

The Horrible Hundred 2020

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

The 2020 Horrible Hundred is a list of problem puppy breeders and sellers in the United States, published annually to warn consumers about common problems at puppy mills. Documented problems include sick,



A breeding female Weimaraner was one of more than 30 dogs seized from an American Kennel Club breeder in North Carolina in December 2019. She was pregnant, severely emaciated and gave birth that day to seven puppies, four of whom were deceased. As of April 25, 2020, the courts are still considering returning some of the dogs to the breeder. / Anonymous, 2019.

underweight or injured dogs; unsanitary conditions that spread disease; inadequate food or water; and a lack of proper shelter from the heat and cold.

The Humane Society of the United States shares this information annually with the following goals in mind:

- to warn consumers about problem puppy sellers, especially those who sell online or through pet stores, thus concealing their operations from public view;
- to urge government oversight agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture and state

agencies, to live up to their enforcement obligations;

- to encourage government decision-makers to properly fund and support humane law enforcement agencies, and to prioritize dog law enforcement; and
- to encourage decision-makers to pass stronger laws to protect dogs.

This document is not a list of the worst operations, because many puppy mills are not inspected at all and thus operate in secrecy.

Since our last report was published in May 2019, some of the dealers listed in that report appear to have closed or are in the process of closing, including Missouri repeat offenders Debra Ritter (Cornerstone Farms) and Mark Ritter (Heritage Farms). In addition, Circle M Kennel and Susquehanna Valley Kennel in Pennsylvania have had their licenses revoked, and in Georgia, James Godfrey/ Godfrey Chow Kennel closed after a court determined he had renewed his license under false pretenses. And in March 2020, Iowa's attorney general moved to close down Hobo K9 Rescue, a fake rescue marketing puppy mill dogs that we exposed in our last report (although an associated commercial arm, JAKS Puppies, is still in business). In addition, several Missouri breeders who have

appeared in our recent reports are under enforcement action or have been sued by the state attorney general, and we expect some of them might close soon. They include Marlisa McAlmond (Cedar Ridge Australians), Marilyn Shepherd/Williams (Cedercrest Kennel aka Pup 4 U) and Cory Mincey (Cory's Cuties/ Puppy Love Kennel) – however, all three of them are currently still open, and they remain in this report due to ongoing violations.

Despite cracking down on some of its most notorious repeat offenders, Missouri continues to have the largest number of puppy mills in this report for the 8th year in a row (30), followed by Ohio (9) and Kansas and Wisconsin (eight each). However, it's important to note that HSUS researchers are unable to get local inspection records from states that don't have kennel inspection laws, including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida and Tennessee, so states without strong laws may have fewer entries in the report. States that have transparent kennel inspection programs, or that do a better job of enforcement, often have more dealers in the report.

Earlier this year, a key development improved the transparency of puppy mill oversight at the USDA. In February 2020, at the direction of Congress, the USDA's three-year data purge came to an end, and the agency was required to restore full animal welfare inspection reports online, including critical details such as the names and license numbers of breeders and dealers, so that Americans can know which puppy sellers may not be complying with the Animal Welfare Act regulations and in particular, whether the USDA is properly and consistently enforcing the Animal Welfare Act against non-compliant breeders.



One of several dogs at Marlisa McAlmond's Cedar Ridge Australians in Alton, Missouri, whom state inspectors found to be underweight and ailing. The state has sued the operation for recurring violations. /Missouri Dept. of Ag., 2020.

The HSUS also won a lawsuit in 2019, cementing that USDA is legally required to release the substance of inspection reports to the public when requested, as well as photographs and other records documenting potential animal welfare violations. For the first time in several years, the 2020 Horrible Hundred is able to report on whether the agency has taken any action against specific named puppy sellers.

By early March, the agency had also published previously hidden warnings, called “teachable moments¹,” and some enforcement records. And although those records showed that USDA has taken almost no enforcement actions against dog breeders and dog dealers over the last several years, there was one exception. USDA revoked the license of a recent Horrible Hundred dealer, RDR Transport (Renee Ray) of Missouri in October 2019. RDR appeared in our Horrible Hundred report in 2017 after more than [50 puppies](#) were left unattended in the dealer's hot truck and later died, according to inspection records and news reports.

¹“Teachable moments” are violations that USDA instructed its inspectors to document separately from the inspection report, ostensibly because the issues were corrected during the inspection and didn't directly harm the animals. In reality, the only reason not to document these issues on the inspection reports was to conceal them from the public.

But by late March 2020, the safety of animals at America’s puppy mills was thrown back into extreme jeopardy, due to the worsening coronavirus pandemic. On March 27, 2020, the USDA sent a notice to all licensees and registrants, informing them that the agency would be “limiting routine inspections” due to the pandemic, due to health concerns, pandemic-related restrictions on travel and the need for social distancing. Licensees were informed that if they did not want to participate in any inspection, they could simply tell their inspector to “come back another time.” While the pandemic has created a highly unusual situation that is outside of any individual’s control, the pause in routine inspections, with no specific end date, is still a blow to animal welfare and leaves thousands of dogs at risk.

The safety of dogs at USDA-licensed breeding operations had already been in peril for several years leading up to the pandemic, due to a sharp plunge in enforcement at USDA under the current administration. The USDA is responsible for inspecting dog breeding kennels in every state if they have five or more breeding females and sell sight-unseen, for example through pet stores or online. But over the past three years, as [The Washington Post reported in August](#), enforcement actions at USDA-licensed facilities have plummeted more than 90%. In fact, USDA has not issued any warnings or entered into any strong enforcement against problem dog breeders, nor have they revoked any dog breeder licenses, since 2018. According to more than a dozen recently departed USDA inspectors, veterinarians and other professionals interviewed by the Post, inspectors have been actively dissuaded from doing their jobs, from confiscating suffering animals or even from documenting violations on inspection reports. One veterinarian who worked for the agency told the Post, “it feels like your hands are tied behind your back.”

Since our last report was released, we continued to find some of the same types of egregious violations on federal and state inspection reports at breeding facilities that sell online and to pet stores. We also found that a number of dealers with numerous severe violations on their local or state inspection reports were not cited for anything by USDA inspectors.

About one third of the sellers in this report were offering American Kennel Club puppies or promoting themselves as AKC breeders. About half of the dealers in the report are USDA licensed, and about 40% of them are “repeat offenders” who have appeared in one or more of our prior reports. To our knowledge, as of April 24,



Both photos above: Dogs at Kabeara Kennels in Lockport, Illinois, were found in small cages with hardly any space to move. Some of them were in wire cages stacked three rows high. Yet due to minimal state kennel laws, the breeder was not cited for any violations. State inspectors took these photos while investigating a buyer complaint about a puppy with parvovirus. /Illinois Dept. of Ag, 2019.

2020, the USDA has taken no significant steps toward revoking the licenses of any of the repeat offenders in this report.

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

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

To avoid supporting an inhumane breeder, puppy buyers should never purchase a puppy from a pet store, over the internet, or from any breeder they haven't met in person. Buyers should always ask to [see the conditions](#) in which the puppy was born and raised.

Contents

CTRL + Click on a state to jump to the page.

Alabama	(1 dealer)	Page 5
Arkansas	(2 dealers)	Page 5
California	(1 dealer)	Page 6
Florida	(2 dealers)	Page 7
Georgia	(7 dealers)	Page 9
Illinois	(2 dealers)	Page 14
Indiana	(5 dealers)	Page 16
Iowa	(5 dealers)	Page 18
Kansas	(8 dealers)	Page 24
Michigan	(1 dealer)	Page 29
Missouri	(30 dealers)	Page 30
Nebraska	(3 dealers)	Page 57
New York	(4 dealers)	Page 59
North Carolina	(1 dealer)	Page 62
Ohio	(9 dealers)	Page 63
Oklahoma	(1 dealer)	Page 67
Pennsylvania	(6 dealers)	Page 68
South Dakota	(2 dealers)	Page 75
Tennessee	(1 dealer)	Page 76
Washington	(1 dealer)	Page 77
Wisconsin	(8 dealers)	Page 78
Methodology		Page 85



ALABAMA

Brilliant, Alabama: Doris Dianne Baker Jones – Dog was matted over 80% of his body; some dogs did not have enough protection from the cold.

According to a December 2019 USDA inspection report, a number of problems were found at Baker Jones' facility, which had a total of 50 dogs and puppies at the time. Issues found included a badly matted dog: "An adult black and tan Cocker Spaniel (microchip #7E10242302) had mats covering at least 80% of his body. The mats ranged from 1/2 inch to 3 inches in size. The mats were located on the dog's feet, legs, abdomen, back, sides, neck, and ears. Many larger mats were firmly attached to the underlying skin." In addition, "7 adult dogs were housed in outdoor enclosures which contained shelter but did not contain bedding. It snowed last night and the weather at the time of the inspection was 48.7 degrees Fahrenheit." Also, a "male brown and white Cocker Spaniel was housed in an outdoor enclosure with a dirt floor in the metal barn. There was an accumulation of fecal material on the floor of the enclosure, some of which was moldy." The presence of moldy fecal material suggested the floor had not been cleaned in a long time.

Prior to the December visit, there was a previous attempted inspection in March 2019, at which time the owner received a violation because no one was available to show the facility and its animals to inspectors. "Attempted inspections" are a violation because the Animal Welfare Act requires licensees to make their operations available to USDA inspectors during regular business hours. In recent years, the USDA has been extremely lenient with enforcement, leading some licensees to make little or no attempt to let inspectors in, apparently preferring the "attempted inspection" violation rather than showing their entire operation to inspectors. Prior to the December 2019 inspection, Baker Jones' facility had not been inspected since May 2018, at which time it passed its first inspection. Advertises AKC puppies; USDA #64-A-0164.

ARKANSAS

Prim, Arkansas: Bill Nored, Dryfork Kennel (repeat offender)– Failed to follow veterinary advice for dog; kennel has had repeated veterinary care issues since at least 2011.

The year 2020 is the sixth time that Dryfork Kennel has appeared in our Horrible Hundred report. The facility has had repeated issues with sick and injured dogs for almost a decade. Most recently, in August 2019, a USDA inspector noted: REPEAT: "A seven year old, female, white Poodle [had] a buildup of dark brown tartar on the canine and cheek teeth. This can be a sign of dental disease which can be painful, cause tooth loss and other health problems. The licensee has been instructed by the attending veterinarian on how to control and treat dental disease. The licensee stated that he has not been following the instructions given by the veterinarian." At the time of the inspection, the facility had more than 130 dogs and puppies.

Issues we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report include the following: In March 2019, USDA inspectors found two dogs in obvious need of veterinary care at Dryfork Kennel. The first dog was a 7-year-old Pomeranian who "had an opaque, red left eye with a jelly like protrusion from the center." The inspection report stated that the problem "can be a sign of illness or injury and [can] be painful." The same dog also had signs of advanced periodontal disease, with heavy plaque on his teeth and a "creamy white discharge." The Pomeranian's issues were cited as a "direct" violation, indicating the dog was in need of swift veterinary care. A second dog was found in need of veterinary care at the same inspection; that dog was a poodle who had a mass in her mammary area "the size of a plum." The poodle was also "extremely matted," according to the inspection report. Bill Nored also appeared in our 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 reports due to repeated animal care issues, including a dead puppy and a dog with an apparent broken jaw.

In July 2016, USDA inspectors found three dogs at Dryfork Kennel in need of veterinary care, including a 9-year-old Chihuahua who "appeared to have a broken bottom jaw," a 1-year-old Chihuahua mix who had a round, fleshy mass in the corner of her eye, and a dachshund with hair loss and skin that was "crusty, scabbed and

inflamed.”

In November 2015, a dachshund was found with a walnut-sized growth on the abdominal area, and four additional dogs were found with patches of hair loss; in June 2015, a dog was so badly matted that she had “golf ball size matts of hair and waste material” and “dread lock shaped matts” hanging from her body, and a shih tzu was found with a combination of hair loss, hanging mats and “sores and drainage”; and multiple dogs were found in need of veterinary care, including a dog with her paw stuck in the wire flooring, a dog with red scabs, a limping dog and a dog with “green discharge” around the eye (June 2014).

In August 2014, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Nored for inadequate veterinary care and unsafe and unsanitary conditions. In October 2013, a USDA inspector found a dead 8-week-old puppy at Dryfork Kennel. When asked about the puppy, the owner admitted the puppy had been sick for two days, but had not been taken to a vet. During the same inspection, the inspector noted that the breeding dogs were caged in two trailers. The first trailer had “a strong ammonia [urine] smell which burnt the eyes and throat to the point of coughing.” In the second trailer, dogs were found living in almost total darkness. And in May 2011, a USDA inspector noted that, in addition to issues with the health of some of the breeding dogs, there were 12-14 large ‘hunting dogs’ running loose, nine of whom were “extremely thin to the point of ribs, hips and spinal column protruding.”

Nored did pass two recent USDA inspections in December 2019 and March 2020. USDA #71-B-0170. SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Viola, Arkansas: Jeremy and Melissa Swartzentruber– Injured corgi with a large piece of flesh torn from her ear was not taken to a veterinarian for more than a week; another puppy had missing fur, scabs and oozing eyes.](#)

In August 2019, a USDA inspector cited the Swartzentrubers with a direct violation, indicating a significant animal care issue, for the following violation: “An adult female Welsh Corgi named Ellie Mae (last 4 digits of her microchip #0563) had been attacked through the fence by another dog in an adjacent pen about a week ago. The kennel owner had made appropriate adjustments to the kennel layout to isolate the aggressive dog and had cleaned the wound. Ellie Mae’s left ear was missing a large piece and it was red, crusted, and had pus oozing from the wound. The kennel owner was using a non-prescription spray to clean the ear daily but had made no attempts to contact his attending vet in the preceding week.”

During the same inspection, a puppy was found with severe skin problems and oozing eyes. Per the inspection report: “A 4 month old red and white male Welsh Corgi pup (last 4 digits of his microchip #211B) had large patches of fur missing from his face and feet. The skin was red and darkened and had small scabs all over. His eyes had a yellow creamy discharge. The puppy was not as active as its littermate in the same pen. The puppy had received no treatment for his condition.” The inspector urged the kennel owner to take both animals to the veterinarian for treatment. There were 56 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. The same kennel also had a violation in June 2019 for not making the kennel available to inspectors.

The kennel passed two recent inspections in September 2019 and January 2020. USDA # 71-A-1390.

CALIFORNIA

[Phelan, California: Trina and Rick Ray Kenney—Current lawsuit accuses pair of fraud, selling sick and dying puppies via Craigslist; owner previously had 32 dogs seized in 2018 and served prison time for mail fraud.](#)

Trina Kenney is [facing a lawsuit](#) for selling sick puppies, following a number of complaints, including a case that went viral on social media involving a puppy who was dyed to look brown in color but was really off-white. The dog was also sold as a female but turned out to be a male and was very sickly and later died, leaving a family with



four children heartbroken. The family alleges they were told the puppy was over eight weeks old, which is a minimum age requirement under state law, but a veterinarian told them Bear was “actually closer to four weeks old,” according to news reports. Bear was diagnosed with canine parvovirus and distemper and had to be euthanized after suffering from persistent vomiting and not being able to eat or drink. Other families had similar complaints.

[The complaint](#) alleges the Kenney’s were advertising the puppies to unsuspecting families on Craigslist and other websites, sometimes using fake names or no names. The puppies were acquired by the Kennneys from unknown sources, and were “sick, unvaccinated, younger than advertised,” were different breeds or genders from the types advertised, and “in most cases, have died...” The sellers then subjected some of the alleged victims to “vicious threats and harassment” when they tried to recover their money, the complaint alleges.

[The lawsuit](#), filed on behalf of 10 families, has been ongoing since December 2019, but the dealer has a 10-year history of problems. Thirty-two dogs were [seized from her](#) care and custody in 2018, according to news reports. The Humane Society of the San Bernadino Valley said that Trina Kenney and her husband would sell puppies in parking lots, often under different aliases, and that many of the puppies were sick or died.

FLORIDA

[Grand Island / Umatilla, Florida: Ryan T. Handly, Puppies Florida, LLC \(repeat offender\) – After Wisconsin rescinded his license due to years of violations, Handly moved to Florida, where he continued to sell puppies from unlicensed Wisconsin breeders.](#)

In September 2019, after years of violations, the state of Wisconsin finally voided repeat offender Ryan T. Handly’s state dog breeder license, but he is still associated with the puppy-selling website called Wisconsin Puppies, and has now moved to Florida, where he operates a business called Puppies Florida, LLC. Puppies Florida’s website states that the business delivers puppies all over Florida.

Handly appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports (2018, 2017) for issues such as dogs “exposed to excrement falling from higher enclosures,” a strong odor of ammonia and feces, and multiple state warnings for animal care violations.

Wisconsin state records received in response to an HSUS open records request show that when Handly’s license was voided in September 2019, he had already been operating on a conditional license, due to several years of animal care violations and multiple refusals to allow inspections. It appears that, as his violations were piling up and apparently realizing his state license might be taken away, Handly began transferring his breeding animals to other breeders in Wisconsin, with a plan to regularly pick up the puppies and sell them in Florida, state records show.

Handly was dealing with a number of Wisconsin breeders, sometimes claiming they were not breeders but “caretakers,” and using other terminology seemingly to avoid licensure and oversight for both his and others’ operations. (See the entries for Toby Borntreger and Norman Gingerich under the Wisconsin section of this report for additional details). Avoiding licensure also meant avoiding the state’s basic care standards for commercial breeders, allowing the unlicensed sellers to keep dogs in stacked, wire cages with barely any space to move around, and avoiding any regular review of their veterinary records, among other safeguards.

As one Wisconsin investigator explained in an August 2019 email to Florida officials, which HSUS obtained as part of an open records request: “Mr. Handy’s manner of business is to recruit Amish farmers to breed dogs for him, offer them \$200 per dog as a ‘caretaker’ fee, and then sell the dogs via his websites: designerpuppy.com, wisconsinpuppies.net, and now puppiesflorida.net. He is currently working with seven breeders in Wisconsin that we are aware of, though there may be more, as he takes measures to hide dog breeding facilities from our staff. At this time we have evidence that he has transported approximately 163 dogs to two addresses in Lake County Florida from Wisconsin since January of 2019. He has communicated to us that his intent is to continue these movements.”

As of March 24, 2020, Wisconsinpuppies.net had a total of 17 puppies offered for sale on its website on a single day, which makes it appear unlikely that the operation sells under 24 puppies per year, yet the business claims to sell under that number so as not to require a license (the website claims to represent multiple breeders in the area). Wisconsin breeders Handy has been associated with include: Abraham (Abe) Borntreger, Tobias (Toby) Borntreger, Norman Gingerich, Henry Hershberger, Raymond Hershberger, William Kurtz and Harvey Shrock.

As we noted in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, Ryan Handy had issues at multiple kennel locations before leaving Wisconsin, according to state records. For example, on Nov. 15, 2017, inspectors found four enclosures at one of his locations that were stacked so high that inspectors needed to stand on a stool to view inside; inadequate space in some enclosures; unapproved flooring in some enclosures and sanitation issues. Based on these violations, the state issued an official warning notice. However, even after being warned by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Handy was again cited for many more violations in January 2018, including “very dirty” water containers “coated with a dark residue”; a shih-tzu with “severe matting which would likely cause discomfort and pain”; puppies on 1 by 1-inch wire flooring that could allow their feet to fall through, including one puppy “resting on its chest as one or more legs [had fallen] through the gaps up to its chest”; dogs “exposed to excrement falling from higher enclosures”; a strong odor of ammonia and feces; and dirty conditions, including trays with excessive accumulation of feces. Handy was later issued a notice of non-compliance due to the January 2018 violations.

Issues at Handy’s operations go back to at least 2015, including citations for keeping dogs in cages that were too small, failing to provide the proper health certificates with dogs, and other concerns.

A review of the USDA’s searchable database on April 13, 2020, found no licenses under the name of Ryan Handy in Wisconsin or in Florida. There were also no USDA licenses found under the names “Wisconsin Puppies” or “Puppies Florida.” However, pursuant to federal regulations puppy sellers that ship puppies to buyers they do not meet in person are required to have a USDA license. Former WI #268582. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Naples, Florida: Nathan Bazler, Florida Puppies Online, aka Little Puppies Online LLC \(repeat offender\)—Massive online dealer linked to at least 26 puppy deaths; affiliated with Florida pet store and businesses in Maryland and Ohio.](#)

Florida Puppies Online offers puppies for sale on various online platforms, via its massive [sales website](#), and also directly to buyers at its Naples, Florida, pet store. According to information obtained by HSUS from the Department of Animal Services in Collier County, Florida, as of early March 2020, at least 14 puppies had died at the Florida Puppies Online operation in 2019 and early 2020 alone, and the total number of puppies who died between 2017 and early March 2020 was at least 26. Some of the causes of death listed in the records were parvovirus, parasites, hypoglycemia and respiratory infections.

A February 2019 local inspection report of the store indicated no violations, although the inspection report notes that “bodies [of dead animals are] disposed of at vet’s office.” In addition, a county activity report from October 2019 indicates the owner was not meeting current space requirements for some of the puppies, but the county decided not to enforce the requirement at that time. In addition, the operation was two years late in complying with a rule to report puppy dispositions, including deaths, to the county quarterly. The owner was given flexibility on some of the standards due to claiming he did not understand them, even though he has been in business in Florida since at least 2016. During an October 2019 discussion, the manager of the store also claimed not to be aware of local rules for reporting puppy deaths, according to county records.

It does not appear that the Florida operation is specifically licensed by the USDA to ship puppies sight-unseen from Florida, although it is linked to a business in Ohio that has a USDA license, Little Puppies Online. Both are owned by the same person, Nathan Bazler. Bazler is also linked to a site in Maryland called [Maryland Puppies Online](#), which has a brick and mortar store and also offers puppies for delivery to many states.

Little Puppies Online appeared in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report for issues at its Ohio location, from which Bazler operated as both a breeder and broker. During a July 2016 USDA inspection, Little Puppies Online was cited with a “Direct NCI,” the most serious kind of violation, by a USDA inspector who found that most of the puppy enclosures were overcrowded. For example, three Dalmatian puppies were found packed in a cage that was only 24 inches by 36 inches (six square feet), while the USDA’s minimum cage size for three puppies of that size would be 16 square feet, according to the USDA report. The inspector noted that “at least 25 of the 37 enclosures were overfilled” with puppies. The inspection report also alluded to sick puppies, noting, “there have been medical issues in the recent past that may have been compounded by housing animals in below the minimum space requirements.”

The same report also noted that the broker had obtained at least 18 puppies from unlicensed individuals, which is a serious concern because unlicensed breeders could easily be unlawful puppy mills. The HSUS recommends never purchasing a puppy sight-unseen from any website.

Florida Puppies Online sells via its Naples store, its website at [flpuppiesonline.com](#) and other online platforms such as [NextDayPets](#) and [Facebook](#), where the massive operation claims to be a “family owned small business.”

As of March 2020, Bazler still has an active dealer license under a Mount Vernon, Ohio, address. Language on the Ohio-based [Little Puppies Online website](#) states, “our puppies are available for pickup at our Ohio home” and can also be shipped.

USDA #31-B-0174. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT (previously listed in Ohio under Little Puppies Online).

GEORGIA

Claxton, Georgia: Fonda and Derrick Bray, Weatherford’s Pampered Pets— State issued a “stop order” due to poor conditions and too many dogs; ordered to downsize from about 130 dogs to 60.

Weatherford’s Pampered Pets failed a state inspection in May 2019 due to eight different violations: humane care, lighting, housekeeping, pest control, structural strength, recordkeeping, class and separation, and sanitation. State inspectors issued a stop order and requested that the owner downsize from the more than 130 dogs and puppies on the property to fewer than 60 animals.

Direct quotes from that inspection report include the following: “Upon entry to facility the indoor/outdoor utility house has a total of 4 indoor enclosures which have an opening for dogs to freely access the outdoor area. This indoor area did not have sufficient lighting to perform inspection. A violation for lighting has been issued during this visit”; “Multiple enclosures are rusted and broken apart on the lower level of panels which expose animals to injury”; “accumulation of full trash cans collecting water. Interior of home was said by owner to have a vermin infestation of mice”; “Primary enclosures in the indoor section of utility house is in violation of sanitation due to layer of buildup within the enclosure. [...] any buildup should be removed on a daily basis to prevent the layering of feces/urine”; “Humane care [was] found to be in violation due to 13 dogs on the property with matted hair which possibly covers 10% of body”; “3 dogs on the property appear to be in need of medical attention. A veterinarian exam report must be provided by email to Inspector within 72 hours...”; “in violation due to animals with vicious disposition not separated from other animals”; “No records were provided to us during this inspection”; “A stop order has been placed on [this] facility until all violations have been corrected”; “Mrs. Bray has more animals than she may be able to provide for daily.”

The owner was told she would be found in violation of the stop order “if any animals are removed from the property with records not available. No puppies may be sold or leave premises, except for medical emergency. Adult [dogs] may be rehomed to help with number reduction.”

After the stop order was issued, state records show that inspectors visited the property three more times; once more in May 2019, once in June 2019, and once in August 2019, to check on the progress regarding reducing the numbers and rehoming dogs. During a follow-up call, inspectors repeated that “133 dogs has obviously become [too] much to maintain for 1 person,” and the dogs’ “cleaning and health needs” were not being met. Despite this warning, the operation didn’t seem to be making much progress reducing numbers; in August, many of the violations had been addressed, but there were still 98 adult dogs on the premises.

When inspectors arrived for a fourth inspection on Dec. 18, 2019, Mr. Bray was there but claimed to have an injury and would not let them inspect the property, which is a significant concern because it could indicate that poor conditions had returned. It is unknown at this time how many dogs are still on the property and what condition they are in. GA #36106196.

[Concord, Georgia: Lynn aka Cheryl Henning, Simpler Times Farm aka Covered in Danes—Dogs were under quarantine for contagious illness; excessive feces and trash; offers puppies for sale online, apparently without the required USDA license.](#)

State inspectors found a number of problems during an inspection at Simpler Times Farm in November 2019. The inspectors found some matted dogs and structural issues as well as “trash and debris heavily littering the property” and “heavy fecal/excrement accumulation.” The inspectors were visiting the property for a “second round” of disease testing, state records show. The testing was related to a quarantine the facility was under for an unspecified outbreak of illness and involved having a veterinarian conduct blood tests on 37 dogs (state records received by HSUS had the name of the illness blacked out). The property appeared to have been under quarantine for months, according to the records. Typically, state officials do not get involved in testing dogs for illness unless the illness is one like brucellosis that can spread to other species.

The facility was cited for violations for housekeeping, sanitation, structural strength and waste disposal. The inspection report noted bird droppings in the water container in one enclosure and fencing in disrepair, in addition to the excessive feces and litter.

On Jan. 8, 2020, state inspectors returned to the property and found repeat violations for housekeeping and structural strength. There was still an excess of debris and trash, and the fencing and a building were in disrepair. The breeder also noted she was having problems with the county as she did not have the proper permits and licenses for her business, according to the January inspection report. The breeder had downsized to 16 dogs at

that inspection. Despite the repeated problems, the state allowed the licensee to renew their license in February 2020, so the HSUS has concerns that the numbers at this kennel will soon go up again.

Simpler Times Farm sometimes offers dogs for sale, including some AKC puppies, on its [own website](#) and on websites such as [Next Day Pets](#). The operation's prior ads offered to ship puppies to buyers, but as of April 13, 2020, the HSUS could find no indication that it has a USDA license, which would be required, per federal regulations, to ship dogs or puppies sight-unseen to buyers. GA #36100670.

Douglas, Georgia: Dan Vickers, Vickers Kennel—State issued a stop order to breeder with more than 100 dogs due to inadequate housing; puppies were in wire cages in mobile home; outdoor kennels had only 55-gallon drums as dogs' shelter.

State officials found violations at three different inspections at Vickers Kennel since last May. During a May 2, 2019, visit, they found violations for housekeeping, sanitation and structural strength, with feces built up under some enclosures, "a buildup of dog hair and dust in the puppy room," an excess of weeds and debris, and more.

In July 2019, during a reinspection, Vickers was issued three violations for housekeeping, housing and drainage issues, and in October 2019, inspectors found that several issues were still present, including issues with housing and drainage. During the October visit, a stop order was issued. According to that inspection report, the puppy room and outdoor enclosures were not acceptable housing for dogs: the puppy room consisted of a mobile home filled with wire cages with 1" by 1" mesh "similar to a rabbit enclosure." The outdoor enclosures were wire pens with "55-gallon drums attached for housing." The outdoor kennels had inadequate drainage, leading to some kennels that allowed waste to fall directly on the ground instead of being drained away. At the October visit, the state issued two repeat violations for the structures and drainage and told the licensee he was only allowed to sell the remaining puppies, but had to stop breeding until the order was lifted. A note was made on the inspection report about "setting up a hearing." In December, inspectors noted that they called "several times" trying to set up a re-inspection, but were not able to get one until January, for unknown reasons.

On Jan. 8, 2020, the facility passed an inspection, but still had 75 animals, which some would argue is still too many dogs for a breeder who had so many recent issues. Inspectors noted that the licensee claimed he was still reducing his breeding animals with a goal of having only 50 adult dogs; yet at the same time, the department lifted the stop order, stating, "Mr. Vickers can start back breeding dogs effective immediately," which would only result in more animals to take care of, not fewer. The HSUS continues to have concerns about the facility due to the number of animals on the property and the length of time it took to get basic issues corrected. GA #3694187.

Fairburn, Georgia: Leslie Ayo, Heaven Sent Puppies aka My Pet Store, formerly Heaven's Gate Kennel (repeat offender)—Breeder who was previously convicted of cruelty for do-it-yourself surgeries on puppies, resulting in at least one puppy's death, has resumed offering puppies for sale online.

A breeder who seemed to have gone underground and dropped her kennel license after a 2015 conviction for animal cruelty appears to be back in business, according to current puppy sales websites. Leslie Ayo's charges were related to tail docking and dewclaw removal without a veterinary license, [resulting in the death](#) of at least one of the puppies and leaving the others in "severe condition," according to local officials.

Ayo was in the HSUS's 2015 Horrible Hundred report after she was [charged with animal cruelty](#) for performing the barbaric do-it-yourself surgeries, which were performed with scissors and without pain medication, leaving the puppies screaming in pain and bleeding profusely, according to the Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office.

According to news sources, Ayo agreed to “serve five years on probation, pay a fine of \$3,500, perform 240 hours of community service, have no contact with animals, and surrender all state Department of Agriculture licenses. She also is subject to inspections by Gwinnett County Animal Control” as part of her plea agreement. While Ayo may have sought revisions to this agreement or been released from her probation early, as the online court docket suggests, there are still some questions about whether it is legal for Ayo to be operating as a dog dealer without a state or federal license. Moreover, Ayo’s website lists a number of different breeds for sale, including some that she claims were from Korea, and it is illegal to import puppies under the age of six months from other countries for resale (according to USDA regulations).

Even if Ayo is now legally permitted to sell puppies again under a revised court order, the HSUS has grave concerns about her fitness to do so.

As recent as March 2020, and also in 2019 as well, the convicted animal abuser was promoting puppies for sale [on Facebook](#) as well as on multiple web platforms, such as [Hoobly](#) and on her new web page, [Heaven Sent Puppies](#). On a March 17, 2020, Facebook post offering husky puppies for sale, the owner wrote, “Husky puppies available! [...] Call or text for details! I raise some of the cutest, healthiest puppies on God’s green Earth!” Ayo also appears to have at least nine different breeds for sale on Hoobly. Some of the puppies offered were described as AKC registerable.

A [prior website](#) for “Heaven’s Gate Kennels” is still online but does not seem to be recently updated. Former GA #34102930. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Fort Valley, Georgia: Jerrie Cobb, Jerrie’s Pet Place— AKC breeder had puppies shivering in the cold, “rabbit hutch style enclosures” for dogs.](#)

In July 2019, Georgia Department of Agriculture inspectors made the third visit of a series of three 90-day inspections after Jerrie’s Pet Place had been apparently instructed to reduce its numbers, groom dogs and improve upon its “rabbit hutch style” enclosures. As of July 18, 2019, the department decided the licensee had resolved all of her former problems, including downsizing in numbers and upgrading to chain-link runs with dog houses instead of using the hutch-style enclosures. The department stated that it was satisfied that the kennel reduced its numbers to “approximately 90 dogs (not counting new litters of which she has 2).”

But when the department made its next visit on Nov. 13, 2019, it seems some issues were still present. The licensee was issued a violation for inadequate temperature. There was not enough heat provided to enclosures for nursing mother dogs with their puppies. The inspector noted, “several litters were observed shivering.” The inspector noted, “I explained to [the] owner that allowing the dogs to simply shiver was not acceptable and that she would have [to get a better heat source] or move the dogs to a warmer place, especially given that these are all small breed dogs.” In addition, an inspector noted a concern about space because 90% of the enclosure space for adult dogs was outdoors “leaving very little room for the indoor portion of these enclosures,” which gave the dogs almost no heated space. There were about 80 dogs on the property during the November inspection, and the inspector noted that the licensee was being encouraged to continue to downsize.

Jerrie’s Pet Place appears to be offering many breeds of dogs for sale via its website, [jerriespetplace.com](#), and offers shipping. As of March 2020, it has an active state license, but does not appear to have a USDA license. Dog breeders with more than four breeding female dogs, who sell puppies online sight-unseen or to pet stores, or in other ways that don’t involve meeting the buyer face-to-face, are required to have a USDA license, according to the Animal Welfare Act. GA#36103663.

Patterson, Georgia: Harold and Kathryn Barber, K-Bar Kennel (repeat offender)— Strong ammonia (urine) fumes and mothers with puppies on dangerous wire flooring.

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

The recent issues at the kennel are a cause for concern because the kennel has come to our attention repeatedly in the past. K-Bar Kennel appeared in our 2013 Horrible Hundred report after the HSUS received numerous consumer complaints about conditions of the puppies sold by Barber, including complaints from three buyers whose puppies died shortly after purchase.

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

In December 2009, an HSUS investigator visited the kennel undercover. The report and records were sent to local law enforcement due to concerns about filthy conditions, ramshackle cages, excessive feces and many dogs with excessively matted fur. The investigator said they saw about 250 dogs at the kennel at that time.

K-Bar Kennel has sold many of its puppies at Keller's Flea Market in Savannah, Georgia, and has also advertised puppies for sale using online classified ads and Facebook in the past. GA #3684600. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Rhine, Georgia: Judy Hulett, J&D Kennels (repeat offender)—Four dogs had injured or crusted eyes; foul odor; puppies endangered by wire floors; massive facility with over 500 dogs.

In June 2019, a USDA inspector found four dogs with potentially painful eye issues at Judy Hulett's breeding operation—an issue which should have been cited as a repeat veterinary care violation as one of the dogs' eye issues had been pointed out during a prior inspection, but still hadn't been fully addressed. The inspector wrote: "The previously cited female Boston terrier (MC # 85049) diagnosed with dry eye, was treated according to the veterinarian's instructions, but looked no better during this inspection; having heavy amounts of bilateral mucoid material in both eyes, and was continually squinting and blinking." In addition, "An adult female Shih Tzu had a very watery right eye. Although her cornea appeared normal, the excessive watering from the one eye needed to be recognized as not normal and needed to be addressed...". The third dog, a "white adult female Bulldog (MC #456114) having puppies in the whelping building was slightly squinting and had bilateral crusts on the lower eyelids. There was a pronounced white opacity in the right eye, suggestive of an injury. One caretaker stated the veterinarian was consulted, but the dog is not currently under any treatment." The fourth dog with eye issues was a Boston terrier who had "a healing eye lesion on the upper half of his left eye." The inspector wrote, "Blood vessels are growing into the white tissue on his cornea. The caretaker states no issues had been observed with this animal until the inspectors pointed him out."

In addition to the potentially painful veterinary issues, the inspector also noted “a very strong ammonia odor” in one of the whelping buildings caused by dog urine, and noticed at least two cages containing puppies in which a puppy’s entire leg was falling through the wire flooring. The Animal Welfare Act regulations require flooring that protects puppies’ paws or legs from falling through; wire flooring is a significant injury risk to dogs, and especially puppies. During a November inspection, the facility had 560 dogs and puppies on the premises.

Multiple significant animal care issues were found earlier in the year at this same facility. As we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, on March 5, 2019, a USDA inspector documented numerous sick or injured dogs, piles of feces, a building crawling with cockroaches, and many dogs who didn’t have adequate protection from the winter weather at Hulett’s kennel. Just a few of the egregious issues found included a pregnant Great Dane who was “excessively thin” with her “spinal vertebrae, ribs, scapula, and pelvic bones” easily seen. The inspector indicated the dog had not been seen by a vet despite her emaciated condition. Two German shepherds were also found with ear injuries, a black Labrador had missing fur around her eyes, and a Boston terrier had “thick yellow-greenish mucoïd discharge covering both eyes...” In addition, a pug had “an enlarged eye, which [appeared] dry and covered with [a] white stringy tissue,” and two dogs had signs of dental infections. The inspector also found a lack of bedding for the outdoor dogs in cold weather, excessive piles of feces in some of the enclosures, and a “very large number” of cockroaches crawling around one of the buildings housing dogs.

The operation passed a USDA inspection in November 2019, but the HSUS has very significant concerns about the ability of this operator to properly care for 500 animals, especially due to the fact that it had multiple severe issues within a year. USDA # 57-A-0206; GA #36104580. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

ILLINOIS

[Lockport, Illinois: Teresa Heaver, Kabeara Kennels, aka Kabeara Samoyeds—Consumer complained about puppy with alleged parvovirus; puppies crowded into small, metal cages had no bedding or adequate space.](#)

Photographs and documents received from state officials in response to an HSUS public records request show that state inspectors went to visit Kabeara Kennels in December 2019, after a puppy buyer complained that she bought a puppy who had tested positive for parvovirus, and the respondent (breeder) admitted that some other puppies had tested positive as well. The buyer’s puppy had required hospitalization and had accumulated more than \$2,600 in veterinary bills.

Although the state noted no specific violations at the December inspection, and mentioned only that a cage was overcrowded, photographs taken on that day paint an entirely different picture. The photographs show puppies crowded into barren metal cages in a garage-like area with a concrete floor. In some parts of the building, the cages were stacked three high. The animals did not appear to have any bedding, or even solid flooring, and many did not appear to have enough room to turn around or lie down without walking over other dogs in the cage. Unfortunately, Illinois law requires only basic survival standards for dogs, so despite these poor conditions, there were no improvements required by the law except to reduce the overcrowding.

At a follow-up visit in January 2020, the inspector noted: “I visited the kennel and met with the respondent. I performed an inspection and observed that there were only two dogs in the cage that had three in it on my previous visit.” Despite the satisfactory report, it is clear from photographs taken that day that the dogs were still in very small cages on gridded flooring, with barely enough room to turn around—which may be legal in Illinois, but is far from what many people would consider humane.

Kabeara Kennels offers puppies for sale online, including on the American Kennel Club's ["AKC Marketplace"](#) website. But a check of USDA license lists in April 2020 could find no indication that Kabeara Kennels is licensed to sell and ship puppies sight-unseen to the public. In addition, some puppy buyers have [complained](#) online about receiving sick AKC puppies from Kabeara Kennels.

The HSUS maintains that dogs and puppies cannot be adequately cared for in stacked, wire cages, and that stacking cages usually indicates that a breeder has more animals than they can comfortably house. The HSUS supported legislation in 2020 to require higher standards of care for dogs in Illinois breeding kennels. IL #8125.

[Stonefort, Illinois: Aimee and Rob Hall and Kristine Robards, Double R Aussiedoodles—Parvovirus outbreak in kennels resulted in multiple puppies' deaths; consumer complaints; appears to be selling puppies online without a USDA license.](#)

In September 2019, the Illinois State Department of Agriculture received at least two complaints about sick puppies at or sold by [Double R Aussiedoodles](#), state records show.

The Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Welfare sent an inspector to the property after the first complaint, on Sept. 9, 2019. According to the inspection report, the breeder said she was expecting the visit due to puppies being sick, and indicated she wasn't quite sure why the animals were getting ill, according to records HSUS obtained from the state. There were more than 110 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time, and many of them were in dirty cages that had not yet been cleaned, according to the inspection report.

Among the disturbing sights the inspector documented during the visit was a mother dog "full of milk" in one of the buildings, whose puppies, the licensee said, had all died. In addition, two puppies "didn't look healthy at all," according to the state report. "They were lethargic, [with] labored breathing and drool/saliva around their mouths." The inspector suggested that the breeder "get a necropsy done on one or more of the pups (probably these two) that are sick and have passed away or may need to be euthanized due to their health." The inspector also said the breeder had two other puppies at a local veterinary clinic being treated for parvovirus. The inspector gave advice about sanitation and talked about "cleaning the puppy kennels twice a day due to the amount of feces." The lack of sanitation was a troubling issue, considering the breeder knew about health concerns at the kennel and yet still had dirty conditions.

The inspector later checked with the facility's veterinarian, who stated that necropsies showed "all [of] the results came back as the puppies having parvovirus" and there was a discussion about animals at the facility requiring vaccinations, as well as the fact that shipping puppies "may be stressing the pups." In addition to stressing the pups, a USDA license is required of pet dog breeders who have five or more breeding females and ship puppies to buyers sight-unseen. A search of the USDA's website on April 13, 2020, could find no USDA licenses in Stonefort, Illinois, or under any of the owners' names or the name Double R Aussiedoodles. It is unclear if the state reported this issue to the USDA.

State records show that a state inspector visited the operation again on Sept. 30, 2019, after receiving the second sick puppy complaint. At that time, there were still areas that had not been cleaned, and the inspector said once again that they talked to the breeder about "vaccinating all the adult dogs." It is a sign of weak laws that there was apparently no rule in place requiring the breeder to vaccinate her dogs, which certainly explains how disease spread through the kennel.

As of March 2020, the kennel's website at doubleraussiedoodles.com listed many poodle mix puppies for sale and shows that the operation still offers to ship puppies to remote buyers by air. The HSUS reported the suspected unlicensed dealer to the USDA in March 2020 and requested an investigation. IL #022-48.

INDIANA

Middlebury, Indiana: Wayne Miller—USDA cited Miller with a direct violation for a female dog “hunched over” with painful prolapse; breeder’s records show he knew about the condition for six weeks but didn’t contact his veterinarian.

During a July 8, 2019, USDA inspection, Wayne Miller was issued a direct violation, one of the most serious citations USDA can give, for a wheaten terrier with an obviously painful condition that, records show, the licensee knew about for about six weeks but hadn't treated, likely leaving the animal in pain for a prolonged period.

Per the inspection report: “A crème female wheaten terrier, #569, was observed hunched over in her kennel. Further observations revealed she had a softball sized vaginal prolapse. Approximately 2-3 inches of the vagina were extending outward from the vulvar opening. Treatment log records indicated that the prolapse was observed by the licensee on May 23rd, 2019. A discussion with the attending veterinarian, after completing the kennel inspection, revealed that she was unaware of the prolapsed vagina. A prolapse is a painful condition which left untreated can cause additional suffering, infection and/or death. The licensee is responsible for timely and accurate communication with the attending veterinarian to discuss issues within the kennel. Communication with the attending veterinarian is crucial to animal welfare and preventing animal suffering.”

An additional violation was documented on the same date for failure to clean and sanitize: “The whelping building consists of raised kennels over a concrete wash-down. The wash-down gutter was full of feces, old food, and maggots. A strong ammonia odor was observed upon walking up to the facility. Additionally, there were a significant amount of flies.” The operation had 170 dogs and puppies on the property.

In 2018, Miller sold puppies to the Olathe, Kansas Petland store. As of March 2020, Wayne Miller was no longer USDA licensed, but still had a state license. His address is now linked to a new USDA # 32-A-0787 under a new name: Karen Kaye Miller/ Rowe Eden Kennels. Former USDA # 32-A-0479; currently state licensed as of March 2020. IN # CB0003RE.

Middlebury, Indiana: Devon Schrock, Companions Forever, LLC—One puppy had hair loss and scabs; three puppies had their ears taped with black electrical tape; breeder’s veterinarian’s office stated it was “not an acceptable” way to tape ears.

During a February 2020 inspection, a USDA inspector found issues with four different puppies at Companions Forever, LLC. The inspection stated: “A 5 month old grey male French bulldog [...] had skin issues. The entire ventrum of the dog had patchy hair loss with circular to irregular shaped reddened, thickened, and raised areas. Some of the areas were covered with brown colored crusts or scabs. Additionally, three 6 week old French bulldog puppies were observed to have their ears taped with black electrical tape. The attending veterinarian was contacted regarding both animal care findings. The clinic had no record on the male French bulldog’s skin issues. Additionally, the attending veterinarian’s representative stated that the use of electrical tape is not an acceptable tape to be used on ears.”

There were 98 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the USDA inspection. The operation offers puppies for sale on [its Facebook page](#) and sometimes offers puppies, including some “AKC registered” puppies, on PuppyFind.com, where Companions Forever claims that their “puppies are well taken care of with up-to-date shots and vet records.” PuppyFind is a puppy advertising website that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem breeders and puppy mills. USDA # 32-A-0788 and 32-H-0016; IN #CB000013.

Nappanee, Indiana: David Chupp, Family Puppies—Complaints about sick puppies; breeder had more than 100 unvaccinated dogs on the property with no recent veterinary visit.

David Chupp was previously USDA licensed, but cancelled his license in 2013 after receiving a number of violations. He is now licensed by the state but not USDA. According to state records, in June 2019, the Board of Animal Health received a complaint via the Better Business Bureau that alleged Chupp sold a sick puppy who later died. The buyer said they did not receive veterinary records for the puppy, and “the puppy purchased was said to be 8 months of age” but had not been vaccinated for rabies. Most states, including Indiana, require that any puppy over three months of age have a current rabies vaccination and proof thereof.

In July 2019, a state employee contacted Chupp and documented the following concerns: “Mr. Chupp remembered the incident that involved a sick puppy that died last year in 2018. He did not have the records readily available, but said he would send the records to me as soon as he looked them up [...] We asked Mr. Chupp if the 8 month old puppy had a rabies vaccination, and he said he did not know. I questioned him if he kept vet records on the puppies that went to [the] vet and he said no that would be too hard to keep straight which puppy went and keep that record with them. I told him he would have to figure out a system to keep track of vet records on puppies and pass those records on to the consumer. I told him as a participant in the state’s commercial dog breeder broker program it is required to provide consumers with a copy of the dog’s vaccination, medication, and treatment records. We also told Mr. Chupp that any puppy over 3 months of age needed to be vaccinated for rabies by a licensed, accredited veterinarian before it was sold or left the property for another reason such as a trade. We also discussed that the CBB program requires that a veterinarian be present on the property within the last 12 months. Mr. Chupp had not had a veterinarian out to the property in the last 12 months.”

The Board of Animal Health employee later received some records from Chupp for the puppy, but the records did not show that the puppy ever received a rabies vaccination. They required Chupp to have a veterinarian visit the property and vaccinate all of the dogs (more than 100). The inspector wrote, “In conclusion, David Chupp violated several of the state’s commercial dog breeder broker program requirements. He sold an 8 month old puppy without a rabies vaccination. He also has not been meeting the requirements of the state’s commercial dog breeder broker program by having a veterinarian out to the kennel property within the last 12 months.”

As a former licensee with the USDA, as well as a state-licensed breeder and alleged AKC breeder, Chupp should have been well aware of the basic care standards for dogs, basic veterinary protocols, and the rabies vaccination requirements. He advertises puppies for sale through his website, [family-puppies.com](#). Although his ads offer to ship puppies sight-unseen, as of April 13, 2020, Chupp does not appear to have an active USDA license, which would be required for such sales. IN #CB00001K.

Odon, Indiana: David J. Graber—Golden retriever with two deep, open wounds down to the muscle tissue had not been treated by a veterinarian.

In October 2019, a USDA inspector found a golden retriever with at least two deep, open wounds at Graber's facility who had not been adequately treated for her injuries. The inspector noted: "There is a yellow female Golden Retriever (#163) that has an open wound approximately 1 inch x 1/2 inch behind the left ear that is weeping a red tinged watery fluid, the wound exposes the muscle beneath the skin. The wound appears to be at least 3 days old as the edges of the wound have begun to heal. There is another wound on the right rear leg approximately 1 inch long that appears to be bite marks that have also gone down to the muscle layer below the skin. This wound has begun to scab over on parts of it, and open for the majority of the wound. A veterinarian has not been consulted or wounds treated due to the injuries not being observed until during the inspection." At the time of the inspection, there were more than 80 dogs and puppies on the property.

The breeder passed two subsequent inspections, but the HSUS still has grave concerns about this operation due to the severity of the October violation. USDA #32-A-0401; IN #CB0006P6.

Shipshewana, Indiana: Larry Myers—State Board of Health repeatedly confiscated animals due to poor conditions.

According to [news sources](#), on Oct. 23, 2019, local law enforcement removed 11 dogs and a number of other animals from the custody of Larry Myers Sr. at a property called Myers Farm. *16 News Now* reported that the animals were confiscated due to dead animals not properly disposed of and "more animals not being taken care of properly." The dogs had a "lack of proper shelter, immunization proof, [and] physical well-being," according to the news report.

The Myers farm had been criticized just a month earlier for an [injured horse](#) who didn't seem to be getting needed treatment, and neglect charges were also expected in that case. *6 News Now* stated, "that's just one animal among many on a 40-acre farm that some say is a junkyard and needs to be shut down," but the sheriff, interviewed by the news station, indicated his department could do little within the confines of the state law.

Documents from the state Board of Animal Health acquired by the HSUS dated Oct. 23, 2019, indicate there were a total of 22 dogs on the property, and not all of them were seized. The report stated, "The health and well-being of many of the animals on this property are at risk. Horses #2, 3, 4, Calf #1, Goat #4, and Dogs #8-14 and 19-22 were removed from the premises on 10/23/2019." And regarding prior inspections of his property, inspectors noted "each of these visits resulted in a finding of numerous violations of BOAH animal care standards and conditions adversely affecting the health of companion animals."

IOWA

Cincinnati, Iowa: Henry R. Sommers, Happy Puppies (repeat offender)—Repeat offender found with dog in need of veterinary care, dangerous conditions and failure to provide inspectors access to property.

In September 2019, Henry Sommers received a direct, repeat violation (one of the most serious categories) from a USDA inspector for a veterinary care issue described as follows: "Female Maltese (tag # 186) is observed to be chewing on her left flank and the base of her tail. Closer observation revealed hairless areas along the left flank, left hind leg, in front of the base of the tail, and behind the left shoulder. These affected areas were slightly reddened and contained small areas of crusty, scab-like material. Although the veterinarian has provided a treatment plan for canine skin conditions this dog's condition had not been noticed and she is not currently



receiving any treatment.” During the same visit the inspector also noted, “In one enclosure containing one dog, the wooden resting board has the sharp end of a large screw sticking out of the top of it. The dog is at risk of coming into contact with this sharp point every time it sits, lays, or walks on the board, which could result in injury.” Sommers had 60 dogs and puppies on his property at the time of the inspection. Earlier in the year, he received another violation; that one was for failing to make the kennel available for the required inspection. And when inspectors returned to check the kennel in October 2019 after the September violations, Sommers again received a violation for failing to make the kennel available for inspection.

On March 2, 2020, USDA inspectors visited Sommers’s kennel again, and found new violations plus one repeat violation. The new violations were related to several dangerous housing conditions, such as gaps that puppies could fall through, and a heat lamp within reach of the puppies. The repeat violation was related to a puppy whose feet and legs were falling through dangerous wire floors.

Sommers is no stranger to these issues; the USDA has cited him repeatedly in the past for a failure to provide proper veterinary care to sick or injured dogs and a failure to maintain safe housing. As we reported in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, he was cited for multiple repeat violations, including a Yorkie whose foot was swollen to twice its normal size; a puppy with swollen eyelids with yellow discharge; and a bichon with an open wound on her neck.

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

During the February 2017 inspection, filthy conditions were found, and Sommers was also found to be in possession of a controlled substance, ketamine, that he claimed he was using to sedate dogs for dental cleaning. However, he did not have clear, written instructions from a veterinarian on the use of the controlled medications and did not appear to have the type of training that would be required in order to administer controlled substances.

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

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

Mason City, Iowa: Carolyn A. Anderson, Anderson’s Yorkies LLC—Giardia outbreak in puppies lasted at least four months; puppies were still found in unsanitary conditions; AKC breeder had direct and repeat violations for many dogs in need of veterinary care.

During a USDA inspection in February 2020, Anderson’s Yorkies was cited for 10 different violations, including three direct violations, for many Yorkies in obvious need of veterinary care. At least six of the dogs had pronounced dental issues such as loose teeth and red gums and/or were badly matted, and several had been identified at a previous inspection in November 2019 and still had not been treated for their conditions, even though the licensee had been told to get them treated. In addition, inspectors cited Anderson for a “direct, repeat” violation – one of the most serious kinds—for many additional dogs who had severe issues with dental health, ear health and/or matted hair coats. The licensee also received a direct violation for failing to follow veterinary advice for the above-mentioned issues as well as for failing to tell her veterinarian about a giardia outbreak at the facility, and self-treating the outbreak instead, with very little success. Giardia is a disease that can be passed on to humans. The report noted, “The licensee is treating for Giardia in all of their puppies. The first puppy was diagnosed in October of 2019 and it was still present in the puppies at the time of this inspection. Lack of cleaning and disinfecting between animals housed in enclosures allows for the spread of disease and illness.” There were also several repeat violations noted for dirty housing conditions, clutter and other issues.

During a prior USDA inspection in November 2019, Anderson’s Yorkies had been cited for two repeat violations due to dogs who had not received adequate dental care, even after an inspector had made the owner aware of the issue at a prior inspection earlier in the year. According to that inspection report, “The following three dogs were cited under 2.40 (b)(2) on the previous inspection report dated 11-July-19 and were required to be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian for a diagnosis and treatment plan due to their poor dental health. The licensee failed to have these dogs evaluated by a veterinarian and no treatment plan was established.” The inspector described three dogs with teeth covered in thick brown tartar, one of whom was also matted and had been previously found to be matted, as cited on a prior inspection. The inspector also described an additional 10 dogs who had dental issues, some of whom were also matted. The inspector also found repeated problems with recordkeeping, clutter, rusty cages and “a buildup of debris, including food, feces, hair, urine, and unknown brown residue.”

The issues found in February 2020 and November 2019 were a continuation of problems noted at earlier visits. In July 2019, an inspector documented virtually the same conditions, and also noted that some dogs had a filthy brown material soiling their fur: “multiple dogs [had] a dark brown material within the hairs around their feet and legs.” The inspector also noted that “the outdoor area has an abundance of flies. There were not methods of pest control in place at the time of the inspection.”

Two additional inspections in 2019 were problematic: on July 9, the owner received a violation for failing to make the kennel available for inspection, and in April, the licensee was also warned about multiple dogs who were matted or in need of dental care, issues with recordkeeping, and “a buildup of debris, including food, feces, hair, urine, and unknown brown residue.”

On [its website](#), Anderson’s Yorkies promotes itself as a “Breeder of AKC Yorkie & Toy Poodle Puppies.” USDA #42-A-1471; IA #640.

Sheldon, Iowa: Leonard Stover, Northwest Kennel (repeat offender) —Repeated issues with decrepit housing, dirty conditions and puppies with feet falling through wire flooring.

In August 2019, a USDA inspector cited Leonard Stover with violations for unsafe flooring that could trap dogs’ legs and unclean conditions. The inspector wrote: “Four enclosures, all housing a total of four adult dogs, have black plastic flooring with openings. The flooring is not properly supported. The area where the flooring seams are, is bowing downward. This is creating a large gap between the flooring and chain-link divider panels above

the flooring. The dogs could get stuck in this gap trying to crawl under the dividers, thus potentially causing injury. The flooring bounces as the dogs walk across it. This is an indication of improper support under the flooring. If the flooring breaks this could allow the dogs to escape or potentially get injured from collapsing or escape.” The inspector also noted a repeat violation for metal feeders that were “excessively rusty and pitting.” The inspector also noted that some of the dogs and puppies were exposed to metal frame surfaces that were so rusty and corroded that some had jagged edges that could injure the dogs. The inspector also found grimy surfaces, and a litter of five puppies who were housed on plastic gridded flooring that had such wide holes that their feet were “passing through the openings as they walked,” risking injury or entrapment of their limbs.

Even though Stover was warned about the multiple violations in August, many of the problems were still unresolved when the USDA inspector returned in January 2020, when Stover received a repeat violation for having 26 puppies on dangerous wire flooring. The inspector observed puppies with their feet passing through 1” by 1” holes in the flooring as they walked. In addition, there were still uncorrected issues with dirty and unsafe housing, including sharp edges that could injure the dogs. The kennel had more than 160 dogs and puppies on the premises during the inspection.

Northwest Kennel also appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report due to feeders and enclosures that were badly rusted and dirty and because expired medications were kept for use on the dogs. As we noted in that report, in July 2018, a USDA inspector found at least 18 different outdated medications stored for use on animals at Northwest Kennel. One of them was a hormone (testosterone) that expired in 2001, according to the inspection report, while another medication had expired in 2013 and others had expired within the past year. The licensee indicated that the expired medications were being used on the animals. In addition, the facility was found to be badly cluttered and dirty, and some of the structures were so badly rusted that it affected their structural strength. Some of the feeders were caked with old food, hair and/or dirt, food was stuck to portions of rusty feeders, and some of the feeders were badly chewed. Northwest Kennel holds a B license with the USDA, indicating it may breed its own dogs and also sell dogs to pet stores who were bred by others. USDA #42-B-0186; IA # 3172. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Sioux Center, Iowa: Bruce Hooyer, Shaggy Hill Farm (repeat offender) —Previously unlicensed kennel was told repeatedly to downsize; state inspector found “too many dogs,” with some dogs in “make-shift,” small enclosures with no room to exercise, and unvaccinated dogs.

During a state inspection of Shaggy Hill Farm in August 2019, an inspector found three buildings housing dogs that had unsafe and cluttered conditions, and too many dogs in cramped enclosures. The inspection report reads: “There are too many dogs for this facility. While the dogs have enough space to lay, stand, and turn around, there is not enough room for exercise. Some primary enclosures are make-shift and quite small. The number of dogs must be reduced for this facility. During [the] last visit, it was agreed that the number of dogs for this facility should not exceed 80. The barn kennel has been added and currently houses 28 adults and 22 puppies. Even with the extra kennel, there is too much crowding in every structure.”

The inspector also found dirty conditions, stating, “the overall sanitation of the facility is poor and some dogs are dirty (Ingred, Isabelle, Hester, among others). Waste is [sitting] in buckets and thrown outside the building and disposal of waste is not proper. Today there was very little odor, however the temperature and humidity is low and facility was opened to fresh air[...] Overall sanitation is poor, however the kennels do not have a build up of feces in spots that the dogs have access to. Fans are covered in dust and hair[...] 1 kennel in barn and 4 kennels in schoolhouse had no or low water. Water was added during the inspection. Many water bowls were dirty[...]”.

The inspector specifically instructed the licensee to “hand walk” 115 adult dogs in two of the buildings twice per day “effective immediately,” because their cages were too small and didn’t give them room for exercise. However, the inspector also noted that only two people worked at the facility, which would mean that each individual would have to spend hours walking all the dogs each day, which is very unlikely to occur. It would take two individuals almost 20 hours each day to walk 115 dogs for 10 minutes each. Inspectors noted that “according to the condition of the facility, it appears that 142 dogs and 59 puppies are too much for 2 people to maintain.”

In addition, the inspector stated that there were no proper vaccination records on the dogs: “There are no proper vaccination records on adult dogs[...] No dog has been vaccinated against rabies.”

The inspector also found the following animals with medical concerns: “Madonna - severe matted eyes, kennel owner calls it dark eye bleed. Have this dog examined by a veterinarian no later than 9/1/19. Unnamed male 6 month old pup in kennel with Ginger, Matilda, Lulu has an open sore on his side from a reported fight in another kennel. Have this dog examined by a veterinarian no later than 9/1/19. Hester - lactating mom - severely matted and dirty. Groom within 24 hours. Many dogs need nails trimmed and some are in need of grooming[...]”. Reportedly, the kennel was selling many dogs to buyers outside their state, but without the required health certificates on hand. Health certificates, or Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, are documents signed by a veterinarian that indicate a puppy is of age and is healthy enough to be sold. There were more than 200 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the August inspection.

When the inspector returned in September 2019, they reported that some of the overcrowding had been reduced, but some of the dogs were still in cramped conditions and the facility was still under-staffed, and many of the dogs still did not have the required vaccinations.

In November 2019, a state inspector once again visited the facility, and found that some of the housing was still unacceptable. One kennel was so decrepit that “the corner was broke[n] and the puppies were escaping during our visit.” In addition, “several kennels contained feces and were wet from cleaning,” resulting in soiled dogs, and the licensee still had not properly vaccinated all the dogs. A total of 41 adults (out of 117) still had no proof of vaccinations and several of the dogs were “in need of grooming,” indicating their coats were likely matted or dirty. When the state inspector returned again later in the month, the breeder still could not prove that four of the dogs had been vaccinated for distemper, and one of the dogs still needed grooming. There were 175 dogs and puppies on the property.

The lack of veterinary care is especially appalling, as the licensees have been warned before about the need to obtain adequate veterinary care for their dogs. As we documented in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, several dogs and puppies died at the operation since August 2017, and the operation repeatedly failed state inspections or failed to let inspectors in.

Shaggy Hill Farm continues to do business in Iowa with little or no consequences, it appears. In our 2018 report, we noted that the facility was disapproved for a license at a January 2018 visit because the inspector was not allowed in, yet the inspector noted they could hear “multiple dogs barking.” The Humane Society of the United States made a call to local authorities about the kennel in February 2018, due to concerns about its unlicensed status and the large number of dogs still on the property. When inspectors finally got in later in 2018, a number of very serious violations were found. On June 13, 2018, Shaggy Hill Farm failed a state license inspection. The following are selected quotes from that inspection report: “Milkhouse: 3 of 4 pens had dirty or spilled (and empty) water dishes.” “Schoolhouse: 3 of 26 pens had dirty or spilled (and empty) water dishes.” “Since 8/8/17, 2

puppies were given away. 5 adults were euthanized by veterinarian, 10 adults died in 2017 due to age, whelping problems, sick (respiratory or cancer), 1 killed in a breeding fight. 3 adults died in 2018 due to sick (respiratory), whelping, and 1 unknown (old dog found deceased). 3 puppies died as newborns and 1 died during weaning.”
“VIF: 7/19/17: A.G. Beukelman, DVM plus rabies [waiver] thru 7/19/18. Of the 125 adults, [only] 61 had proof of current distemper vaccinations.”

On June 18, 2018, the kennel was re-inspected and conditionally approved, despite the fact that some issues with sanitation remained. Quotes from that state inspection include: “It is agreed that by November 1, 2018, the number of adult dogs in the current facility shall not exceed 80. This will enable the dogs housed in the wire crib to be moved inside without crowding. These numbers shall not include puppies from nursing litters.” This instruction was clearly not followed; by August 2019, the breeder had 142 adult dogs, and in November 2019, after being told to downsize again, they still had 117 adult dogs, plus dozens of puppies. IA #11102. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

West Point, Iowa: Steve Kruse, Stonehenge Kennel (repeat offender) —Massive broker with over 650 dogs repeatedly failed to take injured dogs to a veterinarian, including some who could barely walk; almost 50 dogs found injured or untreated since 2015.

During a December 2019 inspection, a USDA inspector cited Steve Kruse with a direct, repeat violation for many dogs in need of veterinary care, an issue that Kruse was repeatedly warned about in prior years. The injured dogs included:

- “Female Shiba Inu (#25) is non-weight bearing in the right front leg. Closer examination of the leg showed a ruptured lesion on the bottom of the foot between the second and third digit pads and the main foot pad. The lesion is red, inflamed, warm to the touch, and a clear, sticky fluid is matted into the hair around the lesion. The dog is not currently under any treatment for this condition.”
- “Female Woodle (#8) is hesitant to rise into a standing position. When attempting to get into a normal posture the dog was unable to bear full weight on the right hind leg and showed obvious lameness while walking. Closer examination showed the dog was very tense when the lower back, the hip, and the bottom of the right hind foot were gently palpated. The dog is not currently under any treatment for this condition.”
- “Female Bichon (#7) has an abnormal appearance when she walks. She appears to stand and walk in an arched position. Upon palpation the dog was found to be tense in her mid and lower back. The dog is not currently under any treatment for this condition.”
- “Female Bulldog (#7) is lame in the left front leg. Closer examination did not reveal the cause of the lameness and this dog is not currently under treatment for this condition.”
- “Female Wheaton (#127) is lame in the right hind leg. Closer examination showed that the dog wanted to pull away when the leg was gently palpated, but no cause for the lameness was found. The dog is not currently under treatment for this condition.”
- “Pug (#3) has an abnormal area of inflammation between the toes on the right front foot. The area is round, has a dark red center, is swollen and is tender to touch. The hair around the infected area is wet. The dog is not currently under any treatment for this condition.”

During the December inspection, Kruse, a B dealer, had an astounding 654 adult breeding dogs, despite longstanding, repeated animal care issues at his kennel that USDA was well acquainted with.

When USDA inspectors arrived again in March 2020, they found another dog in need of veterinary care, a female golden doodle with an abnormal-looking eye. The eye was slightly reddened and there was hair loss on the skin around the eye. At the time of the March 2020 inspection, Kruse had even more dogs than he had in December – 670 dogs in all.



Kruse has been in two prior Horrible Hundred reports for egregious animal care issues. In our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, we revealed that the USDA found him with at least 41 dogs in need of veterinary care between 2015 and 2017, including some with deep lacerations, oozing wounds, and lameness. In December 2015, Kruse received a 21-day USDA suspension after throwing a bag containing two dead puppies at a USDA inspector.

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

USDA #42-B-0182; IA #4576. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

KANSAS

[Atwood, Kansas: Jane Waterman, Waterman Kennels aka Waterman Farms Kennel/ Waterman Farms Inc—Puppies’ legs were falling through dangerous holes in flooring; suspected of selling underaged puppies.](#)

At a USDA inspection on Feb. 19, 2020, inspectors found a number of issues with recordkeeping at Waterman Kennels, including problems with dogs who left or entered the kennel with no explanation of where they came from or what happened to them, and many puppies who had conflicting birth dates or possibly altered birth dates. Potentially altered birth dates could be a concern because it could indicate that the puppies were sold underage, at a time when their immunity is not fully developed and they may not be fully weaned; USDA regulations require puppies to be at least eight weeks of age prior to sale. In addition, having new animals in the kennel with no explanation of where they came from could indicate that the licensee was obtaining animals from unlicensed and uninspected dealers.

For one litter of puppies, the USDA inspector noted, “The licensee changed both DOBs [dates of birth] to 5 Dec 2019 when the inspector started to look at the paperwork, saying it was a mistake. There are other puppies from the JJ831 litter with DOB on APHIS [form] 7005 listed as 9 Dec 2019. If these puppies were, in fact, born on 9 Dec 2019, they would have been transported in commerce before 8 weeks of age.” There was a similar issue for a cock-a-poo who also may have been sold underage.

In addition, the USDA inspector found some shelters that did not provide even the minimum amount of space and protection required under the Animal Welfare Act regulations, and “two enclosures in the whelping building each contained a litter of puppies whose feet and legs were observed to slip through the openings in the floor. Dogs and puppies can be injured if [their] feet and legs can slip through opening[s] in the floor surface.”

The inspector also found grimy conditions: “The outdoor enclosures have two areas with a thick coating of excreta, dirt, and hair coating a post and the surrounding fence. Insufficient cleaning can play a role in disease transmission.”

The facility was also found unsatisfactory at a state inspection that same month due to violations of the state's animal care rules. And in June 2019, state inspectors found issues with surface maintenance, and found that some dogs did not have adequate weather protection. USDA #48-A-1742; KS #CB000CS9.

Baileyville, Kansas: Corey Koelzer, Hillcrest Cavaliers, aka Angelic Puppies—Excessive flies and poor housing; violations found at three inspections in 2019 alone.

Kansas state inspectors found violations during at least three different visits to Hillcrest Cavaliers in 2019 alone.

Issues found in September 2019 included surfaces that had been chewed and had jagged edges, metal feeders that had been chewed to the point that pointed edges were exposed, and an “excessive amount of flies” in one of the buildings. In March 2019, the inspector found some dogs in cramped enclosures, and in February 2019, state inspectors found “dust, hair and grime buildup” as well as a dog named Willie who “had significant matting on the back end causing feces to be built up in hair” and two poodles who also had some significant matting. Regarding the badly matted dogs, the inspector wrote, “This needs to be corrected immediately. Send pictures of these dogs to inspector [...] to show this has been corrected.” In addition, the licensee didn't have adequate records showing when or to whom some of the dogs were sent, which could be a significant issue when tracking diseases or other concerns at the kennel.

The operation offers puppies for sale via its website, angelicpuppies.com. According to the website, the operation [ships puppies](#) sight-unseen to the buyer's nearest airport, but a search of the USDA's website on April 13, 2020, could find no indication that the operation is licensed by the USDA, which would be required to ship puppies sight-unseen to buyers. KS #CB0016FE.

Clyde, Kansas: Connie Fahey, Precious Puppies Kennels (repeat offender) —Cited four years in a row for failure to protect dogs from the cold; unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Despite appearing in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for keeping dogs in poor conditions without adequate protection from harsh weather, in January 2020, a USDA inspector once again found similar problems at Connie Fahey's Precious Puppies Kennels. The inspection found parts of the kennel housing that were jagged and could injure the dogs, as well as unsanitary conditions such as “cracked vinyl flooring with the edges pulling away,” and areas that were chewed and could not be sanitized. In addition, protection from the cold was inadequate. The inspector wrote, “the ambient temperature in the indoor portion of the large dog sheltered building was 45.2 degrees F according to the inspector's Kestrel thermometer. The ten dogs housed in this building do not have bedding or resting surfaces on the cement floors of the enclosures.” There were 93 dogs and puppies in the kennel at the time.

The year 2020 was the fourth year in a row that Fahey was found with similar issues, demonstrating a clear lack of care and concern for her dogs' comfort and safety.

In addition, in August 2019, a state inspector visited the kennel due to a complaint about a puppy purchased who had parvovirus. The inspector wrote, “I didn't observe any dogs that exhibited any symptoms of Parvo.” However, the inspector found issues with housing and a limping dog. The inspector wrote, “Jacob- a male golden retriever has a limp on his back left leg.”

As we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, during a February 2019 Kansas state inspection, the operation was found “unsatisfactory” due to a number of issues, including some water bowls that were frozen, and dead insects and vermin feces found in the puppy building. Inspectors noted that the outdoor temperature was 16 degrees when they arrived, and the buildings that housed dogs were not adequately heated. One building had an

inside temperature of 31 degrees and the other had an inside temperature of 44 degrees. The facility had more than 80 dogs and puppies at the time of the state's inspection.

Fahey was also linked to repeat USDA violations in 2018. In April 2018, inspectors cited Fahey's facility for repeat violations for housing deficiencies, including dogs who were outside all night in cold weather without bedding material to keep them warm when the temperature had been as low as 35 degrees. And a year earlier, in April 2017, USDA inspectors found dogs in one of the buildings who did not have enough protection from the cold when the temperature had recently been as low as 38 degrees.

Fahey was also listed in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, after a December 2017 USDA inspection noted a direct violation for a poodle named Pebbles who was found with signs of a possible broken jaw. The dog was seen "curled up in the corner" while other dogs were actively running around. Upon closer inspection, the USDA inspector noted that Pebbles "was reluctant to have his mouth handled" and had "open holes in the upper gums" where teeth used to be. In addition, "the lower jaw bone felt 'soft' and could be moved side to side gently and slightly." The inspector noted that "a soft, mobile lower jaw can indicate bone loss from problems such as dental disease, metabolic diseases, or trauma and can be painful." The USDA inspector also found numerous unsafe housing conditions and greenish build-up in some of the dogs' water bowls during the December 2017 visit. USDA# 48-A-2194; KS #CB000LV4. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Coldwater, Kansas: Clair and Susan Carlisle, S & C Farms, aka Carlisle Farms—Limping corgi with wounds on all four paws had not been treated by a veterinarian; 60 dogs and puppies exposed to "excessive accumulation" of feces.

In December 2019, S & C Farms received a direct violation, one of the most serious violations the USDA can give, for an injured dog who hadn't been treated by a veterinarian. The inspector wrote: "One adult female corgi (Tag WC16) was seen intermittently non-weight bearing on the left hind limb. When she was removed from the enclosure, multiple wounds were seen on all four feet. The wounds were reddened with hair loss around them and appeared to be in varying stages of healing. The injuries had not been observed by the licensee." In addition, several other problems were noted during the same inspection, including a failure to properly identify some of the dogs, which can lead to problems tracking veterinary care and ownership; some housing conditions that were unsafe, and "an excessive accumulation of excreta in all of the dog enclosures." When the USDA inspector asked the licensee when he had last cleaned the dogs' enclosures, the licensee reportedly admitted that "it had been a while."

Several issues were also documented by state inspectors in July 2019, including holes that could injure the dogs' legs and some areas that had grime or weeds.

There were 60 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the USDA inspection. USDA #48-A-1672; KS # CB000GK7.

Glasco, Kansas: Joyce Cairns, Unicorn Kennel (repeat offender) —Repeated problems with inadequate veterinary care, matted dogs and filthy conditions.

A USDA inspector who visited Unicorn Kennel in January 2020 found several problems that were recurrent issues which the licensee had been warned about in the past. The issues included a male shih tzu who had "dental disease and a heavily matted and dirty coat." The dog's coat was "generally matted on his whole body but the mats were especially thick on the limbs and face." The inspector wrote, "Soiled, matted hair can cause skin infections and become painful." During the same visit, the inspector found dirty and unsafe conditions in some parts of the kennel, including "a build up of grime" on some of the feeders, "feces [that] have not been spot cleaned from the outdoor enclosures daily resulting in a collection of feces on the dirt floors," and some

surfaces that were “wet and soiled with feces,” resulting in soiling the dogs’ fur. The operation had more than 160 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the inspection.

Cairns’ Unicorn Kennel has been cited in the past for many of the same problems. As we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, during a July 5, 2018, USDA inspection, the inspector documented the following issues: “Male, adult Akita [...] has hair loss on both sides of his body, along the length of his back and on the outsides of his thighs. The exposed skin and the haired skin along his backbone and shoulders has a thick, scaly appearance in places. There is some fresh blood on the right side of the hairless area. The licensee stated that this dog is under treatment for thyroid disease. Inspectors spoke with the attending veterinarian (AV) and verified this diagnosis. The AV also verified that he prescribed ongoing thyroid medication that the dog should be currently receiving. The licensee stated that she does not currently have thyroid medication for the dog and the dog is not receiving medication at this time.” Issues with Cairns/ Unicorn Kennel that we noted in our 2018 report included nine animals found in need of veterinary care during three USDA visits in 2017 alone. On Dec. 13, 2017, a USDA inspector gave Cairns a direct, repeat violation—one of the most serious types of USDA citations—for multiple dogs in need of veterinary care, just three months after four other dogs had been found in need at her kennel.

The kennel is also inspected by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The kennel failed a February 2018 state inspection due to numerous problems, including excessive feces, a strong odor and three dogs who needed care: a poodle with missing fur, a cockapoo who was matted and an Australian shepherd who was “thin” and “under vet supervision.” Unicorn Kennel also failed a state inspection on Jan. 18, 2017, when dogs were found standing in wet, dirty enclosures with excessive feces, and two additional dogs were found in need of veterinary care.

In early 2020, the HSUS found Cairns had sent puppies to two pet stores in Miami-Dade County, Florida, despite a local ordinance there that prohibits pet stores from sourcing from out-of-county breeders if the breeders are USDA-licensed and have been found with a direct noncompliance of the Animal Welfare Act in the previous three years. USDA #48-A-1027; KS # CB0009EC. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Lyndon, Kansas: Sheila Jenkins and Dyann Van Eaton, Wild Heart Pups, aka Wildheart Enterprises/ Wildheart Ranch/ Wildheart Goldendoodles and Labradoodles (repeat offender) – “AKC inspected” kennel failed state inspections five years in a row; some puppies were sick and many dogs were heavily matted; filthy conditions and foul odors; inspector noted “dogs are slipping in their own urine and feces.”

During an April 2020 visit to the kennel to follow up on a complaint, state inspectors found Wild Heart Enterprises “unsatisfactory” due to five issues: surfaces, ventilation, cleaning, animal appearance and veterinary care. It was at least the fifth year in a row that state inspectors found animal care problems at Wild Heart. Specific issues noted during the 2020 inspection included “a very strong odor of urine and feces,” an “excess of excreta” in the kennel runs, many dogs who needed grooming, including some with feces matted into their fur, and at least six dogs who were visibly ill, which included an adult dog who vomited and five puppies who had diarrhea. The inspector ordered the owners to have a veterinarian come out and examine all of the dogs, according to the April 10, 2020, inspection report.

Most of the problems noted at the 2020 inspection were recurring issues at the kennel. In 2019, inspectors warned the kennel owners about a number of similar issues, including a lack of cleaning that left dogs and puppies “slipping in their own urine and feces”; about 87% of the dogs were “heavily matted”; and two dogs had been bitten after being exposed to incompatible dogs, among other issues.

The facility also appeared in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, and Wild Heart Pups has also been linked to consumer complaints about sick puppies. As we noted in our 2018 report, a [KCTV5 news story](#) that aired on May 8, 2017, told the heartbreaking story of a family that purchased a puppy from Wild Heart Pups who died less than two days later. Reportedly, the puppy’s body was then examined by at least two veterinarians, who both determined the puppy had been under eight weeks of age, which would make the sale illegal in Kansas (Kan. Admin. Regs. 9-18-20).

Records received from the Kansas Department of Agriculture show that problems had been found repeatedly at Wild Heart Pups in the months both preceding and following the news report. After numerous failed inspections, Wild Heart Pups was put on an “improvement plan” in September 2017, but inspectors still found significant problems at multiple subsequent visits. For example, on Jan. 12, 2018, an inspector wrote that the temperature was around 7 degrees and “at least two pens of schnauzers have [a] thick layer of urine/feces filled ice. These dogs either need [to be] moved off of this ice to prevent urine burns on bottoms of feet or thaw [the] walking area.” The inspector also found a mother dog and puppies who didn’t have enough sheltered space to protect them from the elements, and at least one puppy in an enclosure so small that he was unable to lie down or turn around comfortably.

And on Jan. 30, 2018, an inspector found issues that needed to be addressed immediately, including dogs with matted and tangled hair, with one dog whose skin was “noticeably red” under the mats; gaps in the housing materials that could injure the dogs; and one dog who didn’t have a large enough shelter from the elements. Violations found in 2017 included a schnauzer with bite wounds (October 2017), dogs repeatedly found without adequate protection from the cold (October 2017), unsanitary conditions, excessive feces, poor maintenance, dogs in need of grooming, and an issue with a schnauzer who wasn’t getting enough food due to being housed with incompatible dogs (April 2017). Violations documented in 2016 included a puppy area that was “engulfed in feces and urine” (February 2016) and similar issues to those found in more recent years, including dogs without adequate protection from the cold, unacceptable housing and filthy conditions.

The facility has claimed on its website that some of its puppies are American Kennel Club registered, and that it is AKC inspected. The Humane Society of the United States has repeatedly [linked the AKC](#) to problem breeders, and the AKC regularly opposes bills designed to crack down on puppy mills. KS #CB001JB5 (former lic. #CB001DTW). SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Maple Hill, Kansas: Doug and Amy Noland, Dog Blessed Kennel—State inspectors found excessive feces and odors and requested treatment for injured dog and kennel repairs.](#)

During a state inspection in November 2019, inspectors found excessive odors and feces as well as poorly maintained conditions at Dog Blessed Kennel. According to state records, the inspector noted: “Puppy building: concrete flooring in outside potty area needs to be sealed, as well as need to seal the wooden panels on the kennels the older Frenchies are housed in. Bulldog building: black mats are being eaten and pulled up to expose wood, as well as expose a gap between the wall and flooring. Wood on the outside of the east side of the building has some wood that’s exposed and needs to be sealed [...] Ventilation in the Wharton building needs to be increased. This will improve air flow throughout the building, dissipate odors, and allow for the [sound] waves to better escape [...] Bulldog building: Feces need to be picked up and disposed of on a daily basis.”

In addition, the inspector found an injured dog: “Java (brown Frenchie) injured the area around her right eye while the inspection was occurring. I am requiring Amy to provide proof of veterinary care [...] for Java regarding this injury within 5 business days.” There were a total of 48 adult dogs and an unknown number of puppies on the premises at the time of the inspection.

In 2018, the kennel had violations for grimy conditions and an expired veterinary care plan.

Dog Blessed Kennel advertises small breed puppies online through its [website](#), DogBlessedKennel.com, as well as AKC registered French bulldogs on DogBlessedBullies.com. During a state re-inspection in January 2020, the operation was found compliant, but the licensees indicated their grandchildren were being utilized as helpers to clean the kennel, which leads to concerns about whether the kennel has enough adult permanent employees to remain in compliance long-term. KS #CB0013Q8.

Seneca, Kansas: Audrey Rottinghaus, Wendy Pets (repeat offender)— “He shot them all.” Twenty-four dogs shot and killed; owner claimed they didn’t know they were not allowed to “euthanize” in this manner, despite being in business for many years.

A state inspector who arrived at Wendy Pets on Oct. 3, 2019, found a number of problems at the facility. The inspector wrote, “I arrived for the purpose of a complaint regarding the treatment of animals at this facility. Upon inspection, I found 5 different dogs that had some matting on them.” The inspector also noted an exposed wire that was too close to some puppies, but otherwise didn’t see any housing issues. When the inspector looked at the records of dogs on hand, however, they found two dozen dogs had disappeared from the facility within a relatively short period of time, with no explanation of where they went. The inspector wrote, “When reviewing the dogs on [hand] list, there is currently a total of 41 dogs on the property. The previous inspection on 6-26-19, a total of 65 adult dogs were on the property. I asked what the disposition of the 24 dogs was and Mr. Rottinghaus indicated they were euthanized. I asked if they were euthanized by their veterinarian and he said no, that he shot them all. I discussed with Mr. Rottinghaus and he indicated that he wasn’t aware that they couldn’t euthanize in that manner. I explained that euthanasia must follow the AVMA [American Veterinary Medicine Association] guidelines. He indicated that they have spoke[n] with their USDA inspector regarding the euthanasia. [...] The facility owners declined to sign this inspection report.”

In prior years, the USDA had declared gunshot to be an unacceptable form of euthanasia because it is not consistent with AVMA guidelines. Unfortunately, in 2018, the USDA rewrote their guide for inspectors and removed a number of provisions designed to help inspectors identify and remove suffering animals, as well as other provisions requiring professional veterinary care for ailing animals. During those revisions and subsequent rewrites, the USDA has greatly weakened their veterinary care rules, leaving dogs at risk of do-it-yourself solutions. USDA # 48-A-2219, Former USDA #48-B-0313; KS # CB000DND. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

MICHIGAN

Camden, MI: Paul Steury—AKC breeder sued by Michigan attorney general due to evidence of sick dogs, poor conditions; HSUS undercover video showed mother dogs chained by their necks inside wire-floored cages; complaint alleges breeder shot puppies who were too old to sell.

In December 2019, Michigan’s attorney general [sued](#) breeder Paul Steury for allegedly keeping dogs and puppies in unacceptable conditions and [misleading puppy buyers](#) about their health. The suit alleged that Steury “sold sick puppies and dogs that were raised in an unclean and ill-kept environment. When he had some pups that reached an age where he believed they had no [saleable] value, he shot them.”

The action followed a September [state investigation](#) that was based partly on information provided by the HSUS and local groups, including the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office, the Monroe SPCA, and the Michigan Humane



Society. The HSUS provided an undercover video taken in July 2019 showing poor conditions at the kennel, which had about 100 dogs and puppies at the time of the visit, including puppies who were on wire flooring that could entrap their feet, and mother dogs in cages with chains around their necks. Local groups also provided information about sick dogs and dirty, heavily matted dogs purchased from the property.

During our undercover visit to Steury's kennel in July 2019, an investigator saw thick-coated dogs outside in the hot sun with no water and insufficient shelter, who were panting heavily. The investigator also saw smaller dogs indoors in rows of cages that had a brown sludge building up underneath them. Steury told the HSUS investigator that most of his breeding dogs are American Kennel Club registered dogs. Steury also sells numerous "designer" mixed breed dogs. He stated that he sells mostly to "a few brokers and a man with a website." But as of April 21, 2020, Steury does not appear to have a USDA license, which would be required to sell dogs to brokers (re-sellers).

At the time of this publication, it appears that Steury had taken down his ads on Hoobly and other online platforms, but the case is still pending. It is possible he has temporarily stopped selling dogs due to the lawsuit, but there is no evidence that he has permanently closed. Steury also reportedly has a family member adjacent to his property who may have taken over some of his breeding stock. Until the HSUS receives confirmation that Steury has permanently closed, we have significant concerns about the welfare of any animals remaining at the facility.

MISSOURI

[Alton, Missouri: Marlisa McAlmond, Cedar Ridge Australians \(repeat offender\)—Huge breeder with more than 300 dogs had injured or underweight dogs at multiple state inspections for at least four years in a row; state's attorney general filed a pending lawsuit.](#)

For at least four years in a row, McAlmond's kennel has been found with poor conditions and multiple dogs in obvious need of veterinary care. During a June 2019 state inspection, inspectors found eight dogs in enclosures that were too small, and dogs in need of veterinary care including a dog with a seeping neck wound, an Australian shepherd who was limping and had sores on his foot, and another Australian shepherd who was too thin and had "no palpable fat over the ribs and an obvious waist and abdominal tuck."

The state inspector also found the shelters were inadequate to contain the dogs, and some dogs were able to jump from one enclosure into another. Some of the dogs didn't have adequate protection from the wind and rain, and some of the dogs had either no water, or water that was contaminated with a "build up of debris and/or green algae." In addition, excessive feces were found in multiple enclosures, and the licensee admitted they had not been cleaned for days.

There were 347 dogs and puppies in the kennel at the time of the June inspection.

In July 2019, the state's attorney general [filed suit against](#) the operation for the repeated and continued violations, and for operating without a license between at least February and June 2019. As of April 10, 2020, this case remained open with hearings scheduled, but the kennel has not been officially closed.

Additional violations at the kennel that we mentioned in our prior report included underweight and dying dogs. Cedar Ridge Australians was listed in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. In February 2019, the state issued a letter of warning to McAlmond due to multiple repeat violations. Issues photographed or documented

during the February 2019 inspection included: multiple dogs who were too thin, including an underweight Shetland sheepdog named Cinnamon whose ribs were showing and whose dewclaws were so overgrown that one of them had curled all the way back around and into her toe pad; a dog with bite wounds; puppies who didn't have enough sheltered space; shelters that had no protection from the wind and rain; dogs who had no water or only dirty water; dogs in muddy enclosures with wet fur and mud in their coats, excessive feces and unsafe housing. In addition, the inspector noted that several dogs who had been found underweight and in need of veterinary care at a previous inspection in October 2018 had either died on the property or had been euthanized at the licensee's vet.

Conditions were also appalling in October 2018, when state inspectors documented numerous issues, including: a cattle dog who had a "non-weight bearing lameness to her left front leg with an extensive wound"; two bloodhounds with thin body scores, who "exhibited multiple bony prominence, obvious waists, and abdominal tucks"; an Aussie with a body score of two out of nine, with five being an average weight; the inspector said the latter dog had "loss of muscle mass and multiple easily palpated bony prominence"; two other thin Aussies with two out of nine body scores; a poodle puppy with a three out of nine body score who also "had a circular crusty patch of hair loss over the bony prominence of his right hip"; a shih-poo puppy with a three out of nine body score, as well as "fleas, and mild matting of his hair coat" (this dog was later euthanized); a fourth Aussie with a wound and patches of hair loss; and several repeat violations. These horrific violations were similar to violations found in years past, which included 2017 violations for 25 puppies and adults "exhibiting a thin body condition" with "multiple bony prominence[s], notable abdominal tucks, notable waists and/or muscle atrophy," among other issues, and 2016 violations for dogs without water, underweight dogs and dogs who were in cages that were too small. In January 2016, an inspector noted that the licensee "was using a banding method to dock tails on weaned puppies," which "is considered an unacceptable method to dock tails," according to the state inspection report. "Banding" typically means wrapping a very tight rubber ring around the animal's tail until it loses its blood flow and falls off; it is considered inhumane by many experts. Cedar Ridge Australians has advertised puppies on [their own website](#), as well as, on third party sites. Former MO #AC0003CG. FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Anderson, Missouri: Joyce Walters, Select Pets (repeat offender)—Listless, "minimally responsive" dog found during inspection was barely moving; building had strong odors and some dogs had molded feed.

Even after being cited repeatedly in prior years for grave animal care violations, little seems to have changed at Select Pets since our 2018 Horrible Hundred report. In July 2019 the USDA gave Joyce Walters a direct violation, one of the most serious types of violations, for a dog who seemed to be lifeless and possibly dying. The inspector found a female silky terrier described as follows: "[she] was noted to be listless in her enclosure. Upon closer examination, the dog had a rectal temperature of 97.2 degrees Fahrenheit. A normal canine temperature generally ranges from 101 to 102.5. It was noted that watery stool was coming from the dog's rectum while taking the temperature. [...] The dog laid minimally responsive for the entire examination. At that time, the inspection was stopped for the licensee to seek veterinary attention for the dog immediately."

During the same inspection, the inspector documented that "the whelping room had a very strong odor" and there was no ventilation. In addition, there were two feeders "that contained molded feed." The licensee had 78 dogs and puppies at the time of the inspection.

Similar issues have been found at the facility in prior years. As we noted in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, in 2017, a USDA inspector found puppies who were in three cages that had not been cleaned in three days and had "fecal material matted in the hair of their feet." Not only were the puppies apparently left to walk around in their own feces for three days, but the violation was noted as a repeat problem at the facility. During the same

inspection, the inspector also found a Yorkie with blood in her stool: “bright red blood was observed to be in the stool of a female Yorkshire Terrier (4C41545440). The dog was observed passing the bloody stool by the inspector.”

Select Pets also appeared in our May 2016 Horrible Hundred report due to numerous violations found in prior years. For example, in August 2015, a USDA inspector found two dogs without water at Select Pets. When the inspector requested that the licensee provide water, she then witnessed the following heartbreaking scene: “at the sight of the licensee approaching the enclosure with the water bowl one of the dogs stood on its hind legs and pawed at the enclosure door anxiously.” The inspector added that, “when provided water both dogs drank continuously for an extended period of time.” And issues noted by USDA inspectors in 2015 included: dogs with hair loss and scabs; an odor of ammonia (from bodily wastes) in the whelping building; three litters of puppies housed on wire flooring whose legs were falling through the wire, which is a dangerous risk for entrapment or injury; matted dogs and dogs with overgrown toenails; and dogs standing in filthy, wet enclosures.

Select Pets did pass some of its inspections in 2019, but at its last attempted inspection in March 2020, no one was made available to show the facility to inspectors, which is a violation. Select Pets has a Class B license with the USDA, which means it can operate as a broker (reseller) in addition to a commercial breeder. USDA #43-B-0178; MO #AC0017P3. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Ava, Missouri: Marilyn Shepherd, aka Marilyn Williams, Cedercrest Kennel aka Pup 4 U \(repeat offender\)—Breeder’s problematic history stretches back more than 20 years; offers puppies for shipping without a USDA license; previously fined \\$77,000 by USDA for acting as a dealer without the required license, yet still doing so under USDA’s current weak oversight.](#)

Even after repeated problems were found by state inspectors year after year, and it faced a state lawsuit in February 2019, Cedercrest Kennel, aka Pup 4 U, is still in business in 2020. In addition, the kennel still offers puppies [for sale online at Pup4U.com](#), with unattended shipping, even though the kennel is not USDA licensed to do so, due to a previous revocation.

In October 2019, Marilyn Shepherd was cited for dogs with “water bowls/containers that contained dirt, debris, algae in the water or were empty.” Earlier in 2019, she was cited for inconsistent veterinary records with questionable signatures on them. But these violations were only the most recent issues found after more than two decades of problems at Cedercrest Kennel.

As we stated in our May 2019 report, even after accumulating year after year of animal care violations and appearing in our Horrible Hundred report multiple times, Marilyn Shepherd (aka Marilyn Williams) continued to accumulate severe violations repeatedly. As of the date this report was prepared, she is still operating, but Missouri’s attorney general filed suit against the business in February 2019, alleging a long list of incidents in which Shepherd failed to provide timely veterinary care to ailing animals and confined animals in poor conditions, as well as incidents in which the defendant and/or her representative, Ronnie Williams, were belligerent or physically threatening to Missouri Department of Agriculture employees. Reportedly, as of April 2019, legal action is still being considered as local authorities monitor conditions.

State inspection reports document incidents in which a male subject on the property identified as ‘Ronnie Williams’ threatened state inspectors with bodily harm. During one visit, state employees documented the following incident: “Mr. Williams was confrontational and threatened bodily harm to AHO [Animal Health Officer] Hoopes. AHO Hoopes responded that he would defend himself if necessary. Dr. Cook continued to try to conduct the exit interview with Ms. Shepherd while Mr. Williams became more confrontational with AHO Hoopes. The two remaining category III violations were briefly mentioned to Ms. Williams, but the argument

between AHO Hoopes and Mr. Williams was escalating. Mr. Williams then got in AHO Hoopes' face and threatened to punch him.” It was not the first time state employees were threatened on the Williams property. A legal referral dated Sept. 24, 2018, claimed, “During an inspection which took place on August 30, 2016, Ms. Shepherd referred to our staff with a number of expletives. During a follow-up inspection on September 8, 2016, Mr. Williams [wore a pistol] on his right side, Ms. Shepherd telling him that things were OK because she hadn't killed them yet. During an inspection which took place on August 28, 2018, more confrontation occurred, and the inspection had to be cut short.”

In March 2019, state inspectors found that Shepherd/ Williams had failed to document the proper veterinary care for a schnauzer with a paw injury and a bearded collie with “loose bowel movements,” both of whom she had been ordered to get treatment for in January 2019, among other issues. In fact, state inspectors found multiple sick or injured dogs at Shepherd/ Williams's kennel every single year between 2013 and 2019.

Alleged mistreatment of animals at the kennel stretches back more than 20 years. In the 1990s Shepherd/ Williams had an active license with USDA, but the agency declined to renew the license in 1998 due to a history of violations, and she was permanently barred from obtaining a new USDA license in 2006. Despite not having a valid license, Shepherd/ Williams was still selling puppies in a manner that would require one, so in 2007 she was [assessed a civil penalty](#) of \$52,000 for operating as a USDA dealer without a license. This was in addition to a prior penalty of \$25,000 in 2006. The prior decisions by USDA and her lack of a federal license should preclude her from selling puppies to pet stores or online sight-unseen. But through her website, pup4u.com, Williams still offers to ship puppies anywhere in the United States. The HSUS submitted a complaint to USDA in early 2018 about Shepherd/ Williams selling puppies online without a USDA license and in apparent violation of the 2006 agreement; however, as of March 24, 2020, more than two years later, her website is still active and still offers to ship puppies in what appears to be a direct violation of the law. The operation had 152 dogs and puppies at a recent state inspection (October 2019). MO #AC0002DJ. FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Clark, Missouri: Eli A. Miller, Hill Top Kennel (repeat offender)—Repeatedly failed to get veterinary care for injured dogs; rat infestation; some dogs had no water on a hot summer day; dealer was previously fined and suspended by USDA for similar issues and changed his USDA number.

Terrible violations have continued into 2020 at Hill Top Kennel, a repeat violator that has appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. In February 2020, the state gave Miller an official warning for a repeat violation. Quotes from the previous inspection included:

- “Two litters of Blue Heeler pups that were in an outdoor enclosure” in the winter cold, without any proof that a veterinarian had certified that they could be safely housed outside.
- “There was evidence of rats in the outdoor enclosures. There were rat trails and rats that had been killed by the dogs. The licensee needs to implement an effective pest control program to eliminate the rodents. Rodents can harbor diseases that can be harmful to the dogs.”
- “The Enhanced Program of Veterinary Care [is] expired.”
- “There were several dogs with long, matted hair coats. Matting can cause discomfort and skin issues.”
- The owner failed to have “all dogs examined on a yearly basis as prescribed in the regulations.”

Eli Miller was cited during previous state visits as well. Issues found at a state inspection in August 2019 included dogs in one entire building who did not have any water on a hot summer day. In addition, the inspector noted that “two male black Pugs were observed to have dried crusted ocular discharge” and the licensee had not consulted with a licensed veterinarian about their eye problems. The inspector also found a male King Charles Cavalier spaniel who had “an abnormal posture in his back legs,” and a female shih tzu with a hotspot on her hip and a ghastly wound on her tail. The inspector wrote, “During today's inspection, the end of the dog's tail was

open, exposing the underlying tissue. The licensee shall have the dog examined by a licensed veterinarian in the next 2 days and keep documentation of the diagnosis and any recommended treatments.”

During the August inspection, Hill Top Kennel had 141 dogs and puppies on the premises.

Eli Miller’s Hill Top Kennel appeared in two prior Horrible Hundred reports. As we noted in our 2017 report, in August 2016, the USDA fined Eli A. Miller \$1,920 (Docket #16-0027) and suspended his license for four weeks due to alleged violations of the Animal Welfare Act and its regulations. Although an August 2016 consent decision and order stipulated that Miller must not be found with any additional repeat or direct violations for three years, more issues were found just months later, according to USDA inspection reports. Miller received a direct violation, the USDA’s most serious category, in October 2016 due to two dogs with very visible eye and/or skin conditions. One of the dogs, a shih tzu, had a cloudy eye that was oozing a mucus-like discharge and had a “divot-like lesion” on the surface. The other dog was a pug puppy who had a small, sunken eye as well as hair loss and multiple “crusty, scab-like lesions.” At the same visit the USDA inspector also found unsafe housing conditions that could injure the dogs and dirty water bowls with a “green discoloration (algae like substance).” In July 2016, the licensee failed to give access to inspectors when they arrived to conduct an inspection, according to USDA records—an issue that was also documented in September 2019.

State inspectors also found repeated issues in prior years. In 2016, a Missouri inspector found dogs in cages that were too small, some with dirty water receptacles, and some of the puppies had inadequate identification. In 2015, the licensee was cited after several dogs were found scratching and heavily infested with fleas. Issues stretch at least as far back as 2012, when the licensee was directed to obtain veterinary care for some ailing dogs, and dogs were found in unacceptably overheated conditions.

The HSUS has notified the USDA of its concerns regarding this operator being permitted to obtain a new license number, apparently to evade his history of violations. This action will allow the licensee to present the new license to potential pet store buyers and falsely make it appear as if his license is not linked to his many past violations. Current USDA # 43-A-6250; Former USDA # 43-A-5541; MO #AC000VSJ. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Clark, Missouri: Elmer and Edna Troyer, Timber View Kennel—State inspectors found excessive feces, dogs with dirty and matted fur, and dogs sold without required vaccinations at breeder who sold to five Petland stores.](#)

During a state inspection at Timber View Kennel in September 2019, inspectors found a number of problems, including:

- A build up of dirt and grime on some surfaces, as well as cobwebs and dander;
- Most of the enclosures for dogs had “an accumulation of fecal build up. It appeared that the enclosures had not been spot cleaned in several days,” and “an accumulation of fecal matter in the wash downs of the facility”;
- Some dogs had “no solid resting surface or the solid resting surface was not large enough” for all the dogs to fit on, leaving some of the animals stuck standing or lying on gridded flooring;
- “The water bowl, used for watering the dogs in the outdoor enclosure, had a build up of green algae on it”;
- There were a number of issues cited related to dogs acquired or sold without records, and some of the dogs at the facility had no records at all, which could lead to a number of problems, such as an inability to track medical care, and could also indicate the licensee was obtaining dogs from unlicensed dealers;
- “The licensee has sold/bartered dogs that were over sixteen weeks of age. He did not have proof of providing rabies vaccinations to the dogs. He stated that he told the new owners that they would need to get a rabies vaccination for the dog”;

- “The Enhanced Program of Veterinary Care form that was provided for review during today’s inspection was dated 8/10/2018. This is over a year old and not considered current”;
- “There were several dogs that exhibited dirty, long, and matted hair coats”;
- “The licensee was storing vaccinations in a freezer containing ice. The temperature inside the freezer registered at 65 degrees Fahrenheit, but the vaccine insert recommended storage temperatures not exceed 44.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Vaccinations not stored in accordance with manufacturer recommendations may lose their potency and may no longer be effective.”

Despite the numerous and obvious problems documented by state inspectors only a few months before, the USDA documented not a single violation during their visit on Feb. 18, 2020. This follows a recent pattern by the USDA, which has dramatically scaled back on citations and enforcement over the past three years.

In 2019, Troyer sold puppies to at least five Florida Petland stores, including stores in Kendall, Largo, Orlando South, Pembroke Pines, and Plantation, Florida. USDA #43-A-5917; MO #AC001VYZ.

Clifton Hill, Missouri: Raymond Lawson, The Silver Spur—State inspectors gave a warning for repeat issues with unsafe housing; one dog had an ear injury and another was limping; USDA inspectors failed to document any issues.

During a state inspection in October 2019, inspectors found a number of concerns at The Silver Spur, including some dogs who were in enclosures that were too small, a French bulldog who was recently treated for an ear issue, but there was no proof that the licensee had provided the treatment prescribed by the vet; also a male German shepherd was seen with an “abnormal gait in its back legs and was intermittently limping.” In addition, there was a repeated problem with some broken kennel areas that the licensee had been told to fix in April and that still weren’t fixed six months later. The owner was given a warning for the repeat violation.

At the April 2019 state inspection, “There was a large amount of grime built up on the indoor portion” of one building, and the licensee was told he needed to “spot clean the enclosures daily and [sanitize] at least every two weeks to reduce disease hazards.” In addition, state inspection records show that two buildings had no smoke detectors; and one had no fire extinguisher, which were noted to be national and local fire code violations. In addition, the inspector found several parts of the kennel that were in disrepair and had sharp edges that could injure the dogs.

Despite the multiple issues found at state inspections, the USDA didn’t cite the licensee for a single violation during the same period of time², following a pattern at USDA of dramatically reduced enforcement and citations over the past three years. USDA # 43-A-5385; MO #AC000BFB.

Elkland, Missouri: Cory Mincey, Puppy Love Kennel, aka Cory’s Cuties (repeat offender)— Attorney general sued AKC breeder for numerous sick and underweight dogs and poor conditions; breeder dodged 35 state inspections.

In October 2019, Missouri’s attorney general announced he was [taking legal action](#) against Cory Mincey, owner of Puppy Love Kennel, due to “sustained substandard conditions” and “multiple continued infractions” of the state’s animal care laws. The violations included repeated problems with underweight and ailing dogs and unacceptable housing, and a failure to provide adequate food and water, as well as cancelling or not responding to inspections on 35 different occasions since June 2018. On March 11, 2020, Mincey signed a consent agreement and agreed to pay a fine of \$5,500 for repeatedly failing to properly care for her animals. However, the agreement allows the kennel to re-apply for a kennel license in 90 days, which will be in June 2020, and it allows Mincey to pay only \$1,000 of the fine with the rest suspended if no recurring violations are found with two consecutive inspections during a period of two years.

² Lawson passed a USDA inspection on 6/18/2018 and another on 9/15/2019.

In addition to the state violations, USDA inspectors found a number of severe and repeated violations at Puppy Love Kennel during several more visits. Some of the most recent violations (November 2019) included:

- DIRECT & REPEAT: “A female Pomeranian and three of her puppies were housed in an indoor enclosure within the whelping building. The puppies were observed lying inside of a [empty metal water bowl]. There were no other sources of water provided inside of the enclosure. During the inspection around 1:45 pm, the inspectors asked a facility representative to fill the receptacle with water. After the bowl was placed inside of the enclosure for the dam and her puppies, the dam was observed to immediately start drinking from the bowl continuously for over 1 ½ minutes. [...] When asked about the last time the dogs had been given water, the licensee stated that they had all been given water yesterday evening.”
- DIRECT & REPEAT: “There were at least 13 enclosures throughout the facility housing dogs that contained greater than a day’s worth of feces. This included the outdoor portion of enclosures in sheltered buildings as well as enclosures within the whelping building. An enclosure within the whelping building housing three Saint Bernards and one Boxer had an accumulation of fecal material in the outdoor portion of their enclosure that was mashed, smeared and splattered which covered most of the entire outdoor flooring. The dogs in this enclosure, with ages around 3 to 6 months old, also had the fecal material visible on their hair coats including on their paws, legs, tails, sides and backs. There was not enough room for all of the dogs to occupy the outdoor portion of the enclosure without walking, standing, sitting or lying in this material.”
- “Some of the other enclosures contained enough feces that the dogs were walking through it to maneuver through the enclosure. There were feces that had been mashed and/or smeared into the floors of many of the enclosures.”
- REPEAT: “A male chocolate and tan party Pomeranian, ‘Rico’ (0A02171112), [who] was included on the report for the last inspection on September 4, 2019 for a dental condition had not been treated as directed...”

There were 90 dogs and puppies at the facility at the time of the USDA’s November 2019 inspection.

In September 2019, USDA inspectors also documented a number of problems, including a brown poodle who was severely matted, and “a facility representative stated that the dog had been that way since they had acquired the dog about three years ago.” The same dog had an oozing lesion under the mats that hadn’t been treated. In addition, a male Pomeranian named “Rico” was consistently holding up one leg and appeared to have an injured foot. The dog was not receiving any treatment for the lameness. In addition, the same dog was also observed to have a dental condition, which was again observed in November.

During a July 2019 inspection, a state inspector found similar problems. Multiple enclosures had an excessive amount of feces, and puppies had no room to get out of the fecal matter.

And as we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, state inspectors found that four dogs “died suddenly” at the facility in less than three months; Mincey was also cited for repeat violations for numerous underweight dogs, dogs with loose stools and excessive feces; she also failed to let inspectors in during 10 different inspection attempts.

Violations found in March 2019 included dogs who didn’t have the required amount of cage space, dogs who had “little to no water,” or only dirty water, two dogs who had been marked “unsound for breeding” by the facility’s veterinarian who were housed with intact male dogs as if part of the breeding program, and a repeated problem with dogs who had loose stools and had not been adequately treated for the issue.

Just a few of the many violations documented during a December 2018 visit included the four dogs who had “died suddenly since the inspection in October,” and enclosures with excessive amounts of feces. The state

inspector noted, “The licensee had Logan [an underweight Boxer identified at the previous inspection] examine[d] by a licensed veterinarian and provided documentation of diagnosis and treatment recommendations. However, not all of the treatment recommendations were followed, nor all of the stated treatments documented. Additionally, Logan was still observed to have loose and bloody stools in his enclosure.” “There were still several dogs throughout the facility which were observed to be thin with body condition scores of 3/9 or less.” Numerous dogs who were underweight or had bloody stools were documented during the inspection in October 2018 and earlier visits as well.

Shockingly, USDA inspectors recorded no violations at Mincey’s kennel during the same month (October 2018) that state inspectors found – and photographed – numerous serious violations, and apparently only began documenting the issues after the kennel was featured in the Horrible Hundred report and in media stories related to the lawsuit.

Mincey has sold mixed-breed as well as “AKC-registerable” puppies online on Facebook and on her own website, Coryscuties.com, where she touted her affiliation with the AKC. The website was active until just recently (mid-April). She has also offered puppies on third party websites like PuppyFind and NextDayPets. Former USDA #43-A-5947; MO# AC000ATS. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Galena, Missouri: Joe Farley, Pleasant Valley Puppies (repeat offender)—Undersized puppies were extremely thin with “visible ribs and hip bones” and infested with ticks, adult dogs had skin conditions and hair loss.

During a July 9, 2019, inspection, a number of puppies were found in severe condition at Pleasant Valley Puppies. Issues cited by USDA inspectors included a direct violation, one of the most serious kinds of violations cited by the USDA, for the following issues:

- DIRECT: “A litter of eight Weimaraner puppies born on 06/04/19 were undersized for their age and underweight. They were lethargic and had many ticks on them. All of the puppies were thin with three of the puppies having visible ribs and hip bones. One of these puppies was extremely weak, had difficulty standing, and had visible shoulder and vertebral bones. The puppies were housed in an outdoor enclosure. The puppies had not received any type of supplemental nutrition or husbandry. A veterinarian had not been consulted about their condition [...] The licensee must take the three thinnest puppies to a veterinarian on July 09, 2019 for diagnosis and follow the treatment plan for all eight puppies.”
- In addition, “an adult female Weimaraner named “Daisy” [...] had ticks covering most of [her] body. Many of the ticks were engorged. A veterinarian had not been consulted about treating and controlling this severe parasite problem.”
- DIRECT: “[The] litter of eight Weimaraner puppies born on June 04, 2019, were whelped and maintained in an outdoor enclosure. All eight puppies were undersized and underweight, with one puppy being so weak it had trouble standing and walking. The ambient temperature at the time of the inspection was 92 degrees F. The puppies were lethargic, moved very little, and were panting.”

Despite these clear warnings, when USDA inspectors returned in August 2019, even more dogs were found in miserable conditions. The inspection report documented multiple dogs with a variety of mange-like skin conditions or hair loss issues. Quotes from that report include:

- “A male Cocker Spaniel named Crosby [who] had patchy hair loss over much of his body. He also had thickened skin on the underside of his neck, chest, on his rump either side of his tail.”
- “A female Cocker Spaniel named Mooney [who] had greasy hair over her back and sides, patchy hair loss, scaly skin, and reddened scabby areas on her chest.”
- “A female Cocker Spaniel named Gloria [who] had nearly complete hair loss on her tail, the adjacent areas on her rump, and behind her ears. She also had areas of missing hair on her neck and back.”

- “A male Springer Spaniel named Spiffy [who] had areas of missing hair about the size of a silver dollar to the right of his tail and on the tip of his tail.”
- “A male Cocker Spaniel named Archie [who] had matted hair on his ears and both back feet.”
- “A female Bernese Mtn. Dog named Sheba [who] had matted hair behind both ears, on her back, and above her tail.”
- In addition, the licensee received a repeat violation for nine dogs infested with ticks. During a previous inspection (July 24, 2019), six dogs had been found with attached ticks, indicating the problem was only getting worse.
- The inspector wrote, “the licensee does not have direct and frequent communication with her veterinarian regarding the skin problems of her dogs.”

More than 100 dogs and puppies were on the property at the time of the August inspection.

Missouri state inspectors cited the kennel for additional violations in October 2019, including a violation for a dog with a cloudy cornea and eye discharge.

Violations we disclosed in our last Horrible Hundred report included state violations in January 2019 for a boxer with inflamed skin on all four paws, a dog who escaped her enclosure, and a failure to maintain proof of recent veterinary examinations on the dogs. In addition, in November 2018, the state investigated a complaint from a puppy buyer who said she had received a Weimaraner puppy from Cyndi Farley who had parvovirus and was “malnourished with prominent hip bones and ribs”; the puppy later died. Additional issues noted during the Nov. 29, 2018, state inspection included: “Licensee was unable to provide documentation of the date and method of disposition for nine puppies which she stated had died at the facility.” “The licensee was able to provide a [outdated] program of veterinary [care] which was signed on October 5, 2017.” “Licensee was unable to provide litter health records for a litter of Weimaraner puppies. Licensee was also unable to provide record of administration of Parvo Mix dispensed on October 17, 2018 by their veterinarian for the eight puppies in [that] litter that remained at the facility.” “A male Miniature Poodle, #990000001620710, was noted by Dr. Cook to have matted hair on his front legs and hindquarters. The matted hair on the distal legs was damp and the inter digital skin of a fore paw was slightly inflamed.”

Despite the serious violations found at Pleasant Valley Puppies during four different state inspections between 2018 and 2019, the USDA inspected in July 2018 (between two noncompliant state inspections) and documented no violations on that date. It seems that USDA only began documenting violations at Pleasant Valley Puppies after HSUS published information on the state’s findings in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report and called out the USDA’s lack of citations. Yet state records show that the issues with thin dogs and dogs with skin conditions stretch back at least four years.

As we noted in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, in February 2016, the licensee was cited for using an inappropriate method for docking puppies’ tails; instead of removing the tails with special equipment and suturing them with stitches or glue as required on the facility’s veterinarian-authorized program of vet care, the licensee was “removing the tails by twisting them off and then applying blood clotter,” without suturing the skin, according to the USDA inspection report. In addition to employing this horrific and probably very painful practice, the licensee was found with numerous dogs in need of veterinary care, including a male English bulldog who was so thin that his spine and hip bones were visible through the skin, a Weimaraner with a bite wound, a puppy who was coughing, and a shiba inu who appeared to have an injury that was affecting normal movement. Horrific violations were found later in 2016 as well. In June 2016, a USDA inspector found a female Neapolitan mastiff with “thick gray discharge in both eyes” and swollen skin around the eyes. The mastiff and four other

dogs also had skin conditions such as hair loss and moist, reddened skin. In addition, the inspector noted several unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions, including outdoor enclosures that didn't protect some of the dogs from the weather, inadequate cleaning and rodent feces in several areas. Issues go back to at least February 2016, when state inspectors had found many other problems, including a bulldog who was underweight with his hips, ribs and spine structures visible, a shiba inu who had difficulty standing up, a Weimaraner with a swelling on her leg, some dogs who did not have adequate protection from the cold and others with "pendulous" matting. USDA #43-A-6006; MO #AC001XJL. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Galt, Missouri: Valente Rios, Rios Kennel aka My Little French (repeat offender)—Huge kennel with over 400 dogs was investigated for selling a puppy with deadly canine distemper; associate admitted other dogs died; kennel has been repeatedly cited and fined for poor conditions.

Rios Kennel failed three state inspections in 2019 for a variety of repeat problems. State records show the kennel was also investigated for selling a critically ill puppy. A buyer complained to the Missouri Department of Agriculture that they had purchased a puppy who came down with deadly canine distemper, among other issues, in October 2019. The puppy also had pneumonia and coccidia, according to the complaint.

State records show that when authorities asked an associate at the property, Luis Barriga, about disease in the kennel, the licensee admitted that some puppies had had respiratory issues or diarrhea, and when the vet asked if any dogs had died, "Luis Barriga stated they had some deaths in the facility but he was unsure of the number." Authorities documented violations at that inspection for a variety of problems, including "failure to follow vaccine protocol" established by the licensee's veterinarian and "selling a sick puppy without veterinary advice nor consent of the purchaser."

The October violations were only the latest in a series of issues at Rios Kennel in 2019. In September 2019, state inspectors found a bloody cage with a dog who seemed to be obviously in need of care: the floor of the enclosure "was observed to have an area of watery bloody fluid and a moderate amount of dark bloody fluid. A female Yorkshire Terrier in the cage was observed to have dark dried fluid on her feet, but it was difficult to tell if she was in heat. The licensee shall isolate and observe the female, determine if the bloody fluid is stool or vulvar discharge, and document the observations." In addition, the inspector found: "Two Maltese puppies were observed to be squinting their eyes and have dried nasal discharge," and there were multiple issues with inadequate housing that the licensee had been warned about on a prior visit and that still needed repair. There was also an issue of dogs with toenails so long that they "cause the toes to splay." The licensee had been warned about that issue during a prior visit as well.

During an August 2019 state inspection, Rios Kennel was cited for poor maintenance and for some dogs who didn't have adequate space in their enclosure. In addition, the inspector noted that "Many dogs throughout the facility had toenails that were long enough to cause the toes to splay [and] several dogs also had long hair that obscured their eyes." The facility had more than 400 dogs and puppies at the time of the inspection.

Rios was issued a warning by the state and was later fined a \$100 re-inspection fee in November 2019. It seems the penalties issued to Rios Kennel are so minor that they are considered just a minor cost of doing business.

Rios Kennel appeared in our 2013 and 2014 reports for similar, repeated issues. In December 2013, the USDA fined the kennel \$7,536 for a variety of recurring violations. The HSUS has also received complaints about Rios Kennel.

Valente Rios offers puppies for sale under the name of his associate, [Luis Barriga](#), on the website [PuppyFind.com](#), which the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills, and [on Facebook](#) as My Little French, where he claims to be located in Osgood, Missouri. He also uses Valente Barriga Rios, and other combinations of the two names.

Despite all the documented problems at the kennel, the USDA has failed to cite it for any recent violations, following its recent pattern of steeply declining enforcement. USDA #43-A-5652; MO #AC0011Y9. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Hannibal, Missouri: Jerry Gottman, Wagtime Puppies (repeat offender)—“Very lethargic” shih tzu was found wounded and unresponsive; dogs in the winter cold had only frozen water; state issued a large number of “repeat” and “direct” violations for filthy conditions and lack of veterinary care.

State inspectors found unacceptable conditions at Wagtime Puppies during at least four different inspections between April 2019 and January 2020, and issued a warning to the owner for repeat violations. Some of the many recent issues inspectors found at Wagtime Puppies included:

- “Schnauzer with ID #0A01316521 had large patches of hair loss over its sides and lumbar spine.” (April 2019)
- “There was an accumulation of fecal matter in the whelping enclosures to the extent that the dogs had no clean place to lay.” [repeat/direct] (October 2019)
- “There was a female Shihtzu, microchip number AOA2357740, whose right eye was blue and appeared enlarged. There was no examination documentation from a licensed veterinarian available for review. The dog did not appear to feel good during today’s inspection.” [direct] (October 2019)
- “There was a female Shihtzu, microchip number AOA2357158, that had a hacking cough.” There was no indication that the dog was under veterinary treatment. [direct] (October 2019)
- “There was a female Shihtzu, with microchip number OAO2361234, that was found in a dog box very lethargic. She had wounds on her sides and back and was unresponsive. The licensee removed the dog from the enclosure and took to an inside enclosure. The licensee needs to have this dog examined by a licensed veterinarian to assess her condition and prescribe treatment.” [direct] (December 2019)
- “There was an accumulation of fecal material in the ground enclosures. Fecal matter can harbor disease and bacteria.” (December 2019)
- “The floor had a build up of dried, smeared fecal matter in the openings of the floor. This matter can harbor disease and bacteria.” (December 2019)
- The licensee could not prove that the dogs had been given “hands on” examinations by a veterinarian as required by law. (December 2019)
- “There were several dogs with dirty, unkept, matted hair coats. There were dogs with long toe nails that were beginning to curl. The dogs’ hair coats need to be maintained on a regular basis as well as their toe nails need to be trimmed.” (December 2019)
- “There [were] several dogs that were not provided with water that is free of being frozen. One bucket was frozen solid and exhibited areas that had been licked indicating the dog was trying to get water.” [direct] (January 2020)
- “The free standing enclosures had a fecal accumulation in them. They had not been cleaned at the time of the inspection. This item remains non-compliant.” [repeat] (January 2020)
- “The enclosures had a build up of fecal matter on the floor.” [repeat] (January 2020)
- “The licensee could not provide the ‘hands on’ examinations that were performed by the licensed veterinarian. This item remains non-compliant.” [repeat] (January 2020)
- “There are some dogs in which you cannot observe their eyes as the hair is covering them. There are a few that the hair coats need to be maintained. This item remains non-compliant.” [repeat] (January 2020)
- “There remains a fecal accumulation under the free standing enclosures. This is the second time this item has been a category V. This item remains non-compliant.” [repeat] (January 2020)

There was also a repeated problem with dogs missing from the kennel with no indication of what had happened to them, which could indicate that they died or were lost. MO #AC0025P3. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Hartville, Missouri: Isaac L. Stoltzfus—Nursing mother German shepherd with six puppies was “extremely thin” with obvious diarrhea and had not been to a veterinarian; dogs and puppies did not have adequate shelter or weather protection.

On Aug. 13, 2019, the USDA gave Isaac Stoltzfus a direct violation, one of the most serious categories because it indicates an animal was in need of immediate treatment, for the following: “A female German Shepherd [...] who was nursing 6 puppies (approximately 7 weeks old) was extremely thin. Her shoulders, ribs and hip bones could easily be felt and there was a distinctive abdominal tuck. At the time of the inspection, she was in an enclosure directly next to the enclosure with the puppies. She had been moved there a short time prior to the inspection. There were 5 areas of diarrhea (one area was very shiny and watery) in the enclosure with the puppies and the facility representative stated that it was from the female. The dog was observed to have diarrhea for at least a day. The facility representative stated that the dog had not been given supplemental foods or any treatment to prevent the weight loss and a veterinarian had not been consulted about the weight loss and the diarrhea.”

The inspector also cited Stoltzfus that day for having dogs and puppies without adequate shelters in their outdoor enclosures; some of the puppies were only seven weeks old and had no outdoor weather protection.

When USDA inspectors returned on Aug. 27, 2019, for a focused inspection, they found that the owner had still failed to obtain adequate shelter from the weather for dogs in at least four of the outdoor enclosures, a repeat violation. The facility finally passed one USDA inspection in December 2019.

But it appears that during the time USDA was inspecting Stoltzfus for the emaciated mother dog and lack of outdoor shelters, he was not yet fully licensed by the state and did not have the required veterinary care records. He failed at least one pre-license inspection with the state on Oct. 28, 2019, for not having a program of veterinary care for review, and for not having the required hands-on veterinary exams done on the dogs, as required under the state’s Animal Care Facilities Act.

After failing its pre-license inspection with the state in October, the operation passed its second Missouri pre-license inspection in December, and is now licensed by both the state and the USDA, but the HSUS has concerns about the safety of dogs in the operation based upon the recent repeat and direct violations.

USDA #43-A-6396; MO #AC002WEQ.

Huggins, Missouri: Linda and Kenneth Baker, Kenlynn Kennel—Bichon frise had patches of missing fur and itching crusty, red skin with abrasions; owner admitted the dog had the condition for at least two weeks but had not been taken to a veterinarian.

During a state inspection in November 2019, inspectors found a dog named Duffy, a Pekingese who had “a bluish discoloration of the left eye with neovascularization.” The inspector felt the dog needed to be seen by a veterinarian, but the licensee claimed a veterinarian had already examined the dog. In addition, the licensee had some substandard housing structures with wire floors that didn’t meet minimum requirements, but she claimed there were no dogs living in them and they were no longer being used.

During a USDA inspection on April 8, 2019, inspectors found a female bichon frise who was “missing hair on both sides, hips and tail. The skin in these areas is thickened, crusty and red. There are multiple abrasions in these areas also.” The inspector observed that the dog seemed uncomfortable, noting: “The dog is intermittently scratching its ears with its feet and rubbing its sides against the fence. The owner stated this condition had been ongoing for approximately two weeks and had not consulted the veterinarian for treatment. Skin conditions can

be a result of parasites, nutrition, or underlying medical conditions. Licensee must have this dog examined by a veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment.” Because the issue was clearly affecting the dog’s well-being and comfort, the USDA inspector cited the issue as a direct violation. USDA #43-A-3415; MO #AC000EE0.

Iberia, Missouri: Allison Hedgpeth, Lonewolf Pets LLC aka Lonewolf Kennels (repeat offender)—Instructed all employees to refuse USDA inspections, in violation of the Animal Welfare Act which requires USDA visits to be unannounced; linked to fake rescue.

In July 2019, a USDA inspector gave Allison Hedgpeth, a transporter and broker who distributes puppies to pet stores, a critical violation, one of the most serious categories of violations, for actively refusing to participate in required inspections. The inspector wrote: “On the afternoon of July 01, 2019, I approached a parked van in Neosho, MO, that was loading puppies. I identified myself as a USDA Animal Care Inspector to the driver of the vehicle and said that I was there to conduct an inspection. The driver, Sara, who was wearing a T-shirt that said ‘LoneWolf’ told me that I was not allowed to inspect the vehicle because she was not an authorized person. On July 02, 2019, I phoned Allison Hedgpeth, the owner of LoneWolf Pets, and explained what had happened the previous day. Ms. Hedgpeth told me that she has directed all of her employees to deny USDA access to her vehicles unless she is present for the inspection. She said to go ahead and write an NCI [noncompliant item] for refusal of inspection, that she would appeal the report, and deal with the consequences.” The violation is of considerable concern because it suggests the licensee had something to hide; it was also particularly brazen because she seemed to feel comfortable with violating the Animal Welfare Act, with the assumption that she could easily contest a violation so that it would not appear on her record.

This is the second year in a row that Allison Hedgpeth, Lonewolf Kennels (affiliated with Dog Mother Rescue Society) is in the Horrible Hundred report. As we stated last year, the dealer is accused of working with a bogus “rescue” that sells “adoptable” puppies in areas that have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. In 2018, the [Chicago Tribune exposed](#) the fact that commercial dog dealers were creating bogus rescue groups to keep selling puppies to pet stores in areas that have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs in stores. Lonewolf Kennels, based in Iberia, Missouri, and J.A.K.’s Puppies, based in Britt, Iowa, are two massive puppy mill brokers that allegedly created “rescue” groups to sell essentially the same commercial breeder puppies to pet stores, taking advantage of some potentially ambiguous language in some cities’ laws. Some, if not all, of the dogs sold by Lonewolf’s “rescue” arm, Dog Mother Rescue Society, appear to come from the same commercial breeders as the puppies sold by their for-profit kennel, according to the Tribune and national animal welfare groups that investigated the issue. In fact, the article reported that sometimes puppies from the same litter were sold in two different ways, with one littermate going to a pet store in one town as a traditional, purebred breeder dog and the others sold as “rescues” in towns that prohibit the sale of puppy mill dogs in stores. The Tribune found Dog Mother Rescue Society selling hundreds of puppies in this manner, allegedly misleading families who think they are doing a good deed by getting a rescued puppy.

In March 2020, Hobo K9 Rescue (affiliated with J.A.K.’s Puppies) was [fined \\$60,000 and agreed to close](#) following a lawsuit by Iowa’s attorney general for its misleading practices, which were very similar to those of Dog Mother Rescue Society. USDA #43-B-3435 and #43-T-0048 (Lonewolf); MO # AC000QKH (Lonewolf); MO #AC00236C (formerly called Dog Mother Rescue). SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Keytesville, Missouri: David Miller, D & K Kennel, aka Shady Kennels LLC—Sale of underage puppies; failure to abide by quarantine; unsanitary conditions; dogs found panting in heat.

During a July 17, 2019, visit, state inspectors found a number of violations at D & K Kennel. A few of the violations included:

- “There were gates on the ends of the enclosures that did not safely contain the animals. The gates were affixed to the enclosure with wire and the bottoms of the gates were pushed out. The licensee stated that a dog had escaped from [the] enclosure because of the gate and there was a Pug mix dog running loose around the facility”;
- “There was an accumulation of fly droppings and grime on the enclosures and feeders” as well as other areas with too much feces and dirt.
- “The ambient temperature in the small kennel was recorded at ninety-one (91) degrees Fahrenheit. There was no type of auxiliary ventilation provided. The dogs were panting[...].”
- “There were at least thirty puppies that have been removed from the facility, but there is no paperwork provided for the disposition of these puppies.” [This could indicate that they died.]
- “Multiple dogs in the facility were observed to have excessively long toenails.”
- “The licensee violated the existing quarantine order for the premises and moved multiple puppies off the premises before they were released from quarantine”;
- “The licensee provided litter records for four litters that had left the facility. [...]None of these puppies were eight weeks of age when they left the facility.”

There were more than 90 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the July inspection. When inspectors returned again on Nov. 21, 2019, they found a number of repeat violations and veterinary care deficiencies, including unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Violations included:

- “Multiple dogs in the facility were observed to have excessively long toenails. Long toenails can cause pain and discomfort.” [repeat]
- “A male Shih Tzu/Poodle mix puppy (with ID #457) born 10/12/2019 to the female with ID #237 was observed to be weak and was less than half the size of the other four puppies in the litter,” and there was no indication that the licensee had gotten the puppy checked by a veterinarian. [direct]
- “The licensee is failing to document the administration dates for vaccinations and dewormers given at this facility.”

The licensee was issued a warning after the November inspection, but once again, when inspectors arrived for a follow-up visit, the property wasn't fully compliant. On Jan. 3, 2020, an inspector noted that the licensee still had no documentation that puppies had received their vaccinations and dewormers. In addition, a puppy who the inspectors intended to check on had “left the facility,” so inspectors claimed that the violation was corrected, even though there was no indication on the inspection report whether the puppy was dead or alive. The licensee was once again issued a warning after the January 2020 inspection for the repeat violation.

The facility previously barely passed a March 2019 pre-license inspection with the state due to similar issues with unsafe and unsanitary conditions, dogs who had no water, and dogs who didn't have enough space. The licensee also had a March 15, 2019, direct state violation for a litter of puppies who were in an enclosure so filled with feces that they had no clean place to lie down inside. In addition, during the March 15 inspection, the inspector found that numerous dogs who were old enough to have rabies vaccinations had not been vaccinated as required by law, and some dogs did not have required veterinary examination forms.

The USDA also inspected in March 2019, and found a violation on March 7 for “an excessive amount of feces in about 25% of the enclosures,” noting that, “the fecal build-up in the enclosures was enough where the dogs

could not move around freely without stepping in it.” In addition, “the wash downs were full of fecal material covering most of the wash down with a several inch thick layer,” according to the USDA report. USDA # 43-A-6263; MO #AC002RY6.

Koshkonong, Missouri: Jamey Stuart, Love Our Pups—State inspectors found no treatment records for “thin” dogs and dogs needing medication; some dogs were actively fighting and injuring one another.

During an October 2019 state inspection, inspectors noted concerns about insufficient housing, as well as some dogs in thin condition and some dogs actively fighting and injuring one another at Love Our Pups. The inspection report states: “During today’s inspection, several fights were observed. A Golden Retriever [...] was observed to be pinned down and bitten multiple times. A kennel worker separate[d] the fighting animals on at least three occasions. The dog was removed from the enclosure and checked for wounds. Licensee shall ensure animals that are housed in the same primary enclosure must be compatible.” In addition to the incompatible housing, records showed there were some “dogs needing medications” or dogs that were “thin.” However, there were no records to indicate that dogs were being actively monitored to see if they were improving or declining. In addition, a poodle had been purchased from another state on Aug. 28, 2019, and there was no documentation that the dog had been checked by a veterinarian, which would be required for an animal being sold and transported across state lines.

The October issues were not the first problems that inspectors found at Love Our Pups in 2019. In March 2019, state inspectors found a Boston terrier who “was observed to have red protruding tissue from her left eye. Upon further examination, the dog was observed to be squinting and have discharge around the eye. Shavings were observed sticking to the discharge.” The inspector added, “In addition the dog was observed to be thin.” The inspector found no records showing the dog had been taken to a veterinarian for treatment.

The kennel is also USDA licensed, but apparently USDA inspectors, who visited just four days before the state inspectors, did not notice the thin dogs or other problems at the kennel; in fact, the USDA did not document any violations at all at Love Our Pups in 2019. Unfortunately, this is not surprising; USDA citations [plummeted about 65%](#) between 2016 and 2018, while their enforcement actions are down more than 90% in recent years, and the HSUS has found many instances of licensees who had numerous state violations, but received a clean report from the USDA.

The operation did pass one state inspection in December 2019. USDA #43-A-6244; MO #AC001SWE.

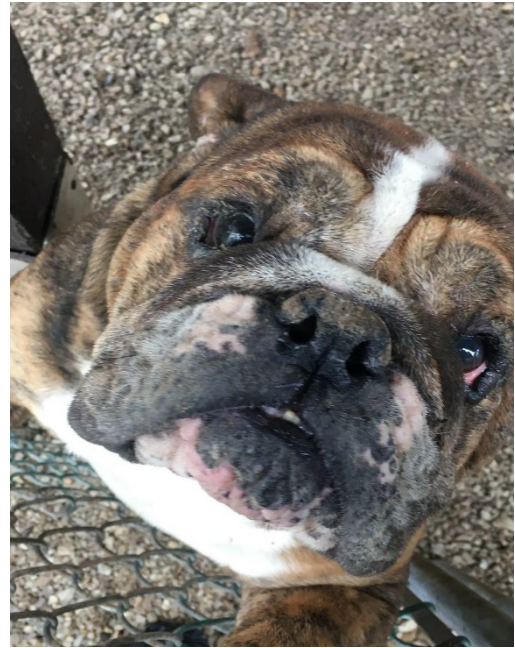
Lebanon, Missouri: Kevin Beauchamp, Beauchamp’s Puppy World (repeat offender)—President of Missouri Pet Breeders Association had dogs with crusty eyes, and walls and floors that were grimy and dirty; history of violations goes back at least six years; previously fined and suspended by USDA due to violations.

Kevin Beauchamp has been president of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association, an organization that lobbies for less stringent oversight of pet breeders, for many years. MPBA hosts seminars for breeders across the state, and it also [has a representative](#) at the state capital who regularly pushes to weaken the state’s animal protection laws. MPBA has supported bills that would make it more difficult to prosecute individuals for animal abuse or to confiscate suffering animals (HB2111³), and bills that aim to restrict inspections and investigations of animal facilities (HB1583). It’s no surprise that Beauchamp’s organization fights animal protection laws, as it appears his commercial breeding operation is one of many in the state that has failed numerous times over the years to comply with basic animal care standards.

³ HB2111 would eliminate the disposition process for abused and neglected animals, making it more difficult to permanently remove them from suspected animal abusers.

For example, during an Oct. 30, 2019, inspection, state inspectors found a number of issues at Beauchamp's Puppy World. Direct quotes from that report include:

- An English bulldog named Whiskey “was observed with yellow crusted material around the rim of the right eye. The surface of the right eye appeared cloudy and was not smooth and shiny like the opposite eye.”
- A female Lhasa apso had “dark crusted material underneath the outside of both eyes. The dark material was in the corners of the eyes and extended down onto the hair-coat under the eyes. A build-up [of] debris around the eye can be indicative of an underlying eye condition or could be due to the need for additional grooming around the eye. The debris under the eye could cause discomfort. Going forward, the licensee shall consult with a licensed veterinarian regarding the debris under the eyes. Documentation of the consultation along with any resulting treatments shall be maintained for future review.”
- “An accumulation of debris and a build- up of grime was visible on the walls and floors in the “puppy building” and the “small building.” Hair and debris were visible along the edges and corners of the interior portions of the enclosures. Additionally, food pans had been spilled in at least two enclosures and food debris was spread out all over the interior of the enclosure.”



Inspection photo of an English bulldog with eye issues at Beauchamp's Puppy World. /MO Dept of Ag., 2019.

The violations are a cause of concern because they are similar to other issues that inspectors found at Beauchamp's facility in prior years. In April 2017, the [USDA fined Beauchamp \\$6,000](#) for a long list of violations at his kennel, and for repeatedly failing to let inspectors in, and suspended his license for seven days.

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

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

minimum care standards, such as adequate bedding to protect dogs from the cold, and adequate cleaning of feces.

After the most recent fine, Kevin Beauchamp cancelled his USDA license in Sept. 2017, but two apparent family members with the same last name and address (Linda and Jerry) remain USDA licensed at the same address. In 2018, Linda Beauchamp shipped at least one puppy to a Petland store in Wichita, Kansas, even though Petland claims to purchase only from USDA breeders with no significant violations. Since the USDA licenses Linda and Jerry Beauchamp at the same address as Kevin, the operation can continue to sell to pet stores while concealing its history of issues. Former USDA #43-B-3707; USDA license under Linda and Jerry Beauchamp, USDA # 43-A-1181. MO #AC000EXZ. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Montgomery City, Missouri: Mary Foster, Willow LLC (formerly Country Pets) (repeat offender)—Massive facility has more than 400 dogs; husky had an oozing wound that hadn't been treated by a veterinarian; poor housing and cramped conditions.

During a December 2019 state inspection, inspectors found a number of issues at Mary Foster's breeding operation, including a female Siberian husky who had an apparent injury under her eye that had a "dried blood-tinged discharge"; puppies and dogs on elevated flooring that didn't have a solid resting surface, which could hurt the dogs' feet; two dogs who didn't have enough cage space; two dogs who didn't have access to the outdoors; no working smoke detectors in three of the buildings housing dogs; and a number of dogs who were at the kennel without the appropriate records. At another inspection earlier that year, some dogs were found without rabies vaccinations.

The violations were especially concerning because of Mary Foster's long history with puppy mills and the apparent lack of willingness to fix issues that had been found at her operation again and again over the years. Together with Cathy Griesbauer, Foster operated a business called Country Pets that was licensed until 2017. Country Pets was a massive puppy mill that once had over 900 dogs and that appeared in several of our prior Horrible Hundred reports.

Issues we revealed about Country Pets in some of our prior reports included citations by both state and federal inspectors including unsafe conditions and injured dogs. For example, in February 2016, Missouri state inspectors cited the kennel for having puppies in cages without enough solid resting area for them all to fit, an adult dog whose head almost touched the top of her enclosure, and 12 puppies who were missing from the facility because they had either "been lost, died or sold," but there was incomplete information about their fates. The fact that Foster still had dogs and puppies on dangerous flooring and in inadequate cages more than three years later shows a blatant disregard for the state's basic and common-sense animal care regulations.

Prior issues linked to Foster are too numerous to list here, but in December 2014, the USDA issued an official warning for violation of federal regulations to both Cathy Griesbauer and Mary Foster for failure to provide adequate medical care to 10 different dogs. Violations found by state inspectors in 2014 included: underweight dogs with their spines, hips and ribs protruding; dogs with bleeding wounds; dogs who were limping or could not bear weight on their legs; 88 dogs without rabies vaccinations, and strong odors and filthy conditions. The state continued to find violations even after that warning.

Country Pets has been dissolved and is no longer licensed, but Foster has a new USDA broker (B dealer) license. The broker license enables the facility to sell puppies that Foster raises herself, as well as puppies she obtains from others. The operation passed a recent USDA inspection, but was found with more than 340 dogs and puppies at that visit, an astounding number of animals for any single facility to handle or adequately care for, especially one with such a problematic history. The USDA has also drastically reduced enforcement over the past three years, leaving many operations, like Foster's, with little oversight or accountability. Former USDA #43-A-1843; Former MO#AC000PPD. Current USDA #43-B-3769; MO # AC0027M0. FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.



Mt. Vernon, Missouri: Dean Troyer, Troyer’s Kennel—One dog was “thin and lethargic”; another had patches of hair loss; a third had a reproductive organ injury.

While performing a Feb. 10, 2020, state inspection, inspectors found two dogs who were obviously in need of veterinary care at Troyer’s Kennel. One was a male English bulldog who “was thin and lethargic,” and another was a female dachshund who had “signs of hair loss on the front legs and behind the ears.” The licensee was ordered to have a veterinarian look at the dogs within three days. The inspection was the second time in barely over a month that veterinary issues were noted at the kennel. During a Jan. 8, 2020, USDA inspection, several other problems were found at the facility, including a male dog with a “complete protrusion of his male reproductive organs. It was very swollen, dry and the lower portion of the phallus was bright red. It was noted that the phallus would drag on the floor of the elevated enclosure and gather debris. The Licensee advised that the condition was not noticed since the last daily observation.” The issue was noted as a direct violation since the dog was clearly at risk of harm and pain. During the same USDA inspection, a male dachshund was found in an elevated enclosure that “had an excessive accumulation of excreta in the washdown directly below it,” and the licensee “explained that they usually don’t clean under the enclosure.” There was also an issue with a sheltered facility “housing English Bulldogs and Dachshunds, [that] had not been cleaned since Saturday,” which was about four days before the inspection.

Prior issues at the facility included a February 2019 state pre-license inspection at which a number of concerns were noted, including an English bulldog who “was observed to have hair loss on its face and [in] spots ranging between one half an inch and two inches in diameter along its back and legs.” When questioned about the dog’s condition, the applicant admitted that his veterinarian had advised him that the dog might have mites and should be examined, but that had been several days ago, and the dog still had not been taken to the veterinarian for the examination.

The licensee passed one state inspection in April 2019 and became licensed. USDA #43-A-6412; MO# AC002QTL.

Noel, Missouri: Andre Damrill, Magic Puppies—Received a warning from the state in February 2020 for repeated issues with excessive feces and dogs who did not have water; dogs and puppies were out in the cold without adequate protection.

On Feb. 10, 2020, state inspectors cited Magic Puppies for a variety of serious animal care issues, many of which were repeats from a prior inspection. Issues found that day included: eight puppies housed outdoors in the cold weather; seven dogs and three puppies who didn’t have enough bedding to protect them from cold temperatures; some dogs who had no water; at least one female boxer who was kept in a crate that was too small; and excessive feces throughout the facility. In addition, the license had expired, but was in the process of being renewed. The state issued a warning to Magic Puppies after the February inspection.

During a prior inspection in October 2019, many similar issues were found, including unsafe enclosures, excessive feces “throughout the facility” and “strong odor,” and dogs without adequate space. In addition, some of the dogs had no water and some of the dogs who did have water had only dirty water.

According to the licensee, the operation had also been visited by an American Kennel Club inspector, who apparently gave advice on recordkeeping for puppies, but the state inspector found it wasn’t being followed. The state inspector also found that a boxer had eye discharge, and a Boston terrier “was sold to [a] buyer in South Carolina without proof of rabies, a certificate of veterinarian inspection, [or] medical records.”

The sale of a puppy without the proper veterinary documents across state lines is of significant concern for more than one reason. A search of the USDA’s website on April 13, 2020, found no active license for any facility in Noel, Missouri, or any facility under the name “Magic Puppies.” It appears Magic Puppies does not have the required federal license to sell animals sight-unseen, including sales to Internet buyers or to pet stores. Yet until

April 2020, Magic Puppies had a [website](#) where it offered to ship AKC-registered puppies [by air or “ground shipping”](#) to unseen buyers across the nation. MO #AC00208L.

[Pattonburg, Missouri: Keith and Shannon Plymell, Windsong Kennels \(repeat offender\)—Kennel listed in HSUS’s 2010 “Missouri’s Dirty Dozen” report still open, still had housing and veterinary issues 10 years later; puppies had feces matted in their fur.](#)

During a state inspection of Windsong Kennels in June 2019, an inspector found dogs living in such dark conditions that the inspector had to use a flashlight to see dogs in the back corners of the kennel. The inspector wrote that neither the lights nor fan in the building worked. In addition, the licensee had goat medications on hand for use on the dogs as a dewormer, which was not labelled for dogs nor listed as an approved treatment in the facility’s veterinary plan. In addition, the inspector found four puppies who “had fecal matter matted on their hind quarters.” The inspector noted that “The Kennel Manager attempted to remove the mats by pulling and stated she would need scissors to remove the mats completely.” The inspector also found a Papillion named Jefferson, who was “noted as squinting with both eyes.” There were 100 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the inspection.

But the June inspection was only one of at least six state inspections at Windsong Kennels at which problems were found in 2019. A few of the violations included issues such as: dogs with matted fur, dirt floors that couldn’t be cleaned, some dogs without enough space, and some dogs who didn’t have any water. The licensee received at least two warnings from the state in 2019 for the repeat issues.

Ten years ago, Windsong Kennels appeared in our “[Missouri’s Dirty Dozen](#)” report. At that time, it was USDA licensed (43-A-4928) and had accumulated 21 pages of USDA violations since July 2008. Some of the federal violations it had been cited for included violations in January 2010 for dogs found in frigid temperatures without adequate protection from the cold, inadequate shelter and temperature control, and housing in disrepair. The licensee also had multiple prior violations for underweight dogs, dogs requiring vet care, dogs without adequate space to turn around and move freely, and sanitation and housing issues.

Shortly after appearing in our 2010 report, Windsong Kennels [cancelled its USDA license](#), but it is still licensed by the state—and apparently, conditions haven’t improved much, if at all. MO # AC0010TP. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Sainte Genevieve, Missouri: Krystal Ballard, TLC K9 Kennels aka Ballardhaus Rottweilers \(repeat offender\)—Serial offender, an AKC breeder, was operating on an expired license; repeatedly failed to provide puppies with adequate shelter; two dogs had lesions that had not been treated by a veterinarian.](#)

During a state inspection in July 2019, four puppies were found “housed on the front porch of the residence” at TLC K9 Kennels, where the licensee said they had been overnight. The inspector wrote, “the only shelter type structure provided for the puppies was a transportation crate with numerous ventilation holes in the sides and back which does not provide adequate shelter for animals.” This was a repeat of an issue the operation had already been cited for in 2018, when state inspectors found three puppies on the porch without adequate shelter.

In addition, two Rottweiler dogs, Dragon and Lea, each had lesions at the base of one of their ears, and the licensee had no documentation of treatment on the dogs for their lesions, according to the report.

In addition, the state inspector noted on July 1, 2019, that “The license for TLC K9 KENNELS expired at midnight on Jan. 31, 2019. While an application was received on April 25, 2019, you are lacking a category five re-inspection fee.” No mention was made of why the Missouri Department of Agriculture wasn’t penalizing the

kennel for operating without a license. The inspection report noted, “In order to conduct activity as a commercial breeder, you must submit your \$100.00 re-inspection fee, in order for your license to be issued. You will be required to refrain from breeding or selling until you obtain a valid ACFA license.” Due to the fact that the licensee had 23 breeding dogs and seven puppies on the property and no valid license, it appears that the Missouri Department of Agriculture allowed the breeder to continue to operate for about six months on an expired license, even though it had also failed prior inspections and had not paid its reinspection fee.

Krystal Ballard’s TLC K9 Kennels / Ballardhaus Rottweilers also appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report due to direct, repeat violations for dogs found without water in the summer and for repeated failure to provide proper veterinary care. As we stated in the 2019 report, throughout 2018, state inspectors found numerous violations at the kennel, including three different violations for dogs without drinking water, violations for wet conditions and muddy dogs, inadequate shelter and inadequate veterinary care, and violations for animals missing from the facility with no explanation for what had happened to them.

During an August 2018 state inspection, a number of violations were found. The inspector noted: “During today’s inspection, there were three weaned puppies housed on the back porch without shelter provided. When asked where the puppies were housed the night before the licensee stated on the porch. In addition to the puppies there were two adult Dogue de Bordeaux with only one medium size shelter structure available.” The report also stated, “The licensee stated she had been treating a male Rottweiler named Dyson for bite wounds he sustained three to four weeks ago. The licensee stated she had consulted with her veterinarian, but she had not kept any record of the consultation or the medication administration.” Other concerns included dogs who were wet from standing in soaked enclosures, and dogs and puppies who didn’t have drinking water.

During an additional August 2018 focused inspection, four animals were found with no water, and when the licensee was instructed to give them water, a Rottweiler “was timed to drink for more than one minute and forty-five seconds.” Dogs had also been found with no water during a February inspection. And at a follow-up inspection in September 2018, the inspector noted that all the dogs had fresh water, but that appeared to be only because a man was seen pouring water for the dogs as the inspectors were waiting to be let in to start the inspection. In addition, “the licensee’s program of veterinary care has expired and she stated she has not obtained a current program of veterinary care.” The licensee had also not obtained the required veterinary examination forms for her dogs, even though she had been warned about the issue previously.

Currently, [Ballardhaus Rottweilers](#), which advertises itself as an “AKC Rottweiler show/breeding kennel of world class” dogs on its website, has a “D” rating with the Better Business Bureau due to unresolved complaints. The operation also touts a USDA license on its website, but HSUS could not find any record of a current USDA license for the facility as of April 14, 2020. MO # AC002AKQ. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Saint James, Missouri: Sandra Kozlowski, Sho-Me Labradors \(repeat offender\)—Breeder with history of violations continued to operate even after Attorney General lawsuit; repeated issues with filthy conditions, failure to let inspectors in, and underweight dogs with ribs showing.](#)

Egregious problems have been ongoing at Sho-Me Labradors for several years, but, as of the date of this report, the kennel is still operating for now.

In December 2019, state inspectors found a very long list of violations at the facility, including several dogs in need of veterinary care, expired medication and medications not labeled for use in dogs stored in the kennel, housing issues, rusty kennels and enclosures, crates in disrepair, dirty conditions, inadequate and damaged surfaces, inadequate lighting and much more. There were 133 dogs in the facility at the time. State records also show Sandra Kozlowski surrendered nine dogs to a local animal shelter that month.

Prior to that inspection, on Nov. 7, 2019, Missouri’s attorney general issued an interlocutory order of default and injunction, issued by the state courts when Kozlowski failed to appear for the motions hearing in the state’s open lawsuit against her. This order prevents Sandra Kozlowski from “advertising, soliciting, selling, providing dogs, or accepting payment for dogs” so long as the case is still ongoing, but as of the date of this report, the kennel has not been permanently closed. In fact, in January 2020, the state performed another “pre license” inspection to prepare to give the operation a new kennel license. Many animal care deficiencies were found at that inspection as well.

As we stated in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, Sho-Me Labradors has been failing inspections since early 2018. It failed three state pre-license inspections between February and May of 2018 for issues such as dogs with hair loss or loose stools, dogs confined without enough space and filthy conditions. Yet the kennel continued to operate, state records show. Issues found at a failed inspection in May 2018 included damp and dirty dogs confined to damp runs, inadequate space and a repeat issue with expired medications. Yet even though she was denied a kennel license, the licensee apparently continued to keep breeding dogs. In September and October of 2018, state inspectors tried four different times to inspect the kennel, but no one was “available” to let them in.

On Oct. 15, 2018, state inspectors arrived to investigate a complaint, and found a number of violations, including numerous large-breed dogs who were confined to cramped airline crates in the office, in the basement and even in the garage. They also found two yellow Labrador retrievers who “appeared thin with three to four ribs on each side visible through their hair coats.” There were more than 100 dogs on the property during the October visit. MO #AC000GKG. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

St. Joseph, Missouri: David Norton, Norton Farm Kennels LLC—Cited for having a dog killed “by an unapproved method”; dogs sold without valid rabies vaccinations; other vaccines at the kennel were expired.

State inspectors found a number of problems during three different inspections at Norton Farm Kennels in 2019, and issued a warning to the facility, before it finally passed a fourth inspection in October 2019.

The most alarming of the violations inspectors found was that, according to an August 2019 inspection, the licensee had a dog “euthanized by an unapproved method.” This generally means a dog may have been shot or drowned rather than humanely euthanized by a veterinarian. The HSUS takes exception with using the word “euthanized” when a dog was not put down by approved methods, or by a professional veterinarian, and therefore may have suffered needlessly. Although little else is known about the situation, the inspector noted, “The licensee must ensure any dog in the facility that is euthanized, is euthanized by a method approved by AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia of Animals...”

The inspector also found, “There were at least three dogs over 4 months of age which the licensee sold or gave away in 2019 which did not have a rabies vaccine administered by a veterinarian. The licensee stated he had administered the rabies vaccines to the dogs himself.” In addition, “a box of DHPP vaccines” (distemper and parvovirus vaccines) had expired about seven months prior to the inspection which could have put puppies at risk of deadly diseases had they been administered, and a bottle of Amoxi [antibiotic] drops was also expired. In addition, “at least seven dogs were observed to have substantially matted hair,” according to the inspection report, and some housing surfaces needed repair. When inspectors returned in September 2019, they found that some of the issues were no longer present, but the issue with damaged structures still had not been addressed.

Inspectors found problems earlier in 2019 as well. During a March 2019 inspection they found eight puppies on perforated stainless steel flooring with no solid resting surface, and inspectors noted an issue with taxes that was preventing the facility from getting a license renewal. MO #AC000WVA.

Stover, Missouri: Johnny Dake, J & M Kennels (repeat offender)—Matted dog had hard clumps of feces adhered to the fur; USDA found cleaning and maintenance issues.

During a March 5, 2020, USDA inspection, a number of different violations were found at J & M Kennels. They included a Pomeranian with hard clumps of fecal material adhered to her fur, and a patch of hair missing where some of the matted feces had apparently been cut away. The inspector wrote, “The fur surrounding the area of hair loss was matted with hard dry looking fecal material in it. The fecal material was next to the dog’s skin. There were also some mats of fur with fecal material in it located further below the area of hair loss. There was a large matted ball of hair noted on the top of the dog’s back near the base of the tail.” The inspector wrote, “Matting can be uncomfortable and can increase the risk of skin sores. The licensee must ensure this dog is groomed and establish an appropriate grooming schedule for all dogs[...].” The inspector also found an unlabeled substance that had been used on a litter of puppies and that was not labelled, dated or approved by a veterinarian, incorrect recordkeeping on puppies, several issues with housing maintenance, and several self-feeders with “a thick build-up of brown material and grime at the mouth of the feeder” that could increase the disease hazards for dogs. There were 120 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

Prior to these violations, the kennel had several years of compliant inspections in a row. But Dake previously appeared in our 2014 report due to several other animals who were ailing or deceased. In January 2014, a USDA inspector found a shih tzu puppy dead and frozen solid in the outdoor portion of an enclosure at J & M Kennels. The inspector noted that when the operator picked up the body, “imprints from the wire flooring were observed” across the puppy’s body. The inspector noted that the puppy was found in the outdoor portion of the enclosure when overnight temperatures had recently been as low as 2 to -9 degrees Fahrenheit, and that there were no footprints in the snow that might indicate someone had walked around to check on the outside portion of the enclosures. Other sick or injured animals found at the facility included a Boston terrier who could not put weight on her leg and had an open wound (April 2012), a female shih tzu with an oozing lesion on her paw (January 2014) and a male shih tzu who was heavily matted with feces adhered to the fur and matts around his eyes that were “so large that the eyes were difficult to see” (January 2014). In March 2014, USDA inspectors found 11 dogs who did not have any water and the licensee admitted they had not been given water since the evening before; when given water, the inspector noted that many of the dogs “were seen drinking water for at least one minute continuously” as if they had been excessively thirsty. USDA #43-A-4494; MO#AC000AM3. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Sturgeon, Missouri: John J. Miller, TLC Kennels—Repeatedly failed to test dogs for brucellosis and to properly vaccinate dogs; some puppies were kept outside in extreme temperatures or on dangerous wire flooring.

During a state inspection in July 2019, TLC kennels was cited for many violations, including cluttered and dirty conditions, puppies housed in an outdoor facility during a week of recent extreme temperatures and other puppies on wire strand flooring. Violations also included excessive feces and “a large quantity of flies around the facility,” with the licensee admitting that “he only washes under the enclosures every four weeks.” Additionally, dogs were missing from the facility with no record of what happened to them and dogs were sold without the required rabies vaccinations. A cocker spaniel had been brought into the facility and housed with other dogs, without the required testing for brucellosis. In addition, the inspector found that the owner “knowingly obtained multiple puppies from another facility under quarantine, before the puppies had been released from quarantine.” The inspector also noted that vaccinations were not stored in accordance with manufacturer recommendations, which could render them ineffective, and possibly put puppies at risk of contracting devastating diseases, and the licensee was acting as a dealer (reseller for others) without the required license. There were more than 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

But even after receiving notification of the multiple violations in July, John J. Miller continued to fail to meet basic requirements, state records show.

On Sept. 9, 2019, the licensee refused to allow inspectors in to check on his dogs. He was issued a warning at that time. On Oct. 16, 2019, state inspectors again arrived at the kennel, and this time were allowed inside. Violations noted on that date included:

- A hut being used as a housing structure for a dog that had no floor “nor any type of bedding,” leaving the dog exposed to the cold.
- At least one dog who did not have enough space, and some dogs in outdoor enclosures whose shelter consisted of dirty blue barrels or dog igloos that had “a build up of dirt and grime.”
- “Several dogs were noted to have excessively long toenails during today’s inspection. Long toenails can cause discomfort and pain.”
- A failure to administer dewormers to puppies at the recommended doses, putting them at risk of disease.
- A repeated problem with excessive feces and a need to “eliminate the smell and attraction of pests.” [repeat].
- A failure to show that adult dogs were receiving the appropriate vaccinations and dewormers.;
- Dogs added to the facility without records or missing from the facility with no indication of what happened to them (an indication that some dogs may have died or others may have been acquired from unlicensed dealers) [repeat].
- Dogs sold without proof of rabies vaccination. [repeat]
- A failure to perform brucellosis tests on dogs as outlined under the facility’s veterinary care plan. [repeat];
- Still acting as a dealer (reseller) of dogs without the required license. [repeat].

The owner was charged a \$100 fee after the October re-inspection due to continued violations.

When the state inspectors returned on Jan. 2, 2020, they found that at least one dog still didn’t have enough space, and instead of getting new dogs tested for brucellosis, the licensee had simply changed their veterinary care plan to “recommend” rather than require it (technically not a violation, but a poor way to address disease control issues). In addition, conditions for the dogs were dangerous, with poorly-attached cages that gave the dogs room to jump out or escape.

Shockingly, even with all the violations noted by the state, only a few of which are mentioned here, the USDA did not seem to find a single problem at the facility, and marked it “compliant” during a Sept. 20, 2019, inspection. There were almost 80 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. In fact, USDA has not cited the facility for any violations since 2016, which is not surprising since there has been a drastic [reduction in enforcement](#) and citations at USDA since that year. The HSUS has found many breeders with repeated and severe animal welfare violations documented in state records that had no significant violations noted by USDA.

USDA’s lack of attention to rules that could help prevent the spread of diseases such as canine brucellosis and rabies does not bode well for the future health of dogs or for the public’s confidence in “licensed and inspected” breeders.

Although the operation is based in Missouri, it sells puppies to pet stores in other states. Last year it sold at least two puppies to a Petland store in the Orlando area. USDA #43-A-6036; MO #AC0020VB.

Unionville, Missouri: Angie Noland, Little Bit Ranch—Dogs were repeatedly found with frozen water in the winter cold; some had no water; others had caked or moldy food; owner received multiple warnings for repeated violations.

State inspectors found a long list of problems at Little Bit Ranch during at least six different inspections between August 2019 and February 2020. The issues included a repeated failure to provide clean, safe housing for dogs, and enclosures that were dirty, rusty or too small for the dogs, as well as some dates when the dogs didn't have fresh food and water.

During three inspections in a row in January and February 2020, the licensee was found to have no water or only frozen water for some of the dogs. In addition, during an inspection in September 2019, many dogs were in cages that were too small. Some of them only had half of the required amount of space. For example, an Australian shepherd named Tillie “measured 30 inches long that was in a pen with 25.21 square feet of floor space. A 30 inch long dog requires at least 54 square feet,” according to the inspection report. The inspector also found a variety of poor conditions at the visit, including: “feeders in the outdoor enclosures that were empty or contained moldy or caked feed. One feeder contained a maggot.” There were also dirty conditions and some dogs were matted, which were repeat violations. The licensee was issued a warning after the September inspection.

In November, the state inspector found that some of the puppies were not getting the appropriate veterinary care, stating: “The licensee is not following the vaccination and deworming schedules outlined by their attending veterinarian in the Program of Veterinary Care. Moving forward, the licensee must ensure they follow the vaccination and deworming schedules outlined in the Program of Veterinary Care, as well as the other preventative medicine protocols[...]”. The inspector also noted additional repeat violations and issued another warning.

The issues continued into 2020. A Jan. 15, 2020, inspection found: “The outdoor enclosures had water buckets that were either frozen or empty. Access to potable unfrozen water is necessary for the health of the dogs. The licensee shall provide all dogs with access to potable unfrozen water.” [direct]; “About half [of] the outdoor enclosures in the facility had an excessive accumulation of feces. A buildup of feces can cause disease. Enclosures must be spot cleaned daily to prevent the accumulation of excessive feces”; “Ten dogs have been identified with microchips, but the rest are identified with cattle tags. This item has not been corrected.” [repeat]

At a follow-up state inspection on Jan. 21, 2020, the licensee had still failed to provide drinkable water in the freezing cold weather: “All the water buckets contained frozen water,” according to the report.

In February 2020, a state inspector found that two of the water buckets STILL “contained only ice,” clearly showing a lack of care and concern for the dogs' most basic needs. The inspection also found a list of additional violations, including sharp edges that could injure the dogs, an enclosure with two dogs in it that contained “loose mucoid stool containing blood” with no indication that the dogs had been tested by a veterinarian to address the problem, and other issues with housing and identification. The licensee was charged with a reinspection fee of \$100 for the February inspection. MO #AC000BL1.

Vienna, Missouri: Dan Berhorst, D & B Kennel (repeat offender)—Repeated issues with dogs in need of veterinary care; dogs had long nails and matted fur.

Even after D & B Kennel appeared in our prior Horrible Hundred report due to veterinary care issues, state inspectors found additional problems at the kennel during at least two state inspections in 2019. In September 2019, state inspectors found a female blue dapple dachshund who had yellow discharge under her left eye. The inspection report stated, “The surface of the eye appeared to be cloudy and discolored in comparison to the right eye. The licensee noted that the dog's left eye had always been a different color and did not match the

other eye, however he stated that it had not previously had any discharge.” The dog was apparently not being treated by a veterinarian for the condition.

During a March 27, 2019, state inspection, more dogs were found in need of care. According to that report: “Multiple dogs were observed to have long toenails. A portion of the dogs were also observed with matting in their hair coats. Long nails and matting can cause discomfort and possible veterinary issues. To promote health and well-being of the dogs, licensee shall develop a proactive grooming program to include hair coat maintenance and toenail trimming.”

Berhorst was licensed with the USDA under D & B Kennel until November 2019, but now appears to be operating under a different business name, Cloudy Day Lane LLC (43-A-6469).

As we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, Berhorst was previously cited by state inspectors for repeat violations. During a December 2018 inspection, the inspector noticed dried blood “covering the walls of the interior of an enclosure.” The licensee claimed it was because the groomer had clipped a dog’s toenail a few days prior and it had bled. Other violations found at the facility included strong odors and excessive feces (December 2018), multiple dogs without proof of rabies vaccinations (July 2018), and dogs who were missing or added to the facility without documentation (which could indicate animals died or were purchased from unlicensed dealers) in both July and December 2018. Additionally, during three inspections in a row, multiple dams and puppies did not have a solid resting surface as required by law (August 2017, July 2018 and December 2018).

USDA #43-A-6469, Former 43-A-3923; MO # AC002YVK, Former MO #AC000F79. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Washburn, Missouri: Michelle Bernard, Bernard Enterprises Inc., aka Mali Springs Farm—Licensee dodged eleven attempted inspections by state or federal agents; USDA inspector who finally gained access found dogs covered with “sheets of matting,” floors had a layer of feces caked on them.

USDA records show that the owner of Mali Springs Farm was cited three times in a row for failing to let USDA inspectors in the facility to check on the health and welfare of the dogs in 2019. During the same approximate time period, the licensee also dodged eight state inspections. The USDA “no access” violations occurred in February, June and September of 2019. “No access” inspections are a cause for concern because they can leave animals in potentially poor conditions for an extended period of time, with no one to check their health and welfare.

Finally, after dodging inspections since 2017, the licensee let USDA inspectors in on Oct. 15, 2019. At that time, inspectors found significant violations. The USDA inspector noted, “Several of the dogs have significant all over matting. Sheets of matting were noted on many.” In addition, “The enclosures of the sheltered facility contained an excessive amount of excreta on the outdoor portion. The indoor portion of the enclosure had a layer of brown grime around the outdoor access doors. A layer of feces was noted to be caked on the floor of the indoor portion of several enclosure[s]. Some dogs were noted to be soiled from the excreta. The licensee could not advise the last time the indoor portion of the facility was cleaned.” The operation had 63 dogs and puppies at the time of the inspection. After that very problematic inspection in October 2019, the licensee then dodged yet another USDA inspection in February 2020, showing a blatant disregard for the inspection process.

State inspection records show additional reasons for concern. As noted above, the licensee had also been dodging state inspectors. A Sept. 24, 2019, state inspection noted that the licensee had repeatedly failed to let inspectors in to view the animals: “Eight attempts to conduct an inspection were required before the licensee was available for a routine inspection. Previous attempts to conduct an inspection were conducted on July 11, 2019; July 17, 2019; July 23, 2019; August 7, 2019; August 14, 2019; August 28, 2019; September 4, 2019; and

September 10, 2019, respectively. All licensees are required to present one's self, or appoint an authorized representative, to approve an inspection during normal business hours[...].”

Additional problems found at the Sept. 24, 2019, state visit included an expired program of veterinary care and no recent individual records of veterinary exams on dogs. According to the report, “The most recent copy of the program of veterinary care was signed on August 6, 2018. Each licensee shall employ an attending veterinarian under formal arrangements which shall include a written program of veterinary care. [...] The last time that all covered dogs were examined by a veterinarian was on August 6, 2018.” State law requires adult breeding dogs to be examined by a licensed veterinarian yearly. USDA #43-A-5913; MO # AC000F87.

Weaubleau, Missouri: Laurie Lund, Cridder Creek Kennel—At least 22 puppies died of parvovirus; one dog had a gaping wound; another had rib and hip bones showing; kennel had excessive feces and a rat infestation.

Missouri state inspectors found a long list of violations at Cridder Creek Kennel in 2019 and 2020, and fined the owner, Laurie Lund, for failing at least two re-inspections.

Issues found in January 2020 included a poodle who had missing fur, reddened skin and eye discharge; expired medications; unclean water [repeat]; a lack of adequate space for some of the dogs [repeat]; and “There was still a large accumulation of excrement in the outdoor portions of the sheltered buildings and the outdoor enclosures. When asked how often she cleans, the licensee stated ‘not often enough.’” [repeat]; dogs and puppies were added or removed from the kennel with incomplete information on them [repeat]; a mother dog with puppies had “bloody, loose stool” in the enclosure, and the owner claimed she was treating them but could not provide proof that she had consulted with her veterinarian; and a repeated problem with failing to prove that dogs in need of veterinary care were being treated. In addition, “the facility’s program of veterinary care expired on 4/10/2019,” and the licensee had been instructed to get an updated plan with her veterinarian at two prior inspections but had not done so [repeat]; along with many other violations. Since the owner had failed two consecutive re-inspections, she was informed she would be charged \$100 for the next inspection, according to a February 2020 letter.

The January 2020 inspection was a follow-up after a number of severe animal care violations were documented repeatedly at the operation throughout 2019, including many puppies who died of parvovirus and weren’t receiving adequate, documented care.

On April 26, 2019, state records show, state inspectors found that at least 15 puppies had died, and inspectors noted that the facility still wasn’t taking proper steps to control the disease’s spread, and could not prove that some of the sick puppies were being treated. There was no excuse for the deadly spread of disease or the lack of veterinary care, considering the operation had already been quarantined in February 2019 for the disease outbreak, and apparently still wasn’t giving the animals proper care two months later.

Quotes from the April 26, 2019 inspection report included:

- A “very lethargic Maltese puppy [...] was observed in its enclosure during today’s inspection.”
- “Buttons, a black and white Miniature Poodle puppy [...] and her pen mate, Cindy, a red and white unidentified Miniature Australian Shepherd puppy [...] appeared lethargic and there was diarrhea in the enclosure.”
- “Licensee had failed to document any of the treatments that she stated she had administered to the sick puppies. Furthermore, the licensee had failed to document the treatments and the dates of death for approximately 15 other puppies that had reportedly succumbed to the disease.”
- “Lady, a standard poodle, was observed to be tethered within her enclosure during the inspection. Licensee shall ensure that tethering is not used as a means of containment or restraint.”

- “The licensee’s facility was put under quarantine on February 27, 2019. Per 2 CSR 30-9.020(8)(E)5.A. Animals under quarantine shall not be removed from the premises without written consent of the state veterinarian, nor shall any other animals be allowed to enter the premises. Per licensee’s records, a red and white Miniature Australian Shepherd puppy named Cindy (no identification yet assigned) was acquired on April 14, 2019 [in violation of the quarantine]. The puppy was currently housed in the licensee’s facility. The licensee’s facility is still under quarantine.”
- Excessive feces, odor and clutter were also found during that inspection.

Between the April 2019 inspection and the January 2020 inspection, an array of terrible conditions were documented repeatedly, according to state inspection records. For example, in September 2019, a few of the many violations included:

- A “large accumulation of rodent droppings, the buildings are cluttered with items stacked on top of each other and there is a strong odor of rodent excrement.” [repeat]
- “A miniature poodle named Gracen was observed to have a gaping wound on his right side from a suture line that had pulled through the skin. The licensee stated Dr. Lower had recommended letting the wound scar in, but neither the veterinary clinic or the licensee had documentation of [it.]”
- A “dog named Sis was observed to have a body condition score (BCS) of 2 out of 9 on the Purina Body Condition system, with prominent ribs and hip bones. The licensee stated she had weaned 8 puppies from Sis approximately one week ago.”
- Four collies had “only one dog house available to get out of inclement weather. The dog house is not large enough for all animals to sit and lie in a normal position. This item has not been corrected.” [repeat]
- “There is still a large amount of excrement in the outdoor portions of the primary enclosures. The licensee stated she hadn’t cleaned the enclosures since Monday and this is Wednesday. This item has not been corrected.” [repeat]
- “The licensee stated seven puppies from the litter born to Sis and George had died of parvovirus, but she failed to document the dates of death. This item has not been corrected.” [repeat]
- “During today’s inspection, the licensee [claimed she] was treating a 7 week old Aussie Doodle puppy born to Sis and George for parvovirus, but she was failing to document the treatment.”

Other issues were noted regarding the licensee claiming she had consulted with her veterinarian about sick animals, but failing to have any proof that she had really done so. The licensee was issued a warning after the September inspection. Former MO # AC002MGK.

[West Plains, Missouri: Ellen Roberts, Rocky Top K9s \(repeat offender\)—“AKC inspected” kennel had state violations for several dogs who were not getting proper veterinary care; citations for sick, underweight or injured dogs stretch back to 2013.](#)

During an October 2019 state inspection, multiple violations were found at Rocky Top K9s, a kennel that promotes itself as a “USDA, Missouri state & AKC inspected licensed kennel” on [its website](#). The issues included dogs without adequate shelter from the elements, dogs who had dirty water or no water at all, a dog imported over state lines without an adequate veterinary document, and several dogs who had “mucopurulent ocular and/or nasal discharge,” including a boxer named Shelby who had mucus-like discharge from her eye and nose, and an olde English bulldog who had greenish nasal discharge.

The October 2019 violations were similar to issues found in earlier years, as we documented in several of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. For example, in September 2018, a state officer investigating a complaint found numerous problems, including five dogs with missing patches of fur and some who were scratching as if itchy, one dog who had thickened and pigmented skin and was crawling with live fleas, and evidence of diarrhea in four of the enclosures. And as we documented in our 2017 report, violations were found at the facility in 2016, 2015,

2014 and 2013 as well. For example, USDA inspectors found five different repeat violations at a July 2016 visit, including a male boxer with a “bleeding, open wound” and a female boxer who was so thin that her ribs and hip bones could be easily seen. In addition, the temperature inside one of the buildings was too high (94 degrees) and inspectors noted several repeat violations for unsafe housing conditions.

In July 2016, a Missouri state inspector noted a number of problems, including a high concentration of flies, and several dogs and puppies in need of veterinary care which the licensee claimed to be treating, but he had no documentation of any treatments. In December 2016, a state inspector found a bulldog with loose stool whom the licensee also had no record of being treated. Violations noted in our May 2016 report included another underweight boxer with ribs and backbone visible (March 2016); a boxer with numerous ticks on her chest, neck and back (March 2016); two Boston terriers with eye injuries (November 2015) and a bulldog who was squinting and had “dark red” swollen tissue around her eyes and ears (November 2015). Violations noted by USDA inspectors in 2014 included: a bulldog with “reddened skin and hair loss” and yet another boxer who was thin with easily visible ribs (October 2014); four 10-week-old English bulldog puppies who were coughing and seemed to be sick, but had not been treated by a vet, and a boxer with signs of mange (February 2014). Similar violations, including several sick and underweight dogs and puppies, were found by inspectors in 2013 as well.

Despite all the issues found by state inspectors in October 2019 and September 2018, USDA inspectors did not document any violations over the same time period. In fact, the USDA has not documented violations at the facility since January 2018, other than a “no access” attempted inspection in May 2018. But the USDA’s lack of oversight at the kennel is not surprising given its steep decline in enforcement in recent years; USDA citations are down more than 60% since 2016, and enforcement actions, such as warnings and fines, have plummeted more than 90%.

Rocky Top K9s offers puppies for sale on its own website, rockytopk9s.com, on its Facebook page, and on PuppyFind.com, a third party website that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy sellers. USDA #43-A-5445; MO #AC00124U. FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

NEBRASKA

Friend, Nebraska: Roy T. Schrunk, Rocking T Kennel (repeat offender)—Repeatedly ordered to downsize or hire more employees due to unacceptable conditions, yet operation has only increased in size.

Despite appearing in our prior Horrible Hundred report, problems continued at Rocking T Kennel throughout 2019, state records show. On July 10, 2019, the licensee was given an official warning for violations found a few days prior. During that inspection, on July 8, 2019, Schrunk’s kennel was rated “unacceptable” by a state inspector for the following issues:

- “More employees are needed to properly care for dogs, or downsizing is needed to stay in compliance with standards. Mr. Schrunk has [agreed] to downsize.”
- “Fly control program is needed to help with the overall health of the dogs.”
- “Cleaning is needed in some of the outside pens, all pens inside of the west facility do need to be cleaned.”
- “Bichon-Poodle mix needs to be groomed, over 10% matting on dog.”
- “Dogs located along the eastside of the west building, pen #2 do not have proper shelter, a dog house is needed for the dogs.”

The facility had 105 dogs and puppies at the time of the inspection. Yet when the state inspector returned for a second July visit on July 15, 2019, the inspector rated the kennel “conditionally acceptable,” even though the same number of dogs was still present on the property, and the inspector still found an insufficient number of

employees. The inspector once again noted that more staff were needed to properly care for the dogs or the facility should downsize. However, the HSUS could find no documentation indicating that the downsizing ever occurred. In fact, numbers have only gone up over the years; in 2018, the facility was issued a warning letter for a lack of adequate employees and many other issues, and at that time, the operation only had 97 dogs and puppies.

As we noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report, Schrunk was repeatedly cited in the past for many of the same issues, so nothing seems to be improving at Rocking T Kennel. State inspectors marked the kennel “unacceptable” during a May 23, 2018, state inspection, and sent an extensive warning letter to the facility. The inspection noted violations for two dogs with open wounds and fresh blood on the dogs, dirty water in some of the water dishes, excessive feces and trash and other housekeeping issues. In addition, the licensee was told that “more employees are needed to properly care for the dogs, and to keep standards in compliance.” At a follow-up inspection on June 6, 2018, state inspectors found some conditions had improved but they also found new violations, stating: “Three year old Bichon-Poodle mix, needs to be examined by a vet. The dog has what appears to be a hot spot, and needs vet care. This same dog needs to be groomed, over [10%] matted hair is present.” At the June 2018 inspection, the facility had 46 dogs and 30 puppies.
NE# KN936. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Gothenburg, Nebraska: Eric Willis and Angel Thompson, Mid Nebraska Goldens—Given official warning by the state for strong ammonia (urine) odor and poor housing.

On June 27, 2019, Mid Nebraska Goldens was given an official warning due to issues found at an inspection a few days prior. On June 25, inspectors found problems with the housing structures, including sharp points that could injure the dogs, and a “strong odor of ammonia in both bulldog room and golden retriever building.” The licensee had records showing 44 dogs on hand, but there were only 36 accounted for, with no explanation for what had happened to the other dogs.

At a follow-up inspection in July 2019, more issues were found. The licensee was given two “direct” violations (violations found to be directly imperiling dogs) for several English bulldogs who didn’t have enough headspace, and a high ammonia (urine fumes) reading in one of the kennel areas.

Angel Thompson also holds a license doing business as “Furtastic Pet Transport” with the USDA under license #47-T-0007. Although this license allows the breeder to transport animals for others, it does not appear that she has a Class A or B license, which would be required for breeders or dealers who sell animals sight-unseen over the Internet. The operation offers to ship puppies on [their website](#), and sometimes on third party sites. USDA #47-T-0007; NE #KN1270.

Wilcox, Nebraska: Wanda Reed, Wanda’s Little Pets—Breeder whose USDA license was revoked in 2008 is still operating under a state license; had violations for excessive feces, clutter and trash.

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. Yet it is still state-licensed more than a decade later, and two recent state inspections show it had more than 100 dogs and puppies on the property, and still has animal care issues.

In July 2019, a state inspector rated the kennel “Conditionally Acceptable” under Nebraska’s minimal standards, noting that high weeds and vegetation on the property could “harbor insects and parasites.” The inspection also noted: “Licensee needs to complete grooming of dogs, specifically King Charles beginning to hair mat on ears and chest. Licensee also needs to organize kennel area of clutter and trash.” At the time of the inspection, there were 78 dogs and 33 puppies on the property.

On Aug. 22, 2019, state inspectors once again rated the operation “Conditionally Acceptable,” noting “Feces and excess food for more than one day needs to be removed.” There were 70 dogs and 39 puppies on the property.

The August inspection took place because of a complaint that had been received about the operation on August 20, 2019 from someone who had concerns about the dogs' health and welfare.

The licensee offers puppies [for sale on PuppyFind](#), a website the HSUS has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. NE #KN129.

NEW YORK

Dundee, New York: Stevie Hoover, Hill Country Kennel (repeat offender)—USDA inspector found a dead puppy and an underweight puppy; other concerns included puppies found huddling as if cold with only wet bedding, and dogs with matted fur or missing patches of fur and other health issues.

During a June 2019 inspection, USDA inspectors found several significant repeat or direct animal care violations at Hill Country Kennel. Some of the issues included:

- A bichon/Maltese was “heavily matted over 70% of her body,” and had signs of advanced dental disease.
- “A male Cavalier # 2758 is heavily matted along the chest, legs and anal region. There were feces trapped in the fur around the hind legs.”
- “A female Maltese # 2779 is matted around her legs and back, and has hair loss on the top of the head.”
- “A male apricot poodle # 2771 is matted along the back and legs. Matted fur pulls and separates from the skin causing potential skin irritations and can be painful.”
- DIRECT: “The licensee identified a female Bichon # 108 on 5/25 as having a skin issue but has not contact[ed] the vet to communicate and provide timely information. When the dog was looked at, it flinched when the area was touched as if the contact was painful.”
- “A 6 week old Boston puppy # 1930 was thin and was observed closer, would not open her right eye. When the eye was opened, a small amount of pus was observed. This animal's condition should be communicated to the vet for diagnosis and treatment options.”
- “A litter of puppies was observed with one appearing to be the runt and slightly away from the other puppies. When the puppy was picked up, it was not breathing and was cold to the touch. The licensee stated he had observed the dogs in the kennel that morning and two other individuals were working in the kennel during the inspection process, but none had noticed the puppy was deceased.”
- REPEAT: “For several of the smaller breeds of dogs, the feeders are several feet off the ground making it necessary for the dogs to continually jump up to access food or potentially jump into the feeder.”
- “A litter of 6 week old puppies did not have access to puppy food, as the feeder was too high. One female puppy # 1930 was thin with ribs visible.”
- “The enclosure housing nine Boston Terrier puppies had wet bedding all along the side walls of the enclosure. Three puppies were huddled against a corner seeming cold, while sitting on wet bedding 2 inches deep.”

During the June inspection, the licensee had 37 adult dogs and 28 puppies. Two other inspections in 2019, one in March and one in November, were “attempted,” meaning no one was available to let inspectors into the kennel, which is a violation because it leaves inspectors unable to check on the safety and welfare of the dogs.

Hoover was also linked to our 2019 Horrible Hundred report due to USDA violations which, at the time, were not connected to a name due to the USDA's data purge. The violations included two dogs found in October 2018 who were matted over 90% of their bodies. Both were so badly matted in the rear that it made it difficult for

them to defecate. In addition, a puppy was found shivering in the cold during the same inspection, and other puppies were seen nearby “curled next to each other for warmth.” The USDA also cited the operator for a repeat violation for dirty conditions during the same October inspection. During a June 2018 inspection, the operator received a critical violation due to multiple puppies and dogs digging out of the enclosures, one of whom was a Yorkie who was subsequently killed after being able to enter the enclosure of a larger dog. Another dog had escaped and killed a chicken. During the June inspection, the inspector also noted, “For several of the smaller breeds of dogs, the feeders are several feet off the ground making it necessary for the dogs to continually jump up to access food or potentially jump into the feeder. It was requested by the inspector that a thin [Yorkie] with the feeder high up, was given a bowl of food on the ground, and when given easy access food, the dog began to eat continually for an extended period of time.”

The licensee had a compliant USDA inspection in July 2019. In December, the licensee had another compliant inspection and had downsized to 23 adult dogs and 10 puppies, however, due to the significant number of severe violations found less than a year ago and the repeated issues with failing to make the facility available to inspectors at other times, the HSUS continues to have significant concerns about the welfare of dogs at Hill Country Kennel. USDA #21-A-0191. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Penn Yan, New York: John David Shirk—Small puppy who was “not thriving” for an “extended period of time” had not been taken to a veterinarian and was declining.

During a USDA inspection in June 2019, the inspector found a bulldog puppy who was “very small and is not thriving.” The inspection report noted, “The licensee was tube feeding the puppy for an extended period of time during the day but stopped several days ago. The puppy appears to be declining and its condition should be communicated to the attending veterinarian in a timely manner.”

While this was the only violation listed for 2019, it is very troubling that the licensee apparently knew the puppy was ailing, yet despite providing extra care to the animal “for an extended period of time,” Shirk still didn’t obtain professional veterinary care or advice when the puppy failed to recover. It appears as if the licensee, knowing the puppy might expire, may even have stopped the tube feeding and left the animal to die because it was more affordable or more expedient than taking the puppy to a veterinarian.

At a May 2018 inspection, prior issues were found, including housekeeping problems and a “strong ammonia odor” attributed to uncleaned feces in the puppy areas. The inspector wrote, “This odor permeated into the whelping area as well.” In addition, the USDA inspector noted clutter in some areas and stated, “Housekeeping needs to be addressed to keep the area free of accumulations of trash and reduce odors for the health of the animals.”

USDA #21-A-0182; NY #953.

South Butler, New York: Rainbow Creek (repeat offender)—Mother dog who had recently given birth had fluid draining and had not been seen by a vet; other dogs had feces matted into their fur and were panting in hot weather; facility has almost 300 dogs.

According to a July 10, 2019, USDA inspection, a number of animals were found in poor condition at Rainbow Creek. These animals included:

- A Pomeranian who “had matted fur around the feet, and anal region. There was fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus.”

- A mother Pekingese with “fecal debris trapped in fur around the tail and along the hind legs. Additionally the dog gave birth several weeks ago but still appears to have some irritation and drainage coming from the vulva that should also be assessed by the veterinarian...”
- A Pomeranian “had matted fur around the feet, and anal region. There was fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus. Matted fur pulls and [separates] from the skin and can cause painful skin irritations.”

The inspection report noted that, “At the time of the inspection approximately 2:30 pm, the ambient temperature outdoors was 91 deg F and the temperature in the kennel according to the facility’s thermometer was 88 deg F read at approximately 3:00 pm. [...] A majority of dogs were panting in the kennel area and the inspectors felt overheated.” The July violations were not the first ones noted at Rainbow Creek. As we documented in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, in August 2017, a USDA inspector found several dogs in need of care at Rainbow Creek, including a cocker spaniel with apparent dental disease, a bichon who “had matted fur around the feet, ears and anal region” and “fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus”; and a Pekingese who “was wearing a chain collar that was rusted. There was a considerable amount of hair loss around the neck where the chain was. In addition, there was large areas of matted fur behind the ears.” In addition, the inspector found that “a Pomeranian puppy id # 677171 was separated from the litter and sold at 7 weeks of age.” The federal Animal Welfare Act and New York state law do not allow the sale of puppies younger than eight weeks of age.

More than 290 dogs were present at the facility during a recent inspection. USDA #21-A-0179. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Woodhull, New York: Levi O. Hershberger (repeat offender)—A nursing mother dog and a dog in labor both died after being denied proper veterinary care; another dog and a puppy were underweight with their ribs showing.

During a December 2019 inspection, Levi Hershberger’s USDA inspector cited him for a critical violation for allowing a nursing mother dog to die without providing veterinary care. The inspector noted that the dog, named Cassie, had “whelped 3 puppies [on November 7] and was nursing them normally, but on 10-Nov-2019 was observed by licensee to be lethargic, and subsequently died on 11-Nov-2019. There were no instructions on the PVC [vet care plan] in regards to post partum care and no treatment was given to the animal upon observation of lethargy. The attending veterinarian was not consulted before or after the dog’s death.”

In addition, the USDA inspector noted that another dog died, likely in severe pain, while trying to deliver puppies: “On 2-Jun-2019 the dog identified as #21 (Brenda) was observed by licensee during his evening husbandry to be in labor but making no progress delivering her pups. She subsequently died later that evening without delivering her litter. The attending veterinarian was not consulted before or after the dog’s death and the licensee stated he was unaware that the attending veterinarian provided emergency and after-hours care and therefore he did not attempt to call the attending veterinarian.”

Other horrific violations noted during the same inspection included:

- A Maltese dog named Freddie, “was housed in the same primary enclosure with another intact male and four (4) intact female dogs. Freddie died on 26-Jul-2019 as a result of a fight with one of the other dogs over one of the females that was coming into her heat cycle.” [critical]
- Lady, a shih tzu who had just weaned six puppies, “was observed to be thin with ribs easily palpated and visible, tops of lumbar vertebrae visible, prominent pelvic bones, and a concave abdominal posture.”

- “A 5 week old puppy from dam #17 (Cassie), who is being fostered by another female, was noticeably small, withdrawn, visibly shaking, and when handled was found to be cold to the touch, thin with ribs easily palpated and visible, tops of lumbar vertebrae visible, prominent pelvic bones, and a concave abdominal posture.”

The underweight dogs and unnecessary deaths were not the first issues found at Hershberger’s facility. As we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, in February 2019, a USDA inspector found excessive feces at the facility that weren’t being properly disposed of, and a bichon who was badly matted over 90% of his body, “with matted fur being twisted tightly and corded.” The inspector noted, “heavily matted fur pulls and separates from the skin causing potential skin irritation, may not insulate the dogs well and can be painful.” USDA #21-A-0194. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

NORTH CAROLINA

Granite Falls / Lenoir, North Carolina: Amanda K. Gouge, Ellie May’s African Beauties—Emaciated mother dog was pregnant with seven puppies; four of them died; other dogs were also sick or emaciated; AKC breeder had more than 30 dogs seized; cruelty charges are pending.

The photo on the cover of this report shows one of over [30 dogs rescued](#) from an AKC breeder in Caldwell County, North Carolina, at the end of 2019. Although this emaciated pregnant dog and the other animals were seized last December, she still hasn’t been released for adoption. The day she was removed, she weighed about 40 pounds and should have weighed twice that. She gave birth to seven puppies the day she was rescued, four of whom died. The three surviving puppies were in critical condition and required round-the-clock care.

The case started when Gouge, an [AKC breeder](#) of Rhodesian ridgebacks and Weimaraners, reportedly called local authorities claiming that someone stabbed one of her dogs to death with a pitchfork. When authorities arrived, they found dozens of dogs—many of whom were severely underweight and riddled with parasites—on the property. The animals were removed, and Gouge was charged [with animal cruelty](#) for the condition of the animals.

Although North Carolina has bonding and forfeiture laws, which could have required the breeder to pay for the care and housing of the animals or forfeit them for adoption, these laws were not utilized. At the time of this report, the animals have spent more than five months at a local shelter in limbo, awaiting the results of a court decision, all at the cost of the small municipal shelter. A hearing was originally scheduled for early April of 2020, but was postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus outbreak. The hearing has not been rescheduled and was still indefinite at the time of this report.

The Caldwell County Animal Shelter put a great deal of time and resources into investigating, documenting and caring for the dogs, many of whom had issues such as parasites and congenital defects in addition to being underweight. But the case is now in the hands of the district attorney’s office, and the shelter has been faced with enormous bills as they take care of so many dogs for so long.

Organizations like the American Kennel Club, which apparently registered many of Gouge’s dogs, claim to favor high standards for dog breeders, but in reality they support those standards only when they are general suggestions that are not codified into law. When it comes to enforcing any kind of care standards for dogs, the AKC regularly deploys its government relations arm to lobby against oversight of dog breeders. AKC has

repeatedly opposed common-sense laws that would make it easier for law enforcement to permanently remove animals from suspected abusers, or even to regularly inspect puppy mills.

As we saw in a separate puppy mill case [we assisted with](#) recently in Person County, the property of another former AKC breeder, the conditions of the dogs at AKC-linked breeding facilities are often horrific, and starkly contrast the ideal photos that breeders and some dog registry clubs display on their websites.

The HSUS strongly encouraged the Caldwell County District Attorney’s Office to take the charges seriously, to prosecute the offender, and to ensure that no dogs were returned to her. We hope for a positive outcome for the dogs after the pandemic emergency is over.

OHIO

[Apple Creek, Ohio: Norman E. Yoder, Green Meadow Farm—State inspector found multiple dogs who were matted; a dog with an injured paw, and excessive flies in and around the enclosures; USDA inspector noted nothing.](#)

During a June 25, 2019, state inspection, inspectors noted violations at Green Meadow Farm for issues such as two short-haired breeds being housed outside without veterinary approval, excessive food waste and flies around the dogs’ enclosures, a sharp point in the housing that could injure dogs, lack of emergency and nutrition plans, multiple dogs in need of grooming, and a male poodle who “was found to have a sore on his paw that needs to be treated under veterinary guidance.” In addition, one female dog had an unspecified issue that the licensee was supposed to follow up with his veterinarian about, and that had not been done, according to the state inspection report. The inspection also found that some dogs had been bred without first being examined by a veterinarian as required by the state’s law.

While many of the violations were corrected at the time of the inspection, concerns remain about the facility because it appears the issues were only corrected due to the inspector’s visit, and were not otherwise being addressed.

When they returned in July 2019, state inspectors found a repeat violation for pest control, noting the presence of flies.

USDA inspectors had visited the property in May 2019, but did not record any violations. USDA #31-A-0705; OH # CB001D2C.

[Baltic, Ohio: Ivan M. Barkman, Lone Pine Kennel—Repeat violation for puppy who was coughing and raspy; Direct violation for a Bichon with such severe ear infection that ear canal was swollen and discharge was draining down the side of her face; the dog had had the problem for five months without being treated by a veterinarian.](#)

During a January 2020 USDA inspection, Ivan Barkman was cited for a repeat violation for a puppy who wasn’t getting adequate veterinary care. The inspection stated that the inspector “observed a female Pomeranian puppy ID# 5114 that was coughing and raspy sounding. The licensee acquired the animal on 12/27/2019 from an individual that had previously treated the animal for an upper respiratory infection, but still appeared to have residual clinical signs. The licensee’s Program of Veterinarian Care specifically states that ‘if a puppy does not respond to the first choice of antibiotic then seek veterinary advice’ [but] prior to today’s inspection the licensee did not communicate the upper respiratory issue with his Attending Veterinarian.”

The violation was listed as repeat because the licensee had previously been warned about the need to obtain proper treatment for sick dogs. In August 2019, the licensee received a direct violation for a dog with an obvious medical condition who wasn't receiving adequate treatment. According to that USDA report, a female bichon in the whelping kennel was shaking her head and "was noticed to have a clear/white discharge coming from her left ear. The discharge was draining down her face on that side becoming darker (red-brown) further away from the ear. The tissues inside the ear are swollen to a point that the ear canal is no longer visible. In addition, there was an odor coming from the ear." The licensee admitted to the inspector that the dog had had the same problem since March 2019 when he purchased the dog, meaning the animal had been suffering for about five months, and had not been taken to a veterinarian for it. The licensee said he was intermittently treating the dog with an ear mite killer, but there was no indication that his veterinarian had prescribed the treatment or that the dog was getting better, according to the USDA's report. The inspector added, "The Attending Veterinarian was contacted and agreed that given the severity and duration of the issue that the dog should be examined. The Licensee is currently not using the methods he has available to prevent, control, diagnose or treat the health issues with this dog."

The kennel had more than 150 dogs and puppies at a January 2020 inspection. USDA # 31-A-0519; OH #CB000Q0B.

[Baltic, Ohio: Michael L. Troyer, Spring Side Kennel—Failed to obtain dental treatment for dogs even after inspector required it; had another dog dealer illegally perform the procedures instead of a veterinarian.](#)

During an October 2019 state inspection, Michael L. Troyer was cited for several violations, including a pug with an eye disorder and a failure to document where his breeding animals came from. In addition, the licensee was instructed to take seven dogs who needed dental care to a veterinarian. But instead of taking the animals to a vet for professional care, Troyer took them to another licensee, Ervin L. Raber, according to a November follow-up inspection report. The inspector wrote, "All dogs had previous dentals by an outside source (Ervin L. Raber) and did not follow the licensee's veterinary protocol [that required] all grade three and four dental disease being corrected by the attending veterinarian." The November inspection was also rated "non compliant" due to the licensee's failure to have a veterinary professional treat the dogs; it was noted that he later complied.

USDA inspectors found issues at the kennel too, including prior issues related to at least one dog in need of dental care. In July 2019, USDA inspectors found inadequate housing and grubby food containers, and in May 2019, a Yorkie was found with such advanced dental tartar that the shape of his teeth was no longer visible. The inspector wrote, "an excessive buildup of brown tartar [had] encased multiple teeth and obstructed the view of the normal shapes of the teeth in addition to receding gum lines. The teeth had not been observed by the licensee and the attending veterinarian had not been contacted for any treatment..." Troyer cancelled his USDA license in January 2020.

Former USDA #31-A-0377; OH # CB001RY3.

[Dundee, Ohio: Adrian Mast—Failed state inspections due to more than 18 different violations, including an underweight dog, a dog with signs of mange, and the lack of an adequate veterinary plan.](#)

Adrian Mast failed a state inspection in November 2019 for 18 different non-compliances, including a female Irish setter with missing patches of fur "around her eyes, legs, and abdomen consistent with mange," a male Irish setter with "a low body condition score," indicating he was underweight, a third dog who was bred "before she

could be declared healthy by a veterinarian”, “no vaccination or parasite control program” that had been provided by a veterinarian, no approved program to control brucellosis, plus a lack of any veterinary guidance on “procedures for dew claw removal and tail docking,” which could indicate that the licensee was improperly performing his own veterinary procedures, as well as unsafe conditions and a variety of other problems. When state inspectors returned in December 2019, they found the kennel owner had corrected some of the issues, but some issues were still present, including a lack of veterinary examination records for some of the dogs, and a repeated failure to document where and when puppies were sold. OH # CB001RAE and CB001B0Q.

Dundee, Ohio: Ruth Miller, Country Acres Bulldogs—Five bulldogs had eye disorders that were not treated in a timely manner; photographs showed some dogs were standing in dirty water in wet enclosures.

On Sept. 30, 2019, Ruth Miller’s Country Acres Bulldogs was cited by state inspectors for a number of issues, including five dogs who had disorders affecting their eyes. The dogs included: two female bulldogs who “had corneas that appeared to be cloudy with a mucus discharge,” another bulldog who had “red protruding tissue coming from the corners of her eyes consistent with cherry eye,” and two female bulldog puppies who had “red protruding tissue coming from the corners of her eyes consistent with cherry eye.” In addition, inspectors noted violations for multiple cages that were too small, at least one dog housed outdoors without written approval from the kennel veterinarian to indicate the dog was acclimated, and the lack of a required annual veterinary care plan. In addition, Miller had bred a female dog without the required physical exam, had “no vaccination or parasite control program,” had expired medications in the kennel, did not have appropriate water dispensers, and a number of other issues. According to the report, some violations were corrected at the time of inspection. But the large number of violations is still of concern because it appears the issues were only corrected due to the inspector’s visit.

During a November 2019 reinspection, some issues had been corrected, but additional problems were found. For example, “no progress” had been made in obtaining cherry eye surgery for a French bulldog identified during the September inspection, and other dogs had to wait until they had weaned their litters for their necessary eye surgeries. A new violation for a “female bulldog puppy [who] had red abrasions on the inside of her front legs” was noted; it was reportedly corrected during the inspection, but it’s unclear how the breeder addressed it.

The business offers AKC puppies for sale [on its website](#) and also offers to ship puppies sight-unseen to buyers, although it does not appear to have a USDA license, which is required for breeders with more than four female breeding dogs who sell puppies sight-unseen over the internet. OH #CB001VHH and CB001BCZ.

East Palestine, Ohio: Cheryl Kinder—Failed two inspections due to seven dogs in need of veterinary care, puppies in crowded, stacked cages, and some dogs who had no water.

According to state records, breeder Cheryl Kinder failed two consecutive state inspections in September and October 2019. Issues noted at the September inspection included: some dogs did not have water; some weaning kennels did not meet minimum cage size requirements; cages were stacked, which is against state law; surfaces could not be easily cleaned; a lack of environmental enrichment; and a matted dog and seven dogs in need of dental treatment. A photograph taken on that day shows cages stacked at least three high, in violation of Ohio’s new kennel law; all three levels of cages were filled with puppies who appeared to have barely enough space to stand upright. The licensee also failed a follow-up inspection in October 2019. At that inspection, some of the September violations had been addressed, but the kennel was still marked non-compliant because not all of the dental cleanings had been completed. USDA # 31-A-0798; Former OH #CB001WAT.

Patriot, Ohio: Alvin Herschberger, Hill Top Puppies, LLC —Puppy who could not walk wasn't being treated; two other puppies in the litter had died unexpectedly and a veterinarian had not been notified; some dogs had only barrels as shelter.

During a September 2019 USDA inspection, Alvin Herschberger received a direct violation for a puppy who couldn't walk and wasn't receiving proper treatment. The inspection report stated, "On today's inspection, a white female chiweenie puppy born on 8/12/2019 was noticed to be sitting in the corner of the whelping box as its litter mate ran around. After watching the puppies for a few minutes, it was apparent that the puppy was not moving or as active as the other puppy due to an impairment of her hind legs. She would try to move around, but was unable to rise to her feet as her legs remained curved up under her, stiff and non-weight bearing. She would inch around on her belly after several attempts to use her hind legs. At one point the Licensee tried to coax the puppy to move and she cried out after several attempts of being unable to rise to her feet and walk." The inspector noted that two other puppies in the litter had died from unknown causes and "the Licensee did not communicate with the Attending Veterinarian after ½ of the litter died un-expectantly 8 days after birth. In addition, the Licensee did not notice the hind leg issue with this puppy."

Other issues found at the kennel during a September 2019 USDA inspection included 18 dogs housed outside without adequate protection from the wind and rain, some dogs who only had metal barrels as shelter, and self-feeders that had open tops exposed to rain and snow, which could spoil the food. There were about 100 dogs and puppies on the property during the September inspection.

As of March 2020, Herschberger seems to have dropped the former USDA license number under his name, but has applied for a new license under Hilltop Puppies LLC. USDA #31-A-0809, Former USDA #31-A-0589; OH #CB001609 and CB001617.

Sugarcreek, Ohio: Ivan M. Miller—State inspectors found limping dog and dogs with scabs or skin issues, and unsafe wire flooring; USDA inspector found dogs sitting in darkness; inspector needed a flashlight to see them.

State inspectors found numerous problems at Ivan M. Miller's kennel during at least two inspections in 2019. On Oct. 9, 2019, inspectors found a limping Maltese, a bulldog with "an area on her neck that was red and inflamed with a scab," another dog with a skin abrasion on her scalp, and another who had "red irritated skin outside her ear" with a dirty substance in her ear, and another who "lacked proper grooming." In addition, a number of dogs were on unsafe wire flooring which didn't provide solid flooring or allow them to move freely, and there were no records indicating when dogs were obtained, among other issues.

During a Jan. 28, 2020, USDA inspection, inspectors also found a number of problems at Ivan M. Miller's kennel. The inspector noted that one of the buildings containing large dogs "was not lighted well enough to permit a routine inspection. The licensee and inspector used flashlights in order to observe the dogs and the facility." The inspector noted, "Although the dogs do have access to light by going outside using doggy doors, there is not enough uniformly diffused lighting [indoors] throughout this facility to maintain good housekeeping practices, adequate cleaning, and adequate inspection of animals." To access the light outside, the dogs would have had to venture out in the winter cold as well, and the weather outside in that area hovered around the freezing mark on the day of inspection, according to historical weather data.

In addition, there was "excessive feces accumulation in the 5 outdoor enclosures housing a total of 14 adult dogs. These enclosures have large stones as substrate and there is feces scattered throughout the enclosures and, in some areas, smashed feces where the dogs have pressed it into the stones from being stepped on. It is obvious by the amount of feces in these enclosures that the licensee is not removing the feces daily[...]" In

addition, “a large accumulation of rodent feces were found in the washdowns of the sheltered kennel near the large breed dog area.”

The facility had about 280 dogs and puppies on the property during the January 2020 USDA inspection. USDA #31-A-0492; OH # CB0011D3 and CB0011E1.

Sugarcreek, Ohio: Adam A. Yoder, Artisan Creek aka Sunrise Kennel— AKC breeder had dog’s teeth pulled out by another breeder, not by a licensed veterinarian; failed three state inspections in a row for neglecting to obtain veterinary care for dogs.

During three consecutive state inspections between September and November 2019, Adam A. Yoder failed to obtain adequate veterinary care for dogs, Ohio Department of Agriculture records show. In August 2019, violations included some kennel runs with no protection from direct summer sun; a lack of a valid plan to address issues such as exercise, behavior and social needs, a brucellosis monitoring program, and tail docking procedures, and the lack of any vaccination and parasite control programs validated by a veterinarian. During a follow-up inspection in September 2019, Yoder was instructed by the attending veterinarian to get dental care for 12 specific dogs. During a follow-up visit in October 2019, it was noted that the issue with the dental care had not been fully corrected, and the facility was still marked “non-compliant.” During a Nov. 12, 2019, inspection, the licensee was marked “noncompliant” for the fourth time in a row because he had some of the dental services performed by a non-veterinarian named David Miller in Millersburg, Ohio. The name and address in the report for the David Miller in question matches with a USDA licensed breeder, #31-A-0694. As noted on the state inspection report, David Miller is not a licensed veterinarian, and it appears he was practicing veterinary medicine without a license, which is a violation of state law.

Three violations were documented during Yoder’s November 2019 state inspection: one for failing to fully address the issue of the 12 dogs needing dental care; one for failing to “follow veterinary guidance for stage two and three periodontal disease to be completed by [a] veterinarian that specializes in animal dental services or professional dental care,” and one for failing to get the surgical procedures (three dental extractions) performed by a licensed veterinarian. USDA #31-B-0187; Former licenses OH # CB0003RE and CB001FTN; current OH #CB001LQ6.

OKLAHOMA

Strang, Oklahoma: Connie and Jimmy West (repeat offender)—Received a direct violation for a dog with hair loss and ulcerations in her mouth, and puppies kept outside in the cold; dropped their USDA license for 2020, but are still licensed by the state.

During an October 2019 USDA inspection, Connie and Jimmy West were given a direct violation, indicating immediate concerns about an animal’s health, for a dog in poor condition. The inspection report stated: “A black and white male pomeranian microchip# 961001200049590 had complete hair loss on his tail, dry flaky skin on his torso, and numerous hair mats all over his body. The dog also had severe accumulation of dental tartar and inflamed gums with ulceration over some teeth [...] Following the inspection, USDA inspectors met with the attending veterinarian for this facility. He confirmed that he had not seen or consulted about the dog in question.”

Additional violations found at the October 2019 inspection included:

- An excessive amount of “fecal matter, old soiled bedding and other debris scattered on the ground,” which was so severe that the dogs were seen walking around in the feces;
- “The outdoor enclosure housing a mother labrador and four puppies has standing puddles of dirty, murky water in holes around the water tub. The mother labrador has to stand in or wade through this contaminated water to reach her drinking water.”
- Two litters of puppies only one week old were being kept outside in the cold when the temperature overnight had been 32 degrees, and “All puppies in both litters were tightly huddled together.” The licensee’s veterinarian was consulted and said he “was not aware that puppies were being housed in these conditions, and stated that he did not approve of puppies at that age being kept outdoors[...].”
- Some of the dogs outside in the cold had plastic barrels as their only shelter, and “None of the barrels had adequate bedding in them” when the “temperature for the area according to local weather reports was 32 degrees F...”
- The barrels being used as “shelter” in some of the outdoor enclosures were “too small to serve as adequate shelter for any of the dogs” in the enclosure.

The inspectors also documented excessive weeds and trash. Photos taken at recent USDA inspections and obtained by HSUS through a public records request show extremely ramshackle enclosures and shockingly poor conditions.

Violations have been ongoing at the operation for many years. The Wests have currently dropped their USDA license, but are still licensed by the state of Oklahoma, according to records the HSUS received in March 2020. As we noted in two earlier reports, issues at the kennel have been found since at least February 2013, when USDA inspectors cited the Wests’ kennel for a repeat direct noncompliance due to four dogs who were in urgent need of veterinary care, including a female Chihuahua with a “blue and watery eye” who also had bleeding wounds on her front legs, and a male Chihuahua who had a “reddish tinged fluid” draining from his eye and a “mass of tissue protruding from the middle of the eye.” The inspector noted that both dogs were blinking constantly and winced as if in pain when the inspector tried to examine their eyes. The inspector also found two other dogs with such bad dental problems that pockets of a “white creamy” pus-like substance were present between one of the dog’s teeth and gums. Additional violations included puppies observed walking in feces due to inadequate cleaning, repeated failure to grant access to inspectors, a pug with a puncture wound and red, inflamed skin, and a Welsh corgi with such long nails that she couldn’t stand properly. Former USDA #73-A-1872; OK #210. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bernville, Pennsylvania: Jenn Miller, Jen-Air Aussies—Failed at least three state inspections in 2019; ailing dogs were not being treated by a veterinarian even though owner admitted knowing about their conditions, including a dog with previously broken leg who was still limping; another dog who had a mammary mass, and a dog with a large open wound.

State inspectors found multiple serious violations during several visits to Jen-Air kennel in the second half of 2019, including dirty conditions, dogs running loose and dogs who appeared to be in obvious need of veterinary attention. In September 2019, dog wardens documented two dogs who were obviously in need of care. The first was “an adult male dog who was not using its rear left leg. The kennel owner advised that the dog had broken its leg when he was younger but had no proof of the dog ever being seen by a veterinarian for this injury.” In addition, the wardens also found “an adult female dog with a possible mammary mass.” When asked about the

dog's condition, the owner admitted she "was aware of the mass but stated that she could not afford treatment for the dog..."

Other violations found at the September inspection included dogs kept in rusty crates, excessive flies throughout the kennel, "several dogs fighting amongst each other and intact male and female dogs running loose, which could result in unplanned breedings," and a pool of water in the dog area that had "dirty water, debris, and algae in it." In addition, various records were incomplete, and the licensee could not provide proof of rabies vaccinations on dogs. At the time of the September inspection, there were more than 60 dogs and puppies on the premises.

Issues at two prior 2019 inspections were very similar. During an August 2019 state inspection, the wardens found one male dog with a "large open, draining wound" that the owner admitted she had been aware of "for the past several weeks," but the dog had not been examined or treated by a veterinarian. The wardens also found an adult female dog "who appeared to be limping on her left rear leg, which seemed painful as she would snap when other dogs bumped into her. The kennel owner advised that she was aware of the limp but the dog had not yet been examined by a veterinarian." These issues were not written up as violations because the kennel owner complied with an order to have the dogs examined within 72 hours; however, the report notes that there was a cruelty referral, indicating that humane law enforcement was notified..

During the August visit, wardens found many other issues that were similar to the ones they found at other visits including a repeated issue with dogs who were fighting amongst themselves, as well as "intact male and female dogs running loose, which could result in unplanned breedings." In addition, "wardens observed multiple food and water receptacles which had mud, dirt and wood shavings in the bowls" as well as "an excess of flies and cobwebs throughout the kennel area and on the dogs," and similar problems with missing or outdated vaccination records, which could indicate that needed vaccinations were not given.

In June 2019, the owner was given a citation for many of the same problems, including the following issues observed by dog wardens: "over 30 dogs running loose around the property, only a few of which were contained. Kennel operator also stated that at least one dog was missing and may have been killed by a predator in the area[....] This warden observed several dogs fighting amongst each other. There were intact male and female dogs running loose, which could result in unplanned breedings[....] The records for all of 2018 and 2019 dogs kept in the kennel were incomplete/missing[....] The bill of sale for the dogs transferred into the kennel during 2018 and 2019 to-date were not able to be produced when requested by this warden[....] Records of up-to-date rabies vaccinations for several of the adult dogs in the kennel could not be produced when requested."

The operation does not appear to have a USDA license. Jenn Miller has advertised on websites such as Breeders.net and on Lancaster Puppies, sites that have been linked to a number of questionable sellers and puppy mills. PA #01264.

[East Earl, Pennsylvania: James Burkholder, Whispering Spring Kennel LLC \(repeat offender\)—Licensee repeatedly refused or interfered with inspections; he was ordered 15 different times to get veterinary checks on dogs over a 10 year period.](#)

Whispering Spring kennel was issued citations at least four times in 2019 by state inspectors for issues such as refusing an inspection, interfering with inspectors, and repeatedly failing to properly document which dogs were on the premises or where dogs were obtained or sold. In July 2019, a dog warden noted that "A search warrant was obtained and executed at the kennel premises due to the failure of the kennel owner to allow an inspection after being issued an order of inspection notice 2 days prior (July 16, 2019)."

The kennel owner was required to get an unspecified number of dogs checked by a veterinarian after that inspection, which he complied with. But in September, the licensee received another citation for still not having the needed records on all of his dogs. In November 2019, the facility received a third citation for inconsistent kennel records, with an inaccurate dog count, and dates of birth on the dogs that did not seem legitimate: these violations are cause for concern because they could indicate the owner was obtaining dogs from unlicensed dealers, or that dogs were missing with no record of what happened to them. In December 2019, the licensee was once again cited for still not having the proper records on dogs, and the kennel owners refused to fully comply with the inspection. According to that report, “Both kennel owners were present and refused to offer assistance to verify the kennel records[...] Wardens attempted to complete the inspection by comparing the kennel records to the dogs in the kennel as they did not match. The kennel owners prevented us from continuing the inspection.”

The recent issues at Whispering Spring are nothing new. As we stated in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, during two different 2018 state inspections, Whispering Spring Kennel was found with a combined total of 20 violations related to poor animal care. The kennel was also found with dogs in need of veterinary treatment, operating outside of its license class, and another refusal to allow officers to view all of the dogs (August 2018).

The kennel received a citation from the dog warden during its August 2018 state inspection. A few of the many problems documented in that report included: “Wardens⁴ were unable to verify a written program of Veterinarian Care,” “several dogs over 12 weeks of age were being housed on metal strand flooring,” dogs “were not provided unfettered clearance to an exercise area,” and “Wardens were unable to verify veterinary records for all dogs.” In addition, the owner apparently refused to let inspectors see all of their dogs: “During this inspection the kennel owner stated that there were dogs in the house. This Warden explained to the kennel owner that Wardens would need to view the dogs in the house to view the primary enclosures to ensure they were in compliance. The kennel owner and his wife denied access to the dogs in the house. There was no way for Wardens to confirm the number of dogs that were kept in the owner’s home.” This could mean that some of the dogs were in poor conditions that the owners didn’t want the inspectors to see, or that they did not want the inspectors to know the complete number of dogs in the kennel because it might put them in a higher license class that would require stronger care standards.

The issues with wire strand flooring and lack of a written program of veterinary care were repeat issues that the kennel had been cited for in prior years and should certainly have known to correct.

Whispering Spring Kennel also appeared in prior Horrible Hundred reports due to similar problems. Some of the issues documented in the 2018 report included multiple violations found at a March 2018 inspection that had already been pointed out during a prior (December 2017) inspection that still had not been fixed. During the December 2017 inspection, a dog warden found 11 different unsatisfactory conditions, including the fact that there was no verified program of veterinary care (again), and no proof that the required veterinary exams had been conducted on all the dogs on the premises. In addition, the warden noted that the kennel had surpassed the “noncommercial” kennel class in numbers and was operating under the incorrect commercial kennel permit (the same issue found in 2018). The warden also found puppies over 12 weeks of age being housed on metal strand flooring, which can endanger the animals. During the March 2018 re-inspection, almost all of the same issues were still ongoing, including the failure to provide adequate vet records, the dangerous wire flooring, and inadequate housing exercise areas for the dogs.

⁴ In Pennsylvania, local dog wardens typically perform routine kennel inspections.

Over the past 10 years, the kennel has been directed to get veterinary checks on dogs during at least 15 different state inspections. It appears that little or nothing is improving at Whispering Spring Kennel despite the dog wardens' many efforts to notify the operators about poor conditions and educate them about the changes needed. PA #02470. FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Ford City, Pennsylvania: Jennie Armstrong, Heilman Hill Kennel, aka Armstrong Kennel—Received four consecutive citations from the state in 2019 for animal care violations; refused to allow an inspection; cruelty referral to state police for Great Dane with signs of heat distress.

During four different inspections between February and July 2019, state inspectors gave Armstrong Kennel four different citations for animal care violations, including two dogs in the hot sun with no shade (one in June and one in July 2019). During the June inspection, the warden noted that the dog in the heat “visually appeared to be in distress due [to] the heat/temperature. A cruelty referral for this dog was made to State Police for possible heat stress.”

Wardens also noted issues with flies and insects in the kennel (July 2019), and dirty conditions. In April 2019, wardens issued a citation for “kennel conditions that were not sanitary, humane issues with three dogs on premises, and a plastic dog box with sharp edges that could cause injury.” During the inspection, the warden discovered a dog in a kennel that was filled with standing water, as well as “dogs inside primary enclosures without adequate space to allow each dog to turn about freely, sit, stand erect, or lie down comfortably.” The inspector noted that “Five dogs were observed climbing over each other inside [a] cage that measured 48 in x 29 ½ [inches]” and other dogs who were in crowded cages without enough space.

During the same April 2019 inspection, the warden found “a Rottweiler type dog in an outside enclosure without a dog box or adequate shelter,” who didn’t have enough “sufficient clean bedding or other means of protection from the weather.” In addition, the warden found rusty food and water bowls, bedding that was dirty or mixed with feces, “multiple primary enclosures with an accumulation of debris such as plastic bottles, unclean wood shavings, and/or excreta,” as well as other areas around that kennel that were dirty, wet or had excessive feces.

Also during the April 2019 inspection, the warden noted three dogs who needed medical care: “One dog had matted fur on its head, neck, legs, and back. The matted fur went down to the skin. Another dog had an open leg wound. The third dog had missing fur on its head and neck. The dog also had red and enflamed ears. The kennel owner was unable to provide any records of vet care for these dogs.”

The kennel had almost 90 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the April inspection.

In February 2019, a dog warden and the state veterinarian visited the kennel together. The kennel owner was cited for hiding some of the animals from the agent and lying about how many animals were on the premises, after the discovery that there were dogs and puppies on the property that the licensee had not disclosed.

The kennel does pass some of its inspections. The most recent compliant inspection was in February 2020. However, the four-time failure to protect dogs from basic dangers, such as extreme weather, is a cause for concern. PA #16277.

Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Levi Kauffman, Hill Top Farm Kennel (repeat offender)—Received a warning from the state for housekeeping and maintenance; had at least ten prior warnings or citations and a prior cruelty referral; state issued a cease and desist order for operating under an expired license.

In February 2020, Hill Top Farm Kennel received a verbal and written warning from the state for issues with housekeeping, maintenance, health certificates and exercise areas. In addition, the state issued a cease and desist order in February 2020 for operating without a current license, state records show.

Wardens found “multiple areas of rust and sharp wire protruding into the outside exercise areas throughout the kennel facility” that could injure the dogs at the February inspection. Wardens also told the kennel, “this will be the last and only warning” for a failure to certify, as required by law, that dogs brought into the kennel were free of disease. The inspection report stated that it was a violation of the law to transport dogs into the commonwealth without a health certificate, stating that the certificates, signed by a licensed veterinarian, are required to ensure that dogs entering the kennel are at least eight weeks of age and are free of infectious or communicable disease. The certificates are also required to show that the animals “did not originate within an area under quarantine for rabies; and, as ascertained by reasonable investigation, [have] not been exposed to rabies within 100 days of importation. All dogs must have been vaccinated for rabies [and] the rabies tag number must appear on health certificates prepared by a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine.”

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

The kennel was also the subject of a cruelty referral in September 2012, when dog wardens “observed two dogs in the kennel that exhibited signs of poor health.”

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

Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Sam Kauffman, Sunny Slope Kennels (repeat offender)—State officials found veterinary issues every year between 2013 and 2019; kennel had previously closed for enforcement reasons in 2010.

In June 2019, Sunny Slope Kennels received a citation from the state’s Office of Dog Law for a housing issue. During the same visit, the kennel owner was also required to obtain a veterinary check on an unspecified number of dogs. The kennel owner wasn’t cited at the June inspection for the veterinary issues, since he complied with an order to get the dogs checked within 72 hours. However, veterinary concerns have been noted at the kennel every year since at least 2013.

Sunny Slope Kennels appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. As we documented in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, the kennel repeatedly failed to get dogs examined by a veterinarian, even after a warning. The kennel had previously closed down in 2010 but re-opened in 2012 and has had violations almost every year since then.

Sunny Slope Kennels was cited in January 2018 and in August 2017 for similar problems. The citation in January 2018 was for dirty conditions, poor maintenance and a failure to have full veterinary records on the dogs. The citation in August 2017 was for the same veterinary issue; a state inspector found that no veterinarian had been to the kennel in more than ten months; Pennsylvania law requires licensed kennels to have a veterinarian examine each dog every six months (3 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 459-207). In addition, during a December 2017 inspection, an inspector ordered a vet check on an unspecified number of animals.

State inspectors also found violations at Sunny Slope Kennels during four out of five different state kennel inspections in 2016, and the kennel received written warnings in February 2016 and again in December 2016 for repeated issues, according to state records. In June 2016 alone, nine different unsatisfactory issues were found, including: no program of veterinary care nor veterinary records on all the dogs; no ventilation system, and inadequate space for the dogs. Despite the June notification about the veterinary problems, at a follow-up inspection in August 2016, the dog warden found that the kennel was lacking a formal relationship with a veterinarian, and was still lacking a program of veterinary care and veterinary records for all of the dogs. During the August 2016 visit, a vet check was also ordered on an unspecified number of dogs, according to state records.

According to state records, the kennel was closed down in 2010 for “enforcement related” reasons but re-opened in 2012. In September 2012, the kennel received a written and verbal warning for keeping dogs in such dark buildings that it was difficult to check on the health of the dogs and the cleanliness of the kennel, and for dirty, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Additional problems were also found in 2013, 2014 and 2015 during state inspections, and vet checks were ordered during at least four different inspections between 2013 and 2016.

The kennel does pass some of its inspections, but the improvements never seem to be permanent. Recently, two state inspections in late 2019 and one in February 2020 were compliant. PA #08642. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

[Newville, Pennsylvania: Margaret Graf, Eichenluft Working German Shepherds \(repeat offender\)—License suspended after years of repeated animal care issues, but still operating.](#)

Eichenluft Working German Shepherds is appearing in our Horrible Hundred report for the fourth time this year after repeatedly failing to pass state inspections. Most recently, it appears the kennel was under suspension as of April 13, 2020, but its license has not been revoked.

Issues found at the facility since our last report was published include the following violations from a June 2019 state inspection: “the Kennel owner violated the kennel’s license type and failed to obtain the correct license for the types and volume of business being conducted [...] A written certification under the signature and seal of a professional engineer was not present [...] There was no written program of veterinary care for the kennel [...] Wardens observed that there were several areas of the kennel which did not have both a smoke alarm and a means of fire suppression [...]. Wardens were not able to view records for each dog containing the date of each dog’s last veterinary check [...] this warden viewed multiple primary enclosures which did not meet minimum space requirements [...]. Wardens viewed dogs with no unfettered access to an exercise area on ground level and outdoors [...] Wardens were unable to verify veterinary records for all dogs on the premises.”

As we documented in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, Eichenluft Working German Shepherds failed multiple state inspections due to lacking veterinary records on individual dogs, operating without the required license type, and lack of exercise area; history of repeat violations goes back almost 10 years. During a February 2019 inspection, state inspectors found a variety of problems, including some dogs who had only frozen water

available to them, dogs kept in temperatures that were too cold, multiple housing violations, including inadequate space and exercise areas, and a lack of individual veterinary records on dogs. During a Nov. 6, 2018, inspection, state inspectors documented a dozen different violations, including many that were repeated issues. Wardens stated that the kennel owner “violated the kennel’s license type and failed to obtain the correct license for the types and volume of business being conducted,” that there was no written program of veterinary care and no records available to show that dogs had been recently checked by a veterinarian, as well as dogs who didn’t have access to an exercise area. These were all virtually identical to the February 2019 violations.

As we noted in our 2018 report, Margaret Graf, the owner, has a history of criminal infractions, including failure to keep a kennel in sanitary and humane condition (2010, guilty plea), operating a kennel without a license (2010, guilty plea), and a 2017 guilty plea for failing to keep a kennel in sanitary and humane conditions, failing to display a current and valid kennel license, and failing to keep proper kennel records. State inspectors also cited Eichenluft Working German Shepherds for numerous problems in November 2017, including issues with veterinary records, inadequate exercise space and operating as an unlicensed kennel (outside of its kennel class). The November 2017 inspection was the seventh failed state inspection for the kennel within about two years. In addition, in January 2018, a vet check was ordered for an unspecified reason, and the kennel was listed as “pending approval” after again operating outside of its license class.

As we noted in the 2017 Horrible Hundred report, state kennel inspectors also found dozens of animal care violations at Eichenluft Working German Shepherds during multiple visits between February 2016 and January 2017. In December 2016 alone, inspectors found 35 different unsatisfactory issues, including dogs who didn’t have adequate shelter from the cold, with “several dogs shivering and appearing to be uncomfortable.” State inspectors also noted a strong smell of ammonia (decomposing animal wastes), excessive feces, poor ventilation, inadequate shelter to keep the dogs clean and dry, dogs without adequate space and unpotable water. A dog was in a crate that was so small that he couldn’t turn around freely. Yet again, there was no written program of veterinary care for the kennel. The inspection also cited false statements by the owner of the kennel, who tried to hide the pregnancy of one dog when questioned about it (state inspection, Dec. 21, 2016). Many of these violations had been found again and again over the course of the year. Problems at the kennel go back to at least 2010, when it received a verbal warning for multiple non-compliances, including unsanitary conditions and inability to prove rabies vaccinations for the dogs, according to state records.

The kennel’s “AKC registered” German shepherd puppies have been offered for sale via workinggermanshepherd.com. The same property also appears to run a boarding and training kennel called Ritner Kennel, ritnerkennel.net. An additional website selling Chihuahuas, Ali’s Pooh Corner Chihuahuas, also seems to be linked to the operation as they share a phone number and email address.

Sadly, a lack of state funds seems to be contributing to the problem. A state audit of the Pennsylvania dog law program [released in February 2020](#) indicates that Pennsylvania’s dog law enforcement program was dangerously low on funds, making it difficult for the agency to continue to crack down on problematic kennels; issues with Eichenluft Working German Shepherds were specifically mentioned in [the state auditor general’s report](#). According to the report, “Dog Law must provide for strong enough penalties that kennel owners will not continue to operate and just pay the fines they receive. BDLE [the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement] remains in litigation with several kennels over the conditions for the dogs they house, and at least one of those kennels — Eichenluft Working German Shepherds in Cumberland County — has been named to the Humane Society of the United States’ “Horrible Hundred” list for multiple years.”

PA #06585. FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Madison, South Dakota: Dorothy and Gary Sanborn, Countryside Kennel—Massive dealer with more than 480 dogs and puppies had them in overcrowded, undersized cages; refused to allow a prior USDA inspection.

During a June 2019 inspection of Countryside Kennel, a USDA inspector found many dogs who were crammed into cages, some of which were stacked three high, and many of which were far too small and did not meet the USDA basic space requirements, which are already minimal. The inspector wrote, “Inadequate enclosure space can cause undue stress to dogs occupying the enclosures. Overcrowding may lead to fighting, increased competition for food, inadequate food intake, inability to make normal postural adjustments, and increased susceptibility to disease and disease spread.” The issue was especially concerning because the operation had a massive number of animals on the property – over 480 – which many people would feel is too many for one operation to adequately care for.

USDA records also show that, earlier in the year, on May 7, 2019, the proprietors had refused to allow a USDA inspector in the kennel, perhaps because they didn’t want the inspector to see their vast overcrowding problem. The inspector wrote that, upon arriving, “I called the primary contact number and left a message. I honked the car horn several times. I then went to the kennel office building and knocked on the door. After no answer, I went back to the car, honked the horn, and moved the car to southwest side of house area to wait the designated time. At 1323, I saw a kennel employee walking from another kennel building toward the kennel office. I drove over to the kennel office and asked the employee if the licensee was there, the kennel worker affirmed the licensee was inside. I identified myself and asked the kennel employee to please let the licensee know I was outside waiting to do a facility inspection. Gary (licensee) came from the kennel office and spoke with me at approx. 1325. Licensee was cordial and stated that he did not have time for an inspection today and had a lot of work to do in the kennel. Licensee further stated that they had a lot going on and he did not know when they would be available again to do an inspection. I explained to the licensee that not allowing an inspector to conduct an inspection could be considered a refusal to allow inspection. Licensee stated that he did not like the refusal terminology but that he could not do an inspection. I repeated my request to do an inspection and the licensee stated he could not do an inspection.”

An active refusal to allow an inspection, even when the proprietor and staff were on the premises, could indicate that the licensee was trying to hide more serious violations from the inspector.

Countryside Kennels has many breeds of puppies, including AKC puppies, for sale on its Facebook page and a website, sdcountriesidekennels.com. Its B license with the USDA allows the kennel to sell puppies it produces on site as well as puppies produced by other breeders. Sanborn also held a previous A license with USDA. A class A license is for breeders who only sell puppies they raised on their own property, and not puppies produced by others. USDA #46-B-0068.

Woonsocket, South Dakota: Vickie Hines, Lar-Kie Kennel (repeat offender) —Licensee previously fined by USDA had clutter, grimy conditions and a strong odor in kennel.

During a December 2019 inspection, a USDA inspector cited Vickie Hines for several violations related to dirty conditions, including gaps in the flooring of the house where dogs were allowed to roam freely, urine seeping under the gaps in the flooring and strong odors of urine, and “visible accumulations of grime and debris” and clutter.

During an August 2019 USDA inspection, the licensee was found with a “used 100 ml bottle of Oxytocin injectable solution” that was extremely outdated, with an expiration date of March 2008. There was also a

dewormer that had expired more than two years previously. Using long-expired medications on dogs could be harmful or ineffective.

In April 2019, the kennel was cited for violations due to housing that was corroded and falling apart, and that had sharp edges that could injure the dogs. In addition, the whelping room had “an accumulation of debris, dirt and grime. There was also a strong odor of urine in the room,” according to the inspection report. In April, the operation had 70 dogs and puppies, and in December 2019 it had more than 80, indicating that numbers only went up at the kennel over the year, despite the poor conditions.

Issues have been found at the kennel in prior years as well. As we stated in our 2014 Horrible Hundred report, between August 2011 and August 2013, serious violations were found at Lar-Kie Kennel during six USDA inspections in a row. On Aug. 28, 2013, USDA inspectors found dogs kept in a building that had a heat index over 102 degrees Fahrenheit, even though they had visited twice already during the same week and warned the licensee to correct the condition. On one of those visits, the heat index was measured by Kestrel thermometer at over 109 degrees (Aug. 27, 2013). During all three visits in August 2013, the inspector noted that dogs were showing signs of heat stress and were panting heavily. Several of the dogs were pugs, which have very low ability to tolerate heat. The pugs were seen with “heavy panting” and “dry, spoon-shaped tongues.” And in April 2013, USDA inspectors noted no fewer than ten dogs in need of veterinary treatment, including dogs with hair loss and signs of eye and dental infections. In February 2014, the USDA fined Hines \$2,679.00 for five of the violations that occurred in 2013. USDA # 46-A-0233. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

TENNESSEE

Carthage, Tennessee: Heather Filipetti, Allison Hollow Kennel—Massive facility with more than 250 animals had matted dogs; some were matted from neck to tail.

According to a July 2019 USDA inspection, a number of matted dogs were found at Allison Hollow Kennel. The inspection report states, “Severe mats were observed on approximately 10 dogs. Dog identified with microchip number -14174 adult white poodle located in Pen 11 in the sheltered housing building had matted hair covering most of the body from the neck to the tail. The matted hair under the tail contained fecal material. Matted hair on all four feet contained brown debris. Dog identified with microchip number -0638 adult white poodle located in Pen 14 in the sheltered housing building had matted hair over most of its body. Matted hair on all four feet and the lower parts of the legs contained brown-black debris and staining. Matted hair fell from the dog’s forehead over its eyes such that the eyes were not readily visible.”

The facility had more than 250 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. The July visit was listed as a “focused” inspection, which is an indication that the facility had failed a prior inspection and the inspector was visiting to re-check a specific issue. However, no other 2019 reports with violations could be found on the USDA’s website. The kennel did pass a recent USDA inspection in March 2020.

Allison Hollow Kennel’s [website](#) claims they “specialize in breeding AKC breeds and crosses.” The American Kennel Club has repeatedly fought laws that would require breeders to be licensed and regularly inspected, as well as laws that would require breeders to adhere to basic animal care standards. USDA #63-A-0189.

WASHINGTON

Graham, Washington: Ida L. Lewis, Ida’s Toy Box, aka TBK Enterprises—Puppy whose leg had been severed had not received veterinary care and later died; five adult dogs died in severe cold weather due to owner’s failure to provide adequate shelter; two dogs had mange or hair loss.

In August 2019, the USDA cited Ida Lewis, a dog breeder and owner of Fairwood Pet Center in Renton, Washington, for numerous severe violations, including direct and critical violations, some of which resulted in animals suffering and dying in her care.

Direct quotes from the USDA’s Aug. 29, 2019, inspection report include:

- Direct violation: “An approx. 5 week old female Shiba Inu puppy had a portion of the right rear leg that was missing. The licensee stated that the dam had chewed off that portion of the leg shortly after birth; however, it was not discovered immediately. According to the attending veterinarian, the licensee contacted her by phone. However, as the licensee stated the leg was not bleeding and did not appear painful, there was no treatment provided nor was the puppy seen by the veterinarian. Acute trauma causes pain and distress and can be life-threatening. The licensee was required to have the puppy examined by the attending veterinarian by 8/30/19. Subsequent to this exam, the puppy began having seizures and was euthanized on 9/4/19.”
- “Female English bulldog/pug mix ‘Cindy’ (2.5 yrs old) had been treated for demodectic mange. Both ears had thickening of the skin. The skin was also crusted on the back of the ears and ear margins.”
- “Male Shiba Inu ‘Kim’ (4.5 yrs old) had a skin condition present on the left rear leg. There was hair loss on the side of the leg, and both hair loss and ulceration of the skin...”
- “Female Shitzu ‘Jennel’ (6 months old) had matting present. The hair was twisted and matted on her head and along her back and sides.”
- Critical violation: “Five dogs that were housed in the outdoor facility died during the period 12/19/18 to 2/15/19. The licensee stated the dogs had died due to severe cold weather conditions. The following dogs died during that time period:
 - #7736 - 7 year old Havenese died on 12/19/18
 - #2157 - 7 year old Shiba Inu died on 1/30/19
 - #5811 - 8 year old Shiba Inu died on 2/6/19
 - #7725 - 7 year old Dachshund died on 2/12/19
 - #6914 - 6 year old Dachshund died on 2/15/19”
- “Building 1 for the whelping dogs and puppies had the strong odor of ammonia [urine] present [and] accumulated excreta, bedding, hair, food waste, clutter and debris present.”

In addition, several dogs had signs of dental disease or bleeding gums and required medical care.

Following the horrific report, the licensee apparently appealed some of her violations and got the notation about the puppy’s seizures and death removed from her record. The USDA put up a new report in February 2020 that indicated the puppy had had his leg severed, but that did not mention his seizures and death.

At the time of the August USDA inspection, the operation had over 250 dogs and puppies. Lewis later passed two inspections, one in late 2019, and one in early 2020, and subsequently cancelled her USDA license in Spring 2020. However, due to the deaths of multiple dogs in conditions that were likely prolonged and painful, her

affiliation with a local pet store, and her ability to continue selling puppies directly to the public, the HSUS has significant concerns about the animals remaining at Ida Lewis's facility. Former USDA# 91-A-0054.

WISCONSIN

Augusta, Wisconsin: David Kurtz (repeat offender), Hillside Kennel LLC and Barbara A. Borntreger—Received state warning notice for shih tzu who had been injured for four days and had not been taken to a veterinarian; USDA also found dogs in need of treatment; prior veterinary issues.

In July 2019, state inspectors issued a warning to David Kurtz because of an injured shih tzu found at one of his two facilities. The dog had lacerations from bite wounds on her legs and neck, according to an earlier inspection report, but had not been taken to a veterinarian, even though the wounds were still clearly visible four days after the incident. According to the report, the proprietor claimed they had been treating the dog with an antibiotic, but there were no records to document any treatments. Additional issues discussed with the agents during the summer 2019 inspections, but which were not noted as violations, included puppies who were not on solid flooring and a barn that had no heating or electricity. The issue with lack of electricity or heat had been noted since 2017. License holder David Kurtz, who operated two dog breeding properties under one license, previously indicated that the location where the injured dog was found was soon to be licensed under its manager's name, Barbara A. Borntreger (spelled in some records as Borntreger). The property where the violation was noted, on Hilts Road, was already licensed under Barbara A. Borntreger's name with USDA, but was still licensed under Kurtz's name with the state.

But blaming Borntreger for the injured shih tzu doesn't explain the other injured dogs found on Kurtz's property. USDA inspectors also found recent violations for dog care issues at Kurtz's kennel. A Dec. 19, 2019, USDA inspection report noted: "two dogs had veterinary care issues that were not observed prior to inspection. A female black and white Japanese Chin (#13) had its right eye clouded over. In addition there was a crusty material surrounding the eye. A brown and white female Cavalier mix (#28) had a tear on its lower left eyelid. There was also a clear discharge surrounding the eye." There were 96 adult dogs and 46 puppies present on that property at the time of the USDA inspection.

The animal care issues found recently by both state and federal inspectors are especially concerning due to the business's prior history. In December 2017, the USDA cited Kurtz for two other dogs in need of veterinary care. One of the dogs was a "cockashon" who was limping and had not been taken to a veterinarian, even though the licensee admitted she had been limping for at least two days; the inspector noted the dog "may be in pain and may have some kind of infection[...]". The inspector also noted that another dog had a rash and scabs on the abdomen, and the licensee had the dog seen by a veterinarian two weeks prior, but had not followed veterinary advice, and now the skin condition had gotten even worse. The USDA's inspection report listed both issues under a single "indirect" violation, not as "direct" or "critical," which is typically how violations should be listed when they have a clear impact on a dog's health.

As we noted in our 2018 report, there were additional suspected disease issues at the kennel in prior years. A customer filed a complaint in February 2017 regarding a puppy Kurtz sold who appeared to be suffering from symptoms of parvovirus. That puppy's diagnosis could not be confirmed, but the buyers' friend had also purchased a puppy from Kurtz who was diagnosed with parvovirus. When questioned about the complaint by state inspectors, Kurtz denied the disease was present in his facilities and claimed he had not had any deaths at his kennel recently, according to state records. But after reviewing litter records at the kennel, inspectors noted

that four out of five puppies in one litter had died, with the licensees having no recollection of what caused their deaths.

Regarding the parvovirus complaint, Kurtz argued he sent fecal samples to a veterinarian in Tennessee and they believed it was coccidiosis. He reportedly later told state inspectors that he had heard that the complainants were making false accusations about the health of their puppies and that test results must have been inaccurate. A few days later, inspectors contacted the primary veterinarian and she stated that she was aware that David Kurtz's brothers' kennel had recently had issues with parvovirus and the puppy could have come from his kennel. She believed the source of the virus in both kennels could be connected to their father (Harvey Kurtz) liquidating dogs to each of the brothers, according to state records.

The May 15, 2017, inspections at both of Kurtz's locations had uncovered multiple additional violations. The puppy involved in the complaint was found to have been sold without a certificate of veterinary inspection. According to state records, the licensee admitted that if he is unable to schedule an appointment with his regular veterinarian, he sometimes sells puppies without a certificate of veterinary inspection, which is a violation of state law (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 173.41). Additional violations noted during these visits include incomplete acquisition records; puppies on wire flooring (which was previously discussed with the licensee); inadequate lighting for three, eight-week old puppies where inspectors needed a flashlight to check on the welfare of the puppies and an open gutter that was accessible to the dogs and was accumulating shavings and feces. Kurtz was issued a warning notice based on the May 15, 2017, violations.

HSUS records show Kurtz has sold puppies to at least six pet stores in New York. USDA licenses for David Kurtz: #35-A-0398 and 35-A-0436; WI #402317. USDA license for Barbara A. Borntrager (aka Borntreger): #35-A-0427; WI #483088. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Cornell, Wisconsin: Norman Gingerich—Found operating without the required state license; “strong and offensive” dog waste odor; excessive feces; puppies with their feet falling through wire floors.

During a July 2019 investigation, Wisconsin state inspectors found Norman Gingerich producing puppies in poor conditions, and he was also found to be operating without the required state breeder license. Gingerich was apparently part of a network of about seven breeders who were producing puppies for Ryan Handy, an individual who lost his Wisconsin license in September 2019, and is now selling in Florida and online. (Handy himself has a history of animal care violations and appears in the Florida section of this report.) According to Wisconsin state records, “Gingerich explained that Handy owned all of the adult dogs and that Gingerich sold each puppy produced to Handy.” This appeared to be an attempt to circumvent state kennel inspection requirements and skirt rules requiring certain animal care standards for licensed breeders.

But authorities determined that Gingerich, along with other breeders working with Handy, still had to obtain a kennel license and comply with the state's basic care standards. They found that “Gingerich sold 49 puppies, from approximately 8 separate litters, during the 2018-2019 license year without a Dog Sellers and Dog Facility Operators license[...].” These numbers were much higher than the threshold of 24 puppy sales which would exempt a small breeder from requiring a state license.

In addition to the fact that he was operating an unlicensed breeding facility, conditions at Gingerich's property were also very unsanitary, inspectors found. They noted:

- “Upon entering the building a very prominent odor of ammonia was observed. The odor was strong and offensive[...].”
- “The indoor space was found to [be] noticeably dirty and many of the dogs had overgrown (but not matted hair). The area below a row of elevated cages was found to have a significant accumulation of excrement and soiled wood shavings.”
- “Puppies within multiple enclosures were found to be upon the wire mesh flooring and their feet were falling through the gaps.”
- “[Two enclosures lacked] any form of a [solid] resting surface. The mesh flooring within one of the enclosures was found to be missing a lot of its black coating, which exposed the metal wire.”
- “Many of the dogs were found to have long, overgrown hair.”
- “Each of the runs was found to have a large accumulation of feces and soiled wood shavings that suggested cleaning was infrequent in this space.”

Ida and Norman Gingerich are also licensed with the USDA under license #35-A-0451. They have only one recent inspection report on record with the USDA, which is for October 2019 and contains no violations. After being cited for the numerous state violations, Gingerich did obtain a state license, WI #484068.

Fairchild, Wisconsin: Tobias (Toby) Borntreger—Sold at least 35 puppies in four months without a license; dogs found in dirty conditions, with strong odors; puppies on wire floors; provided puppies to another dealer in Florida who is a repeat offender and has a rescinded license.

Tobias (Toby) Borntreger was cited by the Wisconsin state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in October 2019 for selling more than 24 puppies per year without the required state license. Borntreger was providing the puppies to another former license holder and repeat offender, Ryan Handy, to sell in Florida, according to state documents. Handy’s Wisconsin license had just been rescinded the month before for repeated animal care problems.

State officials proved with shipping documents that Toby Borntreger sold at least 35 puppies to Handy/ My Puppies Florida during a four month period in the summer of 2019, which would have required Borntreger to hold a license and adhere to the state canine care standards for licensed breeders, neither of which Borntreger had complied with.

In October 2019, Toby Borntreger was also found to be keeping puppies in poor conditions at his unlicensed operation, with issues such as strong odors, puppies housed in a cold building, puppies on dangerous wire flooring with no solid resting surface in some enclosures, dirty conditions, and harboring a limping dog who had not been treated by a veterinarian, according to state records.

When questioned, Borntreger told state authorities that he was just a caretaker of dogs and puppies owned by Ryan T. Handy, who would pay him a fee in cash for each puppy. Although Handy’s Wisconsin dog seller license was rescinded, he was, and is, apparently still offering puppies for sale on the website “Wisconsin Puppies” and through a Florida business at his new location called My Puppies Florida, LLC. (See more details about Handy under the Florida section of this report).

In addition to Toby Borntreger, Handy continued to have a role in other operations, including a property that used to be Handy’s but was taken over by Abraham (Abe) Borntreger, Toby’s brother, in Augusta. As one Wisconsin investigator explained in an August 2019 email to Florida officials: “Mr. Handy’s manner of business is to recruit Amish farmers to breed dogs for him, offer them \$200 per dog as a ‘caretaker’ fee, and then sell the

dogs via his websites: designerpuppy.com, wisconsinpuppies.net, and now puppiesflorida.net. He is currently working with seven breeders in Wisconsin that we are aware of, though there may be more, as he takes measures to hide dog breeding facilities from our [WI DATCP] staff. At this time we have evidence that he [Handly] has transported approximately 163 dogs to two addresses in Lake County Florida from Wisconsin since January of 2019. He has communicated to us that his intent is to continue these movements.” Additional Wisconsin breeders Handly has been associated with are Harvey Shrock, William Kurtz and Norman Gingerich.

It appears that Toby Borntreger finally acquired a license after Wisconsin officials proved he lied when he said he sold only a handful of puppies. Borntreger now holds WI license #485680.

Galesville, Wisconsin: Sue Hagen, Ladyview Kennel—AKC breeder had extremely filthy conditions with feces that had not been removed in “days or weeks”; some dogs had expired vaccinations or no vaccinations.

During a brief inspection in early September 2019, Wisconsin inspectors found very filthy conditions at Ladyview Kennel. According to the inspection report, “On 9/9/19 during the walk-thru an excessive amount of excreta was located within multiple enclosures, both on the indoor and outdoor portions. It was apparent excreta had not been removed in several days or weeks. Cleaning and sanitizing procedures are also not being conducted on a regular basis.” When inspectors returned on Sept. 27, 2019, they found even more problems, and the breeder refused to cooperate with the investigation by providing records or information on dogs.

The inspector wrote:

- “Sue stated that they are her dogs and that she knows all about them and that she does not have to show me where she got the dogs from, how or when. I informed her of the law and again asked if she had any records. She indicated that some of her dogs are AKC registered and has that information somewhere, she did not provide those records to me.”
- “Vaccine information for puppy litters is either not being recorded and provided to the buyer or is being recorded incorrectly...”
- “Sue stated that she performs de-worming and provides that information to the buyer but does not record it for herself.”
- “Records reviewed that there were 15 current rabies certificates and 13 expired.”
- “Multiple food and water containers were found to be dirty and in need of proper cleaning and sanitation.”
- “A dog “Ziggy” was found to have matted hair and few teeth. When question[ed] on the dog Sue stated that the dog was fine and if she takes the dog to her veterinarian she will be forced to euthanize it” [The dog was 15 years old.]
- “On 9/27/19 buildup of excreta was located in multiple enclosures, [...] Proper cleaning and sanitizing procedures are not being conducted and [...] Dogs do not have a clean area within enclosures.”
- “I offered to provide Sue with templates to help her record keeping. She refused multiple times stating she knows what is required and is doing so.”
- “It is unknown where Sue got her dogs from and if any were imported into Wisconsin, import regulations are not able to be verified if any were imported.”

WI # 268720.

Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Joshua W. Yutzy (repeat offender)—Recurring problems with strong odors and dangerous and dirty conditions.

Between two inspections in January 2020, state inspectors found a number of problems at Joshua Yutzy’s kennel that were similar to issues he had in prior years. The violations included dirty food receptacles, whelping enclosures that had no solid floors and some without whelping boxes, a building with outdoor dog runs that were not covered or sealed for the winter months and thus could not be used as regular space for dogs due to the lack of weather protection, resulting in multiple dogs who didn’t have enough space, enclosures in disrepair, including one that was “missing a door where a dog had the potential to fall approximately 10 feet,” and other surfaces that were so dirty that they made it difficult for the dogs to remain clean.

In addition, inspectors noted: “The adult dog building odor was strong, conditions of enclosures and walkways are contributing to odor. Ventilation was not being utilized properly.” The inspection report also stated: “Enclosures in both building[s] are not being cleaned often enough, excreta, dirt, dust and other matter were found within enclosures and walk-ways entering the facility. Enclosures varied in the amount of building up within but all were not meeting standards.”

Yutzy’s inability to keep the kennels clean and sanitary are especially concerning because they are issues he has been made aware of in the past. As we documented in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, Yutzy was cited for an “extreme and unacceptable accumulation of excrement,” strong odors and flies, along with many other violations in 2017, with four different noncompliant inspections that year alone.

During one visit in 2017, inspectors had to end the inspection abruptly due to a puppy needing immediate veterinary care. Before ending the inspection, they noted that the kennel had a strong odor and the puppy’s enclosure also was foul. When inspectors returned in May, they found incomplete acquisition records; lack of health certificates for two litters of puppies that were sold to another dealer; no treatment records for the sick puppy identified in April and another litter mate; two dogs with matted and tangled fur; inadequate space in some enclosures with no separate exercise area; unsanitary conditions; and other issues, according to state inspection records.

And on July 18, 2017, inspectors documented repeat violations for wire housing needing repair, and excessive feces, flies and odors. During the second inspection, treatment records for the sick puppy identified in April and his or her littermate were still missing, acquisition records were still incomplete, and flies and odor were still present due to feces accumulation. WI#283658. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

La Farge, Wisconsin: Sonia Williams, Salem Heights Doodles—Investigated for selling a puppy in poor condition without veterinary records; extremely filthy conditions.

On Oct. 18, 2019, Wisconsin state investigators arrived at Salem Heights Doodles to investigate a complaint about a puppy who reportedly had been sold in very poor condition. The buyer claimed that she met Sonia Williams at a gas station, and immediately noticed the puppy she was offering for sale was, in the buyer’s words, “horribly dirty and disgusting,” and the buyer said that “no animal should ever look so bad.” The buyer said the puppy had “wounds on his ears that were almost bleeding,” and also had joint issues in his legs, and had veterinary records to prove the puppy was in poor condition.

The state inspector found the seller had no records: “She does not keep a health record for herself. No sales and/or litter records were being kept[...] Numerous facility violations were observed including condition of dogs, severely matted, odor and cleanliness[...] She has been down-sizing and wants to be completely done.”

Agents followed up by phone on Oct. 25, 2019. The breeder had been required to send the inspector a copy of the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection on the sick puppy, but it was “discovered that Sonia had altered the date



of the CVI.” The inspector contacted the breeder’s veterinarian, received the original unaltered copy of the CVI, and proved that Williams had altered the veterinarian’s record.

The investigation into that issue found:

- “No CVI was issued to buyer or even completed on the dog.”
- “Sonia altered the issue date of an expired CVI and attempted to pass [it] off as the one issue[d] at the time of sale. No CVI was issued to the buyer but an altered CVI was provided to the inspector.”
- “The dog was [severely] matted at time of sale.”
- “The dog was not examined prior to the sale of the dog. The dog was examined 4 days after the sale by the buyers veterinarian and was found to have several issues.”
- “The dog was sold at 5 months of age [without a] rabies vaccine[...].”

Similar issues were found at a prior Oct. 18, 2019, inspection, including:

- Incomplete records, with no specific records linked to any of the dogs, which causes an inability to track important health documents such as proof of vaccines.
- “Food containers were observed to be dirty and was apparent that it had been an extended period of time since they were last cleaned/sanitized.”
- “Several dogs were observed to have matted hair [and] several dogs were also observed to have too long of nails.”
- “Numerous enclosures were found to have an accumulation of dirt/debris on the walls and floor. Several enclosures had [damage] caused by chewing and paneling was missing exposing untreated wood. One raised enclosure was missing a door and had rusted exposed metal creating two hazards to the dogs within the enclosure.”
- A “strong odor” throughout the building, with no open windows to let in fresh air.
- “All enclosures in use, approximately 16, had a buildup of dirt, hair and excreta. Several enclosures had exposed unsealed wood that could not be appropriately washed and sanitized. Some had wet floors, wood shavings were located in a few enclosures but appeared to be dirty and wet.” The facility also had cobwebs, dust and hair throughout.

On Dec. 3, 2019, inspectors arrived for a re-inspection. Once again, they found many of the same problems, including several enclosures that were wet and did not give the dogs any dry place to lie down; the same strong odor remained, even though some windows had been cracked open; enclosures still had a “buildup of dirt, hair and excreta,” as well as the issues with unsealed wood “that could not be appropriately washed and sanitized.”

Photos taken at the October and December inspections show dogs confined in dimly lit enclosures in extremely filthy conditions, with the floor so darkened with excreta and grime in some indoor enclosures that it appeared to be a solid dark brown, muddy color.

Although the breeder told her inspector in October 2019 and again in December 2019 that she wanted to sell all her dogs and close her business, a review of the Wisconsin’s list of licensed breeding kennels in April 2020 found that Salem Heights Doodles was still listed as a licensed dealer. WI# 400852.

[Oxford, Wisconsin: Leetta Marshall, Have a Heart Dog Homes Inc. and Golden Barns—Puppy found deceased during inspection; inspectors noted “puppy deaths occur on a frequent basis” at operation that proports to be both a “rescue” and breeder.](#)

Have a Heart Dog Homes proports to be a “no kill” dog shelter, but state kennel records show that the operation is also a breeder. State inspectors wrote, “HAHDH operates as a ‘no-kill’ dog shelter accepting owner surrenders. HAHDH also breeds small mixed-breed dogs and large-breed dogs (Standard Poodles, Golden Retrievers, and Labrador Retrievers). The profits from puppy sales are used to support the shelter.” The HSUS

does not support any deliberate dog breeding by nonprofit organizations that take in homeless pets, but in addition to those concerns, humane care issues were apparent at a state inspection as well.

During a September 2019 visit, state inspectors found 39 adult dogs and 36 puppies at the facility. The inspection report indicates that while most of the animals appeared to be without obvious impairments, “one puppy was found that was deceased that Leetta did not previously know about.” It appears that the licensee blamed the puppy deaths on mother dogs lying on their puppies, because the inspector wrote, “The use of whelping boxes with pig rails will help to better protect puppies from being laid on and reduce the number of deaths. Leetta’s records indicate puppy deaths occur on a frequent basis.”

Other issues noted at the September inspection included:

- “Leetta informed us during the inspection that her county license was not approved and her money was sent back. A check with the county revealed that Leetta has too many animals per the amount of land and her license was denied. She was informed by the county to downsize the number of animals on her property.”
- “4-Citations [were] issued by Adams County Sheriff Office in 2017 for dogs at large.”
- “One of the enclosures that has indoor access to a portion of a shed is missing portions of the wall and a dog was visible from the exterior of the enclosures through the wall opening.”
- “Dogs do not have a dry place to lay down. One bed was provided for 3 dogs and the bed was also damp at the time of inspection.”
- “The floor area in the barn for whelping and nursery enclosures was completely wet at the time of inspection.”
- “Leetta did not have records for numerous adult dogs.”
- “Some of her litter records do not include identification information providing no way to link a specific dog to a specific litter record.”
- “Water and food container[s] were observed to be dirty and when asked about cleaning procedures Leetta stated that she does not use a dedicated sanitizer and only uses a detergent, only contributing to the ongoing hookworm issue.”
- “In regards to a previous hook worm issue, dogs were not tested and separated. Arrangements have not been made to properly sanitize enclosures to prevent the ongoing spread of the disease. Disease still present, CVI’s from Jan-2019 to [September]-2019 show hookworm in fecal.”
- “[Inspector] went over Leetta’s veterinarian’s recommendations for treating a previous hook worm outbreak. Leetta claimed she was never given anything from her veterinarian and that she has been testing all puppies and treating them. Adult dogs are [allegedly] being treated but record of treatment dates could not be found.”

After the September inspection, Marshall was given a two-year conditional license. Marshall also had a prior conditional state license in 2012, indicating she should have already been aware of basic dog care protocols. WI #468017.

[Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin: Chad Zeman, Red Hot Labradors, LLC—Dogs found living in small, dirty airline crates did not have enough room to stand and turn around; state allowed “conditional” license until July 2020; offers puppies for sale online and via Facebook.](#)

On Nov. 8, 2019, Wisconsin state inspectors arrived to investigate an animal cruelty allegation related to Red Hot Labradors, state records show. At that time, they found a number of full-size Labradors confined to cramped airline crates that were far too small to be used as primary enclosures. The dogs did not appear to have enough room to comfortably stand up or turn around. Photos taken that day show a number of the large dogs confined to plastic crates that looked dirty and worn. Inspectors also noted that the dogs did not have water available.

The issues resulted in a referral to Sauk County law enforcement, and ultimately, Red Hot Labradors LLC would be placed on a conditional license, with its dog seller license to be revoked on July 1, 2020. Why the operation was not shut down immediately is unclear; it is possible the officers were giving the breeder time to reduce his number of animals to an amount that would fall below the licensing threshold.

Even after receiving the warning, state records show that dogs were once again seen confined to the cramped temporary enclosures inside the home. On Jan. 17, 2020, a dog law compliance officer drove to the owner’s property to deliver enforcement letters. When she knocked on the door, she “could hear dogs barking.” After looking through the window, she noted, “It appeared that the barking dogs were coming from the crates lined up in the indoor walkway. I counted approximately 13 crates through the window [...] I also looked in the window to the kennel building and could observe additional crates but not able to tell if dogs were inside but did hear barking.”

On Jan. 24, 2020, an enforcement conference was conducted and “Zeman expressed that he does want to downsize the amount of breeding dogs but felt the condition stating that respondent shall not keep any dog in a temporary enclosure at any time was not acceptable. He stated that if he signed it now he would already not be in compliance of the order. [We] agreed to amend this particular condition to read that he is not allowed to keep dogs in temporary enclosures after March 1st 2020.” Zeman was then informed “that he was not allowed to keep the dogs in temporary enclosures over 12 hours at any time[...].”

According to the [state dog seller law](#), Zeman cannot sell more than 25 puppies or dogs a year after his license is revoked. However, this could still allow dozens of dogs to live in substandard conditions. As of April 1, 2020, [Red Hot Labradors](#) still had an active website and Facebook page and was offering dogs and puppies for sale. WI#412149.

METHODOLOGY

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

- The availability of state kennel inspection reports showing violations, or related documents received via public records requests.
- The availability of federal (USDA) kennel inspection reports showing violations, or related documents received via public records requests.
- Federal, state or county warnings or fines, if available.
- The quantity of violations found on state or federal inspection reports and/or the severity of violations, especially those affecting animal safety and health, and how recently the violations occurred.

- Whether a seller appears to be providing misleading or potentially fraudulent information to puppy buyers.
- Whether a facility's violations seemed newsworthy and of interest to the public.
- Whether the dealer was listed in one of the HSUS's prior reports and has continued to accumulate violations since then.
- The availability of consumer complaints, investigation reports, photographs or news articles; and
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business or in possession of an active license at the time of publication.

The large number of listings in certain states in this report is at least partly due to the greater availability of records in some states. States that do not inspect puppy mills at all have scant information available.

If a breeding facility is not listed in this report, it may be due to a lack of available records and/or a lack of information or space, not necessarily a lack of significant problems.

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

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

Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation or litigation.

DEFINITION OF A PUPPY MILL

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

BUYER BEWARE

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

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