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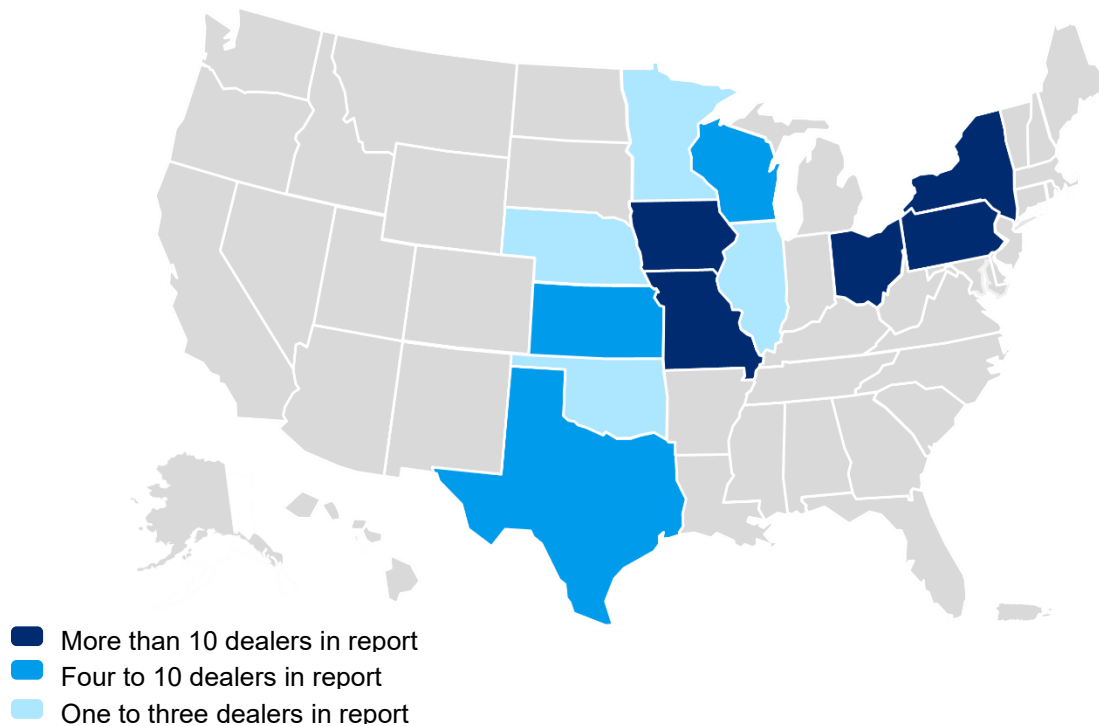
Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States

The Horrible Hundred 2025

100 problem puppy mills and puppy sellers in the United States

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Summary of the 2025 Horrible Hundred report

Humane World for Animals (formerly called the Humane Society of the United States) publishes the Horrible Hundred report annually to warn consumers about common problems at puppy mills, and to promote enhanced laws and stronger humane law enforcement. A puppy mill is an inhumane breeding facility where puppies are churned out for the pet trade. Dogs in puppy mills often live continually in cages with little regard for their health or quality of life.

The 2025 Horrible Hundred report lists 100 problem puppy mill breeders and dealers in the United States. Documented conditions in this report include puppy mills with injured, sickly or emaciated dogs or puppies; animals exposed to extreme heat or cold; dogs kept in dangerous, dirty or cramped conditions; and facilities that did not prevent and treat potential disease outbreaks, among other concerns.

Key findings and broader context:

- **For the 13th year in a row, Missouri has the highest number of dealers in the report**, with 26 operations listed. Missouri is followed this year by Ohio (16), Iowa (12), and New York and Pennsylvania (11 each).
- **More than half of the breeders in this report are USDA licensed**, which means they can legally sell large numbers of puppies to pet stores and online to consumers they haven't met in person.
- **At least 30 of the dealers in this report are linked to the American Kennel Club (AKC)**, a dog registry organization. Motivated by the fees it receives for every registered puppy, the AKC routinely opposes humane laws that would help curb puppy mill cruelty. Some of this year's Horrible Hundred breeders advertise openly on the AKC's official AKC Marketplace website.
- **Thirty-eight of the breeders in the report are repeat offenders** who have been included in one or more of our 12 prior reports. Humane World for Animals urges enforcement authorities to look closely at these dealers.
- **At least 25 of the dealers in this year's report have sold to Petland or to its affiliated pet stores**, Safari Stan's Pet Center and PetCenter NJ (also called PetCenter Old Bridge), or have been listed on Petland's website as one of their breeders. Petland is the only national chain of pet stores left in the United States that still sells puppies.

As described in more detail in our Methodology section, some states are under-represented in this report. This does not mean that there are not problem puppy mills in those states. It means they either do not inspect commercial dog breeders, have chosen not to enforce their laws, or have failed to respond to public records requests in a timely manner.

Some prior Horrible Hundred dealers have closed or were taken to court or fined.

Since our 2024 report was published, at least a dozen puppy mills that appeared in prior reports have closed or were significantly penalized. Some of them closed voluntarily, while some had their licenses permanently revoked. Hundreds of dogs were rescued from operations that closed or faced enforcement action.



A dog at Ellen Roberts' facility in Missouri; Roberts' facility appears in this report for the tenth time. Photo by USDA, 2023.

After our last report was published in April 2024, the USDA revoked the licenses of at least four puppy mill dealers who have been in multiple reports in the past: Elisa Brandvik in Arkansas, Joyce Cairns/Unicorn Kennel in Kansas, Cory Mincey/Puppy Love Kennel in Missouri, and Mary Moore/D&M Kennel in Kansas. In Oklahoma, the USDA continued legal action against Angela Weaver, who violated the Animal Welfare Act again and again; Weaver's federal license is now cancelled, but as of February 2025, it appears she is still licensed by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

Since we published our first Horrible Hundred report in 2013, at least 2,400 animals have been rescued from Horrible Hundred dealers who vastly downsized or shut down, and more than 250 puppy mills listed in the reports have closed. But while many puppy mills have closed, many others that have been in this report five, eight or even ten times remain in business despite recurring and egregious

animal care violations. Humane World for Animals urges authorities to take stronger action against repeat offenders and to enact tougher policies to prevent poor conditions from escalating into animal cruelty.

Humane World for Animals supports two federal bills that would improve the safety and conditions of dogs in commercial breeding operations: the Puppy Protection Act and the Better CARE for Animals Act. The Puppy Protection Act would improve care standards at USDA-licensed dog breeding operations, while the Better CARE Act would give the United States Department of Justice more tools to use along with USDA to step in and charge or shut down problematic USDA-licensed breeders.

The USDA is the only agency that has the authority to regulate dog breeders in any state under the Animal Welfare Act, but they only have that authority for breeders who have five or more breeding females and sell to pet stores, brokers or online, sight-unseen. USDA does not license or inspect breeders who only sell to the public in person, even if those breeders have hundreds of dogs. The Animal Welfare Act standards are minimal, and enforcement continues to be spotty, with the agency rarely shutting down problem breeders. An internal [audit](#) of the program's dog breeder oversight program released in February 2025 indicated that 80% of studied dog breeders with non-compliances did not fully correct concerns found during inspections. Recently-announced [cuts](#) in agency staffing could make matters worse.

In addition to the AWA, [some state](#) laws also apply to commercial breeders. In states that do inspect kennels, such as Missouri and Ohio, we have found that some puppy mills that had numerous state violations had not been cited for any USDA violations over the same time period, providing examples of conditions that are often overlooked by federal inspectors. On the other hand, many states, such as Oklahoma, have breeder laws that they rarely enforced, and many states have no breeder regulations at all, leaving thousands of dogs at large-scale breeding operations unseen and unprotected. States with no commercial breeder laws, or insufficient enforcement, often have fewer puppy mills in the report not because they're better for dogs, but because there are scant records available for review. Some states that do have commercial breeder laws, such as Wisconsin, failed to respond to our public records requests in time for this report, suggesting grave concerns about whether they are enforcing their laws to protect dogs.

The Horrible Hundred is not a list of the worst dog breeders in the country, since many breeders are never inspected, and documentation of their conditions may not be available. For more information on the violations and dealers in the report, readers can view documents in our [Airtable database](#), including recent inspection reports, court documents and/or photographs.

Our Methodology section [describes](#) how we select dealers for inclusion in the report, followed by how we define a puppy mill and other information.

The public can do its part to stop supporting puppy mills like the ones in this report by choosing adoption first when getting a pet, or by getting pets only from carefully screened breeders they meet in person at the location where the pets were raised.



A dog at Ratepa Kennels in Missouri. Photo by USDA, 2023.

Illinois

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Donna Frakes/Donna's Kennel, Roseville, Illinois: Dog had hair loss and conjunctivitis in both eyes; repeat violation for dogs and puppies in enclosures that were too small; breeder is linked to Petland. During two visits in late 2024, USDA found violations at Frakes' kennel. Issues found in December 2024 included a repeat violation for some dogs and puppies who were in enclosures that were too small for them, an issue that the licensee had already been cited for in October 2024. Problems found at the October inspection included a dog with conjunctivitis in both of her eyes as well as hair loss and reddened skin, and deficiencies in cleaning and parasite prevention. Frakes has been listed on Petland's website as one of their breeders. USDA #33-A-0590, IL #022-166.

Sam Gingerich/Brookview Kennels, Arcola, Illinois: Inspector found "hundreds of flies" all over the kennel and some puppies with no water at AKC breeder's facility; when given water the puppies "climbed on top of each other" trying to get to it. Sam Gingerich incurred multiple USDA violations at two inspections in the second half of 2024, and the USDA gave him an official warning in fall 2024. Violations included some puppies who were found without any water in August; when provided with water, they "climbed on top of each other trying to get water," followed by "continual drinking until the bucket was emptied," showing evidence of extreme thirst. USDA gave Gingerich a Direct violation for the lack of water. During the same visit, USDA noted "hundreds of flies" "all over the walls, windows and all surfaces within the kennel." Other recent violations included a failure to follow his own veterinary care plan, including leaving a dog with significant dental issues untreated for approximately eight months after his veterinarian had recommended treatment. USDA gave Gingerich an official warning in October. Gingerich has noted having AKC registered dogs online. USDA # 33-A-0617, IL #022-296.

Nelson (Matthew) Hochstetler/Treeline Farms aka Treeline Puppies, Arthur, Illinois: Breeder who sold to Petland stores received official warning from USDA after a shih tzu was found with seeping wounds; USDA allowed Nelson to drop his USDA license but then issued a new license at the same address. Nelson Hochstetler received an official warning from USDA in October 2024 for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The issue was noted at a September inspection, when inspectors saw a shih tzu with multiple seeping wounds on both back legs. The inspector saw "a green pus that came out of the wounds in multiple areas" that had a very pungent odor, and the dog pulled away when touched as if in pain. When questioned about the dog, the licensee admitted that the dog had been injured about two days earlier, but he had not taken the dog to a veterinarian or consulted his veterinarian about her wounds. In July 2024, inspectors found a dalmatian tethered in a kennel who could not reach his water due to the tether. Treeline Farms has sold puppies to at least four Petland stores and been listed on Petland's website as one of their breeders. As of early 2025, Nelson Hochstetler had cancelled his USDA license, but there is a new license at the same location for a person with the same last name, Matthew Hochstetler. Matthew is identified as Nelson's son on a Treeline Farms online profile,

and the primary contact for “Treeline Puppies” is under “Matthew” [on Puppies.com](#). Former USDA # 33-A-0580, new USDA # (under Matthew): 33-A-0635, IL #022-130.

Iowa

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Sherry and Steve Akers/Westwind Wheatens, Red Oak, Iowa: AKC inspected breeder failed consecutive state inspections; inspectors found limping dogs, matted dogs, and “nearly overwhelming” odor. In May and June 2024, Westwind Wheatens was rated non-compliant on two consecutive state inspection reports. Inspectors noted seeing two limping dogs, and issued violations for 17 heavily matted dogs, a “very strong and nearly overwhelming” odor of animal wastes, and many dogs and puppies who were missing vaccinations. The facility markets puppies [online](#), where it touts its affiliation with the American Kennel Club and claims to be AKC-inspected. As of April 2025, it does not appear to be USDA-licensed, a requirement for breeders who ship puppies to buyers sight-unseen. IA #10216.

Robin Demmer/Demmer Doodles, Bernard, Iowa: Failed state inspection for filthy conditions and dogs and puppies without proof of necessary vaccines. During a July 2024 inspection, state inspectors found four violations at Demmer Doodles. Issues included unsanitary conditions, with a build-up that the inspector estimated had not been sanitized for over two weeks. In addition, “most adult dogs in the facility” had expired vaccines, and records indicated some dogs and puppies also had no verified proof of vaccination, putting the kennel at risk for deadly disease outbreaks. Notes indicated the dealer obtained at least two litters of puppies from Wisconsin with no proof of vaccination. Importing puppies from other states for resale usually requires a USDA broker license; as of April 2025, there is no active USDA license in any category under the name of Demmer or in Bernard, Iowa. IA #11542.

Julie Krause/The Buttercream Ranch, Algona, Iowa: Sold 17 underage puppies and had no veterinary visit to the kennel in more than a year. Krause’s kennel has only been USDA-licensed since August 2023, but it already incurred five violations during its first 14 months as a licensed kennel. The October 2024 violations included selling 17 puppies before they were 8 weeks old, enclosures that needed maintenance, some dogs with no medical records, and no visit from the attending veterinarian in more than a year. Krause also holds a state license, but state records indicate she has not been inspected since at least 2022. Two visits by the state to inspect the kennel in 2023 were “attempted,” indicating no one was let in to view the dogs. A USDA inspection in January 2025 rated the kennel compliant. USDA #42-A-1717, IA #11034.

Steve Kruse/Stonehenge Kennel, West Point, Iowa: USDA inspectors found food bowls smeared with feces or buildup of “brown organic material” at massive puppy mill where 199 dogs were previously euthanized.

Even after it appeared in seven prior Horrible Hundred reports for issues with sick and injured dogs, and was previously suspended at least twice, in August 2024 USDA inspectors again found Stonehenge Kennel to be in violation, proving the kennel’s apparent inability to remain in compliance with USDA’s basic standards. The inspectors noted that four food bowls were smeared with “dried feces or a thick buildup of dark brown organic material” inside the bowls. The kennel has a history of recurring violations since at least 2015. Over the years, more than 140 sick or ailing dogs have been found at the kennel, including limping, injured and bleeding dogs. Kruse received a 21-day suspension from the USDA in March 2023, but records show the USDA continued to find more ailing dogs even during the suspension period. In addition to the USDA violations, state inspectors also found violations in 2023 for issues such as a strong odor and unsanitary conditions. As noted in a prior report, at least 199 dogs were euthanized at the facility in 2021, after Kruse exchanged dogs with a notorious puppy mill operator, Daniel Gingerich, whose license was revoked that same year. Kruse had also had a previous suspension for throwing a bag containing two dead puppies at a USDA inspector. USDA #42-B-0182, IA #4576. **REPEAT OFFENDER; EIGHTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**



Above: Ailing dogs at Stonehenge Kennel in Iowa. Photos by USDA, 2023.

Brian Lichirie, West Point, Iowa: B dealer linked to Steve Kruse in lawsuit had “focused inspection” to check on four dogs for unknown reasons; massive dealer has over 300 dogs and sold to Petland.

Brian Lichirie is a USDA Class B dealer, which means he is licensed to re-sell dogs bred by himself or by others to pet stores and other outlets. Lichirie is believed to be closely linked to repeat offender Steve Kruse/Stonehenge Kennel and his other associate, Wuanita Swedlund. These associations were alluded to [in a lawsuit](#) filed by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in 2024 that accuses the USDA of allowing dealers such as Kruse, who has had a notorious history of violations and at least two license suspensions, to “launder” dogs through other dealers, such as Lichirie, whose address has been linked to Steve Kruse. As of February 2025, the USDA was [seeking dismissal](#) of the lawsuit on the basis of standing. Although Lichirie’s USDA records online list no specific violations, a “focused” USDA inspection report dated May 30, 2024, indicates that the USDA performed a special inspection to re-check four dogs for unknown reasons. This indicates that USDA may have

investigated a concern and redacted the record of the potential violation, possibly due to the ongoing lawsuit. USDA's public posting of only Lichirie's compliant inspection reports and not the report that presumably required the focused recheck appears misleading. A February 2025 USDA inspection report on Lichirie shows he had over 300 animals; there were no violations noted on that report. Lichirie sold to at least one Petland store. USDA #42-B-0317, IA #9080.

Heath "Rex" Meyers/Century Farm Puppies, Grundy Center, Iowa: Received official warning in 2025 for Direct and repeat violations; one dog had an oozing wound, another had blood in her mouth, and a third dog was injured from toes stuck in "Tenderfoot" flooring.



Stacked cages at Heath Meyers's kennel, Century Farm Puppies, in Iowa. Photos by USDA, 2023.

received an official warning from USDA in March 2025 after incurring a variety of violations in 2023 and 2024. Some of Meyers' recent USDA violations included a January 2025 violation for rodent feces "around and under unopened dry dog food bags" which could "create a disease hazard to the animals." In 2024, USDA inspectors found repeat or Direct violations at Century Farm Puppies during at least three visits. In spring 2024, USDA noted a Direct violation for two dogs needing veterinary care; one had a 5-inch long wound on her side and a 2-inch wound on her neck; she had not been treated by a veterinarian. The other dog was in such poor dental health that blood was visible in her mouth and she was "reacting painfully." In addition, some dogs had no water, and Meyers received a repeat violation for unsanitary conditions. In October 2024, a female bichon was found with two of her toes stuck in the kennel flooring. After being freed, she had a visible abrasion and was limping. The flooring was described as "Tenderfoot" flooring, a plastic-coated material with diamond-shaped openings. The breeder received a Direct violation once again. USDA #42-A-1672, IA #8739. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Beverly and Douglas Prier/Rocky Valley Shelties and Douglas's Shepherds & Doods, Dyersville, Iowa: AKC-linked kennel had dirty and dangerous conditions and lacked veterinary records.

During an inspection in June 2024, state inspectors found multiple violations at Rocky Valley Shelties. The issues included parts of the kennel that were unsanitary, had sharp areas that could hurt the dogs, or were in need of repair, and a lack of available records to prove that veterinary care had been provided. The licensee was also unable to prove adequate tracking of the dogs bought and sold. The facility advertises dogs for sale [online](#) and on [social media](#), where the breeders claim to raise AKC puppies. IA #12041.

Terisa Steiber/Rockytopp Kennel, LLC, aka Rockytopp Kennels, Lansing, Iowa: Inspectors found unsanitary conditions and 72 dogs without recent veterinary exams at breeder linked to Petland.

USDA inspectors who visited Rockytopp Kennel in August 2024 found five violations. No veterinarian had visited the kennel in about 17 months, at least 72 dogs did not have up-to-date examinations, at least 25 dogs were overdue for rabies vaccinations, and conditions were unsanitary, with dirty walls and feeding receptacles. Streiber had a compliant inspection in September, but when inspectors tried to visit again in December 2024, there was no access to the facility, and a licensee stated on the phone that they were not available for inspection, which is a violation. The breeder had a compliant USDA inspection in February 2025. Steiber has been listed on Petland's website as one of their breeders. USDA #42-A-1692, IA #8845.

Wuanita Swedlund, Farmington, Iowa: Dealer who downsized and moved after multiple puppies died in her care had new violations at new location. In December 2024, USDA inspectors found a number of concerns at Swedlund's relocated breeding operation, including a heavily matted dog, several dogs with no water, and an enclosure that was "heavily contaminated with fecal material," with feces flattened and smeared across the floor. Earlier last year, Swedlund's egregious violations were mentioned in an American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [lawsuit](#) after [six puppies had died](#) in the cold and she was not fined or penalized. The legal complaint mentioned Swedlund's links to Steve Kruse, a repeat offender who appeared in seven previous Horrible Hundred reports and has been found with more than 140 ailing or injured dogs at prior inspections. Past violations at Swedlund's kennel included puppies who died in the cold and injured, limping dogs. In one case, a dog in one enclosure had been able to access a neighboring enclosure and partially ate a puppy; the puppy lost his leg and was so severely injured that he had to be euthanized. On another occasion, a puppy went missing, and after a bone was found, it was assumed that the mother ate the puppy. A state inspector also noted in December



A dog at Wuanita Swedlund's facility in Iowa, which has been linked to Steve Kruse's Stonehenge Kennel.
Photo by USDA, 2024

2023 that “Dogs are regularly transported between this facility and AW 4576 [Steve Kruse’s license number] without documentation.” Swedlund received an official warning from the USDA in January 2024, but violations continued. USDA #42-B-0340, former IA #12343. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Rhonda Van Der Zwaag/Van der Zwaag German Shepherds, Hull, Iowa: AKC breeder failed state inspection for lack of veterinary oversight. In July 2024, Van der Zwaag failed a state inspection due to not having proof that a veterinarian had visited the facility since September 2022. Two prior visits that summer to perform the annual inspection had resulted in no access. The violations were concerning due to the history of the facility; in 2022, state inspectors had found that multiple puppies had died of parvovirus and other causes, highlighting the need for regular veterinary oversight at the property. Despite that history, as of August 2024, the kennel still advertised Van der Zwaag puppies on the American Kennel Club’s AKC Marketplace website and on its own website. In February 2025, the AKC Marketplace website ads were no longer active, but the kennel’s own website still had puppies listed; some of the puppies were visibly dirty. IA #11828. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Ruthi Wheatley/Wheatley Kennels, Adair, Iowa: Kennel owner refused an inspection after not fixing former issues; some dogs were in a run that was “90 to 95 percent covered in feces and urine.” A state inspector who visited Wheatley Kennels on January 8, 2025, noted that “the owner refused inspection [because] non-compliant issues from October 2024 have [not] been fixed,” adding, “I talked with the owner and gave them a two week plan to move the dogs to a new facility on the property since they are unable to bring the current facility into compliance.” Despite not being shown around the kennel, the inspector noted that “While parking my car in the drive and going to the residence I observed one dog run approximately 20 feet by 20 feet with two small dogs that was 90 to 95 percent covered in feces and urine. I told the owner what I saw in the run and she stated that [it] has not been cleaned [due] to the weather and other ongoing projects at the farm. We discussed the lack of ability to bring the facility into compliance and the options for housing areas on the property. The owners have another facility licensed as a commercial kennel on the property they are moving the commercial breeding dogs into and suspending the boarding activity to make room for the breeding animals.” A follow-up inspection later in January 2025 was compliant. IA #4277.

Terry Yoder/BR's Dobermans, Riverside, Iowa: Seventeen dogs dead, 49 dogs seized from repeat offender after breeder was rated “compliant” at state inspection two months earlier. Local news station KWWL.com reported in March 2025 that 17 dead dogs were found on the property of repeat offender, BR’s Dobermans, and 49 were seized, many of whom were in poor health, after someone reported acquiring two sickly dogs from the kennel. The horrific and heartbreaking incident revealed how misleading a “compliant” inspection report can be at facilities with a history of problems; the kennel had received a compliant inspection approximately two months before the dead and ailing dogs were found. Prior to the January 2025 compliant inspection, however, between summer 2024 and winter 2025, BR’s Dobermans had dodged three different state inspection attempts, leaving officials unable to check on the dogs or conditions. When inspectors did gain access during an August 2024 inspection, they found a puppy lacking a rabies vaccine, who had apparently been imported from Ohio without a certificate of veterinary inspection, but did not note any other issues. It appears that a state inspector allowed Terry Yoder to obtain the veterinary inspection certificate for the Ohio dog retroactively, even though the document is supposed to travel with the animal to prove that the animal is healthy enough for transport. There was a history of poor care at the facility. As we documented in our prior report, issues found in

early 2024 included excessive trash and clutter, mouse feces “present on all surfaces throughout the facility,” enclosures “coated in dirt, hair, feces and grime,” bad odors and more. And even though the late January 2025 inspection was compliant, photographs on the [BR’s Dobermans website](#) depicted questionable conditions.

The dogs seized in March are being cared for by local shelters pending a court case, and Yoder has been ordered to pay \$35,000 for their care, according to an April 2025 Iowa City Press-Citizen [news story](#). As of April 9, 2025, the facility still had an active state license. Additional hearings were planned, according to the article. IA #11955. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Kansas

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Gayle Baker/ Chapman Creek Kennel, Minneapolis, Kansas: USDA found a dog with a hairless lesion, and others lacking adequate proof of veterinary care at “professional dog show breeder” who sold to Petland. During an August 2024 USDA inspection, Baker was found with four violations for issues related to improper veterinary care. One dog had a lesion that had not been examined by a veterinarian, and others were not under an acceptable program for preventing blood parasites and other issues. Baker’s USDA license was cancelled in January 2025, but according to the most recent state license list available, it appears that her state license is still active, which means she can no longer sell sight-unseen via pet stores or online, but can still sell directly face-to-face. Baker appears to have an active website at [gaylebaker.org](#), where she promotes herself as a “professional dog show breeder.” Before dropping her USDA license, Baker sold to Petland, the only national chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. Former USDA #48-A-1989. KS #CB000BBA.

Joseph H. and Bernita M. Berntsen Living Trust, La Harpe, Kansas: State inspectors found underweight dogs with their spines and pelvic bones easily visible at kennel that sold to Petland. During a January 2025 visit to the Berntsen kennel, state inspectors found a male and female Great Dane who were both visibly underweight. The male had his ribs, spine and pelvic bones “prominent and easily visible.” A kennel representative said that the dog had noticeably lost weight about a week prior, but it appears he had not been taken to a veterinarian for examination. The female dog “appeared to be underweight with the tips of the spine visible and prominent pelvic bones.” The kennel representative admitted that the female’s weight loss had also been noticed, but it appears that instead of taking the dog to a veterinarian, they moved the dog to a different kennel in case another dog was eating her food. The dog was still underweight at the time of inspection. The condition of the dogs was especially troubling because the inspector noted that the weather had been very cold, with temperatures below freezing “and into the negative degrees” with snow. The Berntsens have sold to Petland stores. Current USDA #48-A-2254, former USDA #48-A-0907, KS #CB00095W.

Judy Koehn/Bow Wow Mound Kennels, Burns, Kansas: Failed state inspections due to unsanitary conditions; inspector reported gagging due to odor; breeder was feeding cat kibble to the dogs. Facility had over 330 dogs and had previously sold puppies to Petland. Judy Koehn failed two recent state inspections in 2025 and 2024. In December 2024, a state inspector found a strong odor that

“caused [the] inspector to gag” with a “burning sensation [of the] eyes, nose, and throat,” according to the inspection report. There were also violations for unclean conditions, excessive feces and more. The inspector also noted that Koehn was feeding cat kibble to the dogs and puppies instead of dog food. Even after being warned about those significant problems, Koehn’s kennel was still in unacceptable condition at a new state inspection in January 2025, when an inspector found violations in ten different categories, including ventilation, sanitation, pest control, lack of adequate employees to care for the dogs and more. Federal inspectors also found issues at the kennel. In July 2024, USDA cited Koehn after finding that dozens of her dogs had not been examined by a veterinarian in more than a year. Veterinary issues and other violations have been recurring at the kennel off and on for about a decade; with prior issues that included lethargic, underweight and matted dogs. The huge facility had more than 330 dogs and puppies on the property during the December 2024 state inspection and admitted to having only one helper. The kennel has sold puppies to Petland. USDA #48-A-1503; KS #CB000ANR. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Amanda and Greg Pickett/Picketts Puppies, Longton, Kansas: State inspectors found an odor so strong that it was “causing burning of nasal passages and coughing.” During a January 2025 prelicense inspection, state inspectors found ventilation at Picketts Puppies was so poor that the odors caused them to cough and caused “burning of nasal passages.” They noted that the kennel building was not sufficiently ventilated but also noted that the odor of animal waste had also been present even before they entered the building. The kennel was rated “unsatisfactory” at the state inspection, and it is unknown if it was ever given a state license, but it does have an active USDA license as of April 2025. There were more than 50 dogs and puppies on site at the time. Meanwhile, the kennel also had USDA violations in December 2024 for not properly identifying puppies and for some dogs who appeared to be missing from the kennel even though they were listed in kennel records. USDA #48-A-2133, KS Prelicense #CB0014Q4.

Minnesota

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Jim Christian, Currie, Minnesota: USDA found a dog with hair loss and reddened skin, and some dogs without proof of vaccinations at breeder who sold puppies to Petland. During a July 2024 visit, USDA inspectors found a French bulldog with hair loss and reddened skin, another dog in need of dental treatment, and at least three dogs missing proof of vaccines at Jim Christian’s kennel. USDA also gave Christian “teachable moment” violations in 2022 for eight dogs who were on the property without documentation, and in 2021 for excessive feces in some enclosures that made it “obvious that these enclosures had not been cleaned in a number of days” and for shredded carpeting that was a hazard to the dogs. Christian supplied puppies to Petland in 2025. USDA #41-A-0495.

Missouri

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Vickie L. Burden/B&H Kennels, Dora, Missouri: Breeder with a history of dodging state inspections continued to miss at least four more recent inspections.

In June 2024, state inspectors cautioned Vickie Burden about the issue of “attempted” inspections after making three attempts in a row to inspect the facility and check on the welfare of the dogs. State records show that, even after that outreach, Burden again failed to be present for an attempted inspection as recently as February 2025. Burden’s license had expired in January 2025, leading to concerns about the care and conditions of dogs who may still be on the property. This issue was of special concern due to the kennel’s prior history. In 2023, Burden received a warning letter from the state. In addition, Burden dodged five separate inspection attempts in a row that year, and state officials noted that Burden had given no reason for not being available. Both before and after the five 2023 inspection attempts, inspectors found multiple concerns at the kennel related to sanitation and other issues. In late May 2022, the USDA gave Vickie Burden an official warning letter after a French bulldog was found with obvious ear issues that were not being adequately treated. When asked about the dog, the breeder admitted she had been in that condition for about a year. After receiving the USDA warning, B&H Kennels had more violations during at least three more USDA inspections. USDA records show the kennel has not been inspected by federal officials since March 2024, but it remains USDA licensed as of April 2025. Burden has sold to Petland. USDA #43-A-6034, Former MO #AC001UZ2. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**



Dogs had inadequate enclosures at Janice Eminger’s kennel, C&J’s Happy Tails Kennel in Missouri, which was listed on a Petland website as one of their breeders, even after its USDA license was cancelled in 2009 and later revoked. Photo by Missouri Department of Agriculture, 2024

Maureen Butler/PugPekinPoo-Tzu, West Plains, Missouri: AKC-linked breeder was fined for repeated violations, including dogs infested with lice and fleas, and failure to remove a growing mass from a dog; kennel has a decade-long history of sick and injured dogs. Despite a long history of sick and injured dogs at PugPekinPoo-Tzu kennel, state inspectors who visited the kennel in late 2024 and early 2025 found there was still a lack of adequate care, and there were more than 100 dogs at the facility. Issues noted at recent inspections included at least one dog with lice and another with fleas, and a repeated failure (at least six times between 2023 and 2025) to have a veterinarian conduct hands-on examinations of the dogs as required by law. Butler also had a June 2024 Direct violation for an Australian shepherd with a soft tissue mass that had not been treated. A veterinarian had recommended

surgery to remove the mass in 2023, but as of June 2024, Butler had not had it removed, and the mass was only increasing in size. Butler was issued a \$100 reinspection fee. Issues stretch back to at least 2013, when state inspectors found dogs in below-freezing temperatures with water that was frozen solid, and noted that dogs were visibly shivering in the cold. Butler has offered puppies on Puppies.com whom she claims have AKC sires and dams. As of April 9, 2025, her Puppies.com profile also advertised her as a USDA-licensed breeder, even though she is no longer USDA licensed, demonstrating the risks of buying puppies from websites. Former USDA #43-A-5702, former MO #AC0002EG. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Wilbur Byler/Contented Puppies Paradise, El Dorado Springs, Missouri: AKC-linked breeder received two letters of warning in 2024; had repeat violations for incomplete records on puppies who died. In both October and April 2024, Byler received letters of warnings from the state Department of Agriculture due to repeat violations. The October issues were related to repeatedly failing to properly document health records on puppies and not keeping adequate details on puppies who died. Byler was also given a letter of warning in April for repeatedly failing to keep dogs' overgrown nails trimmed, and in October, the state found that the problem had not been corrected. Byler also had prior state violations in 2023. Despite the multiple issues found during state inspections in 2023 and 2024, the USDA has failed to cite Byler for any issues since 2022, when he had a violation for lack of access. He also had a USDA Direct violation in 2019 for a dog who appeared to have a corneal lesion and was squinting; the licensee admitted he had noticed the problem about a week and a half earlier, but not had not consulted a veterinarian. Byler offers Samoyed puppies for sale on the [AKC's Marketplace](#) website. USDA #43-A-5997, former MO #AC0020KX.

Marsha Cox/Mar-Don Kennels, Chillicothe, Missouri: Breeder whose USDA license was revoked in 2011 due to egregious repeat violations is still operating in Missouri in 2025 with more than 300 animals and concerning conditions. Marsha Cox was named as one of our original [Missouri's Dirty Dozen](#) in a 2010 report on puppy mills in Missouri. Her USDA license was cancelled in 2011 after she repeatedly refused access to inspectors and was cited for severe animal care problems, including keeping animals outside in below-freezing temperatures without adequate protection from the cold, underweight animals, and sick animals who had not been treated by a veterinarian. Although Marsha Cox has lost her USDA license, she remains Missouri state licensed to this day and had new violations as recently as February 2025. Some of her 2025 violations included some dogs without water, dogs in the cold without adequate bedding to keep them warm, some dogs with no solid resting area, excessive feces in multiple outdoor dog runs, and some dogs with matted hair or excessively long toenails. MO #AC000KEE. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN A HUMANE WORLD REPORT.**

Sally Culver/Culver Lane Kennel, Hartville, Missouri: French bulldog had "crusty bumps with yellow fluid" and hair loss; he had not been taken to a veterinarian; breeder sold to Petland. During a May 2024 inspection, USDA found a French bulldog at Culver Lane Kennel who had bumpy-looking ears. Upon closer review, the inspector found "numerous crusty bumps with yellow fluid around them" on the dog's ear flaps that oozed blood when rubbed. The dog also had some hair loss and reddened areas on the ears and had not been taken to a veterinarian for treatment. Prior issues at the kennel included a Boston terrier found in 2020 who was very thin, with her "ribs, backbone and hips" easily seen, and puppies found shivering outside in the cold. Culver has sold to Petland. USDA #43-A-6301, MO #AC000KVH. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Freeman Detweiler/Hilltop Kennel, Jamesport, Missouri: Kennel had excessive feces and no proof of vaccinations for dogs; state officials cited the breeder, but USDA noted nothing; breeder sold to Petland. During a September 2024 state inspection, Freeman Detweiler was cited by state inspectors for an issue with excessive feces in the runs of one of his kennel buildings, as well as not having proof of current vaccinations for any of his adult dogs and failing to document any medication or observation of adult dogs. Detweiler also holds a USDA license, but the USDA did not cite him for any violations, despite visiting about a month earlier. USDA has a rule requiring breeders to vaccinate dogs and puppies regularly, providing insight into issues that might be overlooked by inspectors. Detweiler has sold puppies to Petland, the only national chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. USDA #43-A-6593, MO #AC0038E0.

Lorna Dismang /Indian Ridge Kennel, LLC, and I-R Kennels, Pleasant Hope, Missouri: Massive facility sold to Petland received a Direct violation from USDA related to two bulldogs with oozing eyes; USDA then allowed facility to change its name and license number. During an August 2024 inspection, USDA issued a Direct violation after finding two bulldogs in need of veterinary treatment. Both had abnormal-looking eyes, with large amounts of thick yellow discharge and reddened conjunctiva. One of them was squinting as if in discomfort. Neither had received treatment for the abnormalities. There were 256 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. In October 2024, the USDA gave the kennel an official warning for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. Shortly after the warning, the old license under Indian Ridge Kennel was cancelled, but a new license was issued at the same address under Lorna Dismang. Dismang has sold puppies to Petland stores. Current USDA #43-A-6890; Former USDA #43-A-6185; MO #AC000DNN.

Janice Eminger/C&J's Happy Tails Kennel, Joplin, Missouri: Kennel repeatedly reported for poor conditions has had little or no penalties; owner's USDA license had been revoked, but the kennel still has a state license and offers puppies online; kennel was listed on Petland website as one of their breeders. In December 2024, a prospective buyer reported C&J's Happy Tails to authorities after reportedly witnessing overcrowding and poor conditions. The complaint was especially concerning given that C&J's Happy Tails had previously had a USDA license that that was cancelled in 2009 and later [was retroactively revoked](#) in 2023 [for violations](#) of the Animal Welfare Act, after the kennel had been found repeatedly and knowingly selling puppies without a license, according to USDA court records from 2023. The kennel had also been the subject of at least one other prior complaint to the state for allegedly poor conditions.

When state inspectors investigated the December 2024 complaint, they discounted some of the claims, but substantiated several violations, including large amounts of clutter, some dogs who did not have enough space, and more. They also partially confirmed that an ailing puppy, who had had a rectal prolapse, had been on the property but had since been treated by a veterinarian. It was not the first complaint about the property that was partly substantiated by the state. In February 2022, the state investigated after an AKC inspector reported unacceptable conditions. Upon visiting the kennel, which was unlicensed at the time and had about 50 adult dogs on site, the investigators witnessed dogs in the cold but declined to follow up because the breeder had a note from her veterinarian. The investigators also found that a dog who had been described as underweight was "no longer at the facility." Although the breeder had dozens of dogs and no current license, it does not appear that she was penalized for the issue in 2022, and she subsequently obtained a state license. Shockingly, despite the long history of apparently violating the laws, C&J's Happy Tails Kennel continued to have advertisements online for puppies as recently as March 2025 [on Facebook](#), and Eminger still has [puppies for sale](#) on Puppies.com,

a website that Humane World has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. The kennel has also been identified on Petland's website as one of their breeders. MO #AC003EKZ.

Amy Goedeke/Goedeke's Great Danes, Carrollton, Missouri: Inspector had concerns about a dog with a laceration and another who had been previously limping; breeder had received prior fee and warning. State inspectors who visited Goedeke's kennel in October 2024 found several violations, including one dog who seemed unable to bear weight on her leg; the breeder stated the dog had sustained a laceration, but she had not called her veterinarian about the injury. In addition, the breeder claimed she had discussed a dog who had been limping at a previous inspection with her veterinarian as the inspector had instructed her to do, but there was no proof that the consultation had occurred. Earlier, in August 2024, the state department of agriculture had received a complaint about conditions at the kennel, including dogs who were matted or had long nails, but they had not been able to inspect when they arrived because no one was available to let them in. In fact, between December 2023 and August 2024, Goedeke's Great Danes failed on at least three different occasions to allow state inspectors to check on dogs in the kennel. State inspectors who visited in January 2024 had noted numerous concerns with injured, matted or escaped dogs, and noted that "multiple disposition records stated dogs had been injured or killed when other dogs in the facility had escaped their enclosures." Goedeke's kennel has a troubling history; it also failed at least four different state inspections in 2022 and was cited three times for having puppies who died without a recorded date and/or explanation. In addition, more than once, inspectors found some dogs without enough shelter from the weather, among other violations. Former MO #AC000P4J. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Wesley J. Hubbard/Hubbard's Kennel, Amsterdam, Missouri: Breeder was verbally abusive to grieving puppy buyer and to inspectors after puppy died and state documented filthy conditions; breeder advertises on social media. In January 2025, state investigators visited Wesley Hubbard after a puppy buyer's family reported receiving a sick puppy who had to be euthanized. Upon reporting the sick puppy to Hubbard via text message, the buyer documented abusive text messages from the breeder, which included statements threatening to sue the buyer of the dead puppy. State inspectors who inspected the kennel on January 15, 2025, to follow up on the complaint found filthy conditions, with a strong odor and excessive feces in the kennel, and some dogs kept in unacceptable enclosures with wire strand flooring, among other concerns. After being informed of the violations, the breeder reportedly yelled at inspectors, stating "Get the [expletive] out of here," causing inspectors to have to leave before concluding the exit interview. The issues in 2025 were not the only history of problems at the kennel. Violations found on state inspection reports in 2023 included a lack of information on puppies who died and filthy conditions, with the inspector noting that "the ground underneath the outside portion of the elevated runs were observed to have excessive accumulation of feces, creating an odor and attracting flies. The licensee stated it had been a couple months since they had last cleaned from underneath the outside portion of the elevated runs." The inspector added that the inside portion of the runs "were observed to have dried poop and discarded food under them, with a moderate odor of ammonia present in the whelping barn." Hubbard stated in January 2025 that he intended to cancel his license, although as of April 2025, it has not been confirmed if he actually did, and Hubbard's Kennel still advertised itself as a licensed breeder on [Facebook](#) as recently as April 9, 2025. MO #AC000RHH.

Juanita Kimbrough/Maxanita's Kennel, Drexel, Missouri: Breeder who sold to Petland had dogs in the winter cold without adequate protection; she had also received an official warning for repeat violations; USDA failed to document any issues and has not visited since 2023. During a February 2025 inspection, a state animal health officer found that some dogs were not adequately protected from

the winter cold at Maxanita's Kennel. Some of the dogs had no bedding material at all, and some had less than what was needed to keep the dogs warm, with wind chills in the area having recently been about 25 degrees. In addition, during a September 2024 state inspection, Kimbrough received an official warning due to repeat violations. Other issues found by inspectors included some dogs and puppies who had no water and some who had been sold or transferred without proof of rabies vaccines. Kimbrough appealed the September state violations in October, but the state found that she had added backdated records; the state reworded one violation but refused to remove the six violations from her report. Despite numerous troubling conditions found by state inspectors, the USDA has failed to document any violations at the kennel for more than a decade; as of April 2025, it appears the USDA has not even visited the kennel since 2023. Kimbrough has sold puppies to Petland, the only national chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. USDA #43-A-5788, MO #AC000T0A.

Angela Kostron/Missouri White Tail Labradors, Springfield and Mount Vernon, Missouri: State investigation uncovered two unlicensed facilities; violations for dogs in the cold, dogs without potable water, excessive fecal accumulation and more at facility that had previously been denied a license. In 2022, Missouri state authorities denied a kennel license to Angela Kostron due to non-compliance, but after a complaint about a sick puppy in 2023, they found that she was still breeding and selling dogs. In 2024 and 2025, Missouri state inspectors found a variety of concerns at Kostron's facility, including repeat violations for dogs exposed to the cold, a lack of adequate veterinary care records, as well as violations for excessive feces in the kennels, dogs without potable drinking water, and much more. In November 2024, Kostron was found to be harboring almost 50 dogs at an unlicensed location in Mount Vernon with unacceptable conditions. Investigators also found that Kostron was bringing pregnant dogs to a children's [daycare](#) facility that she operates in Springfield and whelping them there. She was advised that she needed a license for both operations. In early 2025, Kostron failed a prelicense inspection for issues such as excessive feces and a lack of proof of rabies vaccinations and veterinary examinations for the dogs at the Mount Vernon location, calling into question the safety of children at the daycare, who could potentially be exposed to unhealthy or unvaccinated animals. Despite the history of non-compliance, Kostron was given a chance to continue to try to obtain a license by February 2025; as of April 9, 2025, it is unknown if White Tail Labradors ever obtained a license, but it still has [an active website](#) and [Facebook page](#), and continues to offer puppies for sale with delivery. The website even offers shipping to customers, which in most cases is unlawful without a USDA license. MO # unknown.

Sharon and Hubert Lavy/Tenderheart Kennel, Silx, Missouri: USDA inspectors found flies "too numerous to count" and a recurring issue with rodent feces near the food storage at facility with over 100 dogs. During a June 2024 visit, USDA inspectors noted pest control concerns at Lavy's kennel, including "a significant accumulation of rodent feces in the food storage shed to include feces on top of some bags of dog food." They also found flies, both dead and alive, that were "too numerous to count" in an animal holding area, and an incomplete veterinary care plan. In 2021, USDA inspectors gave Lavy a "teachable moment" notice due to a similar issue, noting that "the food storage area had evidence of rodents, fecal material was present on floor and one bag of dog food had evidence of being gnawed." There were over 100 dogs and puppies on site during the June 2024 inspection. USDA #43-A-3304, MO #AC0004DA.

Charles and Debbi McGinnis/Monarch Kennel, Bolivar, Missouri: AKC-linked kennel had issues at six different USDA inspections within 15 months. During an April 2024 inspection, USDA found a dog whose outdoor shelter was not tall enough to allow him to stand up in it, and other dogs outside with no shade. The issue was a concern because McGinnis was warned the prior year about dogs without adequate shade, dogs in the cold, and a variety of other concerns. McGinnis failed to meet total compliance at six different USDA inspections between January 2023 and April 2024. Monarch Kennel claims on its Facebook page that they have been raising AKC puppies since 1991. USDA #43-A-5563, MO #AC000D8F. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**



Dogs without shade at Monarch's Kennel. Photo by U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2023

Magdalena McGowan/Orchard Kennel, Cabool, Missouri: Breeder who was cited repeatedly in prior years continued to have violations for not providing clean water, keeping puppies in enclosures that were too small, dirty conditions and more. In August 2024, state inspectors found a variety of violations at Orchard Kennel that the owner had been warned about in prior years as well, including water that was in dirty containers or had larvae swimming in it, some animals in enclosures that were too small, dirty or cluttered conditions and issues with veterinary care records. The state gave McGowan an Official Letter of Warning in August 2024. When state inspectors returned in November 2024, they found that some of the issues had been resolved, although there was still some clutter, and there was a new issue with dogs in some enclosures in the whelping building that were so dark that the animals “could not be easily observed,” leading to concerns about whether the licensee could maintain adequate cleanliness and oversee their welfare. The kennel has also had a recurring issue with “attempted” inspections, with no one making the kennel available for review, including a recent attempted inspection in November 2024. MO #AC000V1Z. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Betty Meeks/Meeks Kennel, Caulfield, Missouri: Inspectors had concerns about a bulldog with fight wounds and a Boston terrier who was reportedly thin; breeder claimed they were being treated but could not provide records. In April 2024, state inspectors found a number of violations at Meeks Kennel. Most concerning were records indicating a bulldog had fight wounds and “at least one” Boston terrier was noted to be in thin condition; the breeder claimed the dogs were under treatment but could not provide records of such. When state inspectors returned in November 2024, they did not find any thin or injured dogs but noted that some veterinary records were still insufficient. The facility’s “program of veterinary care was inadequate” and did not even correctly list their attending veterinarian; in addition, no hands-on examination records were available for the inspectors to review for any of the dogs; there were 84 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. USDA #43-A-5388, MO #AC000V8K.

John J. Miller/TLC Kennels, Sturgeon, Missouri: State inspectors found recurring issues with unsanitary conditions at puppy mill that sold to multiple Petland stores; USDA failed to document

any issues and has not visited the kennel in about two years. State inspectors who visited TLC Kennels in February 2025 found a number of issues, including puppies on elevated flooring without an adequate resting surface, excessive fecal accumulation in some areas that could “[attract] rodents and pests,” rodent droppings in some of the enclosures that had held dogs, and more. The state gave Miller an Official Letter of Warning. The warning letter noted that two of the issues (sanitation and incomplete records) had been found in 2024 as well. Miller had also been cited for sanitation issues in prior years; in November 2022, state inspectors sent another warning letter to TLC Kennels due to repeated issues with unsanitary conditions. Prior state violations at the kennel go back to at least 2019, and included dogs exposed to extreme temperatures or who did not have enough space, dogs who were not getting tested for a contagious disease, excessive feces, and more. But in contrast to the many well-documented issues found by state inspectors, USDA inspectors have not cited the kennel for any violations since 2016, and as of April 2025, it appears they have not even visited the kennel in almost two years. Miller has sold puppies to at least four different Petland stores. USDA #43-A-6036, MO #AC0020VB. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Keith and Shannon Plymell/Windsong Kennels, Pattonsburg, Missouri: Breeder was issued a four-page letter of warning for repeat violations; has a history of animal welfare concerns stretching back to 2008. Windsong Kennels first appeared in our [Missouri's Dirty Dozen](#) report in fall 2010, and recurring issues, including multiple warning letters from the state, have accumulated since then. Plymell's most recent known violations were documented in December 2024, when state inspectors found repeat violations for a lack of records on dogs at the facility, no current program of veterinary care, no hands-on examinations of dogs, dirty food bowls and lack of a current license. The state issued a four-page letter of warning documenting all these concerns, but such warnings appear to have had little effect over the years. Issues found in earlier years included a January 2021 warning from the state for two thin dogs, 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. Between 2020 and 2021, inspectors 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.” Issues at the kennel stretch back to when it was USDA licensed; its 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, FIFTH TIME IN A HUMANE WORLD REPORT.**

Teresa Rauch/Ratepa Kennels, Bolivar, Missouri: State found breeder hiding dogs at an unlicensed location; USDA found violations for the third year in a row; state questioned tail docking that occurred without documentation of veterinary training. In January 2025, both USDA and state inspectors found concerns at Ratepa Kennels. State inspectors placed two dogs under quarantine because they had not been vaccinated for rabies and noted issues with an accumulation of trash and other concerns. That same month, Rauch received a Direct, repeat violation from USDA due to a dog with untreated dental disease: the issue was so advanced that the root of one of the dogs' molars was visible and her gums were red and swollen. It was at least the third year in a row that USDA had found significant concerns at Ratepa Kennels. The month before, December 2024, Missouri state inspectors had received a complaint that indicated Rauch was hiding dogs at an unlicensed location and performing procedures such as tail docking and dewclaw removal without veterinary oversight. The inspectors verified that the former was true and the second was “partially substantiated,” stating that her

veterinarian's office claimed she had been trained on the procedures even though they were not documented in writing as required on the program of veterinary care.

Issues go back to at least 2023, when Rauch's state commercial breeder license lapsed, and the state directed her to cease and desist in February 2024. In April 2024, the Missouri Department of Agriculture issued a \$100 reinspection fee after Rauch had failed two inspections in a row. In May 2024, Rauch's license was renewed, but a reinspection found that issues continued, including a "buildup of dirt and grime throughout the facility." Ratepa Kennels offers puppies for sale [online](#) and on social media. As of April 2025, Ratepa was still licensed by the USDA, but it appeared that her state license had lapsed again. Ratepa Kennels sold to PetCenter NJ, a Petland-owned store. USDA #43-A-6768, former MO #AC002K0S. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Ellen Roberts/Rocky Top K-9s and Thunder River Pets, West Plains, Missouri: Repeated issues with very thin nursing mother dogs; some puppies were thin, lethargic or sickly; kennel recently dropped its USDA license and changed its name but still offers puppies online. Records indicate that Ellen Roberts continues to keep many dogs in dangerously poor conditions, despite appearing in nine of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. Some of her most recent state violations in January 2025 included live cockroaches in one building and rodent droppings in another, as well as a four-time repeat violation for not having proper identification of puppies. In October 2024, just two months after federal inspectors visited and claimed to have found no violations, state inspectors found a long list of violations at the kennel, including "multiple animals" who were "stated to be escaped from their enclosures or difficult to contain," dangerously decrepit enclosures, significantly matted dogs, two dogs who were actively fighting, pests, puppy care issues and more. Roberts received an official state warning for some repeat violations. Earlier in the year, in May 2024, USDA inspectors found a very thin nursing mother boxer whose ribs could be easily seen. She had six puppies, four of whom appeared lethargic. One puppy had diarrhea, and another was very thin. The puppies were in a dirty enclosure soiled with grime and feces and with flies "that can bite and irritate the dogs." Shockingly, the mother dog, named Lindy Lou, was the same boxer whose photograph was on the cover of our 2023 Horrible Hundred report, showing that she was clearly very thin and had several puppies even in 2022; Humane World reached out elected officials to opine that she should have been seized for urgent care in 2022. This heartbreaking scene was found even after the USDA had issued an official warning to Roberts in April 2024. Shortly after the recent violations, Roberts dropped her USDA license, but the USDA still gave her an official warning in March 2025. Her website now redirects to a kennel under the name of [Thunder River Pets](#), which still had puppies advertised for sale as of April 2025. Roberts has appeared in numerous prior reports for violations such as sick dogs, animals exposed to the bitter cold, underweight nursing mother dogs, and more. Former USDA #43-A-5445, MO# AC00124U. **REPEAT OFFENDER; TENTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Jon Stolarz/Shamrock Hill, Canton, Missouri: Inspectors found several dogs missing from the kennel; concerns were found during at least four state inspections in 2024. State inspectors found concerns at four different visits to Shamrock Hill in late 2024, including three failed inspection attempts, and a number of September 2024 violations for husbandry issues and records violations. Inspectors noted that numerous adult dogs "have left the facility" without any record of what happened to them; in addition, multiple dogs had been sold without proof of rabies vaccinations and the licensee also admitted that some of the dogs he still possessed did not have the vaccination. Inspectors noted the licensee was not keeping complete individual medical records for all the dogs. The issues were especially concerning because of Shamrock Hill's history. In December 2023, inspectors found a number of distressing issues,

and some of them still had not been fixed almost two months later, state records show. During the December 2023 precense inspection, inspectors found 10 violations, including puppies who were outside in freezing weather, some of whom were seen visibly shivering. Most of the dogs had only frozen water, and some puppies were unable to reach their water. Stolarz failed that inspection but was eventually given a license. MO #AC002SNQ. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Donna Taber/Jet Kennels, Wasola, Missouri: USDA found more than a dozen dogs in need of treatment; breeder later euthanized two dogs instead of treating them and was giving away many others; severe violations have recurred for at least a decade. During a September 2024 inspection, USDA inspectors gave Taber a Direct, repeat violation after they found 15 dogs in need of care at her kennel. Three of the dogs had been “identified in previous inspections for the same conditions.” The USDA inspector noted that the breeder had taken the dogs to a veterinarian “who provided her with recommendations that she has not followed.” The USDA also noted filthy conditions at Jet Kennels, with large amounts of rodent droppings in one building.

Shortly after receiving the USDA violations, Taber dropped her USDA license but still has a state license that is valid until 2026. When state inspectors arrived to visit the kennel in October 2024, they found that Taber had decided to euthanize two of the ailing dogs and was planning to relinquish some of the others to a rescue group. They also found some dogs who were matted or in need of dental treatment and noted dirty conditions and rodent droppings, among other violations.

The fall 2024 violations were the most recent in a long history of issues stretching back more than a decade. During a prior inspection in April 2024, the USDA issued a Direct violation to Taber for four dogs with untreated dental disease who also had “excessively matted hair all over their bodies.” When USDA returned for a focused inspection, one of the dogs was still “excessively matted all over,” leading to a Direct, repeat violation. In June 2024, the USDA again issued a Direct, repeat violation after finding two shih tzus who were so badly matted that the inspector could not see their eyes or ears without moving the mats; upon closer examination, one of the dogs had a reddened and crusted skin lesion. In addition, state inspectors who visited the kennel in May 2024 found additional repeat violations and issued a letter of warning and a \$100 reinspection fee. The violations followed a pattern of many similar federal and state kennel violations over the years for Taber, stretching back to at least 2014. Former USDA #43-A-5497, MO #AC0015LH. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Sarah Walborn/Wynter Knights Kennel & Grooming LLC, Stockton, Missouri: State photographs show disturbing conditions at self-described AKC breeder; some dogs were fed raw deer heads, and bloody jawbones were seen in the kennels; breeder was referred to the Attorney General's office for potential legal action. In January 2025, the Missouri Department of Agriculture asked the state Attorney General's office to seek an injunctive order and civil penalties against Sarah Walborn for dozens of animal care concerns. The MDA stated that Walborn “has accumulated 32 violations of the Animal Care Facilities Act” and only nine of them had been corrected, adding “Ms. Walborn seems apathetic to [our] efforts” and “We believe that our program has exhausted all reasonable and routine efforts to bring Ms. Walborn into compliance.” Shockingly, even after that letter was sent, officials continued to find new violations, state records show. As of March 2025, it appears Walborn's state license may have lapsed, but she still had an [active website](#), where she describes herself as “a dog breeder of AKC and ACA Alaskan Malamutes” and specifically claims “[my dogs] are fed a good quality diet.”

Photographs taken by state inspectors in February 2025 showed alarming conditions at Walborn's kennel. At least one dog was photographed in a small wire crate inside a cluttered camper, and the crate appeared to have a plastic bin containing live rats on top of it. Inspectors also found two large plastic tubs near the dog runs filled with "chunks of deer and goat carcasses" that had a "strong foul odor" as if rotting, and deer skulls and jawbones with some bloody tissue still attached were photographed in several of the dog enclosures. Photographs taken by state inspectors showed many other disturbing conditions too numerous to mention.

Prior to the 2025 violations, the state had documented earlier concerns. In August 2024, Walborn received a letter of warning related to violations such as a German shepherd and a cat who were thin; the licensee had not consulted with a veterinarian about them, even though she had been instructed to do so more than two months prior. In addition, inspectors found a third underweight animal in August, a poodle with "prominent ribs, hips, and spine." Former MO #AC003G1U.



Inspectors found bins of raw goat and deer parts at Sarah Walborn's kennel that had a foul odor. Photo by Missouri Department of Agriculture, 2025

Marjorie Walker/ Price's Pets, Niangua, Missouri: USDA found thin puppies with scabs and "large areas of flakey skin" at repeat offender's facility; it was the second time that year that thin animals were found, but no penalties were applied. In February 2025, a state official attempted an inspection at Price's Pets, only to be told the owner was "not available." This issue was of significant concern due to recurring issues with ailing dogs at the kennel. For example, during a May 2024 inspection, USDA found seven puppies in need of treatment at the facility. The puppies had scabs and "large areas of flakey skin," and the inspector also noticed the puppies were thin. The kennel's representative admitted that the puppies had been in that condition for at least three days and had only been treated by being shaved and bathed. It appears that the puppies were not removed by inspectors and no penalties were applied, even though it was the second time that year that thin animals were found. In February 2024, Walker received a Direct violation after USDA found a very thin mother dog with two puppies, noting "her spine, ribs, shoulder blades, hips are easily felt. There is an abdominal tuck. The owner stated that she was giving the dog milk replacer but has not consulted with a veterinarian about the dog's condition." At the same visit, a Havanese-poodle mix "had scabby bumps on her neck, back, hips and ears. The skin was very red on her throat and chest," according to the inspector. It appears that neither dog was seized, and the operator was not fined or penalized. Other issues found at the February inspection included stacked cages made of rusty metal. Issues have been found at the kennel in prior years as well. There were 115 dogs and puppies on the premises as of May 2024; as of April 2025, it appears the USDA has not been back to check on the animals since last May. USDA #43-A-6295, MO #AC00132U. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Brenda Walter/Hidden Valley Farms, Greencastle, Missouri: Breeder has received five official warnings from the state since 2022, but USDA inspectors documented nothing; state inspectors found a bleeding dog who was not adequately treated by a veterinarian, and a dog who had been

noticeably thin at a prior visit was gone; violations stretch back to at least 2007; breeder sold to Petland. Missouri state officials found a number of violations at Brenda Walter's facility in February 2025 and issued at least her fifth letter of warning from the state in recent years for repeat violations. But perhaps the most troubling detail that they documented was not a violation at all. Officials noted that a dog who had been seen at a prior inspection, "Christy," a noticeably thin French bulldog, was "no longer at the facility." The issue was not a violation but calls into question what happened to the dog and whether she is alive. Missouri officials had noted that Christy was thin in September 2024 and had required Walter to "consult with a licensed veterinarian" about her condition but it is unclear if that ever happened. During the 2025 inspection, officials did not note whether Christy was alive or if she was ever treated, only that she was no longer on the premises.

In July 2024, Missouri's Department of Agriculture gave Walter two letters of warning for several repeat violations. Most concerning was another French bulldog who had been noted on July 3 to have visible signs of a rectal prolapse, with flies buzzing around the area; the inspector instructed the breeder to consult with a veterinarian. At a follow-up visit three weeks later, the dog still had the condition, and fresh blood was visible. Although the dog had been seen by a veterinarian in the interim, the issue had clearly not been effectively treated. Additional late 2024 violations included a strong odor that caused a "burning sensation to the inspectors' nostrils," and dogs housed in a building that was 91 degrees Fahrenheit who were seen panting. The state also issued warnings to Walter in 2022 and 2023. But despite the many significant issues found by the state, as of April 2025, it appears the USDA has not cited Walter for any violations since 2017. Walter has sold to Petland. USDA #43-B-0425, MO #AC0017N5. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN A HUMANE WORLD REPORT.**

Chiquita Weatherly/Weatherly Dachshunds, Hermitage, Missouri: Dog with a 2" open wound had not been taken to a veterinarian; she had reportedly been bitten by a snake five days earlier. In July 2024, state inspectors found a dog with a two-inch "open wound on her jaw/throat region." The breeder's spouse reportedly said he believed the dog had been bitten by a snake "last Wednesday;" the inspector was there on a Monday. The dog apparently had not been evaluated by a veterinarian for the injury for at least five days, and the licensee only had it done after the inspector saw the dog's injury and asked about it. Other issues found during recent inspections included excessive dirt, grime and mouse feces throughout the facility. Weatherly received an official letter of warning from the Missouri Department of Agriculture in July 2024. As of March 2025, Weatherly is no longer on the state's active license list, but her website, weatherlydachshunds.com, was updated in April and lists puppies for sale. Former MO #AC0007PB.

Nebraska

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Lynette Addison, Atkinson/Norfolk, Nebraska: Stench in puppy area made state inspector "almost gag;" odor was still there at the next two inspections. During a May 2024 state inspection, Addison's kennel was rated noncompliant due to poor ventilation in the whelping room. The inspector noted an odor "strong enough to make inspector almost gag," adding that "her nose began to run due to the ammonia

level.” There were 15 puppies and 11 dogs in the room at the time. When the inspector returned a few weeks later, the ammonia level was still high, and the readings were still elevated at another visit in July 2024, resulting in Addison’s third Direct violation in a row for the same issue. Despite the concerning violations found by state inspectors, USDA inspectors have not documented any recent violations and allowed the kennel to change its license number in 2024, helping to obscure its history. As of April 2025, it appears the USDA had not visited the kennel since October 2024. Current USDA #47-A-0642; former USDA #47-A-0634, NE #KN267.

Wanda Reed/Wanda’s Little Pets, Wilcox, Nebraska: Facility that previously had its USDA license revoked is still operating in the state; had recurring sanitation concerns. Wanda’s Little Pets had a license with the USDA until 2008, when the license was revoked after numerous Animal Welfare Act violations remained uncorrected. Since then, the facility has maintained a state license but has had recurring issues with sanitation, resulting in several “conditionally acceptable” state inspections. The most recent was in September 2024, when state inspectors rated the kennel “conditionally acceptable” due to “several days of feces” under the pens. Prior issues were numerous. For example, in August 2019, state inspectors described “Feces and excess food for more than one day [that] needs to be removed.” The August 2019 inspection took place because a complaint had been received from someone who had concerns about the dogs’ health and welfare. NE #KN129. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

New York

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Stacy Albahari/Brooklea Farm, LLC., aka Brooklea Beauties, Bath, New York: USDA found some dogs with no water, others lacking space; state found kennel sold a puppy without disclosing a known health condition. During a July 2024 inspection of Brooklea Farm, the USDA found some dogs with no water, a kennel in disrepair that resulted in a dog being exposed to dangerous mangled wire, and some dogs who did not have enough space, with dogs who were 38 inches to 46 inches long kept overnight in only 7.11 square feet of floor space. State inspectors also found violations in the summer of 2024 for issues such as selling a puppy “without disclosing condition noted on veterinary health exam” and a repeated problem with an incomplete veterinary care plan. The operation advertises goldendoodles and some AKC-registered golden retrievers [on its website](#). USDA #21-A-0234, NY #1233.

Helen Camlakides/Sportsman's Kennels, Manorville, New York: Large AKC-linked puppy mill with about 200 dogs has had recurring issues since at least 2019. After appearing in our Horrible Hundred report four previous times for recurring veterinary care issues, Sportsman’s Kennels had yet another “critical” state violation in November 2024. Recent issues included having 48 dogs without annual health certificates, and one dog without a valid rabies certificate, an issue the kennel was repeatedly warned about in prior years. As of April 2025, its [website](#) was still advertising AKC puppies, and a Humane World representative who called the kennel in February 2025 was told they still had puppies for sale and were expecting more litters in the future. Sportsman’s Kennels claims it registers dogs with the AKC, a group that regularly lobbies against dog protection laws. At its most recent state inspection in February 2025,

the kennel had almost 200 dogs; there were no violations noted at that inspection. NY #30. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Levi Hershberger, Woodhull, New York: USDA found matted dogs and a dog with a “strong noxious odor” followed by three repeat violations. USDA inspectors found violations at Levi Hershberger’s facility at least three times in 2024, before he was able to fully pass an inspection. In February, he had a violation for failing to let inspectors in the kennel. In April, inspectors were able to access the kennel and found multiple matted dogs, plus one dog with “dirty ears [and] a strong noxious odor in the ears which could indicate an infection.” Inspectors also found cleaning and housekeeping issues. When the USDA returned in August 2024, they found three repeat violations related to veterinary care, cleaning and housekeeping. There were almost 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. USDA #21-A-0215. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Heather Horst/October Bliss Kennels, Penn Yan, New York: Kennel had state violations for unsanitary conditions; issues were found five years in a row. In November 2024, state inspectors found five violations at October Bliss Kennels. The most concerning one was a “critical” violation because “elimination of waste and drainage [was] not efficient in order to keep animals dry and prevent contact with substances,” which was later removed from the inspection report for unknown reasons. The inspector also noted that enclosures were “not kept in clean conditions for animals.” It was the fifth year in a row that the state found violations at the kennel. Issues noted in prior years included missing health records on some of the dogs, and dogs with wood shavings in their water bowls. NY #1154.

Kelly Jamil/Gray’s Doberman, Ellenville, New York: Failed state inspections for issues that included frozen water, excessive fecal matter, and “heavy odor.” In January 2025, state inspectors found very concerning conditions at Gray’s Doberman, including two critical violations for frozen water and unclean conditions. The inspector noticed “accumulated fecal material,” among other concerns. When inspectors went out again in February 2025, they were not able to gain access to the kennel to check on the dogs, leading to concerns about their welfare. The 2025 issues were not new to the kennel. During a May 2024 state inspection, Gray’s Doberman had also failed to have acceptable conditions. Inspectors noticed a heavy odor with poor ventilation, and hay and dirt caked on some parts of the dog kennels, among other issues. Sanitation issues had been found at the kennel the prior year as well, with an inspector declaring some conditions were “detrimental to animal health.” The kennel advertises puppies [online](#). It passed one recent inspection in March 2025. NY #1198. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Christian B. Lapp/Busy Bee Farm, Fort Plain, New York: USDA gave breeder a Direct violation and official warning for dogs in the July heat who were panting excessively; inspectors also found filthy conditions. The USDA gave Christian Lapp an official warning in November 2024 due to concerns found earlier that year. During a July 2024 inspection, the USDA gave Lapp a Direct violation for dogs found panting excessively in the heat with non-working fans; inspectors also found an “excessive buildup of old food waste, debris and grime,” and standing water that could spread disease. State inspectors had also found violations at the kennel in April 2024. USDA #21-A-0198, NY #1081.

Jolene and Curtis Martin/Summerset Farms, Seneca Falls, New York: Massive dog dealer with over 300 dogs failed three inspections in one month, had veterinary, sanitation and health concerns. Summerset Farms failed two different state inspections and one USDA inspection in May 2024 alone. State violations included a dog with alopecia (hair loss), some animals with long nails or missing rabies vaccination records, odors and excess wastes, and more. The USDA cited Curtis Martin

that same month, but for a different issue; they noted “approximately 10 percent of the dogs” were in need of dental treatment. The USDA counted 326 dogs and puppies on the property. The kennel has had state violations for at least four years in a row yet is rarely cited by the USDA. Summerset Farms [advertises online](#), where it offers numerous breeds. USDA #21-B-0147, NY# 1141. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Harvey E. Miller/Locust Grove Kennels, Greenwood, New York: Puppy was found “slumping against an empty bowl,” unable to reach water and appeared dehydrated; one dog was unable to move their hind legs; two dogs had facial injuries. Harvey Miller received a Direct violation from the USDA in June, after a puppy was found with symptoms of dehydration and appeared to be unable to reach the water dispenser. When provided with water, the puppy drank for three minutes. The puppy’s skin was tenting in a manner that indicated dehydration, according to the inspector. When inspectors returned in September 2024 they found more violations, including a repeated problem with inadequate veterinary records for one dog who could not use their hind legs, and two dogs who had scabs and hair loss on their faces from injuries. The USDA gave Miller an official warning in September 2024 for the watering violation. USDA #21-A-0200.

Arthur L. Schmucker, Clyde, New York: USDA issued Critical violation after three dogs reportedly died from injuries. During a June 2024 inspection, a USDA inspector noted that on three different dates, a dog had been “found deceased with injuries attributed to fighting amongst dogs in a shared exercise space.” The inspector noted that “Dogs housed in the same primary enclosures must be compatible to minimize risk of fighting, injury, and death.” Schmucker was given a Critical violation for failing to keep the dogs in compatible groups. Schmucker also did not have complete vaccination records for his dogs, and in November 2024, he had a violation for not following his kennel’s veterinarian-approved parasite prevention plan. He had also received three violations in 2023 for hazardous housing, pest infestations, and a heavily matted dog. USDA # 21-A-0230.

Sadie and Daniel Yoder/Loper Farm Pets, Jasper, New York: Breeders had Direct, repeat violations for lame dogs in 2024 and 2025; one had a deep laceration and another showed signs of “significant pain;” licensee had not obtained adequate treatment even after a prior request. During a March 2025 inspection, the Yoders received a Direct, repeat violation for a Shiba Inu with lameness and two lacerations, One of the lacerations was severe enough to expose “deeper underlying tissue,” yet the facility had not contacted their veterinarian about the dog. Shockingly, it was the second time within a few months that the USDA had found significant injuries in a dog at Loper Farm Pets. During a November 26, 2024 USDA inspection, the Yoders were instructed to seek veterinary care for a different Shiba Inu who was not bearing weight on her front leg. A facility representative admitted that the problem had been noticed earlier, but the dog had not been evaluated or treated by a veterinarian for the problem. When the inspector revisited three days later, on November 29, 2024, the dog was still lame and the inspector noted it was a sign of “significant pain,” yet the kennel still had not adequately addressed the injury. The November 29th inspection report noted that the delay in obtaining adequate care “may result in unnecessarily prolonged pain.” In January 2025, the USDA gave the Yoders an official warning for the violations, only to have the other injured dog found two months later. Vet care issues were found earlier last year as well; in April 2024, a goldendoodle was found with hair loss and skin issues, and the USDA noted that the breeders were not following their veterinarian’s protocols. USDA #21-A-0204. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Cathy Zimmer/Saints Run Kennel, Theresa, New York: State inspectors found unsanitary conditions and contaminated water bowls at AKC breeder's facility. State inspectors made two wasted trips to Saints Run Kennel in May and June 2024, during which they were not given access to the kennel and were unable to check on the dogs. On the third inspection attempt a few days later in June 2024, state inspectors were let in to view the kennel, where they found excessive waste and some water receptacles contaminated with algae. When they returned for another visit in July, they found the facility lacked proof of a veterinary care plan. The kennel advertises online on social media and, as of April 2025, Zimmer still had an active profile on the [AKC Marketplace](#) website. NY #1109.

Ohio

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Alvin H. Hershberger/Walnut Lane LAH, Dundee, Ohio: Inspectors found almost 40 concerns between 2023 and early 2025; violations were repeatedly referred to legal counsel. After appearing in our 2024 Horrible Hundred report, Walnut Lane kennel continued to have additional violations as recently as February 2025, with a total of 39 issues or violations found since 2023. During the February 2025 inspection, Hershberger had violations for accumulated excreta in the kennel, a repeated occurrence that was referred to legal counsel, as well as accumulated excreta in one of the feeders and other issues. It was at least the fourth violation in about two years that was referred to legal counsel. During a June 2024 state inspection, expired drugs were found in the kennel, and earlier that year, the Ohio Department of Agriculture had referred at least three concerns to legal counsel for repeat violations. Facility records also showed that the licensee was using “incorrect tools” in December 2023 for tail docking and dewclaw removal on puppies, which could cause pain and suffering to the puppies. As we noted in our 2024 report, during one December 2023 inspection, state inspectors documented 14 violations for issues such as dirty conditions, puppies kept on dangerous gapped flooring, lack of outdoor access for the dogs, and other concerns. Former USDA #31-A-0859 (under Laura Hershberger), OH #CB001JRC and CB002JNA. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Atlee M. Miller, Sugarcreek, Ohio: State inspectors referred breeder to legal counsel for the third time after repeat violation. In August 2024, the Ohio Department of Agriculture referred Atlee Miller to its legal counsel for housing dogs on inadequate flooring that could hurt their feet, after he had already been warned previously about the issue. As we noted in our prior report, in October 2023, state inspectors cited Miller for using an unapproved tool to remove dewclaws from puppies and stated he was cutting the dewclaws off puppies aged 4 to 10 days. The licensee was notified that dewclaws should only be removed by licensees from puppies 2 to 5 days of age per state law. Cutting dewclaws off puppies who are more than a few days old is recommended only with the use of sedation or local anesthesia due to the risk of pain, according to veterinary [experts](#). In 2022, the state referred two violations to legal counsel “due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation.” OH #CB001EGD and CB0004C1. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Crist R. Miller/CS Mini Poodles and River Bottom Acres LLC, Coshocton, Ohio: Breeder received Critical and Direct violations from USDA after one puppy was found injured and another was

missing; USDA issued a warning but then allowed breeder to change kennel's license number and name, obscuring its history. In July 2024, USDA inspectors gave Miller a Direct violation after finding a poodle puppy who could not bear weight on one of her legs; the kennel's representative admitted the dog had been injured a day or two before the inspection, but she had not been treated for the injury. During the same inspection, Miller received a Critical violation for a puppy who was missing from an enclosure with no explanation for what happened to the puppy. In addition, inspectors found some dogs were not up to date on vital vaccinations. The USDA gave Miller an official warning in October 2024 for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. Shortly afterward, the USDA allowed Miller to obtain a new license number and new LLC (River Bottom Acres LLC), obscuring his troubled history and making it appear on USDA records that the kennel has had no violations. Miller has been listed on Petland's website as one of their breeders. Current USDA 31-A-1014 (River Bottom Acres), former USDA #31-A-0998, OH #CB00357J and CB00358G (CS Mini Poodles).



A dog at David E. Miller's facility in Fresno, Ohio, which sold to a Petland-owned store. Photo by Ohio Dept of Agriculture, 2024.

David E. Miller, Fresno, Ohio: USDA found 66 dogs without complete vaccinations and some puppies without health certificates at breeder who sold to Petland-owned store. During a December 2024 visit, USDA inspectors found that David Miller had 68 adult dogs, but only two of them were up to date on their vaccines. Some of them had no vaccine history at all, risking an outbreak of disease. The inspector also found that puppies had been shipped via an intermediate handler without a health certificate, indicating they may not have been examined by a veterinarian, as required by law prior to sale. Miller has sold to PetCenter NJ, a pet store that is part of the Petland chain. USDA #31-A-0592, OH #CB001FED and CB00292L.

David P. Miller, Bellville, Ohio: USDA found veterinary violations; two dogs had large areas of matted fur. During a September 2024 visit, a USDA inspector found badly matted dogs and two dogs who had not been vaccinated for rabies at Miller's facility. The two matted dogs, Maggie and Daisy, "were observed with multiple large areas of matted fur in the rump area, hind limbs, and lower forelimbs. 'Daisy' additionally was observed with

matted fur on her face with the matted fur extending over her right eye." The USDA also found that the parasite control testing protocols were not being followed. The facility has only been USDA licensed since May 2022 and has only been inspected by USDA twice since obtaining the license, but it was also inspected by the state in March 2025. During the 2025 inspection, the state found two more noncompliances. USDA #31-A-0916, OH #CB002VCK.

Freida Miller, Walhonding, Ohio: Breeder admitted to brokering dozens of dogs without a license and also shipped 45 puppies with no health certificates; she failed a relicensure inspection due to

five violations; USDA then gave her a new license number, obscuring the history of violations.

During a relicense inspection in September 2024, a USDA inspector found five violations at Freida Miller's facility and found that she had been "conducting activities not authorized" under her breeder license. Those activities included dealing approximately 27 dogs as a broker (reseller) without the appropriate license. Miller also sold 45 puppies via intermediates without health certificates, risking the spread of contagious diseases. Other issues included veterinary care concerns. For example, there were questions about whether a dog who had recently had a caesarean section had been given an appropriate number of days' worth of medication, with only a few days of administration recorded. After determining that Miller was brokering dogs with only a breeder license, the USDA then gave Freida Miller a B (reseller) license number, and she was allowed to re-start the process with a new "first" pre-inspection less than a week later, which she passed, with no apparent penalty for formerly acting as a broker without a license. The new license number now lists no details of her recent violations. Former USDA #31-A-0876; current USDA #31-B-0239, OH #CB002CXJ and CB001EN1.

James A. Miller, Millersburg, Ohio: Inspectors found dog in need of eye treatment; issues have been noted on and off since 2015.

During a June 2024 visit, Ohio state inspectors found a dog at Miller's kennel in need of eye treatment. The licensee provided care, but only after the problem was pointed out to him. The issue was a concern due to multiple violations found in prior years. For example, in June 2022, state inspectors referred Miller to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's legal counsel due to repeated issues such as cages that were too small, which the breeder had been warned about numerous times in the past. Issues go back to at least 2015, when inspectors found similar violations as well as a weak and lethargic dog. OH #CB000NDU. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Lester J. Miller, Fredericksburg, Ohio: Violations were sent to legal counsel for enforcement due to licensee failing to obtain timely medical treatment for five ailing dogs.

During an inspection in July 2024, state inspectors found that Lester Miller failed to get timely treatment that his veterinarian had recommended for five ailing dogs. Inspectors referred the matter to their legal counsel for enforcement "due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation." Four of the dogs needed dental treatment, and one dog had a hematoma (blood-filled swelling) and infection on the ear. OH #CB001QG6 and CB001QH4.

Myron Miller/A and M Kennel and Carlisle Cavaliers, Millersburg, Ohio: AKC breeder failed to vaccinate dozens of dogs for rabies or other deadly diseases.

During a July 2024 inspection, USDA inspectors found many dogs who had not had any recent vaccinations at A and M Kennel, including rabies, parvovirus and/or distemper, which are required under the Animal Welfare Act regulations. There were 119 dogs and puppies on the property at the time, and at least 39 of them were not up to date on their rabies vaccines. Prior to the 2024 violation, Miller had gone many years with no USDA violations. Miller's [website](#) under Carlisle Cavaliers claims he is an AKC breeder who participates in its Bred with HEART program, which allegedly indicates high regard for health care and accountability. Miller also had some state violations in 2020 and 2023. USDA #31-A-0527, OH #CB00198G.

Ella Raber, Fresno Ohio: Dealer who is listed on Petland website failed USDA relicense inspections for issues such as moldy food, matted dogs and dogs with dirty ears; middleman dealer had almost 300 dogs and is now relicensed.

Ella Raber failed two relicense inspections with the USDA in June 2024 and July 2024 and only became relicensed after the third re-inspection in July. Issues found during the failed inspections included: dogs with moldy and/or caked food, several matted dogs, with some dogs having dirty and/or matted ears. One of the dogs had so much "thick, greasy debris" in her ear that it was matted into the fur and forming clumps; another dog had "thick, greasy debris in both

ears,” and one dog was so badly matted that he had 6 square inches of mats. After becoming relicensed, the dealer’s numbers increased from 249 dogs in July to 292 in October. Raber is listed on Petland’s website as one of their breeders. USDA #31-B-0217, OH #CB00366G.

Daniel Wengerd/Country Classic Pets, Millersburg, Ohio: USDA found a dog with “yellow-green discharge” near his eyes and “dark brown to black discharge” in his ears; another dog escaped and was running loose. During a January 2025 inspection, the USDA found that Wengerd “was not treating the eyes, nose, and ears of an adult male Boston Terrier” that contained discharge. The dog had yellow-green discharge near his eyes and in his nose, and dark discharge in both ears. The USDA also found that a dog was running loose after escaping her enclosure. Earlier that month and in some prior years, Wengerd also had some violations for failing to let inspectors in to view the property. Wengerd had additional state violations in 2023 and 2020. USDA 31-A-0778, OH #CB0029EV and CB0029DX.

Andy A. Yoder/A&E Kennel, Sugarcreek, Ohio: Breeder was referred to legal counsel for at least the second time; had recurring issues with inappropriate veterinary care. After a state inspection in July 2024, Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors referred Yoder to their legal counsel after finding a repeat violation for failing to have a female dog certified as healthy prior to breeding. This issue was a concern due to previous warnings about the same issue, and other violations. As noted in our 2024 report, in November 2023, inspectors found a dozen different violations at A&E Kennel, mostly for issues related to dogs without enough space, inappropriate housing, and a lack of proper veterinary documentation. One of the issues concerned lack of a proper plan for tail docking and dewclaw removal, including a lack of a pain control plan. Prior issues found by state inspectors included legal referrals in 2022 for repeatedly breeding dogs without certifying that they were healthy first. USDA inspectors also noted issues at the kennel in 2023, 2020 and earlier. As of mid-2024, Andy Yoder had cancelled his USDA license, but there is a new license at the same address under the name of Edna Yoder. Former USDA #31-A-0526 (Andy), current USDA #31-A-1002 (Edna), OH #CB00031T and CB000YBR. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

David R. Yoder/Country Lane Kennel, Millersburg, Ohio: Breeder failed three times in a row to let USDA inspectors in to check on dogs; sold to Petland stores. David Yoder has repeatedly failed to let USDA inspectors on his property to check on dogs, leaving serious concerns about the welfare of animals and conditions on the property. The most recent attempted inspection was in February 2025, and it was a repeat violation, after inspectors had also tried to view the kennel in both November and October 2024 by visiting in person and calling. Yoder had a prior attempted inspection in October 2021. Yoder has sold to at least four Petland stores and to two Safari Stan’s Pet Center stores in Connecticut; Safari Stan’s is part of the Petland chain. USDA #31-A-0666, OH #CB000S3Y and CB0018TF.

Ervin E. Yoder, Dresden, Ohio: State inspectors found seven repeat violations at breeder whom USDA had not inspected in almost four years; one dog had a red mass protruding from her eye; another had nails curling outward; breeder is linked to Petland. During a July 2024 inspection, state inspectors found at least seven repeat violations at Ervin Yoder’s kennel for issues related to inadequate housing and records. In June 2024, inspectors also found a Yorkie with “a red mass protruding from their eye” and a Shiba Inu with nails apparently so overgrown that they were “curling outwards.” Despite the repeated issues found by state inspectors, the USDA’s website indicates that they had made no recent visits to the kennel. It appears Yoder had not had a USDA inspection since 2020 at the time that he cancelled his USDA license (or let it expire) in April 2024, despite the fact that he had more than 125 dogs at his last USDA inspection. The lack of USDA visits highlights the importance of state oversight.

While he was USDA licensed, Ervin Yoder is listed on Petland's website as one of their breeders, and sold to Safari Stan's Pet Center, a store that is part of the Petland chain. Former USDA # 31-A-0642, OH #CB0017K2 and CB0017LZ.

Owen Yoder/Maple Lane Kennel, Millersburg, Ohio: Breeder received a Direct violation after failing to obtain treatment for a dog who had been limping for two weeks. During a July 2024 relicensing inspection, the USDA gave Yoder a Direct violation after finding a limping Pomeranian. The licensee admitted the dog had been lame for about two weeks, but he had not had the dog treated or examined by a veterinarian. The license renewal was delayed due to the failed inspection. After becoming relicensed, Yoder had another violation in October 2024, when inspectors arrived at the kennel but were told the licensee was "not home and not available," which the inspector noted was a "serious violation" and may result in enforcement action. USDA #31-A-0793, OH #CB0021PA and CB0021Q8.

Raymond J. Yoder/Greenridge Kennel, Fresno, Ohio: State inspectors made legal referrals due to recurring veterinary concerns; breeder repeatedly used unapproved instrument to cut off puppies' tails, risking pain and infection. Raymond Yoder failed several state inspections in late 2024 for issues related to veterinary care and recordkeeping. Following a December 2024 inspection, state inspectors made a legal referral due to concerns about disease prevention and inappropriate care. Another issue documented was the breeder's repeated failure to use a proper instrument to dock puppies' tails, even after the inspector had already warned him about the issue at a prior visit. Failing to follow proper procedures could lead to pain, suffering or infection for the puppies. A USDA inspector also found several violations in December 2024 for similar concerns, noting that none of the adult dogs were up to date on all three of the vaccines required by the Animal Welfare Act, "nor do they have a prior history of vaccines," putting the kennel at risk for deadly disease outbreaks. USDA #31-A-0905; OH #CB002J75 and CB002A0L.

Oklahoma

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Janet Hutson/Happy Creek Frenchies, Chelsea, Oklahoma: Fourteen dogs had no water; two dogs had inadequate shelter from the cold; breeder had no vaccination schedule or approved program of veterinary care; breeder sold to Petland. During a USDA inspection in February 2025, inspectors found several areas of concern at Hutson's kennel. The inspector noted that it was about noon and there were 14 dogs with no water, and it appeared "these dogs had not yet received water that morning." USDA regulations require potable water to be available at all times. In addition, two poodles were in outdoor housing without a shelter that could protect them both from the winter weather. The inspector also noted that the licensee did not have a signed program of veterinary care for puppies, and no vaccine or deworming schedule for the adult dogs. Hutson has sold to Petland, the only national chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. USDA #73-A-2795; OK #BRD00132.

James Troyer/Happy Hollow Kennels, Coalgate, Oklahoma: AKC breeder who sold to Petland failed a USDA relicensing inspection due to extensively matted dog, some dogs without shelter; inadequate veterinary care program. Happy Hollow Kennels has sold AKC puppies and has sold to Petland. Troyer failed a USDA relicensing inspection in May 2024 due to five different violations, including

a dog who had balled, matted hair covering approximately 30% of her body, two dogs who were outside with no shelter from the wind and rain, and lack of a complete veterinary care program. He passed a subsequent re-inspection in June 2024, but as of April 9, 2025, it appears he has not been inspected since. USDA #73-A-2757, OK #BRD00381.

Angela Weaver/Arrow Wind Kennels, Howe, Oklahoma: Dog with severely torn lip causing opening in his face had not been treated; puppy was standing on three legs; others had signs of heat distress. Weaver was fined \$5,000 and cancelled her USDA license but is still licensed by the state.

In July 2024, the USDA fined Angela Weaver \$5,000 for repeatedly violating the Animal Welfare Act. She continued to be found with violations, and in late 2024, after a series of disturbing violations, including repeated Direct violations for badly injured dogs, her USDA license was cancelled. Prior to the July penalty, the USDA found a Direct, repeat violation at Weaver's kennel related to a dog who had not been treated for a gruesome injury; he had a torn lip and nose, causing an opening in his face that showed his teeth through the muzzle area. The USDA also found dogs in temperatures over 87 degrees who were showing "signs of heat distress," and when a USDA inspector returned later in the year, after the fine, they found two dogs "displaying signs of lameness," one of whom



Unkempt dogs at Angela Weaver's facility in Oklahoma. Photo by USDA, 2024.

was just a puppy, and foul, decrepit conditions. Despite the USDA's repeated documentation of many severe violations, the state of Oklahoma had apparently not cited Weaver for any recent issues, and as of February 2025, according to the most recent state license list available, it appears she is still state-licensed, which means she can legally sell puppies directly to individuals. Former USDA #73-A-2819, OK #BRD00414. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Pennsylvania

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Tina Berkstresser/Mountain Hideaway Kennel, Waterfall, Pennsylvania: Owners each charged with at least 14 misdemeanors at facility that had prior cruelty referral; dogs were found repeatedly running near the road; living conditions were unacceptable. Mountain Hideaway Kennel was the subject of a Tri-StateAlert [news story](#) in January 2025, after the kennel owners were each reportedly charged with at least 14 misdemeanors for "failure to keep [the] kennel in sanitary and humane condition,"

including allowing dogs to run at large near the road on numerous occasions. State inspection reports show that during an inspection in January 2025, the dog warden noted six different violations at the kennel, including issues with cleanliness, maintenance and bedding that was “soiled and dirty with an unpleasant odor.” The warden also noted that dogs were intermingling freely and were “not being segregated by sex,” thus “not preventing unintended breeding.” Even after the news article was published, state inspectors found more violations at the kennel in March 2025. In addition, the Tri-StateAlert article reported that the owners had previously pleaded guilty to additional violations of the state dog law in 2023. Inspection records show that in 2023, a dog warden found a male dog who was “very thin” and another with a swelling under her eye. The warden made a cruelty referral in 2023 based on the conditions of the two dogs. PA #16968.

Christian and Sallie Blank/Hilltop Kennel, Gap, Pennsylvania: Inspector ordered veterinary check on five dogs at AKC breeder’s facility; citation issued in 2024. In May 2024, the dog warden ordered a veterinary check on five dogs at Hilltop Kennel due to their visible condition during the inspection. When inspectors returned in November 2024, they issued a citation after finding violations for issues such as inadequate temperature control and humidity levels. In 2023, the kennel had two separate verbal and written warnings. One was in September 2023 for dirty conditions, outdated veterinary records, and other concerns, and one was in January 2023 for incomplete or missing records; the warden also requested a veterinary check within 72 hours after the January inspection. The kennel has passed some inspections, most recently in December 2024. Chris Blank is listed as an AKC poodle breeder on the [AKC’s Marketplace](#) website. PA #18100.

Israel B. Byler/Walnut Grove Kennel, Belleville, Pennsylvania: Received a USDA official warning; Direct violation for injured miniature poodle who had not received treatment days after injury. Byler received an official warning from the USDA in April 2024 due to an issue with an injured dog. A month earlier, Byler had received a Direct violation after inspectors found a miniature poodle who was not putting weight on her leg; Byler admitted the dog had been injured after jumping off a grooming table two days prior, but the dog had not received any treatment. Even after the warning, the USDA found another dog in need of veterinary care in September 2024; that dog was a Yorkshire terrier with signs of dental disease. Dental care violations were noted in 2021 and 2016 as well. Current USDA #23-B-0242, former USDA #23-A-0425, PA # 04299 and 17260. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Reuben Esch/Mountain View Kennels, Howard, Pennsylvania: Received citations after two different inspections in late 2024 for issues such as matted dogs and poor ventilation. During state inspections in September and December of 2024, Esch received two citations for concerning violations. At the December visit, inspectors found matted dogs, two of whom were “heavily matted.” At the September visit, inspectors found six different violations for issues such as high humidity readings, a ventilation system that was not running, and a lack of adequate veterinary care and recordkeeping. The facility offers puppies for sale on websites like [LancasterPuppies.com](#), a site that Humane World has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. Former USDA #23-A-0488; PA #03717.

Elmer Fisher, Newport, Pennsylvania: Breeder had almost a dozen violations in less than six months; received two state citations. Fisher failed three different state inspections within six months in 2024. The most recent one was in August 2024, during which inspectors noted eight different violations; he had three other violations in May and March 2024 combined. Fisher had a warning from the state in 2023 and another citation in 2022. The August violations were related to housing, ventilation and veterinary issues. In May 2024, the state issued a citation to Fisher for operating without the appropriate

license, alleging he “sold puppies to a dealer kennel for resale and transferred over 60 dogs” during the prior license year. He also sold a litter of puppies without adequate records (May 2024) and had some dogs missing rabies vaccines (March 2024). PA #18030.

Sam and Ben Kauffman/Chester View Kennel, formerly Sunny Slope Kennels, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Enclosures were found “caked with dirt and grime” at AKC-linked kennel that was previously closed for enforcement reasons. Pennsylvania authorities have a long history on Chester View Kennel, previously called Sunny Slope Kennels. The operation had such intense problems that it was closed for enforcement reasons in 2010, but it later reopened in 2012 and has had recurring issues since then. Most recently, the kennel was cited in late 2024 for enclosures “that were caked with dirt and grime,” and one enclosure that was not large enough; it received a verbal and written warning. Issues in prior years included another written and verbal warning for keeping dogs in such dark buildings that it was difficult to check on the health of the dogs, and dirty, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. State officials found veterinary issues almost every year between 2013 and 2023. The operation has advertised [AKC Corgis](#) and other breeds on the Lancaster Puppies website, a site that Humane World has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. PA #8642. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Elizabeth and John King/Sunrise Kennel, Narvon, Pennsylvania: Veterinary checks were ordered on dogs six times in less than five years; concerns were reported to Pennsylvania SPCA. State inspectors who visited Sunrise Kennel in April 2024 noted that they viewed “several dogs with abnormal conditions” and made a referral to the Pennsylvania SPCA over their concerns. They also ordered veterinary examinations on three dogs. It was at least the sixth time in five years that veterinary checks were required at Sunrise Kennel. Veterinary checks were also ordered at least once in 2022, twice in 2021, and twice in 2020. Documented issues stretch back even further. For example, the kennel received a citation from the state in February 2018 for a number of violations, and in November 2018, it was issued a verbal and written warning. The November warning was related to dogs who did not have fresh air because they were in a windowless, unventilated building. PA #05126. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Naomi King/Lucky Acres Kennel, Lititz, Pennsylvania: Dog wardens gave warnings and/or citations three years in a row due to filthy conditions. During a January 2025 inspection, dog wardens gave King a citation after finding unsanitary conditions for the third year in a row. King had already received a verbal and written warning at their previous visit in November 2024. At both visits, wardens found accumulations of excreta, and accumulations of hair, dirt and debris. King had also been found with similar issues in summer 2023, when wardens found food and/or water that was contaminated with feces, not just once, but at two visits in a row, as well accumulations of excreta, debris and hair in the dogs’ enclosures and in other areas. The dog warden also ordered an examination on a dog “based on warden’s observations of the condition of dogs during inspection” in May 2023. PA #17971.

Lavina Riehl/Springville Kennel, Kinzers, Pennsylvania: Dog warden found filthy conditions and dead flies in the dogs’ water bowls; kennel has had four citations and five verbal and written warnings since 2019. Springville Kennel has had recurring violations at its state inspections since at least 2019. In September 2024, the dog warden found “water bowls to be contaminated with dead flies,” primary enclosures with hay/shavings that were “saturated with feces and urine,” and accumulations of excreta, dirt and hair throughout the kennel. Riehl also had state violations in 2022, 2021, and 2019 for sanitation issues and/or other concerns, with a total of four citations and five warnings between 2019 and 2024. PA #16925.

Lydia Stoltzfus/Oak Tree Kennel, Dry Run, Pennsylvania: Dog warden issued citation for “strong smell” and sanitation issues, followed by a written warning. Stoltzfus was issued a citation in spring 2024 after the dog warden found four violations related to issues such as a strong smell and “an accumulation of dirt, feces and urine of many primary enclosures where dogs were being housed.” However, when the dog warden returned in June 2024, several issues remained, and Stoltzfus received a warning for concerns related to unsanitary conditions. The issues were not determined to be corrected until a third inspection in July 2024. Former USDA #23-A-0638; PA #16199.

Mary and Benuel Stoltzfus/Mountain Top Kennel, Stevens, Pennsylvania: Kennel owner received state citations four years in a row; had earlier been found hiding dogs at other locations and making false statements. During a February 2025 inspection, Mountain Top Kennel received a state citation due to matted dogs; it was the fourth citation in as many years. A December 2024 inspection had resulted in a citation due to an overdue veterinary examination and other issues. The kennel also had had at least two prior warnings from the state. Issues noted in 2023 included dogs who had been reportedly hidden on other properties that had not been inspected, and the warden noted that “when questioning the kennel owner about the dogs he owns he repeatedly made false statements about how many dogs he owned and their locations.” The warden also found dogs who did not have enough space or had wire flooring and other types of inappropriate housing, among other concerns. PA #16505.

Texas

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Karen Anderson/Anderson’s Kennels, Pittsburg, Texas: State inspectors found seven violations at a single visit, followed by enforcement action and fine. During a June 2024 inspection, state inspectors found seven violations at Anderson’s Kennels, including violations for poor sanitation, poor housekeeping, ineffective pest control, a lack of adequate employees to properly care for the dogs, and more. This was followed by an enforcement action in November 2024, after the inspector noted Anderson had “failed to establish and maintain an effective pest control program; respondent failed to store supplies of food and bedding in a manner that protects the supplies from spoilage, contamination, and vermin infestation; [and] respondent failed to keep housing facilities and surrounding grounds clean and in good repair to prevent odors, diseases, pests, insects, and vermin infestation.” Anderson was fined \$1,500. TX #179.

Danya Bueno/Buenos Little Bulldogs, Andrews, Texas: Breeder who promotes puppies on social media repeatedly failed to have veterinary examinations on dogs; violations sent to enforcement three times since 2021. Even after appearing in our 2022 and 2023 reports for failing to have veterinary records on dogs and other issues, Buenos Little Bulldogs was cited again in late 2024 for similar reasons, including failing to have annual examinations on dogs and other important records. Texas inspectors sent violations to enforcement in October 2024 for at least the third time since 2021, state records show. It appears that Buenos’ license may now be expired, but as of April 2025, she still had an active [Facebook](#) page promoting puppies. Former TX #355. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Tiffany Harvey/Best Little Kennel in Texas, aka Ace Deuce Ranch, Avery, Texas: State inspectors sent violations to enforcement at kennel where concerns stretch back about 10 years; previously two mother dogs died in a fire.

In December 2024, state officials sent violations to enforcement after finding concerns at Best Little Kennel in Texas related to general requirements for housing, inventory and animal records. The issues were a concern because of the kennel's troubling history. As noted in our 2022 report, a state inspector in 2021 had found "nursing mothers with puppies in the stacked kennels had lots of excreta causing lots of flies." There had also been a trailer fire that had killed at least two dogs. The inspector wrote: "Mrs. Harvey stated a trailer caught fire that held mothers and puppies and she lost 2 of the mothers." In addition, the inspector wrote that during the onsite inspection, "standing water from rain was close to some of the primary enclosures causing lots of flies, more than normal," among other concerns. Ace Deuce Ranch also appeared in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, after Harvey was fined \$550 in 2016 for allegedly shipping a puppy to a buyer without the necessary health records and allegedly making fraudulent claims about the dog's breed. State violations stretch back to at least 2015. TX #295. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Caroline Henderson/Henderson's Haven LLC, Saint Hedwig, Texas: Inspectors found housing and cleaning violations at "AKC inspected" kennel that sells on Puppies.com.

In June 2024, state inspectors found several violations at Henderson's Haven, including violations in the categories of "housing, drainage, and waste disposal," "cleaning of primary enclosures," annual examinations for breeding dogs, and more. The kennel advertises puppies on Puppies.com, where it claims to be an "AKC inspected" kennel. The kennel has also offered to ship puppies sight-unseen to buyers even though the website indicates it does not have a USDA license, which would be required for larger kennels shipping puppies in such a manner. A review of the USDA's database on April 9, 2025, found no current, federally licensed dealers or breeders in Saint Hedwig, Texas. TX #242.

Billy Johnson/Select Dachshunds, Waskom, Texas: AKC breeder was fined for at least the second time; violations were sent to enforcement for unsafe conditions.

During an August 2024 visit, state inspectors found six violations at Select Dachshunds, including issues with housing, interior surfaces, construction and employee training. The violations were sent for enforcement, and in December 2024 the breeder was fined \$750 because the "respondent failed to have primary enclosures that were structurally sound, in good repair, able to protect the animals from injury, able to contain the animals securely, and /or able to restrict other animals from entering." The kennel also had another enforcement action in 2023 and was fined \$550 after the "respondent failed to maintain a separate record for each animal in respondent's facility documenting the animal's care." On its website, the kennel offers "top-of-the-line AKC Mini Dachshund puppies." The breeder also advertises on the AKC's sales website, the AKC Marketplace. TX #337; former USDA #74-A-1580.

Cephas and Ruth Kropf/Southland Puppies, Itasca, Texas: Cited for a lack of employees, lack of breeding animal health examinations, and poor animal housing; fined \$1,500 for failure to examine breeding animals annually.

In July 2024, state inspectors cited Southland Puppies for several issues, including animal housing deficiencies, a lack of adequate employees, and breeding animals who were not up-to-date on their health examinations. This was followed by an enforcement action in December 2024 because the kennel "failed to have each animal used for breeding examined by a veterinarian at least once in every twelve-month period." The owner was fined \$1,500. TX #351; former USDA 74-A-1549.

Geri McGhee/Geri McGhee Kennels, Lindale, Texas: State inspectors sent violations to enforcement and fined kennel \$2,050; kennel has offered puppies for sale on the American Kennel

Club website. During a June 2024 inspection, state inspectors found so many violations at Geri McGhee Kennels that they were sent to enforcement, according to a state report; McGhee was subsequently fined \$2,050 for some of the issues. The violations included animals kept outdoors without being acclimated to the weather, employees lacking documented training, inadequate grooming and health care management of the animals, and more. McGhee has claimed to be an AKC inspected breeder. In April 2025, McGhee was offering puppies for sale on the [AKC Marketplace website](#), and offering to ship them to buyers anywhere in the United States. McGhee also [advertised dogs on Puppies.com](#), a website that Humane World has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. TX #303.

Wisconsin

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Samuel Beiler, Platteville, Wisconsin: Dog with eye condition was not being treated adequately seven months after issue was first noticed; breeder sold to Petland. Samuel Beiler had three violations at his November 2024 USDA inspection. The most concerning was a dog with a visible eye problem who was not under current treatment for it, even after it had been documented in April during her physical exam and allegedly treated at that time. As of November, the eye issue still had not been resolved and the dog needed to be seen by the veterinarian again. There was another violation for sanitation and a third for identification issues. Prior issues at the kennel included a flooring issue in 2023 and a sanitation violation in 2022. Beiler has sold puppies to many Petland stores. Petland is the only national chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. USDA # 35-A-0409, WI #467326.

William Kurtz/Barking Valley Kennel, and Sylvia Kurtz/Valley Kennel, Augusta, Wisconsin: Concerns have recurred for a decade at kennel linked to two names and three different USDA license numbers; USDA only assessed a \$1,000 penalty. In February 2025, the USDA gave William Kurtz an official warning for not having an adequate program of veterinary care, and in January 2025, the USDA assessed a penalty of \$1,000 to Sylvia Kurtz. The penalty stemmed from a May 2024 legal complaint against Sylvia Kurtz/Valley Kennel, alleging that she operated as a breeder but did not give the USDA access to her kennel to check on her dogs. Sylvia Kurtz had had a Critical violation in September 2023 for actively refusing an inspection; in March 2024, she dropped the Valley Kennel USDA license, but the kennel appears to still be operating under William Kurtz as Barking Valley Kennel at the same approximate location. Meanwhile, issues continued. Barking Valley Kennel received a Direct USDA violation in December 2024 for a bichon with signs of dental disease; the inspector noticed blood in her mouth. William Kurtz also reportedly admitted that most of his dogs were not current on their distemper or parvovirus vaccines. It appears that the December 2024 Direct violation was the reason for the February 2025 official warning. Kurtz should have been well aware of the rules because he held a previous USDA license under a different number until 2017. Under that license, Kurtz had numerous violations for issues such as receiving dogs from undocumented sources, puppies without enough space, decrepit conditions, and more. The kennel has also been linked to Ryan Handy, a dealer from a prior Horrible Hundred report. Former USDA number for William Kurtz #35-A-0366; former USDA number for Sylvia Kurtz, #35-A-0394. Current USDA #35-A-0533, WI #403097.

Ervin, Marcus, and Anna May Miller/Country Road Kennel, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: USDA found 24 violations at five noncompliant inspections in less than two years; state failed to respond to inquiries regarding state inspections.

During a February 2025 visit to the Millers' kennel, USDA inspectors found some of the puppies in dirty conditions, with "compacted soiled bedding mixed with excreta," and some dogs had no water. It was the fifth noncompliant USDA inspection at the Millers' kennel within less than two years. During an April 2024 inspection, USDA inspectors had found five violations at the Millers' kennel. The issues included a shih tzu in need of eye care, mouse droppings near the food, rusty or sharp areas, and a repeat violation for an incomplete program of veterinary care. Earlier in 2024, USDA had found other concerns, including a Critical violation for a dog who went missing from the kennel and had not been seen again. Altogether, between June 2023 and February 2025, the kennel had 24 different USDA violations, and many of the violations affected numerous dogs. Based on the number of animals (50) seen by USDA on the property, the kennel should also be licensed and inspected by the state of Wisconsin, but the state failed to respond to our public records request in a timely manner as required by law, and as of April 10, 2025, it is unknown if the state is currently inspecting or monitoring the welfare of dogs in this kennel. USDA #35-A-0500. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

Samuel J. Yoder, Augusta, Wisconsin: USDA found some puppies without enough space; none of the adult dogs had physical examinations or had been vaccinated for distemper or parvovirus.

During a May 2024 inspection, USDA inspectors cited Yoder for four violations. They noted that none of Yoder's adult dogs had current parvovirus or distemper vaccines; regular vaccinations are required under the Animal Welfare Act regulations. The dogs also had not had a recent physical examination, nor had they been sampled for parasites, all of which are required. The USDA also found some puppies without enough space. There were also two USDA violations in 2023. As of April 10, 2025, the USDA has not inspected Yoder since, and it is unknown if the state of Wisconsin is monitoring the kennel because it did not respond to a public records request in a timely manner. USDA #35-A-0523, former WI #512523.

Methodology and resources

Visit our [Google document](#) for information about our Methodology (how we select dealers for the report), how Humane World for Animals defines a puppy mill, buyer beware information, information on how to report a puppy mill, and more.

About us

Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change.

With millions of supporters and work happening in over 50 countries, Humane World for Animals—formerly called the Humane Society of the United States—addresses the most deeply entrenched forms of animal cruelty and suffering. As the leading voice in the animal protection space, we work to end the cruelest practices, care for animals in crisis and build a stronger animal protection movement.

Driving toward the greatest global impact, we aim to achieve the vision behind our name: a more humane world.



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