pass one inspection in September 2020, but it remains to be seen whether the kennel will stay in compliance with such a large number of dogs to care for. IA #11003.

Charles Vogl / SCW Frenchies, Atlantic, Iowa: Failed two state inspections for issues such as “dogs noticeably shivering” in the cold, one dog with “excessive diarrhea,” lack of proper vaccinations, excessive feces and decrepit conditions. SCW Frenchies was found noncompliant during at least two state inspections in 2020, one in October and one in November. During the October inspection, inspectors noted excessive trash and clutter, and there was evidence of mice in the kennel buildings, as well as significant structural damage such as holes in the walls and rotting wood. At least one dog had “excessive diarrhea,” and some of the dogs’

vaccinations were not up to date. Dogs were found “noticeably shivering” in a building that was only 43 degrees, and the state report noted that the cold building did have a heater, but apparently no one had bothered to turn it on. There were also “several days worth” of feces and urine in the outdoor dog runs. The inspector noted the facility had “not been cleaning or sanitizing” and “does not use detergent or sanitizer.”

At a follow-up inspection in November, the facility was again found non-compliant. State inspection reports show that some issues had been fixed, but many still needed to be addressed, such as lifting the floor of a kennel building that was sinking, cleaning food bowls, and fixing some of the wire parts of the kennels. In addition, the inspector noted that a “whelping kennel (currently housing 1 nursing mother and 10 puppies) in house has not been cleaned or sanitized in several days.” The inspector noted it “Must be cleaned today and must be kept adequately clean. To be addressed IMMEDIATELY.”

The breeder finally passed a third inspection on Dec. 7, 2020, but concerns remain about its ability to stay in compliance. IA #11155.

Anita Wikstrom / Unforgettable Schnauzers, Ames, Iowa: Cited for odors of feces and urine, unsanitary conditions and housing in disrepair; state inspector recommended she “downsize [the] herd” (repeat offender). During an October 2020 inspection, state inspectors found five different issues at Unforgettable Schnauzers, noting that the “Facility was very dirty with a noticeable odor of feces/urine. Dirty bedding, dirt/dust, and feces throughout, floor very grimy. More frequent cleaning/sanitation is needed due to large volume of dogs. Discussed definitions of cleaning and sanitation, different cleaning/sanitation products and methods with owner. Owner stated she had just arrived to the property and had not started cleaning yet (I arrived at approximately 10:30am).”

In addition to the unsanitary conditions, there was a large hole in the floor in one area and signs that dogs were chewing on the flooring. In addition, even though there were dozens of dogs on the premises, the owner admitted she did not live on site. According to the report: “Owner states she is living at the property part of the time and living at her sister’s part of the time. Even though staying at sister’s part of [the] time, [she claims she still visits the] property at least twice per day to clean, fill water bowls, feed, etc. Started spaying/neutering some adults and looking to downsize total number of dogs last year. I provided owner with the names of several nearby licensed shelters/rescues to contact to possibly surrender dogs [to] help downsize herd.”

The inspector also noted: “Kennel rooms, outdoor runs, and exterior [of property] are cluttered with trash, debris, dirty bedding, etc. Observed flies on floors and walls of interior of kennel rooms. Clutter prevents adequate cleaning/sanitation and increases chances of vermin infestation both inside and outside of kennel building. Larger vermin (such as raccoons, possums, etc.) potentially attracted by the trash and clutter could easily access outdoor runs--increase risk of injury or illness to dogs.”

Similar issues were found at the kennel in prior years, as documented in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report. The licensee did come into compliance for one inspection in December 2020, but the HSUS has significant concerns about the owner’s ability to keep the property safe and clean, given her history of recurring issues and the owner’s lack of continual monitoring of the property. During the December inspection, the state inspector noted there was “still some noticeable odor” at the facility, which seemed to indicate that some conditions were recurring. IA #1475. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

KANSAS

Lewis Bloom / Bloom's Kennels, Clay Center, Kansas: HSUS photographed dogs in hutch- style wire enclosures at operation that sold to Petland and other stores; USDA issued only "teachable moments."

During an undercover investigation in July 2020, an HSUS investigator photographed dogs in barren conditions at Bloom's Kennels. While not specifically illegal, the property appeared to be a puppy mill, with dogs confined to small, raised enclosures with wire walls and seemingly bare wood supports. The outdoor wire enclosures appeared to be attached to a barn-like structure typical of puppy mills. The USDA has not cited Bloom for any recent violations. It inspected most recently in February 2020. At that time, the USDA issued one "teachable moment"¹² for bird droppings in the feed storage area, which could potentially spread disease, and noted that there were 96 dogs and puppies on site. The USDA also may have given Bloom a "teachable moment" in April 2018, according to its website, but does not have a record of the specific issue in its "teachable moments" online database.

In prior years, the USDA issued an "attempted inspection" violation in May 2017 for failing to make the property available for inspection, and two violations in March 2017 for "unsanitary living condition" that could "increase the risk of disease" and for excessive feces that covered approximately 20% of an enclosure. During that inspection there were 113 dogs and puppies on the property.

Transport records reviewed by HSUS show Bloom sold puppies to pet stores in at least five different states, including at least two Petland stores, one in Missouri and one in Texas. Petland falsely claims to use breeders who hold only the highest standards, but the conditions at Bloom's kennel appear to be typical of puppy mills. KS# CB000BGZ, USDA #48-A-1316.

Debra Deters / Double D Blacktop Kennel (formerly De Jas Kennel), Centralia, Kansas: HSUS investigator photographed dogs pacing in small, rickety wire cages at kennel with approximately 180 dogs; USDA has not inspected since 2019 despite prior history (repeat offender).

In July 2020, an undercover HSUS investigator photographed dogs at Double D Blacktop Kennel who were in very small cages and appeared to have very little headroom. The portions of the enclosures that were outdoors appeared to be held up haphazardly with just a few slim poles, a sign of potentially unsafe conditions. There were more than 180 dogs and puppies on the property during a November 2019 USDA inspection, yet despite the large number of dogs, as of May 5, 2021, it appears that the USDA has not inspected since then, even after the HSUS shared its recent photos with USDA.

The Deters facility has no USDA violations on its current license but has many violations from prior years under a former license number and former name, De Jas Kennel. The operation appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report after the USDA gave Roger and Debra Deters an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations in January 2016 related to several dogs found in need of veterinary care in March 2015. The warning was also related to at least two failed access attempts later that same year when the inspectors tried to follow up on the dogs to see if they had obtained treatment. The dogs found in the March 2015 visit included a shih tzu whose entire eye was red in color, a cocker spaniel with a suspicious growth, and another shih tzu who appeared to be unable to put weight on her leg. However, even after the warning was issued on Jan. 14, 2016, yet another shih tzu was found in need of veterinary care less than two weeks later. During an inspector's visit on Jan. 26, 2016, a shih tzu was found with a "greenish yellow discharge on the cornea and around the eyelids of the left eye;" the

¹² "Teachable moments" are purportedly minor violations that USDA hides from the official inspection report by keeping them in a separate document. The USDA claims they are generally small violations that can be corrected at the time of the inspection, but the HSUS has found that some issues cited as "teachable moments" are not minor and cannot always be immediately corrected.

white part of the dog's eye was reddened, and there was a circular area on the cornea that was white in color. Numerous housing and sanitation issues were also found during inspections in 2016, 2015 and 2014.

After appearing in the 2016 report, the facility was found with more violations on a state inspection report, including issues with jagged edges that could hurt the dogs and a dog who was in a pen that was too small (2019).

Although the facility is now operating without recent USDA violations, it has been documented that USDA has [scaled back dramatically](#) on inspections and enforcement since 2017, and the conditions at Deters kennel still appear to be a puppy mill, based on the photos the HSUS investigator took in July 2020. The housing does not seem to meet the safe housing criteria required under the federal Animal Welfare Act.

In 2020, Deters sold to Southpaw Pets, a middleman broker in Missouri that supplies puppies to many different pet stores. The HSUS has also had a recent complaint from an individual who purchased a sick puppy who originated from Deters at a pet store. KS# CB001SD4. Former USDA #48-A-1058 (cancelled 2017); current USDA #48-A-2217. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Rebecca Eiler / Creek Side Kennel, Oberlin, Kansas: Breeder who sold to Petland and dozens of other pet stores was found with more than 400 dogs; had a trough of dog feces spilling above ground, housing in disrepair and dirty conditions at state inspections; USDA has failed to cite it for any recent violations.

During a January 2021 state inspection, Creek Side Kennel, a massive operation with 430 dogs on site, was cited for several housing and maintenance issues. According to the Jan. 12, 2021, state inspection report, the inspector found issues with some surfaces that had jagged or chewed edges that could injure the dogs, some issues with rust and paint that needed repair, and a foul issue with insufficient drains spilling dog wastes out in the open. The inspector wrote "The drainage trough on both the north and south side of the Izene buildings needs repaired for the waste to go into the underground waste system and not run out onto the ground surface. The inspector ordered the licensee to have the trough washed out daily to get rid of excreta. Waste disposal tubs also were found full and without a lid. During the inspection, it was noted that the breeder is USDA licensed and was changing her state license to an "animal breeding license" from a "retail breeder" license.

It was not the first time issues were found at the enormous kennel. A June 2019 inspection noted some similar maintenance issues, as well as green algae in some of the dogs' water bowls, some matted dogs who needed to be groomed, and some dogs who had "ear wounds from flies." Prior to that visit, inspectors had arrived earlier in the month and the facility was not made available for inspection; the breeder was given a "no contact notice" and fined \$200.00, state records show.

Despite the enormous number of dogs on the premises and issues found at several state inspections, the USDA has failed to inspect Creek Side Kennel in more than a year (as of May 5, 2021), and has not cited it for any recent violations. The USDA last inspected in February 2020, and found 563 dogs on the property at that time.

A review of shipping documents by HSUS researchers revealed that Creek Side Kennel shipped puppies to dozens of different pet stores across the country in recent years, including some Petland stores. Petland is the largest chain of pet stores in the country that still sells puppies, and HSUS investigations have repeatedly demonstrated that it purchases from puppy mills.

Absurdly, Petland claims to buy only from breeders whose standards far exceed the minimum set by USDA, and implies that Petland's breeders' dogs all get individual socialization and care. Clearly, with over 400 dogs, and so many maintenance issues at this facility, Petland's claims about the quality of this breeder are highly questionable. KS# CB001J3M, USDA #48-A-2176.

Brandon Hillyard, Christina Hillyard, and Gale Whitaker / Whispering Oaks Kennel, Coffeyville, Kansas: HSUS investigators photographed dogs in puppy mill conditions at facility that sold to at least 10 Petland stores.

In March 2021, an HSUS undercover investigator photographed dogs in crowded, puppy-mill like enclosures at the Hillyard/ Whitaker kennel. While the conditions did not appear to be illegal, the property appeared to be a puppy mill, with dogs confined to small, stacked wire-sided enclosures that looked crowded, with up to three dogs per enclosure and without enough space for them to run and play. Some of the outdoor cages appeared to be held up with support poles that looked like PVC piping and some were leaning, calling their structural stability into question in a state prone to strong weather events. The outdoor, stacked wire enclosures were attached to barn-like structures typical of puppy mills.

The USDA, which inspected the operation the same month (March 22, 2021), did not cite it for any violations despite the questionable structures, and in fact it has not cited the Hillyards/ Whitaker facility for any violations since 2017. At that time, the kennel was cited for a primary enclosures violation. The USDA inspector wrote: “Suspended wire flooring that is constructed of metal strands, must have strands greater than 1/8 inch (9 gauge), or coated with a material such [as] plastic or fiberglass. Both sides on the outside runs of the whelping house (north sheltered kennel) the plastic/fiberglass covering is chipping from the metal wire strands. The missing portions or chips of the wire flooring that the dogs are on does not adequately give the dogs a good area for dogs to walk. This could be uncomfortable, lead to sore feet, less exercise, and cause sores. The owner must repair or replace these areas of missing wire coating to help insure the good health and well-being of dogs in these areas.” It has been documented that USDA enforcement has sharply declined since 2017.

During the March 2021 USDA inspection, the facility had 150 dogs. It has sold to pet stores across the country, including at least 10 different Petland stores: five Petland stores in Florida (2020), at least one in Ohio (2019) and at least four in Texas (2020), as well as many other pet stores. [Petland claims](#) to buy from quality breeders who “go above and beyond” the minimal USDA standards, including “safe and comfortable housing with ample room” and “frequent socialization and exercise.” Petland even claims they visit each breeder to make sure the dogs have “access to an open area or run or a group area.” With over 180 dogs in cramped cages, the footage taken at this facility, and others like it, calls those claims into question. KS #CB000C5J, USDA #48-A-1431.

Linda Kent / Eclipses Kennel, Elgin, Kansas: HSUS investigator photographed poor housing; state inspectors found excessive feces, dirt and grime. USDA only noted a “teachable moment;” “no access” violations.

In March 2021, an HSUS investigator photographed poor conditions at Eclipses Kennel. Some of the dogs were in a dirt yard attached to a structure made of rusty sheet metal. Cracks could be seen in parts of the sheet metal. Poles that were holding up some of the fencing appeared to be leaning and not structurally sound, in a state prone to strong weather incidents.

State inspectors noted recent issues as well. During a Jan. 28, 2021, state inspection, an inspector noted a number of cleaning and maintenance issues at Eclipses Kennel, including, “a build up of dirt/grime on the floors in all the pens + along corners as well as on x-pens¹³.” The inspector also noted that “there is starting to be holes in the flooring of the 2nd building” that needed to be replaced or repaired. The report also notes chewed wood on various parts of one enclosure, that “several water dishes have chew marks,” a few pens had chew marks, and there was a “need to fill holes in a couple pens in dirt.” The inspector noted: “Need to deep clean every 2 weeks or sooner if needed. Spot clean as needed. Clean feces in pens on more of a regular basis.” There were more than 70 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

Records show that the state agriculture department also charged the breeder a “no contact fee” in early January 2021, indicating that inspectors arrived to check on the dogs at an earlier date, but no one let them in to view the kennel; this makes the violations found in late January an even higher concern because it seems the issues were still present even after the breeder had extra time to clean up.

¹³ X-pens are a type of standing pen, usually made of wire panels.

Eclipses Kennel is also USDA licensed. The state report noted that it sells to brokers and pet stores. According to shipping documents studied by HSUS, at least two of the brokers the kennel has sold puppies to include Southpaw Pets in Missouri and Select Puppies in Iowa; both of these dealers in turn sell to many pet stores across the country, including some Petland stores. The property had a USDA violation in July 2020 for failure to give inspectors access, a “teachable moment” in 2018 that is unspecified, and a “teachable moment” in August 2020 for a housing issue. In 2017, the USDA cited the kennel for a veterinary care violation for a dog with dental issues that “could be painful and lead to poor eating habits.” KS #CB0014HJ, USDA #48-A-2171.

Michelle Miller / Plum Crazy Kennel, Elk City, Kansas: Breeder who was previously sued by the state in 2015 was fined in 2021 for failing to open the kennel for inspection; has dodged inspections at least 10 times between 2015 and 2021; issues with disrepair and trash (repeat offender). Michelle Miller’s Plum Crazy Kennel has been in five of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, after repeatedly violating Kansas’ very minimal animal care regulations, and frequently failing to let inspectors into the kennel.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture charged Miller with her most recent of many “no contact” fees (a \$200 fine) on Jan 7, 2021, when no one met them to open the kennel for inspection, which is a violation. It was at least the 10th time since 2015 that Miller had failed to allow inspectors in to view the kennel. The recurring issue is significant because some problem breeders may avoid letting inspectors in when there are known issues that they do not want inspectors to see. A few weeks later, on Jan. 28, 2021, KDA inspectors were able to gain access, but it was after the licensee had had weeks to clean up any issues. During that inspection, KDA still found some areas in disrepair and some trash that was not properly put away.

Other issues found in prior years, which we noted in our earlier reports (Horrible Hundred, 2014-2018) included Doberman puppies who had a skin condition that hadn’t been treated by a veterinarian, standing water and muddy conditions (2017), concern about the weight of a nursing mother dog, extreme temperature, puppies who were “extremely tiny” (2016) and operating on an expired license (2015). Under a consent decision in 2015, Miller was fined \$2,750 for repeatedly failing to provide proper care to her dogs. Issues at the kennel stretch back to at least 2013 and 2014, according to the 2015 court case (Case #15 AH 10698/ Feb. 27, 2015), and included underweight dogs, dogs in need of veterinary care, dogs and puppies without enough space, strong odors, and infestations of flies, mice and fleas. KS #CB000U5L. **REPEAT OFFENDER, SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Samuel and Summer Roman / Tree of Life Kennels, aka Arise Up, LLC, (formerly Doggy Tyme Kennel), Conway Springs, Kansas: State repeatedly threatened legal action for operating on lapsed licenses; repeated issues with poor housing, dogs exposed to the weather and dirty conditions have been recurring since 2015. During the winter of 2020, inspectors found dogs who did not have enough protection from the elements in the winter cold at [Tree of Life Kennels](#). A December 2020 inspection found issues that included some dogs in “surfaces and pens that are not satisfactory for use,” as well as issues with dogs exposed to cold and wet conditions without adequate shelter, and concerns about a lack of cleanliness. Some dogs were found in a dirt run pen with only one dog igloo that wasn’t large enough to fit both of the dogs for shelter. Some of the other dogs were in pens without adequate drainage or bedding to protect them from wet or cold temperatures. Historical weather data shows that temperatures in that part of the state in December were often in the 30s and sometimes below freezing.

Local residents have been concerned about Samuel and Summer Roman’s operation for many years. It was previously licensed as Doggy Tyme Kennel and had dropped its license more than once, only to be found selling puppies again with the same poor conditions. In early 2020, the breeder was again required to obtain a new license after a new complaint was filed. At that time, the operation had about 80 dogs and had clearly been doing business for some time without the required license. The breeder told the inspector that they had “not been able to get a vet out [to the property] that will work with them.” The Romans were told at that time they had until a specific date to “have [a] license and fees turned into [the] office to prevent any other legal actions at this point.”

Similar violations have repeated off and on at the kennel, which has changed its name and location, since at least 2015. In 2017, local residents complained after dogs were seen in standing water. A state inspector who visited on April 6, 2017, noted that approximately 30% of the pens had holes in them with standing water, and there were gaps in the pens that were large enough for some of the dogs to stick their entire heads through. And in January 2016, a state inspector found the couple was operating without a current license. The inspection found many similar problems at the kennel: a Boston terrier was found with a prolapse that had not been treated by a veterinarian, dogs were outside in the cold with no statement from a vet indicating that they were acclimated to the harsh weather, and the outside dog runs were found to have a build-up of feces covering at least 70% of the area, “making it difficult for dogs to walk around without stepping in feces,” among other problems. In addition, some dogs were kept on chains and others were outside without adequate shelter. Issues with waste disposal and unsafe and dirty conditions were also noted repeatedly over the years and are too numerous to list here. KS #CB001ZCB.

KENTUCKY

Sharon (Sherrì) M. Richards, aka Sharon Lambrecht, Webster and Irvington, Kentucky: Before moving to Kentucky, owner previously pled guilty to felony charges of “mistreatment of animals / cause death” in Wisconsin; also linked to fire that killed 31 dogs; still has dogs in small, rusty wire cages in dirty conditions; breeder was recently found selling sick puppies; also offers puppies on PuppyFind.com. A breeder who is now in Kentucky was linked to several animal mistreatment incidents in prior years in Wisconsin, and still seems to be keeping dogs in poor conditions, recent photographs show. A recent buyer who complained to local authorities has said Richards is still selling animals on PuppyFind.com under the kennel name Puppy Love in Vine Grove. Richards also reportedly advertises puppies for sale on social media.

In December 2013, Sharon M. Richards was linked to a horrific fire in Kildare, Wisconsin, that [killed at least 31 dogs](#), according to news accounts. Many of the animals were kept in plastic carriers in a room with a space heater that is believed to have been the source of the fire, and the “plastic carriers melted, entombing their lifeless bodies.” To make matters worse, many other dogs were on the property, including dogs “kept in outside kennels and possibly in another trailer on the property,” according to law enforcement sources interviewed by news media at the time. A local resident told the newspaper they had reported the facility as a puppy mill; at least one resident said she was confused as to why nothing was done. “Those animals did not have to die,” she told the newspaper.

Before the horrific fire, there were many other issues and run-ins with the law that are too numerous to list in this space. Richards pled guilty to two felony counts of “Mistreatment of Animals / Cause Death” in Washington County, Wisconsin, in 2002 after a search warrant revealed that animals were confined to tiny, feces-filled cages. Many dogs, as well as cats and some horses were removed from her custody in 2001. Investigators who served a warrant on her Spooner, Wisconsin property said they found dozens of dogs and cats, some living in small cages with no food or water, and “the smell was so bad that you could hardly stand it.” The investigation report stated that many of the dogs appeared to have mange, and a horse was found with “bloody knees and big sores.”

Richards was arrested, sentenced to prison, and ordered to have no contact with animals for the duration of her supervised probation. But Richards failed to comply with the court ordered sentence and in September 2008, the court extended the terms of her probation another year.

Sharon Richards and a partner, William Myers, have a long and violent history that includes criminal charges and convictions. A full list of their criminal conduct is beyond the scope of this report and is complicated by the fact that the pair operates under numerous aliases. In Wisconsin, it appears Richards attempted to operate under her partner William Myers' license since she was not permitted to obtain one in her own name.

Also, in 2012, [dozens of dogs were euthanized](#) at the breeding facility located at 955 and 957 Gale Drive in the town of Wisconsin Dells. On Sept. 5, 2012, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection issued a buyer beware press release stating that the facility licensed by William Myers had been under a disease quarantine since June 28, because dogs of different breeds tested positive for brucellosis. The press [release warned buyers](#) to report having purchased a puppy from "Sharon Richards, who may also use the name Sharon Lambrecht." The state determined the quarantine order [was violated](#) when seven puppies were released from the breeding facility after the quarantine order was issued.

But 20 years later, it appears Richards is now breeding and selling dogs in Kentucky, a state with no specific laws to regulate breeders.

Although Richards' charges were from years ago, more recent (2020) photographs provided to the HSUS from verified local sources in Kentucky show there is still cause for concern. Photos show many dogs in stacked, rusty wire cages at Richards' kennel. County records obtained by HSUS in April 2021 show that in October 2020, local animal control investigated a cruelty complaint at Richards' current address in Irvington, Kentucky, after receiving a report of a sick dog and poor conditions; ultimately she was charged in Breckinridge District Court in December 2020 and ordered to maintain a local kennel license and keep no more than 15 animals, or, if unlicensed, possess no animals. However, Richards' past history shows a repeated pattern of re-offending, and sometimes moving large numbers of animals to different properties to escape detection. The HSUS has significant concerns about the welfare of any animals in Richards' possession.

Court records show that Sharon M. Richards has also used the following names: Sharon Lambrecht, Sharon Melton, Sharon Fortun, Sharon Poe and Sharon Hanson.

MINNESOTA

[Kim Seiler aka Kim Baartman, Viking Silver Labs, Tracy, Minnesota: AKC-linked breeder accused of selling sick puppies, including a puppy with bald patches and parvovirus.](#) In October 2020, a puppy buyer filed a complaint with the Minnesota Attorney General's office after allegedly purchasing a very sick puppy from Viking Silver Labs. The buyer said she spent over \$2,000 to save her puppy's life and provided detailed veterinary records. The buyer later obtained an attorney, who noted what appeared to be several violations of Minnesota Statute Section 325F.791 (the state's puppy lemon law) and reported those issues to the Attorney General's office in a follow-up letter in February 2021. As of April 2, 2021, to the best of our knowledge, no new action had been taken by the Attorney General's office.

Several other buyers have allegedly also reported sick puppies and poor conditions at the breeder's facility. Minnesota does not permit the release of breeder inspection records under its public right-to-know laws, so the HSUS was not able to obtain information about conditions inspectors found at the property. However, HSUS researchers did confirm records showing that several people complained about being sold puppies with issues such as parasites and infections, between 2017 and 2020. Several buyers also stated that they received puppies who had a foul odor, which could indicate they had been kept in unsanitary conditions.

As of May 2021, Viking Silver Labs has an [“F” rating](#) with its local Better Business Bureau due to unresolved [complaints](#), according to online records. The business’s [website](#) indicates they offer puppies registered with the American Kennel Club, a purebred dog registry with a history of fighting laws that would help end puppy mills. The website also indicates that Viking Silver Labs will ship puppies-sight unseen, but a May 6, 2021, review of online license lists found no indication that any business called “Viking Silver Labs” nor any business in Tracy, Minnesota, nor anyone by the surname of Seiler or Baartman, is licensed by the USDA, which would be required, per federal regulations, to ship dogs or puppies sight-unseen to buyers or to sell them through pet stores.

MISSOURI

[Josh Bateman / Transport Central, J&K Puppies LLC and Puppy Travelers \(formerly Bateman Diversified\), Neosho, Missouri: State inspector found “lethargic” male poodle mix with labored breathing and greenish nasal discharge who had not been treated by a veterinarian; transporter is linked to Petland pet store chain \(repeat offender\)](#). During a November 2020 inspection at Josh Bateman’s Transport Central, a Missouri state inspector found a male poodle mix who “was noted to be lethargic and had bilateral greenish nasal discharge and congested breathing.” A photo taken at the inspection showed a puppy with what appears to be dried mucus around his nostrils. The inspector wrote that the non-compliance was related to a failure to conduct “daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being.” Apparently, there was no indication that the puppy was under veterinary treatment for the condition at the time of the inspection.

The 2020 incident was not the first time that a company linked to Bateman left puppies at risk. Josh Bateman appeared in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report after 24 puppies were seized from filthy conditions outside a Petland store in Fort Myers, Florida. The puppies were being transported to the store by Puppy Travelers, another one of the many business names Bateman has used. Puppy Travelers is an umbrella business for several smaller transporters that deliver puppies to pet stores. Under the federal Animal Welfare Act, transporters are required to carry animals only in safe, clean and humane conditions, and to give the puppies regular access to food and water. But in February 2018, the puppies who were seized from a Puppy Travelers transport van were found with “urine, feces and no water” in their cages, according to news sources, and many of them were sick. According to local NBC reportage, documentation, microchip information and the vehicle’s registration were called into question. The investigation started after puppy buyers complained about puppies who had died soon after they were purchased from the Petland location.

Puppy Travelers consists of at least six regional transportation entities, each one holding its own USDA license. The HSUS believes the businesses are all linked based on their state business filings. Some occupy an address directly adjacent to Pinnacle Pets, a large Neosho broker that also re-sells puppies to pet stores across the country. The two appear to be so closely related that both Pinnacle Pet and the Batemans (Kallie and Josh Bateman, under a previous business name, Bateman Diversified, LLC) were cited by USDA for a deadly incident that occurred in September 2015 when numerous puppies overheated on a transport vehicle after the air conditioning malfunctioned and no one was properly watching the animals. Nine of the puppies died — eight of them died at Pinnacle Pet’s address, and one on the way to a pet store, according to a USDA inspection report on Pinnacle Pet/ Sobrad, LLC dated Sept. 21, 2015¹⁴. Additional violations found at the Bateman’s prior business, Bateman Diversified, LLC in Exeter, Missouri, include: accepting 21 puppies for transport without verifying the

¹⁴ The document was later removed from the USDA’s website, but HSUS retained a copy.

animals had food and water within the last four hours, hazardous mesh flooring in vehicle cages that allowed puppies' feet to pass through, and a repeat violation for inadequate space in some enclosures.

Transporters linked to Bateman have sent puppies to pet stores across the country, including at least six Petland stores in Florida, as well as Petland stores in Missouri, Ohio and other states. Currently the address on the state license is linked to a business called J&K Puppies, LLC, which is a licensed broker for pet stores. Current USDA#43-B-3819. Former USDA #43-T-0030. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Kevin Beauchamp / Beauchamp's Puppy World, Lebanon, Missouri: State inspectors found dog with injured foot; housing in poor repair; kennel has had recurring problems for several years; owner is president of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association and was previously fined by USDA (repeat offender). Even after appearing in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for issues such as decrepit conditions and sick or injured dogs, similar issues were found again at Beauchamp's Puppy World as recently as October 2020, when inspectors found a white male poodle who "was observed limping and holding up its foreleg." According to the state inspection report, "Upon closer observation the middle toe appeared to be missing a toenail and had red and irritated skin where the toenail had been." In addition, some parts of the facility were found to be in poor repair.

The issues are especially significant because the owner of the operation, Kevin Beauchamp, has been president of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association, an organization that lobbies for less stringent oversight of pet breeders, for many years. MPBA hosts seminars for breeders across the state, and it also [has a representative](#) at the state capital who regularly pushes to weaken the state's animal protection laws.

Some of the prior issues found at Beauchamp's Puppy World, as documented in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report, included 2019 state violations for two dogs with obvious eye issues, and "an accumulation of debris and a build-up of grime," as well spilled food and food debris spilled in some enclosures. Similar issues were found at Beauchamp's facility in prior years.

In April 2017, the [USDA fined Beauchamp \\$6,000](#) for a long list of violations at his kennel, and for repeatedly failing to let inspectors in, and suspended his license for seven days. In addition to the cleanliness and veterinary concerns, Beauchamp has a history of failing to let inspectors into his kennel. As we noted in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, even after the USDA filed an official complaint regarding Beauchamp's repeated failure to let inspectors in the kennel in February 2016, Beauchamp again refused to let inspectors in to check on his dogs on Sept. 1, 2016, and on Nov. 16, 2016. In addition, when inspectors did gain access to the kennel, on May 4, 2016, they found multiple dogs in need of veterinary care. The dogs included two boxers who were very thin with their ribs easily visible, a bulldog with a reddened eye that had a "mass-like lesion" beside it, and a Lhasa apso who appeared lethargic and who appeared to have such severe dental disease that it might be affecting her ability to eat normally. Beauchamp also had state violations in 2017 for issues such as a boxer with an ear injury that apparently had not been treated by a veterinarian.

Issues at Beauchamp's Puppy World go back to at least 2014. As we reported in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report, in February 2016, the USDA filed an official complaint (Docket #16-0062) against Beauchamp for failing to give access to inspectors on four different occasions between July 2014 and December 2015. Despite the complaint, Beauchamp again failed to let inspectors into the kennel on March 1, 2016. As part of the complaint, the USDA also alleged that, even after receiving an official warning for violation of federal regulations in 2014 for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to his dogs, Beauchamp continued to fail to meet that obligation at four more inspections between April 14, 2014, and Dec. 15, 2015. Issues found at those inspections included a dog with "thick, green discharge covering both eyes," a dog with a reddened, swollen cyst, a dog who had a large amount of fecal matter trapped in his matted hair, and dogs with excessively long nails. The complaint also noted that Beauchamp failed on three different occasions between April 2014 and November 2014 to provide minimum care standards, such as adequate bedding to protect dogs from the cold, and adequate cleaning of feces.

After the fine in 2017, Beauchamp's Class B license was cancelled, apparently voluntarily, but individuals on the same property with the same last name (Jerry and Linda Beauchamp) continue to operate a Class A license with USDA, which is still active in 2021. A review of the USDA's current online inspection reports indicates the USDA has not cited the Beauchamps for any violations in recent years, despite repeated issues found by the state at the same address. Also since 2017, enforcement by USDA has plummeted more than 90%, and as of May 3, 2021, it appears that USDA has not inspected the property in almost two years.

Transport records from 2020 show that the Beauchamp facility, under the name Linda Beauchamp at the same address, sold puppies to at least one Petland store in Kansas in 2020, and the operation is actively licensed to sell through pet stores and websites across the country. The current USDA license is at the same property under Linda and Jerry Beauchamp with the same business name, Beauchamps Puppy World. Former USDA #43-B-3707; current USDA #43-A-1181. MO #AC000EXZ. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Dan Berhorst and Betty Berhorst / Cloudy Day Lane LLC, Vienna, Missouri: USDA issued a direct violation for an injured poodle who could not use his leg; owner admitted being aware of the condition but had not taken the dog to a veterinarian; USDA inspector noted dog appeared to be in "pain and discomfort" (repeat offender). In November 2020, a USDA inspector gave Cloudy Day Lane a "direct" violation, one of the most serious violations it can apply, for a dog who was clearly in need of veterinary treatment and had not been taken to a veterinarian. The inspector wrote, "An 8 year old male poodle #013316114 was observed holding its right front leg up and not wanting to bear weight with it, the owner was asked about the dog and stated that the dog had been observed with this problem prior to the inspection and that the attending veterinarian had not been notified of the problem nor had any action been taken to treat the issue. Upon closer inspection of the dog it was observed that the third digit of the dog's right foot was swollen, red and missing hair. The foot condition could indicate an injury, infection or other veterinary medical condition. It appears to be causing the animal pain and discomfort." There were 99 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

The operation passed a subsequent inspection in late 2020 and another in January 2021, but concerns remain due to a history of other injured animals at the Berhorsts' businesses in prior years. Before obtaining its current identity under an LLC, and its current state license under the name Betty Berhorst, the kennel was linked to Dan Berhorst and his prior business name, D & B Kennel, according to state business filings. D & B Kennel appeared in our 2020 and 2019 Horrible Hundred reports. As we noted in our prior reports, D & B Kennel was repeatedly cited for failing to provide proper veterinary care for dogs and for matted dogs (2019, 2018). Inspectors also found foul odors, filthy conditions, and puppies on dangerous wire flooring (2018). Current USDA #43-A-6469; former USDA #43-A-3923. MO #AC002YVK; former MO #AC000F79. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Deanna Brundage, Mercer, Missouri: Breeder whose USDA license was revoked in 2008 due to dead dogs and puppies, emaciated dogs, seven dogs who were shot in the head, and other horrors, obtained a new state license in November 2020 even after being found again with poor conditions. A horrific breeder whose USDA license was revoked in 2008 is still breeding dogs in Missouri and recently obtained a new state license, according to several Missouri inspection reports from late 2020 reviewed by the HSUS, which included photos of mother dogs with puppies confined to small plastic tubs and other unacceptable conditions. Under a prior USDA license, which was revoked in 2008, Deanna Brundage had some of the most horrific violations that HSUS researchers have ever encountered, including three dogs found dead, one of which appeared emaciated, and "at least seven and possibly as many as ten" dogs who the breeder admitted her boyfriend "shot in the head using a 30-30 rifle," according to a December 2007 USDA report. The dogs had been shot for reasons such as being

underweight, giving birth to stillborn puppies, or having hair loss or tumors, the breeder told USDA. Dead puppies were also found at Brundage's property after they had apparently been left in the cold when the overnight temperatures were in the 20s, among other horrific violations.

Despite her sordid history and revoked USDA license, it seems Deanna Brundage did not permanently stop breeding dogs. She applied for a new state license in fall 2020. When Missouri Department of Agriculture inspectors went out to perform three pre-license inspections, it was clear that the breeder was already breeding dogs, and in poor conditions, as shown in photos that HSUS obtained from state records. Not only did some photos show nursing mother dogs with puppies, but some of the cages showed signs of wear and tear, such as faded wood, rust and extensive chewing, that made it clear that the breeder had had dogs in them for some time, even though she was unlicensed.

Brundage failed at least two pre-license state inspections (October and November 2020) for issues such as decrepit and dangerous housing, excessive feces, dogs in cramped enclosures without enough space, a dog with a sore near her ear, no current veterinary care plan, and more. One of the photos taken by state inspectors shows a breeding dog and a litter of puppies in what appears to be a large plastic tub with wire mesh over the top, filled with shredded newspaper. According to inspectors' notes, the newspaper was dirty and it appears that Brundage had just placed cleaner newspaper over the soiled newspaper instead of taking the soiled material out. State inspectors also found that Brundage seemed to be obtaining some dogs from other breeders, which could be considered illegal brokering, except that she was already operating illegally, it appears.

At the third pre-license inspection in November 2020, Brundage finally passed one inspection and the state allowed her to have a license. With a state license but no known USDA license, Brundage can legally sell directly to the public in Missouri but cannot sell to pet stores or brokers, or online sight-unseen, unless she obtains a new USDA license. Due to her involvement in the unacceptable deaths of many dogs, the HSUS has grave concerns about Deanna Brundage's ability to care for any number of dogs. MO #AC0032S1.

[Sally L. Culver / Culver Lane Kennel, Hartville, Missouri: Failed to let USDA inspectors in for inspection in October 2020 after a prior visit found an underweight dog whose "ribs, backbone and hips were easily seen;" and puppies who were shivering in the bitter cold.](#) In October 2020, USDA inspectors arrived at Sally Culver's kennel to conduct a routine inspection, but were not given access to the kennel. The inspection attempt was listed as a violation because USDA licensees are required to let inspectors into the kennel to check on the care and condition of dogs. The property was one of high concern because of significant animal care violations found at a prior inspection in February 2020¹⁵, including an emaciated dog, and dogs and puppies exposed to frigid outdoor weather. Inspectors wrote on that date: "A red and white Boston Terrier female (m/c #700u913) was observed to be very thin. The ribs, backbone and hips were easily seen. The owner stated that she had 6 puppies that had been recently weaned and now she was in an enclosure with a male dog who ate most of the food. There was no consultation with a veterinarian to establish a diagnosis and to provide a correct treatment for this dog."

In addition, at the February 2020 inspection, a direct violation was issued for some puppies who were outdoors and shivering in the cold. Some of the dogs only had plastic barrels for shelter with little or no bedding. The inspector wrote: "In the outdoor enclosure housing the large breed dogs there were 2 female dogs with litters. The Golden Retriever had a litter of five 4.5 week old puppies and the Poodle had a litter of seven 5 week old

¹⁵ The February 2020 USDA report was not available in the USDA's online database at the time that our 2020 Horrible Hundred report was written.

puppies. Three puppies (2 from the litter of 5 and 1 from the litter of 7) were observed to be shivering and seeking areas of warmth. In the enclosure of 5 puppies, there was a heating pad that was plugged in. It was placed on the dirt ground on one side of the enclosure but it was partially covered with dirt. The litter of 5 puppies were not provided with adequate shelter or bedding. The litter of 7 did have a shelter but there was no bedding or a wind break or rain break. The temperature at the time of the inspection was 46 degrees F and the temperature of the previous night was less than 30 degrees F. Animals that expend energy to stay warm may not thrive and [this] increases the risk of sickness. Due to the young age of the puppies, the temperatures at this time of year and their apparent lack of acclimation as illustrated by 3 puppies shivering, they must not be kept outdoors. The owner was instructed to move the dams and litters to the shelter building by close of business of this day-19 February 2020.” The inspector also wrote: “Sufficient clean dry bedding material is necessary to provide protection when the temperature is less than 50 degrees F. More bedding material is necessary when the temperature is less than 35F degrees for the dogs to burrow into and remain clean and dry and have better protection. The owner must provide adequate bedding for the dogs and maintain it at sufficient levels.” An additional issue was found with housekeeping and clutter. There were 72 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the February inspection.

The facility did pass one routine inspection in November 2020, but it was approximately eight months after the thin dog and shivering puppies were found in February. The fact that more than 70 dogs went unseen and uninspected for that long, partly due to the facility’s failure to allow inspectors in to check on the dogs, is unacceptable. MO #AC000KVH, USDA #43-A-6301.

[Sherry J. Curtis / Curtis Kennel, Urbana, Missouri: HSUS investigators photographed dogs in puppy mill conditions at facility that is licensed to sell to pet stores and that had a repeat violation with the state.](#) In March 2021, an HSUS investigator photographed dogs in stacked, puppy-mill like enclosures at the facility of Sherry Curtis, a commercial breeder who is in good standing with the USDA and sold to pet stores. While not specifically illegal, the property appeared to be a puppy mill, with dogs confined to small, wire-sided enclosures that did not appear to give the dogs ample space to run and play. The outdoor, stacked wire enclosures were attached to barn-like structures typical of puppy mills. Conditions seen at the facility show why USDA’s minimal standards for breeders who sell to pet stores and online are not enough to protect dogs and preserve their wellbeing.

Curtis is also inspected by the Missouri Department of Agriculture. In July 2020, the state noted a repeat violation for chewed edges on some portions of a building and expired medications. A bottle of medication stored for use on dogs had expired a year earlier, which could reduce its efficacy. In September 2019, the state cited Curtis for some walls that “are severely chewed creating surfaces that have jagged edges,” which could injure the dogs or allow moisture in. A state inspection in August 2020 was compliant.

As of May 6, 2021, the USDA has not cited the breeder for any recent violations, but it appears they also have not inspected the breeder since January 2020. Curtis had 95 dogs at her last USDA inspection. MO #AC000AVN, USDA #43-A-3792.

[Teresa Fox / Meadowstar Kennel, Macomb, Missouri: Photos show puppy mill conditions with dogs in rudimentary wire runs that are stacked; inhumane conditions are still legal under outdated USDA rules.](#) In July 2020, an HSUS undercover investigator photographed dogs in stacked, wire cages at Teresa Fox’s facility who appeared to have very little space for exercise and only a small amount of headroom. The cages were attached to a rudimentary barn-like structure. Although the conditions would not necessarily be considered

illegal under state or federal law, they are conditions that are common in puppy mills and are not a sign of a high quality [responsible breeder](#).

The USDA has not cited the breeder for any recent violations, but it also has not inspected since March 2020, according to online records last viewed on May 6, 2021. The HSUS received at least one complaint about a sick puppy purchased in a pet store who was sold by Fox. The puppy was sold in 2016 and suffered from giardia and respiratory issues. The puppy was sold through Citipups pet store in New York, which still purchased puppies from Fox as recently as 2020.

The conditions shown in photos taken by HSUS show that many breeders like Fox, who have no documented violations, can still be puppy mills, where dogs have minimal quality of life. This highlights the need for an overhaul of the federal Animal Welfare Act regulations, which currently still allow dogs at commercial breeding operations to be confined to small, stacked wire cages for their entire lives. The [Puppy Protection Act](#), a bill currently in Congress, would help overhaul these standards by requiring breeders to give dogs ground-level, spacious enclosures with solid floors, regular social interaction and better protection from extreme weather, among other improvements. The HSUS recommends never buying any puppy from a pet store and always visiting a breeder in person to see the conditions where a puppy was born and raised. MO #AC000MZ1, USDA #43-A-5882.

[Karen Jones / J Kennels aka L.V.S. Kennel, Wheeling, Missouri: State found excessive accumulation of feces; one dog had dark, bloody stool; rodent droppings in a kennel; USDA has not visited since 2019 nor cited kennel for any recent violations.](#) State inspectors found issues during at least two different inspections at J Kennels in 2020. The first was in June 2020, when inspectors noted “an excessive amount of feces” outside a building housing Italian greyhounds. A dog named Willie was found with “dark watery bloody stool in the enclosure” and his nails were “excessively long.” The inspector also noted an accumulation of rodent droppings on the floor of one of the kennel buildings, and some maintenance issues. When inspectors returned in July 2020, the prior issues had been corrected, but inspectors found a “litter of Greyhound puppies that were not identified.” The latter is a violation because it is difficult to keep accurate medical records on puppies who don’t have separate identification and records to tell them apart.

The kennel is also licensed with the USDA, under the names Karen S Jones and Larry J Jones / L.V.S. Kennel, which means it can sell online and to pet stores all over the country. In 2015, USDA cited the kennel for keeping some dogs outside in the cold without adequate bedding to keep them warm, but it has not cited for any violations since then. However, as of May 6, 2021, it appears that the USDA also hasn’t visited Jones’ kennel since September 2019, online records show. Former MO #AC000SK9, USDA #43-A-5726.

[Sandra Kozlowski / Sho Me Labradors, St. James, Missouri: Breeder who was sued by the state and surrendered 83 dogs due to egregious conditions was given a new state license in 2020 but continued to be found with poor conditions in 2021; one dog had blood on his face and others were found in deficient housing \(repeat offender\).](#) Even after Sandra Kozlowski was taken to court by the attorney general in 2019 and 2020 and had to give up most of her dogs due to egregious conditions, including some injured and emaciated dogs, state records show Kozlowski was still allowed to keep some dogs, and was permitted to obtain a new kennel license in May 2020. As part of the agreement, a \$5,000 fine was suspended, as long as Kozlowski agreed not to violate regulations for three more years. However, even after obtaining the new license, Kozlowski continued to be found with serious animal care violations as recently as February 2021, state inspection records show.

Kozlowski appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to issues with repeated failure to pass inspections, poor animal care, thin dogs and cramped conditions. We hoped that the kennel was finally shutting down after the state sued the owner for repeatedly failing inspections, but the breeder went on to fail at least two more inspections, one in September 2020, and one in February 2021.

Issues found at the February 2021 inspection included some dogs who didn't have adequate space and a Labrador named "Max" who "was observed to have a red 'tumor type' growth on the right side of his face." According to the inspection report, "The growth appeared to have fresh blood around the edges," and the breeder also indicated that the dog "had the tumor for quite some time and it had recently gotten worse." In addition, there were 28 puppies found in the garage, where the licensee had been told she could no longer house animals, according to the legal consent judgement.

At a September 2020 inspection, some dogs were found living in darkness due to broken lights, part of an enclosure was rusted and not structurally sound, and there was no program of veterinary care available for inspection, among another record issue.

Issues found at a December 2019 inspection that we documented in our prior Horrible Hundred report included: several dogs in need of veterinary care, medications not labeled for use in dogs or expired medications kept for use on the dogs, housing issues, rusty kennels and enclosures, crates in disrepair, dirty conditions, inadequate and damaged surfaces, inadequate lighting and much more. There were 133 dogs in the facility at that inspection, according to state records. Records also show Kozlowski surrendered nine dogs to a local animal shelter that December.

Prior to that inspection, on Nov. 7, 2019, Missouri's attorney general had issued an interlocutory order of default and injunction, issued by the state courts when Kozlowski failed to appear for the motions hearing in the state's open lawsuit against her. This order prevented Kozlowski from "advertising, soliciting, selling, providing dogs, or accepting payment for dogs" so long as the case was ongoing. Even after that, a long list of violations was found in January 2020.

Sho-Me Labradors has been failing inspections since early 2018. It failed three state pre-license inspections between February and May of 2018 for issues such as dogs with hair loss or loose stools, dogs confined without enough space and filthy conditions. Issues found at a failed inspection in May 2018 included damp and dirty dogs confined to damp runs, inadequate space and a repeat issue with expired medications. The licensee also repeatedly dodged inspections. For example, in September and October of 2018, state inspectors tried four different times to inspect the kennel, but no one was "available" to let them in.

On Oct. 15, 2018, state inspectors arrived to investigate a complaint, and found a number of violations, including numerous large-breed dogs who were confined to cramped airline crates in the office, in the basement and even in the garage. They also found two yellow Labrador retrievers who "appeared thin with three to four ribs on each side visible through their hair coats."

Although Kozlowski has reduced her dog numbers dramatically since our last report, concerns still remain that she seems unable or unwilling to take proper care of even a handful of dogs and puppies. MO #AC000GKG. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Earl R. Light / Corn Creek Kennel, Newburg, Missouri: State cited breeder for numerous issues in 2021 and 2020, including floors covered in feces, a dog with an eye disorder, matted dogs, no current veterinary exams, and decrepit housing; despite many issues found by state, USDA has not cited for any violations nor inspected since May 2019 \(repeat offender\).](#) State inspectors found many violations during three different

visits to Earl Light's Corn Creek Kennel between August 2020 and January 2021 and took several photographs of decrepit and unacceptable conditions. Yet despite a long list of issues, the USDA has not inspected or cited the breeder since 2019, which means he can legally sell hundreds of puppies to pet stores all over the country.

The state violations are too numerous to fully list here, but some of the violations found in January 2021 included excessive feces, a female King Charles cavalier spaniel with "purulent discharge on the surface and lower lids of both eyes," and a repeat violation for wire strand flooring. In October 2020, state inspectors noted a similar issue with wire strand flooring which the licensee had been told not to use. Wire flooring is not permitted in dog kennels in many states, because it can hurt or entrap the dogs' feet. The state inspector also noted that a "male King Charles Cavalier Spaniel was housed in an indoor enclosure that provided 10.29 sq ft of space," which was only about 1/3 of the space required under state rules. In addition: "The licensee stated he had a female dog with four puppies in his home at the time of inspection. The licensee stated he would prefer not to allow us in the home to see the living conditions of the dogs," according to the same state inspection. There was also a repeat violation for failure to have a current program of veterinary care document available, among other issues.

In August 2020, the state found issues with an accumulation of fecal and waste material, with some fecal material in some of the cages having been there so long that it appeared old, hardened, and covered in white mold. The inspector noted that, "All three sheltered buildings required a thorough cleaning. Hard surfaces in the buildings showed an accumulation of grime. The main adult building specifically had a build up of grime, excreta, hair, and waste." Also, "At least three adult dogs were observed with matts in their hair coats," two cages had wire tops that were "broken and created sharp points" and some holes were large enough for the dogs in the enclosure to poke their heads through (see photo on front page of this report). In addition, veterinary exam forms were expired, and 26 puppies were not identified. The latter is a problem because it makes matching medical records to puppies nearly impossible, and it could also indicate that some puppies were acquired from other, unlicensed breeders, which would be a violation.

Earl Light was in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report after he performed a do-it-yourself euthanasia on a Chihuahua with a sore on her tongue that the state inspector had told him to take to a veterinarian (Missouri state inspection, July 2013), which was a violation of state law. Issues go back to at least December 2012, according to state inspection records. When the USDA had a more robust inspection program (USDA enforcement has declined precipitously since 2017), it repeatedly cited Earl Light for a variety of violations, including a dog with a very enlarged, bulging eye, very strong odors and matted dogs. But as of May 6, 2021, a review of online inspection reports indicates the USDA had not inspected Earl Light's Corn Creek Kennel since May 15, 2019, nor cited it for any recent violations. MO #AC000TXG, Former USDA# 43-A-5676, Current USDA# 43-A-6088. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Laurie Lund / Cridder Creek Kennel, Weaubleau, Missouri: Repeated issues with multiple puppy deaths, filthy conditions, operating without a license and improper veterinary care; breeder was in prior Horrible Hundred report after 22 puppies died \(repeat offender\)](#). Even after appearing in our prior Horrible Hundred report due to 22 puppies who died of parvovirus, filthy conditions, and underweight and injured dogs, Cridder Creek Kennel continued to be found with similar violations as recently as Feb. 4, 2021, state records show. During a state inspection on that date, many issues were found that are too numerous to list here, but included:

- "A puppy born to Gracie and Poodle was observed to be 1/3 to 1/2 of the size of its littermate. The licensee stated two other littermates which were also small had died."
- "Several enclosures were noted to have an excessive accumulation of fecal matter."

- “Two areas of standing water were observed in the walkway of the south sheltered building. The standing water in the back of the building had an electrical heater operating from within the area of standing water.”
- License had expired on Jan. 31, 2021 (a recurring issue).
- “At least 4 dogs in the facility were observed to have excessively long toenails,” (repeat violation).
- 2 enclosures lacked adequate wind and rain breaks on one shelter, leaving dogs unprotected from harsh weather (triple repeat violation).
- No disposition records available (quadruple repeat violation; indicates dogs or puppies disappeared from the kennel with no record of what happened to them).
- “The licensee stated one dog in the facility [was] prescribed an eye medication. The licensee stated the daily medication administration records were at the secondary location and she forgot to bring them to the facility,” (Triple repeat violation; this could indicate there were no records and the dog was not being treated).

During a prior state visit in December 2020, inspectors found additional issues, including:

- “Licensee lost one puppy from Carmel litter’s and one puppy from Suzzie’s litter, and failed to document their death,” (a triple repeat violation).
- “An intact male Collie named Gus was housed in the front yard and was observed to have a large pendulous mat with cockleburs on his ventral neck, as well as matted fur on his sides and rear end.”
- “There were several outdoor dog houses that did not contain wind breaks,” (repeat violation for failure to protect dogs from wind and cold).

During four other inspections between June and October 2020, state inspectors also found many similar violations, including violations for additional dead puppies who were not properly documented (October 2020) and many repeat violations for filthy conditions, operating without a valid license, some animals who disappeared from the kennel with no record of what happened to them, and a repeated failure to protect dogs from unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Several of the violations were repeated three to five times in a row and still hadn’t been corrected, and during the entire time, the licensee did not have a valid license; her license had expired on Jan. 31, 2020, and was not renewed until July 2020.

As we noted in our 2020 report, an equally long list of violations was found in 2019 and early 2020 as well. Under Missouri law, the attorney general has the power to take noncompliant breeders to court if they repeatedly fail to take proper care of dogs; the HSUS encourages the Missouri attorney general to take such action whenever breeders like Laurie Lund fail again and again to provide decent care to the puppies and dogs who depend on them. Former MO #AC002MGK. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[David Miller and Kay Miller or Darin Miller/ David Miller Kennel, Oronogo, Missouri: HSUS investigator photographed dogs in row of cramped cages in massive facility with almost 400 dogs that sold to Petland and other pet stores; USDA has not inspected huge facility since 2019.](#) In March 2021, an HSUS undercover investigator photographed caged dogs at David Miller’s massive breeding facility in Oronogo, Missouri. The dogs appeared to have barely enough room to turn around, no space to run and play, and very little headroom in their small hutches. When standing on their back legs, some of the dogs’ heads touched the tops of their small enclosures. The dogs were housed in a long row of rudimentary pens with raised flooring, attached to a barn-like structure. The HSUS was not able to see the inside portion of the enclosures. The hutches, while not necessarily a violation of state or federal laws, still demonstrate puppy mill conditions, not conditions that would be associated with a responsible breeder. To make matters worse, as of April 12, 2021, it appeared that USDA had not inspected the facility since November 2019. When USDA did visit the facility, they did not cite it for any

violations of the minimum standards under the Animal Welfare Act. At that visit, the USDA reported that there were an astounding 268 adult dogs and 131 puppies on the property, for a total of 399 animals.

In May 2019, Missouri Department of Agriculture inspectors cited Miller for keeping approximately 20 dogs in cages that were too small, and approximately 20 dogs who did not have access to an outdoor run, which is required under state law.

Recent shipping documents¹⁶ show that Miller sold to many pet stores across the country in 2020, including at least six Petland stores, five of which were in Texas and one in Arkansas, and other pet stores in numerous states. [Petland claims](#) to buy from quality breeders who “go above and beyond” the minimal USDA standards, including “safe and comfortable housing with ample room” and “frequent socialization and exercise.” Petland even claims they visit each breeder to make sure the dogs have “access to an open area or run or a group area.” With almost 400 dogs in cramped cages, the footage taken at David Miller’s facility calls Petland’s claims into question. MO #AC000DB9, USDA #43-A-5221.

Tom Nelson / Oakridge Pets (aka Oak Ridge Pets), Macon, Missouri: State inspectors found more than 15 violations in less than a year and some were triple repeat violations; USDA issued “teachable moment” for dogs in cold weather who did not have adequate shelter; history of humane care violations goes back more than a decade (repeat offender). State inspectors found 16 different violations at Oak Ridge Pets during two different inspections between June 2020 and February 2021, state records show. Some of the violations state inspectors found in February 2021 included several dogs with matted or long fur; a repeat violation for dogs who didn’t have access to a solid resting surface; a repeat violation for some dogs who didn’t have adequate space or access to the outdoors; muddy, wet enclosures (a triple repeat violation); and dogs on wire strand flooring that could hurt their feet (a triple repeat violation).

In June 2020, the state had issued an official warning to the kennel for repeat violations. Some of the many issues found at the June inspection included a Welsh corgi who was supposed to be receiving medications, but there was no record showing that they had been administered; dirty conditions; excessive feces; parts of the kennel that were broken, unsafe and in need of repair; and a repeat violation for dogs on wire strand flooring.

The facility is also USDA licensed. The USDA cited the kennel for several violations in 2019, including February 2019 violations for some enclosures that had “enough feces that the dogs were walking through it,” and there were some areas that were so full of feces that “the gravel flooring could not be seen.” In addition, the February 2019 inspection noted that, “Throughout the facility there were broken wires causing sharp points” that could injure the dogs, and some enclosures did not have enough space.

The facility was also cited for one attempted (missed) USDA inspection in October 2019, an issue that was also noted in 2015, 2016 and 2018, and two “teachable moments” (February 2019), which are allegedly minor violations that were corrected at the time of inspection. In November 2020, USDA gave the operation another “teachable moment.” The “teachable moment” was issued for dogs who were found outdoors who were not fully protected from the weather on a cold winter day — an issue that clearly should have been documented as a violation because it has a direct impact on humane care. The “teachable moment” report stated, “Enclosure with four dogs only had one dog house that wouldn’t allow all the dogs to sit, stand and lie down in a normal manner.”

¹⁶ HSUS researchers studied Certificates of Veterinary Inspection showing interstate movement of puppies; the CVIs were acquired by the HSUS and/or Bailing Out Benji via open public records requests.

The temperatures in Macon, Missouri, in November 2020 were sometimes in the 20s and 30s at night, [online records](#) show.

Oak Ridge Pets also appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, with humane care issues recurring off and on for more than a decade. As we noted in our 2013 report, 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.” And in March 2010, puppies were found at Oak Ridge Pets 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.

With its long history in business with recurring animal care violations, Oak Ridge Pets should not be receiving any “teachable moments” from USDA. The facility owner should already be well aware of all of the rules under the Animal Welfare Act — but for one reason or another, issues persist. The facility had more than 120 dogs and puppies at the time of the 2020 USDA inspection.

MO #AC000X3P, USDA #43-B-3425. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Keith Plymell / Windsong Kennels, Pattonsburg, Missouri: Breeder has failed at least five different state inspections since July 2020; kennel has been operating for more than a decade with poor conditions; recent issues with dogs in need of veterinary care; some dogs had no water and some were matted; others were exposed to the cold when temperatures had been below freezing \(repeat offender\).](#) Windsong Kennels first appeared in our Missouri’s Dirty Dozen report in fall 2010, and recurring issues have been found off and on repeatedly since then, but seem to be getting much worse. The breeder has been inspected at least half a dozen times since we published our last Horrible Hundred report in May 2020, and the state found a long list of violations at almost every one of those inspections.

Recent violations are too numerous to list here, but some of the violations found between July 2020 and January 2021 include: a warning issued by the state in January 2021 for two thin dogs, whom the breeder did not have a record of having examined by a veterinarian; a limping dog who had not been treated by a vet and could not put weight on her leg; a failure to protect dogs from the bitter cold; and a repeated failure to provide proper lighting so the dogs could be seen, leaving some dogs living in near-darkness. Inspectors also reported a four-time repeat violation for failure to have a current program of veterinary care; some dogs who had no water; several matted dogs; repeated issues with excessive accumulations of feces and/or grime; and a dog with a swelling on his jaw “the size of a clementine” (Oct 2020).

In September 2020, the state apparently issued a violation letter for many of the repeat violations, but some of them were still occurring in October 2020 and later, state records show.

The operation appeared in our Missouri’s Dirty Dozen report in 2010 and the Dirty Dozen Update report in 2011 due to many egregious animal welfare issues, including underweight and sick animals, dogs found in frigid temperatures without adequate protection from the cold, inadequate shelter, and dogs in stacked cages that allowed the urine and feces from dogs in the higher cages to rain down on the dogs in the lower cages. The operation’s former USDA license was cancelled in 2011, after accumulating more than 21 pages of violations between 2008 and 2011. Former USDA #43-A-4928. MO #AC0010TP. **REPEAT OFFENDER, FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Carol and Gary Prothe / Carol's Kennel, Urbana, Missouri: Some dogs had moldy food or no water; some did not have adequate space or housing; similar recurring violations for poor conditions stretch back to 2012 \(repeat offender\).](#) During at least two different visits in the summer of 2020, one in June and one in August, state inspectors found multiple violations at Carol's Kennel. The violations noted in June were mostly repeat violations for poor upkeep. Violations noted on Aug. 4, 2020, were especially troubling, and ranged from some dogs who had moldy food, to others who did not have any water, and some dogs who did not have an adequate amount of space. In addition, state inspectors noted, "There was an accumulation of moldy feces under the ramp in the outdoor portion of the first sheltered building. There were several outdoor pens that had an accumulation of feces as well." Inspectors also wrote, "There were three female Shih Tzus housed in stacked cages that were not provided with solid resting surfaces." And that, "Licensee had three females in stacked cages in the second kennel building without unfettered access to the outdoors." The violation for three dogs who had no water in the August heat was listed as a direct violation, meaning there was a clear and present risk to animals.

Carol Prothe has no violations under her current USDA license, but as of May 2021, it also appears that USDA had not inspected her operation since January 2020, online records show. USDA enforcement has also dropped precipitously since 2017, with citations down more than 65% in recent years. Prothe was previously USDA licensed under a different number (#43-A-4562) and had a long history of violations under that license, including repeated issues for many of the same problems that were noted in state reports, and many veterinary care violations. As far back as 2012, Prothe had violations for issues such as lack of adequate veterinary care, filthy conditions, and some dogs who didn't have water. When provided with water at one July 2012 inspection, the thirsty dogs "drank for one to three minutes straight," according to the USDA report.

Prothe was issued a "Citation and Notification of Penalty" from USDA in 2014 for numerous violations and was fined \$2,857. The facility did pass one state inspection on Aug. 7, 2020, but concerns remain due to almost ten years of recurring issues. Former MO #AC000ADK, Current USDA #43-A-6011. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Amanda "Mandy" Ratcliffe / Puppy Love Boutique, Gladstone, Missouri: State received complaints about lack of veterinary care, unsanitary living conditions; breeder had formerly been found selling puppies repeatedly without a license.](#) The Animal Care Facilities Act office, which regulates Missouri dog breeders, received two complaints in November 2020 about Amanda Ratcliffe / Puppy Love Boutique, state records show. The complainants alleged that Ratcliffe "does not vet any animals being sold," according to state documents. The complainants also reported that animals were not receiving proper care, that buyers have bought dogs "'not in good condition' and even 'had them die from no vaccinations.'" There were also concerns about the general condition of Ratcliffe's house, described as "disgusting, nasty, and unsanitary."

The issues were of special concern because they came after Ratcliffe had been found operating without a license months earlier. In April 2020, state records show that inspectors visited the property and warned the owner that, "Applicant has been purchasing and selling puppies prior to obtaining an Animal Care Facilities Act (ACFA) license." It was clear that Ratcliffe was aware of the law because she "has previously held an ACFA license for dealing and breeding in the past and is aware of the regulations."

On May 11, 2020, Ratcliffe was instructed to remove a false statement from her website: "Applicant shall remove the statement 'We are licensed with the Missouri Department of Agriculture and have yearly inspections to insure your puppy's health and safety' from their website, Facebook page, and other forms of advertisements until a valid Animal Care Facilities Act (ACFA) license is issued."

Violations found at the April 2020 visit, in addition to operating without a license, included a direct violation for keeping puppies in a wire crate that was too small, no program of veterinary care on file for the facility, and other issues. Even after being warned that she needed to obtain a license prior to selling more puppies, inspectors who visited again in May 2020 found that Ratcliffe was still selling puppies without a license, stating that it was a repeat violation: "The applicant sold the previous nine puppies and the first was sold on April 3,

2020 the day after the previous inspection was conducted. The applicant also purchased four new puppies to re-sell a week ago. Applicant mentioned she has deposits on two addition[a] litters of puppies to pick up within the coming weeks.”

Ratcliffe is now licensed, but concerns remain after the history of issues reported. Ratcliffe offers many breeds of puppies on her website, puppylovekc.com/ and also has a [presence on Facebook](#). MO #AC002ZVF.

Rachael and Vernon Reiff / Pleasant Hill Pets, Barnett, Missouri: USDA found a Boston terrier with a squinting, watering, crusty eye; “direct” violation for painful-looking condition is missing from online records. During an Oct. 6, 2020, inspection of Pleasant Hill Pets, USDA inspectors found a male Boston terrier who was squinting. Closer inspection revealed an issue that looked painful. The inspector wrote: “An adult male Boston Terrier (#0003), ‘Alec’, was observed squinting his left eye which also had a heavy amount of discharge surrounding it. Upon closer observation, the eye itself was difficult to visualize and the dog would close his eye harder and frequently turn his head away while trying to get a closer look. After a brief glimpse of the eye, it appeared to be cloudy and reddish blue in color. The fur surrounding the eyelids and within the skin fold down the left side of the nose was wetted down from eye drainage. The drainage appeared mostly clear with some small yellow-like crusts noted around the eye.”

Inspectors went on to add that even though the licensee had stated an intention to treat the dog, “at the time of inspection which was around 2pm, the dog had not yet been treated and the medication could not be located at the facility. This dog’s eye condition appears to be painful and could be due to an injury, infection or other veterinary medical condition which could worsen with time. The licensee must ensure that if a treatment plan has been established by a veterinarian which addresses the animal’s condition, then the treatment plan must be followed and in a timely manner.”

The HSUS received records of the direct violation from a Freedom of Information Act request. The records were accompanied with a very clear color photo of the dog, who appeared to be squinting as if his eyes were painful. The color photo also seems to show a wound on the dog’s lip, and the description under the photo states: “There is a scab like lesion noted around the left side of his lip region below the nose. No treatment had been started at the time of inspection.” There were 66 dogs on the premises at the time of the inspection.

For unknown reasons, the direct violation was not listed on the USDA’s online database as of April 7, 2021. The HSUS requested an explanation from the USDA for the missing document, and we were told via email: “the licensee informed us earlier that an appeal was submitted, so the inspection report was not released on the public search tool. We have not located the appeal [as of April 8, 2021].” The fact that a dealer with a significant violation had it removed from the public record for more than six months without proof of any official appeal is alarming, and calls into question whether many other documents were removed in a similar manner.

Although the direct violation was still missing from the USDA website as of May 5, 2021, the USDA posted a compliant inspection report for the facility dated January 2021, appearing to give the public a false impression that nothing concerning had ever occurred. However, the operation received a new violation on April 5, 2021 for a refusal to make the facility available for inspection even though the inspector called, honked the horn, and waited “in the driveway for 20 minutes,” according to the USDA inspection report. The inspector wrote, “During that time it was relayed by one of the licensees that no one would be available to walk the inspector through the inspection process.” It is a violation to fail to make a licensed property available for inspection during regular business hours without reasonable cause, and raises questions about the wellbeing of the dogs. There were also two 2019 “teachable moments” for unspecified issues, which are indicated on the USDA website but are not specifically described in the USDA’s Teachable Moments database, and in May 2019, the USDA cited the operation for a housing violation for dusty, dirty and untidy conditions. MO #AC002M1G, USDA #43-A-6338.

[Marilyn Shepherd aka Marilyn Williams / Cedercrest Kennel aka Pup4U, Ava, Missouri: Breeder who was sued by the state and required to downsize after accumulating more than 70 violations admitted multiple dogs and puppies died; still has an active website listing puppies for sale \(repeat offender\).](#) After 20 years of repeated, egregious violations for issues such as dogs who were found injured or suffering, and operating without a valid license, Marilyn Shepherd finally lost her state commercial kennel license in August 2020, after the state's attorney general took her to court and the Missouri Department of Agriculture continued to find repeat violations. But more than six months after losing her state license, as of April 7, 2021, Shepherd's website, Pup4U.com, is still active and she continues to offer puppies for sale as a hobby breeder.

Shepherd has been in five previous Horrible Hundred reports. In 2019, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt sued Shepherd, and it looked like the continuous appearances of the chronically noncompliant kennel in the Horrible Hundred might finally come to an end. But Shepherd appears again in this year's report because she is still offering some dogs for sale, according to her website, even after the actions by the state to shut her down. It appears the state is allowing her to continue to operate as a hobby breeder with a smaller number of animals.

The state claimed in their lawsuit that Shepherd posed "a substantial ongoing risk to the health and welfare of [the] animals" in her custody after many animals died in her care. Under a consent judgement entered in December 2020, she was required to give away or sell the majority of her adult dogs.

In July 2020, as the lawsuit against Shepherd was proceeding, the state continued to find injured dogs at Cedercrest Kennel. For example, on July 30, 2020, an inspector found a wire fox terrier with "wounds around her right ear" and discharge from the wound, with swelling. The inspector added that although the breeder had treated these wounds previously, they were infected. In addition, a mini poodle with nursing puppies had hair loss with "crusty skin lesions"; and since a prior (July 14, 2020) inspection, five puppies had died and 10 more dogs were missing. Many other issues were found during other state inspections in summer 2020. They are too numerous to list in this report, but included July 14 violations related to issues with dogs who had lice, unsafe and crowded conditions, and "several adult dogs [who] have either died or been euthanized since the previous inspection," and June 2020 violations for a terrier with an oozing wound on his muzzle, cramped and unsafe conditions, matted dogs and operating without a valid license. On Aug. 11, 2020, the state officially refused to renew Shepherd's license, which had already expired in January, due to the repeat violations.

In years past, USDA had sued and fined Shepherd repeatedly, as we documented in our prior Horrible Hundred reports. She was fined \$52,000 for operating without a USDA license in 2007 and in a prior judgement the USDA fined her \$25,000. Former MO #AC0002DJ. **REPEAT OFFENDER, SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Marjorie Walker-Price / Price's Pets, Niangua, Missouri: Buyers complained about puppies with parvovirus; at least one puppy died at the facility; dogs were found in extremely filthy enclosures and some were standing in their own feces.](#) State records show that Missouri Department of Agriculture inspectors arrived at Price's Pets on Jan. 29, 2021, to investigate a complaint about sick puppies who had allegedly developed parvovirus, a highly contagious disease that is often deadly to puppies. During that inspection, there was evidence that at least one puppy had died at the property, and during a December 2020 visit, inspectors also photographed extremely filthy conditions, with mounds of feces in the kennels.

The January 2021 inspection report stated: "Upon review of the records it was noted that there was one Yorki-Poo puppy that had died at the facility. The licensee had kept record that the puppy had died, but did not keep record of the date the puppy died." Other issues found included structures that were rusting through, two dogs outside in the cold without a shelter, some dogs with advanced dental disease who were not being adequately treated, even after a veterinarian had noted the issue more than two months prior; and at least five dogs who

were matted and needed grooming. The inspectors found that the two puppies who had become sick might not have received enough doses of their core vaccines: “Licensee was unable to produce complete litter health records for a litter of Yorkie Poo and a litter of Cocker Spaniel puppies born in October 2020. The Missouri Department of Agriculture had received written complaints that one Yorkie Poo and one Cocker Spaniel puppy from those litters had allegedly developed parvovirus after they were sold. The licensee had record of a vaccination to prevent parvovirus administered to the litter of Cocker Spaniel puppies at 7 weeks of age. Per the recommended vaccination protocol in the written program of veterinary care, puppies are to receive vaccinations at 5 and 7 weeks of age, with additional boosters recommended if they remain at the facility past 8 weeks of age.”

It was not the first time that inspectors found issues at the facility. State records show that in December 2020, Missouri inspectors photographed enclosures housing multiple dogs in extremely filthy conditions. One “had an excessive amount of feces accumulation” and “dogs in this enclosure were unable to avoid contact with the feces.” Another enclosure was so full of feces that “the dogs in this enclosure were unable to avoid standing in their own feces. Their footprints were visible in the feces.” In addition, “This drain was blocked and not allowing proper drainage, causing sewage and feces build-up.” Additionally, “The dogs were unable to stay dry or out of the build-up during today’s inspection.” The state inspectors also photographed some of the dogs in filthy, stacked wire cages with dangerous wire flooring, which is not allowed under state law because it could entrap the dogs’ legs or paws.

Despite the horrific conditions documented in photos by Missouri state inspectors, as of May 6, 2021, the USDA, which is also in charge of overseeing the operation, has not cited the breeder any recent violations nor visited for more than a year, online records show. The USDA gave the operation a “no access” violation in early February 2020 and a “teachable moment” later that same month, for failing to properly identify puppies. This lack of meaningful oversight by the USDA gives the public a false impression that Price’s Pets is a quality facility, when in fact the state has demonstrated that conditions have been repeatedly found to be unacceptable. MO #AC00132U, USDA #43-A-6295.

[Sarah Webb / S & C Precious Puppies, Gilman City, Missouri: HSUS investigator photographed dogs in cramped, ramshackle enclosures; USDA failed to cite the breeder for housing issues and recorded “teachable moments” instead.](#) In July 2020, an HSUS undercover investigator photographed caged dogs at S & C Precious Puppies who appeared to have barely enough room to turn around, and whose only protection from the elements appeared to be plastic igloo-style dog houses. The dogs were housed in rudimentary pens outdoors with raised hutch-like flooring. The hutches, while not necessarily a violation of state or federal laws, still demonstrate puppy mill conditions and are not conditions that would be associated with a responsible breeder.

Shockingly, the USDA has not cited the breeder for any recent violations, but issued “teachable moments” on several occasions instead, including one in 2016, two in 2018 and one in September 2020. The September 2020 teachable moment documented that, “Five outdoor shelters had worn, chewed areas that cannot be readily cleaned and sanitized.” The USDA also gave Webb a “no access” violation in March 2019 for not making the facility available for inspection. That USDA report said a “Person at [the] facility indicated that she was not available.” Refusing to let inspectors in is a violation because licensed breeders are required to let inspectors check on the welfare of animals during normal business hours. Refusing access to inspectors could indicate there were issues that the owner did not want them to see. The breeder sold to a massive Iowa broker, JAKS Puppies, in 2020. JAKS in turn ships puppies to pet stores all over the country.

Although the USDA has not cited Webb for any recent violations as of April 2021, Missouri state inspectors found issues in October 2019 related to some puppies with no solid resting area, unweaned puppies without any form of identification to tell them apart, and a lack of a working smoke detector. Former MO# AC0005X3, USDA #43-A-3961.

David Zook /Green Valley Kennel, Seymour, Missouri: USDA found some dogs had no bedding material at all in outdoor enclosures when local temperatures had been as low as 24 degrees Fahrenheit, increasing “risks of sickness and hypothermia.” During a USDA inspection on Jan. 11, 2021, inspectors found that some of the dogs at Green Valley Kennel were not fully protected from the freezing winter cold. The inspector wrote: “The shelters in at least one-half of the 25 outdoor enclosures had an inadequate amount of bedding material for the current temperatures. Four of the shelters had no bedding material and the rest had a small amount that almost covered the cement floor. The temperature at the time of the inspection was 35.6 degrees F (Kestrel reading) and the overnight temperatures have been less than 35 degrees F (local weather reports). Bedding material is important to protect the dogs from the cold temperatures and to help preserve body heat. Lack of appropriate bedding in cold environments increases the risks of sickness and hypothermia conditions.”

According to [Weather Underground](#), a database listing historical weather data, temperatures reached a low of 24 degrees in Seymour, Missouri on Jan. 11, 2021, and the daily average temperature in that area at that time of year is 32 degrees. There were 110 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the USDA’s inspection. MO # AC0019SQ, USDA #43-A-4911.

NEBRASKA

Douglas and Mary Jane Brosh / Brosh’s Kennels, Pender, Nebraska: State found dog “very thin” and required the licensee to take the dog to a vet; also found dirty conditions (repeat offender). During a December 2020 inspection, the state rated Brosh’s Kennels only “conditionally acceptable” due to a dog who was “very thin.” The inspector noted that the dog “Needs to go to vet either today or tomorrow” and requested a follow-up report. The inspector also noted, “Under [the] dog pens needs cleaned. Pens need cleaned especially the beagles, dog doors need cleaned. Adult dog buildings also need cleaned.” There were more than 80 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

Brosh’s Kennels appeared in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report after it received an official warning from the state that year for dogs who had no water, and apparently had not had any water since the previous afternoon, as well as a dog with a bulging eye who had not been seen by a veterinarian. Other issues noted in that report included excessive feces, and USDA violations that had recurred for several years.

Brosh’s Kennels was still licensed as a B dealer with the USDA as of May 6, 2021. The USDA has not inspected it since September 2019, online records show. At that time, USDA issued two “teachable moments,” according to its inspection report data, but there was no information on those details available in the USDA’s “teachable moments” database. NE #KN65, USDA #47-B-0091. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Brenda L. Carroll / Carroll Sell Farms, Plattsmouth, Nebraska: AKC breeder has had recurring issues with unsanitary conditions and/or humane care since 2013 (repeat offender). During a Jan. 20, 2021 inspection, state inspectors rated Carroll Sell Farms only “conditionally acceptable” due to a need to improve cleaning and remove feces from some pens. There were about 50 dogs present at the time of the inspection. The lack of sanitation is a concern because of the long history of unsanitary conditions and poor housing at the facility.

Brenda Carroll is a self-described [AKC breeder](#) of miniature American shepherds. She appeared in our 2014, 2017 and 2019 Horrible Hundred reports for similar problems.

As we noted in our 2019 report, state inspectors found the AKC breeder's facility "routinely non compliant," noting repeated problems including not having enough employees to properly care for the dogs and "piles of feces." The state issued an official warning and suggested major downsizing of the facility. State inspection reports show the facility was cited for violations at four different inspections between May and September 2018, only passing one inspection in November after being given multiple chances to come into compliance. Some of the violations included excessive trash and clutter (July 2018); not enough employees to properly care for the animals (May and August 2018); and a limping dog who needed to be taken to a vet (September 2018).

The facility was rated "unacceptable" at an Aug. 29, 2018, state inspection and given an official warning for violating Nebraska's Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act. During that visit, the inspector wrote: "Facility is routinely non compliant, with program standards, sanitation issue's¹⁷ continue, along with other non compliant items. More employee's are needed to properly care for the dogs, or major downsizing is needed to get facility in total compliance. All dogs pens located inside of facility need to be cleaned, piles of feces, needs to be removed. South outdoor pens, dogs cannot escape mud, or standing water, along with 2-3 pens located inside of barn have mud or wet surfaces. Dogs need to be kept in a clean dry environment, with clean dry bedding."

During a September 2018 re-inspection, the inspector noted that the operation had planned to downsize: "Mrs. Carroll recognized that she needed to downsize to properly care for the dogs and submitted a list of about 54 dogs that were to be released to an out of state rescue organization within about 2 weeks. With the release of these dogs, she will be down to about 20 dogs. In the interim, Mrs. Carroll is enlisting the help of a friend to help care for the dogs." On Nov. 13, 2018, the operation passed one inspection and was down to 10 dogs and 21 puppies.

The breeder's history indicates she could only take care of about 20 dogs in 2018, so the fact that she has increased her animal numbers to more than 50 as of January 2021 is a concern.

Prior issues noted in our earlier reports included a dog with an injured leg (Sept. 8, 2016), inadequate shelter for the dogs (Sept. 8, 2016, and Feb. 4, 2016), filthy conditions (Sept. 8, 2016, and Feb. 4, 2016), and other citations for not enough employees to properly maintain the kennel (Sept. 14, 2016, and Sept 8, 2016). In addition, dogs were found without adequate weather protection in February 2016, an issue that Carroll had been repeatedly cited for since at least 2013; state records show the breeder was found again and again to have dogs exposed to the bitter cold and with no water or frozen water at numerous inspections between 2013 and 2016, including at least one day when the temperature was only 4 degrees. NE #KN1109. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Clem Disterhaupt Jr. / Ponca Creek Kennels, Spencer, Nebraska: Breeder with more than 225 dogs was rated "unacceptable" twice during January 2021 state inspections due to matted dogs, dirty conditions, cages that were too small and more \(repeat offender\).](#) Clem Disterhaupt Jr. operates a massive dog breeding kennel with more than 225 dogs and puppies. During a Jan. 13, 2021, state inspection, his kennel was rated "unacceptable" due to eight different issues. The problems were related to approximately seven dogs with excessive matting, lack of a veterinary care plan, lack of proof of wellness examinations for dogs (no health records were available at all), some dogs who did not have enough space and dirty conditions. The inspectors

¹⁷ Punctuation errors retained from inspection report.

noted that they discussed the fact that the breeder “possibly needed to downsize or build another building to help with space.” State inspectors returned again on Jan. 28 and again rated the kennel “unacceptable” for approximately seven different issues, including four direct violations. The issues included many dogs — including some mothers with puppies — who were in cages that were too small; dirty conditions; a matted dog who needed to be groomed; health records that were out of date; and many dogs who were in the kennel with no explanation of where they came from. When inspectors returned a third time on Feb. 8, 2021, they rated the kennel “conditionally acceptable” because some problems still remained: acquisition records and health records on the dogs were still incomplete, and two dogs had visible health issues, one with a wound on the neck and another with a “sore on back.” Cleanliness still needed improvement, and two dogs also needed to be groomed soon, according to the report. A shocking 142 dogs and 95 puppies were on the property during the Jan. 28, 2021, visit.

Ponca Creek Kennels was once licensed with the USDA, but as of April 2021, it appears it is no longer licensed, which means it cannot legally sell to brokers or pet stores, which leads to confusion about where it may be selling such a large number of dogs. Another breeder named Clem L. Disterhaupt is currently licensed with the USDA, but has an address in Stuart, Nebraska, according to USDA records. It is unclear if the two are related.

Clem Disterhaupt Jr. last appeared in our Horrible Hundred report in 2015, after he received two official warnings from the state in October 2014 and February 2015, for a refusal to allow a kennel inspection and unsanitary conditions, respectively. Inspectors also noted issues such as a sickly and lethargic French bulldog who needed to be seen by a vet (January 2014), mouse feces and foul odors. NE #KN211. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Clem L. Disterhaupt / Sandhills Kennel, Stuart, Nebraska: State inspector could not finish inspection due to alleged assault by breeder (“Inspector was unsafe and had to leave the facility [...] Clem grabbed the camera”). Facility also had filthy flooring and was missing a veterinary plan. State inspectors found issues at Sandhills Kennel twice in February 2021, state records show. On Feb. 3, 2021, the breeder reportedly interfered with an inspection by threatening a state inspector, who had to leave the property for their safety, leaving the inspection unfinished. The inspector wrote: “Inspection was started but not completed due to [assault] of inspector by Clem. Inspector was unsafe and had to leave the facility. One photo was trying to be taken of the outdoor run but Clem grabbed the camera and the photo appears black. A reinspection will need to be completed to check for compliance or non compliance items. This inspection form only shows what the inspector was able to see before the inspection had to stop. The number of adults and [puppies counted] were only in the whelping building.”

The violation that the inspector had been trying to photograph was as follows: “Floor in the whelping building under the hutches needs cleaned. Food, dried urine and grime under there needs removed. Outdoor pens on east side have not been cleaned since it had snowed, which was 1-25-21 over a week ago, pens need scooped and cleaned.” The inspector counted seven dogs and 50 puppies in the portion of the kennel that was visited before the alleged assault. Five days later (Feb. 8, 2021), a different state inspector arrived. At that visit, a violation was found for no proof of a written veterinary care plan. The second inspector counted 77 dogs and 54 puppies.

Disterhaupt also offers puppies for sale on [PuppyFind.com](https://www.puppyfind.com), a website that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem breeders. He is also USDA licensed. The USDA has not linked Sandhills Kennel to any recent violations, but, as of May 6, 2021, USDA also has not visited the kennel since September 2019, online records show. During that visit, USDA counted 127 dogs and puppies. NE #KN55, USDA #47-A-0427.

Mark J. Griesman / Prairie Chesapeakes, Wood River, Nebraska: Dog found dead in February 2021 was suspected victim of exposure to below-freezing cold, “possible neglect;” state found “extreme sanitation issues” and repeated incidents of dogs exposed to severe weather, but state had allowed breeder to continue to operate until March 2021 (repeat offender). Just as this report was about to be published, Prairie Chesapeakes appeared to have closed down, after state authorities found horrific violations in February 2021, including a dead dog. HSUS researchers decided to keep Prairie Chesapeakes in this report, because the situation exposes a need for greater urgency in monitoring problem breeders.

According to a February 22, 2021 state inspection report, inspectors responding to a complaint found: “Dogs in extreme sanitation issues, [who] could not walk without stepping [in] feces. No bedding in shelters with recent temperature with highs of negative numbers. One female found outside shelter inside pen was deceased, cause unknown but reason for possible neglect along with issues noted.”

On March 1, 2021, Prairie Chesapeakes reportedly closed and dropped its license, with the breeder submitting to an exit interview with the state Department of Agriculture. State officials noted that “Licensee is no longer breeding dogs, has no dogs” on the premises. It is unclear if the licensee was charged with animal neglect, or whether his surviving dogs were ever seized and provided with veterinary care, or whether they were euthanized or sold to other breeders. The HSUS decided to keep this operation in the report for public information purposes and until it can be confirmed that Griesman absolutely has no more involvement in dealing dogs; a prior state inspection indicates he was known to “move dogs” in a short amount of time.

Long before the horrific issues were found in February 2021, Prairie Chesapeakes was rated “unacceptable” after a July 10, 2020, state inspection for insufficient weather protection, an issue he had failed to fully resolve even after being warned about it at a prior inspection. State records show Griesman was warned on July 8, 2020, with a “conditionally acceptable” rating, and told to repair issues with sharp points that “may cause injury to animals,” and to fix an issue with a dog who did not have acceptable shelter. The breeder claimed he had removed a structure from the dog’s pen for repair. But when the state followed up a few days later, the kennel was rated “unacceptable” because the breeder was found with “exposed wires that may cause injury,” and a dog was running at large with the dog’s pen door open. At least one dog still had no shelter even though the breeder had been notified to fix the issue a few days prior. The inspector wrote: “Inspection on July 8, 2020 revealed shelter had been removed evening prior for repairs, since that time severe weather has been in area with winds recorded over 70mph. On this date no shelter had yet been provided for the dog even after Mr. Griesman claimed to have two new shelters to be assembled and planned on repairing the shelter for that pen.”

Prairie Chesapeakes appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to similar issues. In 2018, the state fined Griesman \$2,000 for repeated violations, including an injured, paralyzed dog who went days without veterinary care and was later euthanized, water bowls that contained ice, “poor conditions throughout” the facility, as well as repeated issues with underweight dogs, state records show.

During an April 17, 2018, state inspection, the operation was rated “acceptable,” despite its egregious history and the following notes by the inspector: “Blondie the partial paralyzed dog was euthanized along with Sky the thin dog which is claimed to have had cancer. Blondie had suffered an injury a week prior to 4-16-18 inspection without vet care. Several others appear thin and will advise to have examined for cancer. Mr. Griesman’s ability to clean/sanitize and move dog’s in such a short amount of time shows his ability to take care of the animals but his continued non-compliance issues and lack of providing dogs in need of care shows the disregard of the animals. Request administrative hearing.”

In 2017, Griesman was cited for a number of issues, including a repeated failure to obtain adequate veterinary care records, unsanitary conditions and strong odors of urine and feces. Former NE #KN1342. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Michael and Megan Kopf Jr. / Star Bullies, Dewitt, Nebraska: [State inspector found a dead dog at AKC breeder's facility, told breeder to "remove the dead dog, and dispose in a proper manner."](#) During a Sept. 14, 2020, state inspection, Star Bullies was rated "conditionally acceptable" after an inspector found a dead dog in an outdoor pen on the property. The inspector noted: "One dead dog was observed in [an] outdoor pen, the dog did appear to have just recently died. Remove the dead dog, and dispose in a proper manner." The breeder was given an indirect violation for the incident, and as of April 14, 2021, there were no follow-up notes indicating what may have killed the dog or whether the dog's lonely death was ever investigated. It appears that the state inspector regarded the dead dog as a cleaning violation. The operation had 33 dogs and puppies on the property at the time, according to the state report. Star Bullies advertises French and English bulldog puppies online at starbullies.weebly.com, where some puppies are offered for sale for about \$3,000 for "pet only" and \$4,000 with full AKC registration. According to the Star Bullies website, all the puppies come from AKC registered parents, and the puppies can be AKC registered for an additional fee. The AKC link is significant because the AKC regularly opposes state laws that would require better oversight and conditions at dog breeding kennels. NE# KN1555.

Roy T. Schrunk / Rocking T Kennel, Friend, Nebraska: [Breeder was found with dirty conditions for at least four years in a row; operation has downsized but state still finds unclean conditions at almost every visit \(repeat offender\).](#) Although Rocking T Kennel has downsized over the years, state inspectors have found dirty conditions there in 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018, indicating work still needs to be done to ensure the dogs are in safe and clean conditions.

At the state's most recent inspection on record in January 2021, state inspectors rated the kennel "conditionally acceptable" and instructed the breeder to "clean outdoor pens, remove feces from pens" and add door flaps to outdoor shelters. The temperatures in Friend, Nebraska on the date of the inspection (Jan. 19, 2021) were as low as 21 degrees, according to [historic weather data](#). The operation was also found "conditionally acceptable" in September 2020 due to cleaning issues and weeds.

As we noted in our 2020 report, Schrunk had been repeatedly ordered to downsize or hire more employees due to unacceptable conditions. It appears he has finally downsized after years of warnings, but the conditions are still poor. In July, 2019, the licensee was given an official warning for violations found a few days prior. During that inspection, on July 8, 2019, Schrunk's kennel was rated "unacceptable" by a state inspector for the following issues: a lack of adequate staff to "properly care for dogs," unclean conditions with excessive flies, a matted dog and some dogs who didn't have adequate shelter. At that time, the facility had more than 100 dogs and puppies. When the state inspector returned for a second visit on July 15, 2019, the inspector rated the kennel "conditionally acceptable," even though the same number of dogs was still present on the property, and the inspector still found an insufficient number of employees. The inspector once again noted that more staff were needed to properly care for the dogs or the facility should downsize. In 2018, the facility was issued a warning letter for lacking a sufficient number of employees and many other issues, and at that time, the operation had 97 dogs and puppies.

Prior to 2019, Schrunk was repeatedly cited for many of the same issues. State inspectors marked the kennel "unacceptable" during a May 23, 2018, inspection, and sent an extensive warning letter to the facility. The inspection noted violations for two dogs with open wounds and fresh blood on the dogs, dirty water in some of the water dishes, excessive feces and trash and other housekeeping issues. In addition, the licensee was told that,

“More employees are needed to properly care for the dogs, and to keep standards in compliance.” At a follow-up inspection on June 6, 2018, state inspectors found some conditions had improved but they also found new violations. NE# KN936. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Jo Ann Steiger / In God’s Hands Kennel, Randolph, Nebraska: Repeated problems with dogs exposed to the bitter cold, poor maintenance and unsanitary conditions (repeat offender). Even though this kennel has appeared in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for issues such as unsanitary conditions, dogs exposed to the bitter cold and insufficient veterinary care, state inspectors have continued to find issues at In God’s Hands Kennel. On Jan. 12, 2021, the kennel was rated “conditionally acceptable” by state inspectors due to several problems, including rusty areas, dogs who didn’t have enough bedding to protect them from the cold and a lack of daily cleaning. Historical [weather data](#) shows that temperatures in the general area on that date were as low as 25 degrees.

As we noted in some of our prior reports, issues with poor animal care at the kennel go back to at least January 2014, when Steiger received an official warning from the state for dogs and puppies kept in “bitter temperatures” without enough protection from the cold, dogs with frozen water who had not had potable water for “at least 16 hours,” and accumulations of wastes and feces. Despite this warning, inspectors continued to find poor conditions at the kennel. In February 2015, Steiger received another warning for the very same issues, as well as the lack of a veterinary care plan, two injured dogs, and unsafe conditions. In 2016, state inspectors found similar problems at four different inspections, and in 2017, state inspectors found issues that included two beagles with masses or swellings that hadn’t been treated by a veterinarian, unsanitary conditions and rusty cages.

Steiger appears to sell puppies online via ingodshandskennel.weebly.com although she does not appear to have a USDA license, which would be required in order to ship puppies sight-unseen. This issue was noted in our prior reports, but on her website, Steiger still claims that puppies are available for [shipping](#) in the United States (as of April 7, 2021). The HSUS has repeatedly urged the USDA to take a more proactive stance to license and inspect breeders who sell online illegally. NE #KN1104. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

NEW YORK

Helen Camlakides/ Sportsman’s Kennels, Manorville, New York: State inspectors found the kennel to be “non-compliant critical” at three different state inspections within a 12-month period; AKC breeder’s facility was cited twice in fall 2020 for a Labrador retriever with skin issues and prominent hair loss and unsafe conditions; facility had more than 300 dogs. During three different state inspections between December 2019 and November 2020, state inspectors rated Sportsman’s Kennels “non-compliant critical” for issues related to dogs in need of veterinary care. The most recent problematic inspection available at the time of this report was in November 2020, when state inspectors found a number of problems, including a female Labrador with prominent hair loss who had also been found in a similar condition the prior month, and a variety of issues related to unsafe housing for the animals (such as rusty cages, holes in the walls, and sharp edges on surfaces that could injure the dogs). Inspectors also noted that there was no written veterinary plan that had been approved by a veterinarian, and there was no treatment plan for animals receiving medication. Similar issues had been noted during a visit the prior month, including the same issue with the dog who had missing fur, and the issues with cages in need of repairs, with rust and holes in the cages “large enough for an animal’s head or extremities to pass through.” There was also a “Back up of urine and feces throughout drains, debris in drains



that run along cage runs,” no written veterinary plan, exercise or medical treatment plan available. At both of the fall 2020 inspections there were more than 300 dogs and puppies on the property. Issues found in prior years included December 2019 violations for four dogs in need of veterinary attention, and excessive wastes and feces. In addition, numerous puppy buyers and concerned citizens have complained about sick puppies sold by Sportsman’s Kennels, both in online forums and directly to the HSUS. NY #30.

Bridget Hewson/ ADK Puppy Patch, Childwold, New York: State inspectors found violations for a sick dog who had not been taken to a veterinarian, a strong odor of urine/ammonia, dirty conditions and veterinary care issues. During a state inspection in July 2020, ADK Puppy Patch was cited for a number of issues, including a “critical” violation for a dog who did not have a rabies vaccination and a violation for a dog who “had a quantity of soft stool adhering to the underside of her tail” and rear end at the time of inspection and who apparently had not been taken to a veterinarian. Other issues included surfaces that were rusty or dirty, ventilation in an isolation room that “was inadequate at the time of inspection with a strong odor of urine/ammonia,” a veterinary care plan that had not been signed off on by a veterinarian, with a substance being put in the dogs’ water that had not been approved by a veterinarian; and no evidence of an exercise plan for the dogs. While the kennel passed some of its inspections in recent years, other issues have been documented off and on. In May 2018, the kennel was cited for a number of issues, including “inadequate cleanliness” in a garage whelping building with an accumulation of grime, dirt and particles of food and feces on the bars of wire crates, excessive feces in some of the exercise areas, dirty water bowls, and a contract that violated consumer puppy “lemon laws” at the time. Issues go back at least five years; in 2016, the operation was cited for an inappropriate veterinary care plan. NY #889.

Marvin Martin Hoover/Shady Lane Kennel, Penn Yan, New York: State found “at least” six puppies sold without disclosure of their health problems; adult dogs did not have veterinary examinations. During an Oct. 8, 2020 state inspection, Shady Lane Kennel was rated “non-compliant critical” for several veterinary care deficiencies. According to that report, “Proof of valid rabies vaccination [was] missing for 9 dogs,” “all adults [were] missing [a] valid health exam,” and “at least 6 pups [were] sold without health problems being properly noted on information statements.” Although there has not been a long list of violations associated with this kennel, the violations for failing to disclose health problems are significant because they could indicate that puppies in need of treatment were sold to unsuspecting consumers. A failure to disclose health issues to buyers could result in unnecessary expenses for the buyers as well as unnecessary suffering for the puppy, because important veterinary care could be delayed if the consumer not made aware of the full health history of the puppy. Consumers who received puppies with undisclosed health issues are unable to provide that information to their veterinarian, which could lead to delayed or duplicative care, and consumers could also be set up for unexpected veterinary bills to treat a puppy they did not know was sick. NY #1126.

James Leach/ Leach Sheep & Goat Station, Martville, New York: State inspector found many dogs in a barn without water or with only dirty water bowls; some dogs were matted or had overgrown nails; veterinary issues were found three years in a row at operation with more than 100 dogs. During a June 2020 state inspection, a New York inspector found that “approximately 80% of water buckets in [the] adult dog barn were empty or had minimal water with debris in addition to approximately 25% of the water bucket[s]” that needed to be cleaned. The inspector also found that, “A new vet plan with new vet has not been completed,” a dog had been sold without a valid rabies vaccine, and “5 dogs had mild to moderate matting and 16 dogs had long nails that need to be trimmed.” In addition, 35 adult dogs had no documentation of receiving the yearly health exams that are required by state law, and 13 dogs were missing a valid license, among other issues. At the time, the inspector counted 92 adult dogs and 25 puppies on the property. The operation did pass an inspection in July

2020 as well as one 2019 inspection, but in May 2019, similar issues had been found. During the May 2019 inspection, some of the puppies were found with no water, there was a “noxious smell” in the adult dog room “indicating poor ventilation,” one dog was found with “red, oozing ears” that had not been evaluated by a veterinarian, another had a “reoccurring lameness” that also had not been checked recently, and there were numerous issues with cleaning and sanitation. Similar issues were also found in 2018, including a male basset who did not have his nails trimmed after the inspector had previously recommended it; the dog was “now limping.” Other issues found in 2018 included a “critical” violation for a German shepherd dam with “significant diarrhea” and a Labrador with “ocular redness/conjunctivitis” who had not been evaluated by a veterinarian, among other issues. NY #1021.

Joyce Martin / Seneca River Kennels (previously K & J Kennels), Waterloo, New York: Failed three state inspections in 2020 for issues such as a “critical” violation for a pregnant basset hound with a swollen eye who did not receive prompt treatment, decrepit housing, urine odor and underage puppy sales. Seneca River Kennels / K & J Kennels failed three state inspections in 2020, including two failed inspections in October alone. Some of the October violations were for issues such as not getting timely treatment for a pregnant female basset hound with a swollen eye, at least three puppies sold who were under the legal age of 8 weeks, and records issues.

In September 2020, state inspectors found violations for unsafe housing, with some sagging floors and sharp wires that could injure the dogs, and a urine odor in the maternity barn. They also noted the dog with the enlarged eye. In addition, most of the dogs were missing proof of their required yearly health examinations and some were missing licenses or proof of rabies vaccinations. The facility did pass one follow-up inspection in late October 2020, when the owner, Joyce Martin, “electronically sent [the] inspector veterinary documentation approving delay of treatment of pregnant Bassett with swollen eye until January 2021.” There were more than 50 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the October inspections. NY #681.

Curtis Rist / Hudson Labradoodles, Hudson, New York: Kennel had “horrible foul odor,” dogs and puppies were standing in filthy conditions, several dogs “were matted and covered in [their own] waste material;” facility has had similar violations for years (repeat offender). During a March 8, 2021, state inspection, the state found unacceptable conditions at Hudson Labradoodles and rated the kennel “non-compliant critical.” Issues included a “strong horrible foul odor” in the kennel, with animals who “were unable to keep dry and avoid their own wastes,” according to the inspection report. The report noted: “The entire facility has not been cleaned. Large amount of excess water, urine, and feces were throughout the floors and runs of the facility. There were several dogs that were matted and covered in waste material. The puppies were in small [exercise] pens with soil filled wet towels.” The report also stated, “Several dogs [were] heavily matted with waste material,” and, “All adult dogs need proof of annual health exams.” There were more than 50 dogs and puppies on the property at the time.

Even after the horrific violations were documented in front of the owner, when state inspectors returned again on March 17, 2021, the issues were still not corrected. When they returned a third time on March 26, no one appeared to give them access to the kennel and dogs, which is a significant concern considering the state of the dogs found earlier in the month; inspectors were not able to check up on the animals to make sure they were not sick or suffering. A state inspection in April 2021 was compliant.

Rist appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report for similar issues. As we noted in that report, state inspection records revealed a very problematic history at Hudson Labradoodles in both 2018 and 2019. In March 2019, the facility was found to have poor ventilation, excessive feces, dirty conditions and a “toxic” smell. The

issues had also been noted earlier in 2019 and in 2018 as well. Prior issues also included dodging inspectors. For example, on Jan. 13, 2019, a state inspector arrived to conduct an inspection and gave the owner, Curtis Rist, a “non-compliant critical” violation for refusing the inspection: “Mr. Rist was present and denied entrance to do an inspection. Mr. Rist spoke with Ms. Colon and understood the consequences of not allowing an inspection.” On Jan. 18, 2019, an inspector was permitted inside the operation, and found a critical violation for two dogs who did not have rabies vaccinations, and also noted that one dog was in need of grooming and there was no veterinary plan or exercise plan available, which is a requirement under the state law. Finally, on Jan. 31, 2019, the inspector noted that some issues had been addressed but that there was a “heavy odor” of feces and urine inside the kennel run area and that the facility needed better ventilation.

In February 2018, the licensee was cited for a “critical” violation for telling an inspector three times by text message that he would be available at the kennel for an inspection and then not showing up. He did pass an inspection later that month. But then in December 2018, an inspector who was trying to conduct an inspection could not find the licensee again, yet saw a number of serious concerns while searching for him. The inspector wrote: “Upon arrival this inspector looked around outside and called Hello several times loudly. The doors to the runs and the main door was open. I opened the building door and turned down the radio which was one step inside and called hello several times. No one answered so I went back outside. The front of the building was littered with open dog food cans and general debris and garbage. The inside was very odorous, but nothing obvious making the smell. Both sides of runs were odorous as well with feces being washed out of runs onto the pea gravel and grass areas. The runs were wet. The dogs feet and lower legs were wet too.” NY #669. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Alvin Shirk/ A & L Kennels, Dundee, New York: Breeder with more than 100 dogs found with inadequate veterinary records, sale of underage puppies; had prior issues with injured dogs \(repeat offender\).](#) During a January 2021 inspection, Shirk’s kennel was rated “non compliant critical” by state inspectors, due to a dog sold without a rabies vaccine. Other issues found at the kennel included the sale of at least three underage puppies, and missing medication records on one dog. There were approximately 100 dogs and puppies on the property during the Jan. 14, 2021, inspection. State inspectors also cited the kennel in November 2018 for refusing an inspection. The owner claimed that he was waiting for materials to make repairs.

Until last year, Shirk was also USDA-licensed. In December 2017, the USDA cited his kennel for violations for veterinary care issues, including a puppy with an injured leg who did not seem able to use or bend the leg, and some unacceptable metal wire floors that were peeling; Shirk had 181 dogs at that inspection.

Shirk also appeared in our 2013 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, USDA inspectors cited his facility 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.

The operation passed one follow-up inspection in March 2021, but concerns remain about its ability to stay in compliance due to its history. Shirk’s USDA license was cancelled in January 2020 for unknown reasons. The address on the USDA license was the same as his current state license address. Former USDA #21-A-0080; NY #1100. **REPEAT OFFENDER, SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

OHIO

[Ivan M. Barkman / Lone Pine Kennel, Baltic, Ohio: Failed state inspection for matted dog, dog with eye disorder; history of poor veterinary care and sick dogs \(repeat offender\)](#). State inspectors found several issues at Lone Pine Kennel during an August 2020 inspection, including a bichon with matted hair and a bichon who had been diagnosed with a cherry eye during a prior veterinary examination. “Cherry eye” is a disorder in which reddish tissue is protruding near the corner of the eye. The inspector wrote: “The kennel veterinarian recommended removal if the issue did not resolve. Owner treated the dog with ointment, but tissue is still present.” In addition, the inspector noted that “a female dog was bred prior to having a physical examination by a veterinarian.” Ohio law requires that female dogs be examined by a veterinarian prior to breeding, to ensure they are healthy enough to breed and whelp puppies.

The issues found in August 2020 are a concern because Lone Pine Kennel was cited for many similar issues earlier that same year, and in years past. The kennel appeared in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report due to a January 2020 USDA inspection that showed Barkman had a repeat violation for a puppy who wasn’t getting adequate veterinary care. As we noted in that report, the USDA inspector “observed a female Pomeranian puppy ID# 5114 that was coughing and raspy sounding.” The report stated: “The licensee acquired the animal on 12/27/2019 from an individual that had previously treated the animal for an upper respiratory infection, but still appeared to have residual clinical signs. The licensee’s Program of Veterinarian Care specifically states that ‘if a puppy does not respond to the first choice of antibiotic then seek veterinary advice’ [but] prior to today’s inspection the licensee did not communicate the upper respiratory issue with his Attending Veterinarian.”

The violation for the sick puppy was listed as repeat violation, because the licensee had previously been warned about the need to obtain proper treatment for sick dogs. In Aug. 2019, Barkman received a direct violation for a dog with an obvious medical condition who was not receiving adequate treatment. According to that USDA report, a female bichon in the whelping kennel was shaking her head and “was noticed to have a clear/white discharge coming from her left ear. The discharge was draining down her face on that side becoming darker (red-brown) further away from the ear. The tissues inside the ear are swollen to a point that the ear canal is no longer visible. In addition, there was an odor coming from the ear.” The licensee admitted to the inspector that the dog had had the same problem since March 2019 when he purchased her, meaning she had been suffering for about five months, yet had not been taken to a veterinarian. The licensee said he was intermittently treating the dog with an ear mite killer, but there was no indication that his veterinarian had prescribed the treatment or that the dog was getting better, according to the USDA’s report. The inspector added: “The Attending Veterinarian was contacted and agreed that given the severity and duration of the issue that the dog should be examined. The Licensee is currently not using the methods he has available to prevent, control, diagnose or treat the health issues with this dog.” The kennel had 129 dogs and puppies at a February 2021 USDA inspection; that inspection was compliant. USDA #31-A-0519; OH #CB000Q0B. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Eli D. Hostetler, Holmesville, Ohio: State inspectors found a nursing mother golden retriever who was severely underweight and another who had “deep open wounds” in December 2020, plus other dogs in need of care; USDA inspectors have not cited the facility in years](#). State records show that Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors tried to inspect Eli Hostetler’s kennel in November 2020, but were not given access, which is concerning; state-licensed dog kennels are required to make facilities available for inspection during normal business hours, and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. When the ODA returned on Dec. 22, 2020, state inspectors found some very concerning issues. The most disturbing were two golden retrievers who were clearly in poor health. One was a nursing mother dog who was extremely

underweight. The inspector wrote, “one female golden retriever ending in microchip #2946 that is nursing has a 1.5/9 BCS that is consistent with Nestle Purina body condition system chart.” The [Nestle Purina body condition chart](#) describes a dog with a 1.5 body type as “too thin.” Even a dog with a score of 2 has “ribs, lumbar vertebrae [and] pelvic bones easily visible” and “no palpable fat,” and a dog with a body score of 1 is emaciated with “no discernible body fat” and “all bony prominences evident from a distance,” and an “obvious loss of muscle mass,” according to the Purina chart. A dog in such poor condition could also put her puppies at risk, as she might not have the strength to nurse or care for them.

During the same inspection, another female golden retriever had “deep open wounds that were pink, red, and white in color that were being treated as minor cuts per the licensee’s vet care plan.” The fact that the breeder was treating the wounds as minor when the inspector could see that they were deep was noted as a violation, and indicated the need for professional veterinary care. Other issues found at the same inspection included some dogs being kept outside in the cold without veterinary approval, and “multiple dogs with dental disease [who] require attention per the licensee’s veterinarian care plan and the dogs physical exam.”

Hostetler is also USDA licensed, but it appears the USDA has not cited him for any recent violations. OH #CB0016XF, USDA #31-A-0653.

[Daniel and James Miller / Happy Mountain K9 Facilities / Puppies R Us, Loudonville, Ohio: State inspectors found issues at six different visits, including two dogs with eye disorders; owners failed four inspections in a row for dogs exposed to winter weather without proper shelter when temperatures had been below freezing; seller offers puppies on PuppyFind.com \(repeat offender\)](#). Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors found issues at six different state inspections at Happy Mountain K9 in 2020, according to state records. First, state employees attempted to perform two inspections in October and November, but no one was available to let them in to view the kennel, which is concerning; state-licensed dog kennels are required to make facilities available for inspection during normal business hours, and interfering or refusing full access is a violation of state law. Inspectors later returned and gained access during four different visits in December 2020, and found violations every time. During a Dec. 14, 2020, inspection, the kennel was rated “non-compliant” for seven different issues, including “multiple outdoor housing areas which lacked one or more shelter structures accessible to each dog and puppy in the facility for protection from the natural elements.” That violation was of considerable concern because historical weather data shows that temperatures in that part of Ohio in December were frequently below freezing. Even in milder weather, dogs need protection from the rain and wind. Other issues found at the December 14 inspection included a Bernese mountain dog with “irritation and discharge from his eyes,” and a poodle “with red irritation and swelling to his eyes.” Inspectors also found the kennel “lacked enrichment within all enclosures,” and lacked some important records. State inspectors returned three different times before the end of December and found all three times that the lack of adequate outdoor shelters was still an issue. The repeated failure to provide something as basic as protection from the rain and snow shows a complete lack of concern for basic humane care on the part of Happy Mountain K9 Facilities.

The operation also appears to be offering [puppies for sale](#) on PuppyFind.com, an online site that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to puppy mills, unlicensed sellers and other questionable dealers. As of April 16, 2021, it appears the Millers are [linked to other business names](#) and Daniel A. Miller / Happy Mountain Canine has an F rating with the local Better Business Bureau, which has attached an alert to his account for “a pattern of complaint that is unusual for the size of the business.”

Happy Mountain K9 appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report as well. As we noted in that report, Daniel and James Miller had two licenses in Ohio, both listed at the same address. One was under the name Happy

Mountain Canine Facilities, and the other was under the licensees' names only. During an inspection of the latter in August 2018, the Millers were found “noncompliant” by state inspectors due to “multiple puppies [who] were found to be sold less than 8 weeks of age,” an apparent violation of state law. The sale of underage puppies is a significant concern because underaged animals are especially prone to illness, may not be fully weaned and don't have mature immune systems. Under the Happy Mountain Canine Facilities license number, state inspectors found violations in August 2018 for dogs who didn't have enough space in their enclosures and lack of a written health care plan provided by a veterinarian, including guidance on other issues such as behavior, exercise and procedures for dew claw removal and tail docking. Expired medications were also found at the facility. Authorities re-inspected the facility in September 2018 and found additional issues: Four outdoor enclosures had no shelter structures to protect the dogs, and veterinary health care plans were still missing.

Based on the repeat violations in 2020, it appears that the lack of adequate outdoor shelters may have been ongoing between 2018 and 2020, and it is unknown if it has been corrected in 2021. Former OH #CB0009Z7 (Happy Mountain) and CB0008M2. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

James E. Miller / Elite Puppies, Millersburg, Ohio: Multiple issues found at three different state inspections in 2020; dogs found in need of veterinary care included a cavalier with “discharge and red irritated tissue around the eye” and three dogs with dental disease; inspectors found unlawful medication not “consistent with state and federal law.” State inspectors found issues at four different visits to Elite Puppies in late 2020, records obtained by HSUS show. First, inspectors who arrived on Aug. 12, 2020, to conduct an inspection were not given access to the property, which is concerning because it leaves dogs unprotected and could indicate a licensee is avoiding an inspection. State-licensed dog kennels in Ohio are required to make facilities available for inspection during normal business hours, and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. On Sept. 2, inspectors returned and were given access, but noted a number of issues, including three dogs with grade three dental disease, and a cavalier spaniel “with discharge and red irritated tissue around the eye,” a condition likely to be painful. Inspectors also noted that three dogs were housed outdoors without veterinary approval, there was a lack of enrichment for the dogs, and “the licensee had medication not directed by the attending veterinarian and consistent with state and federal law,” among other issues. When the state inspectors returned again for a Sept. 8 inspection, they found that all the same violations still existed, and the cavalier still had not received any treatment from, or under the guidance of, a veterinarian. When the state inspectors returned once again on Sept. 10, 2020, some issues were corrected, but some veterinary concerns still had not been addressed. At a re-check on Sept. 21, the inspectors finally found that the issues had been resolved, however, it was weeks after they were first discovered. OH #CB001RTD.

Joseph A. Miller / Horseshoe Kennel, Millersburg, Ohio: Breeder admitted a dog died during do-it-yourself dental procedure; Miller failed at least four state inspections and one USDA inspection in 2020 for inadequate veterinary care. State inspectors found at least seven different violations, some of which took four different visits to Horseshoe Kennel in 2020 to be resolved, state documents show, and the facility also failed a USDA inspection earlier in the year. At least one of the dogs at Horseshoe Kennel died due to a careless and likely painful do-it-yourself procedure.

Many of the issues found by state inspectors were related to dogs who had been listed in veterinary examination records as needing a dental cleaning, which had not yet been done more than a month later, according to an inspection report dated July 23, 2020. When inspectors re-inspected on July 31, 2020, they found the dogs still had not had their dental treatment, and rated the kennel “non compliant” for the second inspection in a row. When the inspectors returned a third time, on Aug. 7, 2020, they found that instead of taking at least one of the

dogs to a veterinarian to have the procedure performed by a trained professional, Joseph Miller had obtained “permission” from his veterinarian to perform a do-it-yourself procedure, which apparently resulted in the death of a female Yorkshire terrier (#143). The inspection report notes: “Licensee stated that this dog died during her dental cleaning, and stated the dog seemed stressed when [restrained] and he could see there was root exposure. Licensee was using an ultrasonic scaler with permission from his veterinarian.” The horrific treatment and death of a dog with such advanced dental disease that the roots of her teeth were showing, and who apparently was not sedated or given adequate pain control to calm her down, should never have happened. Professional breeders are required to get professional veterinary care. The tragic incident highlights a need for the ODA to insist on a stronger interpretation of Ohio’s veterinary care rules to prevent animal suffering; invasive procedures should always be performed by veterinary professionals.

When state inspectors returned a fourth time, on Aug. 24, they found the kennel “non compliant” for the fourth time in a row for an issue with a cavalier who still had not been treated for dental disease. The report stated that the dog had “been bred” and indicated the procedure would be done after she raised puppies. There is no indication of whether the inspector insisted on the cavalier being treated by a professional veterinarian this time. The facility passed one state inspection in November 2020.

Horseshoe Kennel is also licensed by the USDA, which means it can sell to brokers, online or to pet stores all over the country. In March 2020, the USDA cited Miller with violations for a dog with a skin condition, using protocol and medications not recommended by a veterinarian (more self-administered “veterinary” care, it appears), and buildup of grime on some feeders. Joseph A. Miller had more than 50 dogs at that inspection. OH #CB0016CL, USDA #31-A-0789.

[Joseph D. Miller, Millersburg, Ohio: Failed state inspection for illegal surgery on dog that was not performed by a veterinarian; another dog with injured leg, and unacceptable housing; USDA has not inspected in more than a year.](#) State inspectors found violations or issues at Joseph D. Miller’s kennel during at least two different visits in 2020, state records show. On May 6, 2020, state inspectors attempted to perform an inspection at the kennel, but no one appeared to give them access to the property. Missed inspections are a violation because they could indicate a licensee was avoiding an inspection; licensees are required to make their kennels available for inspection during reasonable business hours. When inspectors followed up on May 13, 2020, Joseph D. Miller’s kennel was rated non-compliant for eight different violations, including a horrific violation related to a surgical procedure which was not performed by a veterinarian. Performing surgery on a dog without a veterinary license is not only specifically prohibited under the state Department of Agriculture rules, but also violates state law and is a misdemeanor in the second degree. The inspector wrote, “a surgical procedure was found to have been performed by someone other than a veterinarian. The severity of this violation was discussed in detail with the licensee. Because this violation cannot be corrected without another surgical procedure being performed, which may not be necessary, your violation has been documented but marked as corrected at this time. A repeat violation of this section at any time may result in ODA taking civil and/or criminal action against licensee per ORC 956.13.” There was no further explanation of what the procedure entailed or whether the breeder was ever charged for performing the apparently illegal surgery.

During the same inspection, a male dog was found “toe touching on his right hind leg,” which seemed to indicate that he was unable to put weight on the leg; the dog had not been examined by a veterinarian for the injury. Other issues found during the same inspection included at least one cage that was too small, dogs with nails that were too long and other issues related to inadequate housing and veterinary oversight. The kennel passed one inspection on May 15, 2020.

Miller also holds a USDA license, but, as of May 3, 2021, it appears that the USDA had not inspected Miller since August 2019. At that time, the facility had 186 dogs. The USDA cited Joseph D. Miller with a veterinary violation in 2017 for a dog with an eye condition and two dogs with dental issues. OH #CB000UC6, USDA #31-A-0655.

Levi Nisley, Patriot, Ohio: Breeder linked to three Petland stores was found with outdated veterinary records and a puppy with “red protruding tissue” coming from an eye; breeder was mentioned in consumer lawsuit against Petland regarding another sick puppy. During a November 2020 inspection, state inspectors found several areas of concern at Levi Nisley’s kennel, a facility where additional issues had been found in years past. Inspectors noted “Upon inspection five whelping primary enclosures did not provide a floor of a grid density to preserve the dog’s normal mobility,” and that there was no record of a veterinary visit the prior year, nor a record of veterinary nutritional guidance, which are required under Ohio kennel laws. In addition, a “female puppy born 9/18/20 had red protruding tissue coming from the corner of its eye,” and it appears this puppy had not been examined or diagnosed by a veterinarian for the condition. Nisley was warned that the inspection was non-compliant and was notified: “Failure to correct the violation(s) outlined in this inspection report may result in ODA [Ohio Department of Agriculture] taking civil and/or criminal action against [the] licensee. Per ORC 956.13B states a person who is assessed a civil penalty under this section is liable for a civil penalty of not more than two thousand five hundred dollars for a first violation, not more than five thousand dollars for a second violation, and not more than ten thousand dollars for a third or subsequent violation. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate violation.”

In 2020, a cocker spaniel puppy named Luna who Nisley had sold to a Petland store in Summerville, South Carolina was diagnosed with pneumonia, mycoplasma and parasites, according to a [consumer lawsuit filed against Petland](#) in July 2020. The couple who purchased Luna “noticed that Luna was coughing and lethargic” shortly after they brought her home, according to the lawsuit (HSUS attorneys are assisting with the ongoing litigation). Luna was allegedly hospitalized for four days and required oxygen therapy and broad-spectrum antibiotics to survive. Levi Nisley also sold to at least one other Petland store in New York, according to a consumer complaint received by the HSUS, and to a Petland-owned store called Safari Stan’s in Connecticut, according to shipping documents the HSUS reviewed.

Had Petland and other pet stores looked into Nisley’s history before purchasing from him, they would have discovered that he had a prior history of animal care violations. For example, in April 2017, state inspectors cited Nisley for having undersized cages, and in September 2016, he was cited for lacking proof of physical examinations on dogs. During both of those inspections, he had hundreds of breeding dogs on site, and state records show he sold more than 700 puppies a year (2016). He was also cited in a 2015 state inspection for keeping dogs on wire floors that “bounced and sagged under the weight of the adult breeding dogs,” an issue which can keep dogs from moving around normally; the flooring issue echoes the one found in November 2020, and flies in the face of Petland’s claims that all of their breeders keep dogs in safe and comfortable housing.

Despite repeated issues found by state inspectors, as of May 2021 the USDA has not cited Nisley for any violations since 2014. The USDA documented 334 dogs on the premises during a March 2021 inspection. OH #CB000QRV, USDA #31-A-0446.

Steven N. Sauder / Sandy Hill Kennel, Shiloh, Ohio: State inspectors found excessive excreta, dirt and grime, and lack of proper cleaning at facility previously found with a bleeding dog (repeat offender). During a June 2020 inspection, state inspectors found nine violations at Sandy Hill Kennel, including violations for “multiple enclosures [that] lacked cleaning to remove excreta, dirt, grime or other waste,” “flooring on the outside run section of the kennel which lacked a protective coating,” the absence of “a storage area that protected medicines and other supplies from contamination;” “multiple hard surfaces which the dogs were coming in

contact with lacked proper cleaning and disinfecting with a cleaning solution safe for adult dogs or puppies;” “the licensee was not providing human interaction with the dog for at least fifteen minutes each day;” and a “Cavalier/Poodle mix Female [who] lacked proper grooming,” among other issues.

Sandy Hill Kennel was also listed in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report for a veterinary care issue, although its name did not appear in that report because the USDA was redacting kennel and breeder names at the time. It has since been linked to this breeder by address and license numbers. As we noted in that report, during a Dec. 18, 2018, USDA inspection, the inspector found a dog who was bleeding and had a pus-like fluid leaking from the vulva, and had not been treated by a vet. The inspection report states: “Dog [...] was noticed to have blood on her hind legs. Upon further examination, there was blood and a thick yellow/green discharge noticed coming from her vulva. The Licensee stated that he had noticed this periodically since she whelped her puppies on 12/3/2018 however; he had not contacted or consulted with his veterinarian.” Shockingly, the USDA did not cite the issue as a “direct” violation, which would have triggered faster follow-up by the agency. As we noted in that report, the USDA’s failure to require the breeder to immediately take the bleeding dog to the veterinarian could have put the dog’s life in danger. The USDA’s shocking lack of urgency in this case highlights its recent trend toward weaker enforcement as it focused on “educating” breeders rather than protecting dogs — an issue that we hope the agency’s new leadership will help address.

The 2018 report also noted dirty conditions, with “an excessive accumulation of hair, feces, food waste and other organic material built up under [many of] the enclosures,” and noted that the facility also had a noticeable odor that the inspector believed was linked to the dirty conditions. At the time of the inspection, there were almost 90 dogs and puppies on the property.

In February 2021, the USDA gave Sauder a “teachable moment” for missing information on the facility’s program of veterinary care related to animal grooming and hygiene, which is a concern due to the other issues found at Sandy Hill Kennel. OH #CB0016QV, USDA #31-A-0631. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Lena and Michael Troyer / Spring Side Kennel, Baltic, Ohio: USDA violation for unsanitary conditions, “platforms are covered with frozen urine and feces;” prior issues with veterinary care \(repeat offender\).](#)

During a February 2021 USDA inspection, the Troyer kennel was cited for unsanitary conditions, with inspectors noting, “[some] areas are packed over with soiled snow, and the elevated platforms are covered with frozen urine and feces. Soiled areas do not allow the dogs to use the full space without becoming contaminated with urine and feces, as well as presenting a risk for disease transmission.” There were more than 75 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the 2021 inspection.

The kennel had violations on its state inspection report as well; in May 2020, state inspectors cited it for an expired medication and two records violations.

USDA and state inspectors found issues at the kennel in prior years as well. As we noted in our 2020 report, during an October 2019 state inspection, Michael L. Troyer was cited for several violations, including a pug with an eye disorder and a failure to document where his breeding animals came from. In addition, the licensee was instructed to take seven dogs who needed dental care to a veterinarian. But according to a November follow-up inspection report, instead of taking the animals to a vet for professional care, Troyer took them to another licensee, Ervin L. Raber. The inspector wrote, “All dogs had previous dentals by an outside source (Ervin L. Raber) and did not follow the licensee’s veterinary protocol [that required] all grade three and four dental disease being corrected by the attending veterinarian.” The November inspection was also rated “non

compliant” due to the licensee’s failure to have a veterinary professional treat the dogs; it was noted that he later complied.

In July 2019, USDA inspectors found inadequate housing and grubby food containers at Spring Side Kennel, and in May 2019, a Yorkie was found with such advanced dental tartar that the shape of his teeth was no longer visible. The inspector wrote, “During the inspection a 3 year old male Yorkie (#20, known as “Tommy”) was observed to have an excessive buildup of brown tartar [had] encased multiple teeth and obstructed the view of the normal shapes of the teeth in addition to receding gum lines. The teeth had not been observed by the licensee and the attending veterinarian had not been contacted for any treatment...”

The Troyers’ kennel appeared in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report under its old USDA license, which was under Michael L Troyer; recently, the licensees cancelled the former USDA license, and the business is now licensed under Lena Troyer with a new USDA number, but the same address. The state kennel license is still under Michael Troyer’s name but bears the same address.

Former USDA #31-A-0377 (under Michael Troyer; cancelled in 2020); Current USDA #31-A-0796 (under Lena Troyer); OH #CB001RY3. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Wayne R. Troyer, Sugarcreek, Ohio: Breeder formerly accused of shooting a dog in the head in 2009 had 2020 violations for wire flooring, not making facility available for inspection \(repeat offender\).](#) On Aug. 6, 2020, Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors arrived to conduct an inspection at Wayne Troyer’s kennel, but were unable to get access, either because someone was not there or would not let them in. The issue is a concern because licensed dog breeding facilities in Ohio are required to let inspectors in during regular business hours and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. Failure to make a kennel available for inspection could indicate a licensee is concealing poor conditions. When inspectors returned several days later, state records show they found an issue with disease control protocols as well as a violation for “two primary enclosures [that] did not provide a flooring with a grid density to preserve the dog’s normal mobility and muscle tone.”

While the violations found in 2020 were not numerous, they are of concern because of especially egregious violations that were linked to Wayne Troyer in the past. As we noted in our 2014 report, USDA inspectors found a dying, unmoving puppy at Troyer’s kennel in July 2013, and reported after a follow-up visit that the puppy had been euthanized. And as we reported in our 2013 Horrible Hundred report, Troyer also admitted to shooting a dog in the head under his prior license number (#31-A-0248). Under that license number, a breeder with the same name and address racked up a horrific list of Animal Welfare Act violations for neglecting to provide proper medical care to his dogs, and this included shooting a dog named Judy.

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 for shooting Judy.

Despite his grisly past, USDA records show Wayne Troyer hasn't been federally inspected since October 2019. At that time, he had 58 dogs. OH #CB001CR3, USDA #31-A-0391. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Ivan D. Weaver, Fredericksburg, Ohio: Failed at least two state inspections in December 2020 for more than 15 violations; repeat violations for dogs kept in dangerous, small and defective housing. Ohio inspectors found problems during three different visits to Ivan Weaver's kennel in 2020, state records show. On Nov. 24, 2020, they attempted to perform an inspection, but no one appeared to give them access to the property, which is concerning; state-licensed dog kennels are required to make facilities available for inspection during normal business hours, and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. When inspectors returned again on Dec. 3, 2020, they found 17 different non-compliant issues, including enclosures for the dogs that were damaged, poorly constructed or didn't have enough space, and open metal flooring that wasn't adequately coated, which is uncomfortable and dangerous for the dogs and is not permitted under state law; some of the flooring was so unstable that it "bounced and bent under the weight of the dogs." Inspectors also noted that Weaver was lacking complete health records on the dogs, and "lacked proof of a dental performed by a veterinarian" for seven different dogs. Weaver had also "bred females before [they had been] declared healthy following a physical examination," among other issues. The inspectors claimed that Weaver "corrected" some of the issues "during the inspection," but when they returned again on Dec. 11, they found 12 repeated issues, and rated the kennel "non-compliant" again. Some of the dogs still needed dental treatment, some of the housing was still unacceptable, and some of the dog enclosures still lacked adequate spacing and still had open metal flooring or unstable flooring. As of April 1, 2021, HSUS researchers were not able to obtain any inspection records from 2021 showing whether the issues were corrected. OH #CB001D64.

Andy E. Yoder / Backroad Kennel, Millersburg, Ohio: State inspectors found a dog with scabs and two others in need of care in September 2020; breeder has a history of injured dogs; issues stretch back to 2014 when USDA inspectors found a dog with an embedded collar and seven dead puppies (repeat offender). State records show that Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors tried to inspect Andy E. Yoder's Backroad Kennel in August 2020, but were not given access, which is concerning; state-licensed dog kennels are required to make facilities available for inspection during normal business hours, and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. When the ODA returned again in September 2020, they rated the kennel "compliant" even though several notable concerns were found, including: "a West Highland Terrier female # 223491 was in need of a grooming," "a Scottish Terrier # 93894 had scabs on skin and tips of ear," and "a [Shih] Tzu # 7944 that was found to be in need of a dental to be performed by a veterinarian." The inspector wrote that the licensee "corrected" the issues during the inspection, which doesn't seem plausible, although he may have applied some treatments or made some veterinary appointments during the inspection to avoid getting a non-compliant inspection.

The issues at Backroad Kennel are a concern because of a pattern of past issues with animal care. Backroad Kennel was in our prior Horrible Hundred reports in 2015 and 2016. Andy Yoder appeared in the 2015 report for a number of severe violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including seven dead puppies found on his property, and a dog with a severely embedded chain collar. In April 2015, the USDA issued an official citation and notice of penalty (\$7,714) to Yoder for the dog with the embedded collar and several other animals found in need of veterinary care. He was also cited for repeatedly failing to make his property available for inspection. Despite this warning, Yoder again failed to grant access to inspectors during an attempted inspection in November 2015. But Ohio state inspectors were able to access the property on Nov. 30, 2015, at which time they found a Scottish

terrier puppy with an obvious open wound on the top of the puppy's head; inspectors ordered the licensee to have the puppy treated by a vet.

Andy E. Yoder's USDA license (#31-A-0396) was cancelled in March 2016, and it is unknown if he is still state-licensed. But it appears that Yoder is linked to a new USDA license, #31-A-0569, which is at the same address. The new USDA license is under the name of Betty Yoder, Horizon Puppies. That facility had a 2019 violation for not giving access to inspectors. At its last USDA inspection in March 2020, the property had an astonishing 286 dogs, but no documented violations. As of May 2021, it appears the USDA has not visited in more than a year. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Jonathan J. Yoder, Millersburg, Ohio: Inspectors found an underweight nursing mother dog, unacceptable flooring; some dogs with questionable origins. On June 22, 2020, state inspectors attempted to perform an inspection at Jonathan Yoder's kennel, but no one appeared to give them access to the property. This was noted as a concern because it could indicate a licensee was avoiding an inspection; licensees are required to make their kennels available for inspection by Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors during reasonable business hours and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. When inspectors returned again the next day, they found that some of the dogs' flooring was not acceptable, and they also found a mother dog who was nursing puppies and who appeared to be underweight. Inspectors wrote, "female ending in microchip #2405 that is nursing has a 2/5 BCS that is consistent with the AAHA BCS chart." The AAHA chart [is a chart](#) created by the American Animal Hospital Association that rates body scores in dogs from emaciated to obese. A dog scored a 2 out of 5 would be described as follows, per the chart: "ribs easily palpated and may be visible with no palpable fat. Tops of lumbar vertebrae visible. Pelvic bones becoming prominent. Obvious waist."

State inspectors also noted that the "Facility records lacked how, where and when some adult dogs were obtained," which could indicate that some of the dogs came from other, possibly unlicensed breeders, and could make disease tracking difficult. The operation passed a follow-up inspection later in the month. It is not USDA licensed. OH #CB002BTW.

Joseph M. Yoder, Fredericksburg, Ohio: Failed two consecutive state inspections in December 2020; some dogs did not have clean, drinkable water; two dogs in need of dental treatment; excessive feces (repeat offender). State inspectors noted problems at Joseph M. Yoder's kennel at least three times during late 2020. In November 2020, they attempted to perform an inspection at the kennel, but no one appeared to give them access to the property. Missed inspections are a concern because they could indicate a licensee was avoiding an inspection; licensees are required to make their kennels available for inspection during reasonable business hours and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. When inspectors returned on Dec. 17, 2020, they found half a dozen non-compliances, including some dogs who did not have drinkable water: "the licensee had outside enclosures which did not offer access to clean potable water." Other issues included an "outdoor enclosure with a structure that did not allow six inches of space above the head of the tallest dog in a normal standing position," an "accumulation of waste under the outside sheltered runs," and two dogs who needed a dental to be performed by a veterinarian. The licensee moved to correct some of the issues during the inspection, and called his veterinarian to allegedly make appointments for the dentals. But when the state returned to re-inspect on Dec. 29, the dental issue still had not been corrected.

The issues at Joseph M. Yoder's facility are of particular concern because of his past history. He appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports (2018, 2019). As we noted in our 2019 report, in June 2018, Ohio state inspectors cited Joseph M. Yoder's kennel for a number of violations, including an accumulation of feces under the outside kennel runs; a dog pen with no housing structure in it to protect dog(s) inside it from the weather;

dirty whelping pens; “evidence of flies and mice” in the kennel; “opened food storage containers” with holes in them; multiple expired medications present; inadequate records on puppies; and puppy sale records that indicated “multiple puppies were sold under 8 weeks of age,” an apparent violation of state law. When state inspectors returned for a re-inspection about a week later, the cleaning and housekeeping issues had been corrected, but state inspectors still found incomplete records on the puppies, as well as an ongoing issue with possible underage puppy sales. OH #CB001QN. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Norman E. Yoder / Green Meadow Farm, Apple Creek, Ohio: State inspectors found multiple dogs with raw, reddened, open sores, and other veterinary concerns; breeder performed do-it-yourself dentals against veterinary advice (repeat offender). Even after Norman Yoder’s Green Meadow Farm appeared in our May 2020 Horrible Hundred report due to some dogs who were not getting adequate veterinary care, state inspectors found at least twelve more dogs in need of veterinary care or grooming in September 2020. These included three dogs with red, raw sores, a dog with an eye disorder, three matted dogs, and five dogs who had been identified as needing dental cleaning by a veterinarian, but on whom the licensee had performed do-it-yourself procedures instead. The latter is extremely concerning because it could indicate procedures may not have been performed safely or humanely, and there is no indication that dogs were given pain medication or antibiotics, since the ad hoc procedures were not performed by a professional according to state rules. The September state inspection also found a dam and her puppies on dangerous gridded flooring, in violation of the state’s rules.

Inspectors took photos of several of the issues, including the three dogs with “sores.” The sores were all on the dogs’ heads and were bright pink and red. In one case, a dog had two head “sores” that appeared very swollen, and another dog had a sore behind the ear that exposed a large patch of raw skin with crusting around the edges. The bright red open wounds were very easy to spot and should have been immediately identified and treated.

Issues that were noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report included violations in 2019 for short-haired breeds being housed outside without veterinary approval, excessive food waste and flies around the dogs’ enclosures, a sharp point in the housing that could injure dogs, lack of emergency and nutrition plans, multiple dogs in need of grooming, and a male poodle who “was found to have a sore on his paw that needs to be treated under veterinary guidance.” In addition, one female dog had an unspecified issue that the licensee was supposed to follow up with his veterinarian about, and that had not been done, among other concerns.

In addition to his state license, the breeder also holds a license with the USDA. USDA inspectors had visited the property in May 2019, but did not record any violations, and as of May 6, 2021, it appears USDA has not been back since. The breeder had more than 150 dogs at that time, USDA records show. OH #CB001D2C, USDA #31-A-0705. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

David J. Yutzy, Millersburg, Ohio: Several dogs had eye disorders—one had “protruding tissue in both eyes;” two others had watery or cloudy eyes; a fourth dog had “severe” dental issues; state inspectors found poor shelter and excessive feces. On Aug. 31, 2020, state inspectors attempted to perform an inspection at David Yutzy’s kennel, but no one appeared to give them access to the property. Missed inspections are a concern because they could indicate a licensee was avoiding inspectors; licensees are required to make their kennels available for inspection during reasonable business hours and interfering or refusing full access would be a violation of state law. When state inspectors returned on Sept. 10, they rated the kennel “non compliant” for 16 different violations, the state inspection report shows. The issues, many of which were photographed by state inspectors, included “fecal waste [that was] not being removed from in or under some of the enclosures on a daily basis,” and four different dogs with signs of poor health, including a male dachshund who “was found to

have “severe tartar/dental disease,” a female French bulldog with a “watery left eye,” a female cavalier with a “cloudy left eye,” and a male dachshund with “protruding tissue in both eyes.” In addition, there were some cages that were stacked or lacked a solid resting surface, which are not permissible under Ohio’s kennel law, and some outdoor enclosures that did not provide enough shelter for each dog and puppy to get out of the sun, wind or rain. OH #CB000D1N.

PENNSYLVANIA

Jesse Esch / Pennsupreme Puppies, New Providence, Pennsylvania: State issued citation in March 2021 for filthy conditions, including “a large build-up of mice excreta throughout the entire kennel” and some dogs on metal wire flooring. During a March 24, 2021, inspection, state inspectors issued a citation to Pennsupreme Puppies for several significant issues. Quotes from that report include: “Warden viewed multiple primary enclosures in the kennel that had an accumulation of excreta, hair, and dirt indicating the primary enclosures were not sanitized a minimum of once daily or more often as necessary to prevent an accumulation of debris or excreta or a disease hazard.” Also, “Warden viewed multiple primary enclosures in the kennel that had an accumulation of excreta, hair, and dirt indicating they were not removed at least daily or more often if necessary to prevent an accumulation.” The warden also noticed an accumulation of rodent feces: “Warden viewed a large build-up of mice excreta throughout the entire kennel facility indicating the kennel does not have an effective program to control pests.” The dog warden also noted that they “viewed a few primary enclosures which housed dogs that did not provide the minimum amount of floor space as required” and that some of the dogs were housed on metal strand flooring, which is not permissible under state law because it is uncomfortable and can be dangerous to the dogs. The warden also noted that some of the animals did not have access to an outside exercise area.

The facility was also issued a state citation in December 2020 for transferring at least seven dogs from out of the state without health certificates. The lack of health certificates is a concern because the certificate shows that a dog has been checked by a veterinarian, is old enough to legally sell, and shows no signs of infectious or communicable disease. The operation failed that inspection and a re-inspection was required. An inspection in April 2021 was compliant. PA #16521.

John Esch / Stoney Brook Kennel, Coatesville, Pennsylvania: State inspectors issued a citation in fall 2020 for matted dogs, ordered a veterinary check; kennel has been ordered at least 11 times to get veterinary checks on dogs since 2010; multiple warnings and citations stretch back to 2006 (repeat offender). During a September 2020 visit, state inspectors ordered a veterinary check on an unspecified number of dogs at Stoney Brook Kennel, noting, “If a dog exhibits signs of poor health, the kennel owner shall have proof of adequate veterinary care for the dog.” The owner was required to have the dog(s) checked by a veterinarian within 72 hours, and complied. During the same inspection, the operation was found with matted dogs and was directed to have them “groomed immediately.” A citation was issued for the violations.

Although the kennel passed two subsequent inspections, most recently in March 2021, the kennel’s history is of concern because it had recurring violations for many years — in fact, the order to have at least one dog checked by a vet was at least the 11th such order within a decade; between June 2010 and September 2015 alone, Stoney Brook Kennel was instructed nine times to get veterinary attention for one or more dogs.

Stoney Brook Kennel was also cited in August 2017 for issues related to veterinary care, failure to control extreme temperatures, excessive feces and poor housing. Prior to that inspection, the kennel appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report due to multiple citations, verbal warnings and written warnings from the state going back to at least 2006. As we noted in the 2016 report, Stoney Brook Kennel was repeatedly cited and warned for issues such as dogs in need of veterinary care, unsanitary conditions and inadequate housing. Even

after that report was published, in December 2016, the kennel received yet another verbal and written warning for a records issue and some dogs who didn't have access to an adequate exercise area. A prior written and verbal warning was issued in September 2015 when an inspector found animals in need of veterinary attention, rusty cages, and inadequate repair and maintenance of the kennels. The kennel was also cited repeatedly for failing to properly vaccinate dogs for rabies, and for poor air quality. In 2007, the kennel received a warning for dogs with frozen water and not enough protection from the cold; in 2006, the kennel failed inspection in the areas of cleanliness, excreta, sanitation, shade, bedding and housekeeping/pests. PA #01734. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Benual Fisher / Walnut Run, Strasburg, Pennsylvania: State issued two recent warnings, one for dogs in poor health; kennel had other warnings in prior years; repeated issues with air quality control (repeat offender).

In October 2020, the state issued a warning to Walnut Run kennel for “dogs observed during inspection which showed signs of poor health.” The owner was ordered to have an unspecified number of dogs examined by a veterinarian within 72 hours. The kennel had received another warning in July 2020 for air quality issues. Although the kennel passed a re-inspection in December 2020, the fact that it had two warnings within one year is cause for concern because of a history of other problems at the kennel. Walnut Run has appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports (2018 and 2017) for similar problems.

Even after it was first listed in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report due to failing several state inspections in 2016, Walnut Run was cited again in January 2018 for multiple problems, and the state issued a verbal and written warning. The issues found in 2018 included: excessive feces, dirty feeders and a nonfunctional ventilation system, resulting in unacceptable air quality. As we noted in our prior report (2017), in October 2016, the kennel received a citation for many issues, including dirty conditions, excessive feces, a repeated problem with puppies missing from the kennel who were not accounted for in the paperwork and inadequate veterinary records on the dogs. An April 2016 warning also involved dogs who were missing from the kennel with no explanation for what had happened to them, and other records violations (April 2016). In December 2016, the state issued yet another warning due to a lack of adequate housing and exercise conditions at Walnut Run. Some inspections have been compliant; the kennel passed a re-inspection in December 2020. PA #14644. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Levi Kauffman / Hill Top Farm Kennel, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Recurring issues with inadequate veterinary care; kennel has received at least 12 state warnings or citations since 2010; vet checks have been ordered at least 10 times over a decade; HSUS received complaint about a puppy who died (repeat offender). In December 2020, state inspectors issued a citation to Hill Top Farm Kennel for not having the required veterinary examination records on dogs. A “vet check” was also ordered on an unspecified number of dogs at the kennel in July 2020.

In addition to concerns found by state inspectors, the HSUS received a complaint from a buyer in March 2021 about a puppy purchased at Hill Top Farm Kennel who died of parvovirus just a few days after purchase. The puppy had been advertised through a third-party website, LancasterPuppies.com, which HSUS has repeatedly linked to questionable breeders.

The kennel has appeared in four of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for similar issues — issues that stretch back a decade or more. As we noted in last year's report, in February 2020, Hill Top Farm Kennel received a verbal and written warning from the state for issues with housekeeping, maintenance, health certificates and exercise areas. In addition, the state issued a cease and desist order in February 2020 for operating without a current license, state records show. During the inspection, wardens notified the kennel owner, “This will be the

last and only warning” for a failure to certify, as required by law, that dogs brought into the kennel were free of disease. The inspection report stated that it was a violation of the law to transport dogs into the commonwealth without a health certificate, stating that the certificates, signed by a licensed veterinarian, are required to ensure that dogs entering the kennel are at least eight weeks of age and are free of infectious or communicable disease.

Altogether, Hill Top Farm Kennel has received at least 12 warnings or citations from the state since 2010. In addition, vet checks were ordered at least 10 times on dogs between 2010 and 2020. Other issues included a January 2016 citation for “Interference with Officer” after “the owner’s son ran ahead of wardens to turn on fan(s) in the kennel building, impeding the warden’s ability to inspect the kennel as is.” This violation was particularly problematic because the kennel had been warned at a previous inspection about not running the required fans, thus depriving the dogs of adequate air circulation.

Hill Top Farm Kennel was also the subject of a cruelty referral in September 2012, when dog wardens “observed two dogs in the kennel that exhibited signs of poor health.” Issues at the kennel go back at least as far as January 2010, when wardens found dogs, including a mother dog with puppies, in a barn with broken windows and no heat when the temperature was only 28 degrees, according to state records. During the same inspection, a newborn puppy was found “screaming in pain, with a limp back leg” and fresh blood on the floor. The inspector wrote, “kennel [owner] thought maybe puppy with injured leg had been stepped on and that a bitch had miscarried that morning, this warden observed both dogs to be in need of immediate veterinarian care.” The puppy later died, according to the inspection report. PA #04370. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Crist Lapp / Meadow View Kennel, Ronks, Pennsylvania: State issued three citations over an 8-month period for multiple issues, including licensee lying to inspectors, keeping dogs in hot building that exceeded 85 degrees, unclean and cramped conditions, and excessive flies. In July 2020, state inspectors issued a citation to Meadow View Kennel for a number of issues, including “data logger readings that exceeded 85 degrees in the whelping building since the last inspection,” “an excessive build-up of excreta and dirt in multiple primary enclosures at the adult kennel indicating that they were not cleaned daily,” “excessive amounts of flies in some primary enclosures at the adult kennel,” “a wheelbarrow located along the outside exercise enclosures that occupied dogs that was filled with excreta and had an abundance of flies in and around it,” some kennels that were too small for the dogs, at least one dog that didn’t have access to an exercise area, incomplete records and other issues. During the inspection the warden noted that the operation had about 160 dogs on the premises. Unfortunately, the citation was one of several the kennel would receive, all within less than a year. When dog wardens returned in August 2020, they issued another citation for incomplete records, ordered a veterinary check for an unspecified number of dogs, and noted that, “The kennel owner made false statements to Wardens during this inspection.” The kennel then had two compliant inspections, one in September 2020 and one in December 2020. But when wardens inspected in February 2021, they issued a third citation after a “warden viewed records indicating the dogs in the kennel were not examined by a veterinarian at least once every 6 months as required.” In addition, another 72-hour vet check was ordered during the inspection for an unspecified number of dogs. The kennel had 159 dogs and puppies during the February 2021 inspection, state records show. A March 2021 state inspection was compliant.

The operation also has a USDA license, which means it can sell to pet stores and internet buyers all over the country. During a USDA inspection on March 11, 2020, Meadow View Kennel was cited for excessive clutter, and during an inspection in April 2017, the USDA found unsafe food storage and questionable transport records. As

of May 6, 2021, it appears the USDA has not visited the kennel in more than a year. PA #02385, USDA #23-A-0599.

Tina Schulties / Nicely's Allstar Poms, Ligonier, Pennsylvania: Failed June 2020 inspection for 13 "unsatisfactory" issues, including poor maintenance and housekeeping, pests and some dogs with no exercise area; had similar violations in prior years. Nicely's Allstar Poms failed a June 2020 inspection for at least 13 "unsatisfactory" issues, and many were similar to those inspectors had found at the facility in 2019 and 2018 as well. The issues included some kennels that were too small or not properly constructed, the presence of flies and cobwebs, and some dogs who didn't have access to an exercise area. There were about 72 dogs and puppies on the property at the time.

The operation failed many other state inspections for similar issues in 2018 and 2019. Other problems included lack of records or incomplete records, lack of proof of rabies vaccinations for some of the dogs, not enough light (which is an issue because it leaves dogs in dim conditions and makes it hard to observe them for wellness checks or cleaning), excessive flies, some dogs with "moderate to severe matting," some enclosures that were too small, safety issues, a lack of proof of veterinary exams, and a dog purchased from Ohio with no health certificate. The state issued citations to the kennel in December 2019 and in March and June 2018.

The facility did pass two inspections later in 2020, one in September and one in December, but the HSUS has concerns about the many issues found for three years in a row, and the kennel's repeated difficulties with staying in compliance. The facility has a CK5 license, which means it can sell up to 500 dogs per year. PA #03691.

Steven Stoltzfus / Sandy Hill Kennels, Parkesburg, Pennsylvania: Veterinarian and dog warden who inspected kennel made a cruelty referral in January 2021 due to matted and sickly dogs; some dogs were kept in 36degree temperatures without adequate protection from the cold. State issued citations in 2021 for many issues, including disrepair, excessive feces, unsafe conditions and more. Following a January 2021 state inspection, the dog warden and the veterinarian who performed the inspection made a cruelty referral to the Pennsylvania SPCA regarding Sandy Hill Kennels, state records show. The state kennel inspection report noted, "This Warden and Veterinarian observed several dogs in the small kennel building which were matted and in general poor health. A cruelty referral was made to the Pennsylvania SPCA for these dogs." No additional specific details about the health conditions were noted in the report.

Many other problems were documented during the January 2021 inspection, including dirty and unsafe conditions, some animal housing that was too small, or rusty, some animals kept on uncoated wire floors, water buckets that were dirty, an "accumulation of excreta in multiple primary enclosures" that dogs were living in, and "an extremely large build-up of excreta under all outside exercise areas in the small kennel building." In addition, one of the kennel buildings had "temperature readings of 36 degrees which is 14 degrees lower than the minimum required by statute," meaning dogs were exposed to cold daytime temperatures that were likely much colder at night. Many other violations were also noted during the inspection. There were more than 100 dogs and puppies on site at the time.

Significant problems were found in September 2020 as well, when the state issued another citation to the kennel for "multiple water bowls throughout the kennel facility that had non-potable green water from algae growth indicating they have not been cleaned." Dirty water or water bowls could lead to illness in the dogs.

The kennel passed one follow-up inspection in February 2021, but HSUS has concerns about its ability to maintain compliance given the many issues found in January 2021 and the citation in September 2020. There

were no records immediately available on the outcome of the cruelty referral at the time of this report. PA #01723.

Bobbie Yoder / Little Mountain Doodles, Myerstown, Pennsylvania: Cited for sale of underage puppy in 2020; three warnings or citations from the state since 2018 related to dealing dogs without appropriate records.

In October, the state issued a citation to Little Mountain Doodles for not keeping adequate records on some of their puppies, and for selling at least one underage puppy who was less than 8 weeks old. The issue is a concern because it was at least the third warning or citation from the state since 2018. In March 2019, the kennel received a warning for not possessing complete records for dogs who had been transferred in and out of the kennel, not using state forms for records, and incomplete and/or lack of bills of sale. The records issue had been cited at a November 2018 inspection as well. The reason why repeated paperwork violations are a concern is because it could indicate the kennel is buying, and potentially re-selling, puppies from other, possibly unlicensed, breeders who haven't been regulated or inspected, and buyers of the puppies might not know exactly where their puppies were born and raised. Failing to keep accurate records on dogs moving in and out of the kennel could also pose a risk in tracking infectious disease outbreaks.

In addition, the operation's website admits that [they ship](#) some of their puppies by air. Commercial breeders who ship puppies to buyers without meeting them in person require a USDA license. A review of the USDA's license list on May 3, 2021, could find no breeders listed under the name Little Mountain Doodles nor any licensed dog breeders by the name of Yoder in Myerstown, Pennsylvania. The operation advertises puppies online on [its website](#), [littlemountaindoodles.com](#). PA #16267.

TENNESSEE

Rebecca Vanmeter / Queen Elizabeth Pocket Beagles and Bears, Collegedale / McDonald, Tennessee: Previously raided seller appears to be offering puppies for sale online without a USDA license; complaints of poor conditions. (repeat offender). Queen Elizabeth Pocket Beagles was in our Horrible Hundred report in 2015 after 200 animals were removed from [squalid conditions](#) by local authorities in 2014, with assistance from the HSUS and other groups. The seized animals suffered from a number of medical issues, including mange, staph infections and blindness. Vanmeter was [arrested](#) and charged with cruelty to animals. The final outcome of that case was unknown at the time of this report. Unfortunately, local authorities did not completely close down the operation, and the HSUS continues to receive credible firsthand complaints about the operation from individuals who witnessed troubling conditions within the last year.

The HSUS has repeatedly reported the operation to the USDA for apparently selling puppies online, sight-unseen without a license. The operator appears to be taking questionable advantage of a vast loophole in the law by stating that puppies sold online are "service dogs" or animals used as part of a special breeding program, which would exempt the operation from needing a license, even though the website is clearly targeted toward general pet buyers and there is no indication that the "service dogs" receive any special training. The [website](#) claims shipped dogs will be "potential breeding prospects" or "therapy puppies and service dogs." Due to these dubious claims and the lack of a state law to regulate commercial kennels, Queen Elizabeth Pocket Beagles has no federal or state oversight despite its history of poor animal care. As of May 3, 2021, a review of the USDA's online database found no USDA licensed breeders or dealers in Collegedale, Tennessee, or McDonald, Tennessee, nor any USDA-licensed breeders under the name Vanmeter or the business name Queen Elizabeth Pocket Beagles and Bears. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

TEXAS

Vickie McKown/ Maltese Acres, Avery, Texas: Unlicensed operation appears to be shipping puppies without the required USDA license; witness claimed some dogs had tumors, eye and/ or dental disease. The HSUS has received a complaint about the condition of dogs at Maltese Acres and photographs of dogs in poor condition. On its [website](#), Maltese Acres claims to be a “small, home-based Maltese breeding program,” but a witness told HSUS there are large numbers of dogs on the property, some of them appearing to be in poor health. On its website, the operation [offers to ship](#) puppies to buyers by airline for an additional fee of \$300. A review of the USDA website on May 3, 2021, showed no current license under the name “Maltese Acres” or under the owner’s name in Avery, Texas. Dog breeders with more than four breeding females who ship puppies online to people they haven’t met, or sell to brokers or to pet stores, are required to have a license under the federal Animal Welfare Act. The HSUS has reported the operation to the USDA for potential investigation. TX #290.

WISCONSIN

Amos Allgyer / Pawfect Paws, Platteville, Wisconsin: Dog dealer was sued and fined by the state for failing to provide veterinary care to sick puppies with parvovirus and transporting a sick puppy; despite significant issues uncovered by state inspectors, USDA has not inspected since 2019; dealer sold to multiple pet stores, including a Petland store. State inspectors looked into Pawfect Paws repeatedly in 2020 after receiving two complaints about sick puppies who were traced back to the kennel. After admitting to transporting sick puppies, and failing to provide proper veterinary care, Allgyer was taken to court and fined in May, but even after paying his fine in June 2020, he failed another inspection in August 2020 and received a warning from the state for numerous violations.

State inspectors first investigated Allgyer in March 2020 after receiving two complaints about sick puppies. One buyer had complained that her puppy from Pawfect Paws had tested positive for parvovirus, and reported concerns about the health of at least one other puppy they had seen on the property. Another person had acquired a sick puppy from a different dealer by the name of Jacob Glick, who in turn had received the puppy from Pawfect Paws. When the inspectors visited, Allgyer admitted that two litters he had purchased around the same time from other breeders both had parvovirus. One litter was from licensed breeder Jacob Glick and the other was from an unlicensed breeder named Jonas Fisher. Allgyer did not have Fisher’s address listed in his records and stated he did not know it, which is a significant concern because it could indicate the broker is laundering puppies from unlicensed facilities.

During the March visit, Allgyer admitted that at least one of the sick puppies died in his care. A few of them were sold out of state, and he returned some of the puppies to Glick and Fisher because they were sick. The puppies apparently were not taken to a veterinarian and were simply passed off from person to person. Allgyer admitted to inspectors that the puppies he returned to Fisher most likely died. Inspectors noted violations at the March inspection for “dog care; general” and “diseased animals” for transporting the sick puppies. There were also records violations for a variety of issues.

The agency took Allgyer to court in May 2020 and fined him for failing to provide proper veterinary care and for transporting a diseased animal (apparently a single count related to the multiple puppies). Regarding the charges, inspectors wrote that they “investigated a complaint against a licensed dog seller, Jacob Glick, who gave away a puppy that was later diagnosed with parvo. After investigating the complaint, it was discovered that the puppy had originally come from Amos Allgyer’s dog kennel. [...] Allgyer admitted to returning (transporting) the

puppies back to the seller once they were diagnosed with Parvo. It was also discovered that Allgyer failed to provide veterinary care to the puppies returned to the original seller.” Essentially, sick puppies had passed back and forth between Allgyer and Glick, neither of whom provided adequate veterinary care. Parvovirus is a highly contagious disease that can be deadly to puppies and it is likely that the puppies in question did not survive. Allgyer eventually paid a fine of \$664.50 for the violations (6/9/2020).

But even after it was cited and fined earlier in the year, Pawfect Paws still had several violations when it was inspected again on Aug. 26, 2020, state records show. Violations were related to a lack of veterinary records on dogs as well as some dogs who did not have enough space, and other issues. In August 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection gave Amos Allgyer an official warning notice due to the violations.

The reason the records violations are of concern is because moving puppies without accurate records makes deadly diseases difficult to track down, and missing veterinary records often mean the animal in question may not have received any treatment at all. Puppies from unlicensed breeders can easily be laundered by selling them through licensed dealers, who then present the puppies to pet stores under their own license numbers even if the dog may not have come from a licensed facility. Since Allgyer is also USDA-licensed to sell to pet stores all over the country, trading puppies who were known to have a deadly disease, and who may have come from unlicensed breeders, puts other animals who come into contact with them at risk, not only at the dealer’s facility, but when puppies are mingled with those of other breeders during transport and in retail stores.

Inspection records show that some of Allgyer’s puppies were transported through an Iowa transporter called Hakuna Matata transport (owned by formerly- shut down breeder-turned-transporter, Debra Pratt, who appeared in a prior Horrible Hundred report). At least two of the puppies from the diseased litter were shipped via Hakuna Matata to a pet store in Miami called Nussy’s. The fact that sick puppies went from Glick to Allgyer, and then through Hakuna Matata to a Florida pet store, passing through numerous states along the way, illustrates the convoluted pipeline that sick puppies often travel on their way to pet stores. Along the way, they often infect many other puppies, while suffering without veterinary treatment.

Despite the serious problems found repeatedly in 2020 by state investigators, the USDA has not cited Pawfect Paws for any recent violations, nor has it inspected Allgyer at all since 2019. This means that Pawfect Paws has a spotless record with USDA and can continue to sell to pet stores all over the country. Shipping records studied by HSUS indicate that in 2020, Allgyer sold puppies to a Petland store in Ft. Myers, Florida, and at least one other Florida store, and between 2018-2021, he sold puppies to at least five pet stores in New York. WI #467683-DS, USDA #35-B-0219.

METHODOLOGY

It is not possible to list all of the problematic puppy mills in the country in a single report. Due to the patchwork of laws across the U.S., spotty enforcement, and 2020-2021 COVID-19 restrictions in many areas, many puppy mills are not licensed or regulated, and very little information on them is available to the public. We selected the facilities listed in this report to demonstrate common problems and conditions at puppy mills and puppy mill transporters/brokers across the United States. The sellers listed in this year’s report were selected based upon a number of factors, which included, but were not limited to:

- The availability of state kennel inspection reports showing violations, or related documents received via public records requests.

- The availability of federal (USDA) kennel inspection reports showing violations, “teachable moments” or related documents received via public records requests.
- Federal, state or county warnings or fines, if available.
- The quantity of violations found on state or federal inspection reports and/or the severity of violations, especially those affecting animal safety and health, and how recently the violations occurred.
- Whether a seller appears to be providing misleading or potentially fraudulent information to puppy buyers.
- Whether a facility’s violations or other issues seemed newsworthy and of interest to the public.
- Whether the dealer was listed in one of the HSUS’s prior reports and has continued to accumulate violations since then.
- The availability of consumer complaints, investigation reports, photographs or news articles, or undercover photographs and video taken by HSUS investigators; and
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business or in possession of an active license at the time of publication.

The large number of listings in certain states in this report is at least partly due to the greater availability of records in some states. Some states that do not inspect puppy mills at all, or that suspended their inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have scant information available.

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 information or space, not necessarily a lack of significant problems. Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation or litigation.

Some brokers (re-sellers) and transporters were included because many brokers are also breeders or support the industry by buying from puppy mills.

Throughout the report, the notation “**Repeat Offender**” means that the facility or operator has appeared in one or more prior HSUS puppy mills reports, including Missouri’s Dirty Dozen (2010); Update Report: Missouri’s Dirty Dozen (2011), The Horrible Hundred (2013, 2015, 2016 2017, 2018, 2019 and/or 2020) and/or 101 Puppy Mills (2014).

DEFINITION OF A PUPPY MILL

A [puppy mill](#) is a dog breeding operation, offering dogs for monetary compensation, in which the physical, psychological and/or behavioral needs of all or some of the dogs are not being consistently fulfilled due to inadequate housing, shelter, staffing, nutrition, socialization, sanitation, exercise, veterinary care and/or inappropriate breeding.

BUYER BEWARE

Individuals who have purchased a sick puppy whom they believe may have come from a puppy mill may file a report with the USDA using their [online form](#) and to the Humane Society of the United States at humanesociety.org/puppycomplaint. Buyers of sick puppies may also consider filing a complaint with the breeder’s state department of agriculture and/or their state attorney general or consumer protection division.

Potential puppy buyers who witness suspected animal cruelty at a dog breeding operation should report it to the breeder’s local animal control agency or local humane organization. If no such agency exists, report details to the local police or sheriff’s department. For additional help, submit a complaint with HSUS at humanesociety.org/reportapuppymill.