

## **The Horrible Hundred 2018**

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

The year 2018 marks the sixth year in a row that the Humane Society of the United States is publishing a list of 100 problem puppy mills and dog sellers. Our past Horrible Hundred reports have garnered widespread awareness about cruel conditions at puppy mills, which are large pet breeding operations that focus on profit over animal welfare.

This year's report is similar to past years' reports in some ways: Missouri continues to have the largest number of puppy mills in the report for the sixth year in a row (23), followed by Ohio (13), Iowa (10) and Pennsylvania (nine). The most significant difference in our 2018 report is the lack of names for many of the dealers listed below, due to redactions made by the United States Department of Agriculture on its public Animal Welfare Act records; the redacted information conceals the subject of these records.

Over the 12 month period since we published our last report, USDA inspectors have continued to find conditions just as horrific as those in our prior reports, including dogs with open wounds, emaciated dogs with their ribs and spines showing, and dogs with moldy food, dirty water and filthy cages. The difference is that this year, we don't always know which operators have been found with such dreadful conditions. The suffering these animals face seems even more unjust, because most of the identities of their breeders have been kept secret by the USDA– the very agency charged with protecting dogs in puppy mills and keeping bad breeders in line.

Without this information, The HSUS and the general public cannot evaluate whether USDA is



A dog with a bulging eye was one of many with disturbing medical problems found at Samples Creek Kennel, a Missouri puppy mill owned by Pamela Baldwin, who has been in all five prior Horrible Hundred reports. Documents received in 2018 indicate that Baldwin sold at least a dozen puppies to Tiffanies, LLC. Tiffanies is a massive dog broker that ships puppies to pet stores across the country, including Petland, the largest chain of puppy-selling pet stores in the U.S. /MO Dept of Agriculture, 2017.

meeting its charge. Additionally, consumers cannot judge whether or not they are supporting an operation which has been found employing the harmful practices described in this report. Moreover, the lack of transparency can be a hinderance to law enforcement efforts in justisdictions that rely on inspection reports to determine compliance with state and local laws.

In some cases, our researchers were able to link a report that had redacted identification to a likely identity, based on comparing certain information. For example, we listed a likely name for some

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dealers based upon the fact that they were the only breeder or dealer licensed by the USDA in their town on the approximate date of the inspection. In other instances, we were able to link a more recent report that had redacted information to a prior, unredacted report using other specific,

identifying details. Those instances are marked with footnotes or in the text.

In addition to concealing the identities of licensed breeders, USDA also confirmed to our researchers by email<sup>1</sup> that the agency has not revoked any dog breeder licenses since the publication of our last Horrible Hundred report in May 2017.

The USDA removed most of the public enforcement records on puppy mills, and other types of regulated animal dealers, from its website on Feb. 3, 2017. Over the next several months, the USDA restored some records on other types of animal dealers, such as research animal dealers and large public zoos and aquariums, but



Photo: An injured and underweight dog in a licensed puppy mill that USDA refuses to name. Taken in late 2016, the photo was received in 2017 as part of an open public records request, but the breeder's identity was blacked out on the documents. /USDA.

most of the agency's online inspection reports of pet breeders still have the licensee's name, business name and license number blacked out. The agency initially claimed that the information would still be available via individual Freedom of Information Act requests sent directly to the agency, but the Humane Society of the United States submitted numerous requests and, only after substantial delay, received documents with similar redactions.

On March 21, 2018, we sued USDA for failing to release information in the Animal Welfare Act records we requested under the Freedom of Information Act<sup>2</sup>. The following day, Congress urged the USDA to restore the records as part of a report accompanying the agency's 2018 spending bill. But as of April 20, 2018, USDA had still not restored the records.

As a result of the USDA's redactions, only about three quarters of the breeders in this year's report are identified by name, and the others only by city and state. Our researchers were able to find names for most of the dealers listed using other documents, including state inspection reports from Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylavania and Wisconsin – none of which redacted vital information from the state records we received.

The USDA made some other very troubling moves in 2017 and 2018, including a potentially disastrous proposal to allow third party groups to inspect puppy mills and other types of animal dealers. This move could allow industry groups that have a financial stake in perpetuating puppy mills to be part of the inspection process, effectively putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. And

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Confirmed by a USDA representative via email, April 6, 2018

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As of April 20, 2018, the lawsuit was still pending. *See The Humane Society Of The United States v. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, et al*, No. 1:18CV00646 (D.D.C filed Mar. 21, 2018)

in April 2018, the USDA sent a letter to licensees stating that they were considering announcing some inspections in advance.

Perhaps the most disturbing change of all is that the USDA has virtually stopped revoking problematic dog breeder licenses. It is very unusual for the USDA not to revoke a single dog dealer license in almost a year. In 2016, for example, the USDA revoked the licenses of at least nine dog breeders who had repeatedly harmed the animals in their care.

Despite these disheartening changes, the injustices suffered by dogs in puppy mills must still be brought to light. The Horrible Hundred reports were never intended to be a list of all the puppy mills in the United States, or even a list of the worst puppy mills, since many of the worst puppy mills are never inspected at all. The report is a snapshot that depicts the breadth of the problem. With this snapshot, we hope to urge consumers and policy makers to do everything in their power to stop puppy mills.

#### What's new in this year's Horrible Hundred:

- 1. Missouri continues to have the largest number of puppy mills in the report, for the sixth year in a row (23), followed by Ohio (13), Iowa (10), and Pennsylvania (nine). Kansas and Wisconsin each have eight dealers in the report. Nebraska and New York each have six.
- 2. We've organized the puppy mills alphabetically by town or city under each state, instead of by breeder name.
- 3. More than one quarter of the breeder and/or kennel names in this report are unknown due to redactions by the USDA. For many of the breeders in this report, we only know the city, state and date of inspection, along with their violations. Because the USDA's online records are now so disordered and most cannot be linked to any specific individuals, there may be some cases where we listed a problem facility more than once due to an inability to link related reports by name.
- 4. In addition to approximately 25 breeders without an identity, an additional 19 of the breeders or dealers in the report are listed with a *probable* identity. These are licensees we believe we have identified by pairing noncompliant inspection reports in a particular town or city with a license list indicating that the facility was the only one licensed by USDA in that city and on that date, or by similar means of linking identifying information. These entries are marked in the report with a footnote.

Approximately one third of the breeders and dealers in this report are "repeat offenders" – dealers who have appeared in one or more of our past reports and yet have been found with additional violations or issues since we compiled our previous report. A few of the dealers have appeared in all five of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, yet are still in business in 2018. The percentage of repeat offenders is probably much higher, but because of the number of USDA reports that now have no names or license numbers on them, we were not able to link all problem reports to their dealers' histories.

A few states have been making strides in shutting down puppy mills. Of the 12 Pennsylvania puppy mills listed in our May 2017 Horrible Hundred report, three of them have had their licenses revoked or have closed down, including Celtic Farms and Kennels in Mohrsville, Garden Spot Puppy Haven in Parkesburg, and Runway Kennel in Gordonville. Shockingly, the owners of Garden Spot Puppy Haven, John and Betty Stoltzfus, are now facing animal cruelty charges for allegedly hanging two dogs at their kennel.

Perhaps nothing illustrates the cruelty and callousness of puppy mills more than the horrific act of hanging dogs simply because they were ill and needed care. According to news reports, the Stoltzfuses claimed that they hanged the dogs because they tested positive for canine brucellosis, and the owners didn't have time to take them to a veterinarian for professional euthanasia because they were heading to a "family event." Their kennel was reportedly under quarantine for the

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disease, which is becoming more common in commercial breeding operations, and can spread to cattle and humans.

Another disease that is becoming more common in puppy mills is Campylobacter, a bacterial infection that can also spread from puppies to humans. In January 2018, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded an investigation into a drug-resistant strain of Campylobacter that spread to 113 people in 17 states. At least 23 people were hospitalized. According to the CDC's outbreak advisory, the majority of people who were infected by the multi-drug-resistant strain of Campylobacter had recently had contact with a puppy from a Petland pet store. Investigations by the Humane Society of the United States have repeatedly proven the link between pet stores and puppy mills, and some researchers believe that dogs raised in commercial kennels have a higher incidence of antibiotic resistant diseases. This is likely due to the fact that dogs living in unsanitary environments must be repeatedly treated, eventually developing resistant bacteria.

Additional breeders who have shut down since the publication of our last report include Paul Urbanec/ Diamond in the Ruff of Pender, Nebraska, who had appeared in three of our previous reports, and Gary Felts/ Black Diamond Kennel in Kingsley, Iowa, who appeared in all five of our previous Horrible Hundred reports.

But for every kennel that has closed its doors since our last report was published, a new one has been added to the list. There is no shortage of candidates. In fact, there will be no end to puppy mills until laws are stronger, until swift enforcement becomes the rule instead of the exception, and until the public refuses to buy puppies from pet stores, online sites or other sources that don't allow them to meet the breeder of their puppy.

For information on our methodology, see the last section of this report. For information on how to get a puppy from a responsible breeder, see humanesociety.org/puppy.

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## THE HORRIBLE HUNDRED

## ARKANSAS

Mountainburg, Arkansas: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Frank Peck<sup>3</sup>, South Forty Kennel – <u>Dog had a "deep. open laceration." another had missing fur and sores. a</u> <u>third dog had clouded, crusty eyes.</u> The USDA cited South Forty Kennel in December 2017 for two "direct" violations involving a total of three dogs who had severe veterinary problems that had not been treated recently by a vet. The dogs included a female Cavalier King Charles spaniel who had cloudy eyes that were crusted, and one eye had discharge; the licensee said the dog had been treated for the issue "several years ago" but not recently; a female bichon who had thinning fur and "several moist red sores" around the base of her tail; and a female Yorkshire terrier who had a collar "hooked" under her front leg. The collar had clearly been like that for an extended period of time, because "when the collar was removed, inspectors noticed that the collar had rubbed a deep, open laceration into the right armpit, approximately 2 inches long and 1 inch wide." Inspectors noted that the dogs' conditions could be painful and the issues needed to be addressed quickly.

South Forty Kennel has a B license, which allows it to sell puppies bred on its own property and also by others to pet stores all over the United States.

New Hope, Arkansas: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Desiree and Lee Bogan, Bogan Ranch and Kennels<sup>4</sup> (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Puppy on wire flooring was chilled and</u> <u>lethargic: three other dogs needed medical care; inspectors found dirty conditions.</u> Desiree and Lee Bogan first appeared in our 2014 report after receiving two official warnings from USDA due to repeated issues with sick animals and dirty conditions. More recently, they were cited for a number of violations in October 2017, when a USDA inspector found two dogs with eye problems that had not been treated by a vet; a cairn terrier who was badly matted and had "debris caught in the mats and had matting under the tail with feces caught in the mats;" small puppies on wire flooring, one of whom was lethargic, which the inspector noted could be a result of "excessive cooling" after being on wire flooring instead of in a warm, sheltered area; feces and "standing waste" that wasn't being properly drained; and cluttered conditions.

In 2013 and earlier, the USDA cited this facility for repeated problems with animal care and sick animals, including dogs with severe ear infections, badly matted dogs and dogs with moldy food and dirty water. During one USDA inspection in April 2013 alone, 13 different problems were found, including a dog with "a thick accumulation of blackish colored material" in his ear who was seen repeatedly shaking his head, five severely matted dogs, excessive feces, "wet, caked and moldy food" and filthy conditions. In July 2013 and September 2013, the USDA issued an official warning to the Bogans for unsafe housing, dirty conditions and a lack of adequate veterinary care. USDA #71-A-0962. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Paris, Arkansas: Name withheld by USDA – <u>USDA inspector found 13 dogs in need of</u> veterinary care in one day; one dog had "labored breathing," two shih tzus had eyes crusted shut with greenish discharge; others were severely matted or had signs of infection. In May 2017, a USDA inspector found a total of 13 dogs in need of veterinary care at a Paris, Arkansas, breeding facility, the name of which USDA has concealed from its inspection

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Although the USDA had redacted the name on the inspection report, the report was for a dealer (B license), and, to the best of our knowledge, Frank Peck was the only dealer licensed by USDA in this town and state on the date of the inspection.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Although the USDA had redacted the name on the inspection report, to the best of our knowledge, this breeder was the only one actively licensed by USDA in New Hope, Arkansas, on the date inspected.

reports. Among the 13 animals in need of veterinary care, nine of the issues were listed as "Direct," indicating that the dogs needed to see a veterinarian as soon as possible. The issues included a Maltese with "labored breathing," who had so much dark material in his ears that it was blocking the ear canal, and who was also badly matted, with "mats around the lower legs [that] were stained yellow with matter stuck in the mats" and other areas that had "feces caught in the mats." In addition, several dogs had oozing eyes, including two shih tzus whose eyes were in such bad condition that they were crusted shut, and many dogs were badly matted or had signs of dental or eye infections.

In addition, according to the inspection report, "Upon entering the puppy building the inspector noticed a strong odor of dog feces and urine. After about ten minutes the inspector could feel a burning in the eyes and back of the throat from the odor and ammonia. Two adult dogs were observed with tearing of the eyes which could be attributed to the strong odor and ammonia in the building." The inspector also noted a Yorkie who could not stop spinning in circles, stating that the Yorkshire terrier "was observed spinning in its enclosure almost continuously for the duration of the time we were in the building [which was] about one hour. This is not normal behavior and can be a sign of physiological distress."

Due the USDA's redactions of vital information on the agency's public records, our researchers were not able to link a name, business name or license number to this kennel.

## **FLORIDA**

Miami, Florida: Beverly Hills Puppies, Inc. – <u>Online seller and "AKC" breeder kept panting</u> <u>bulldogs in sweltering 99.6 degree building; inspectors found underweight and injured</u> <u>dogs; one dog was frantically spinning in circles; cited repeatedly for inadequate</u> <u>veterinary care</u>. Beverly Hills Puppies, Inc. sells puppies online, via BeverlyHillsPuppies.com, PuppyFind.com and on social media, including Facebook.

During visits in February, March, May and June of 2017, USDA inspectors found a number of serious violations at Beverly Hill Puppies, including dogs who were panting in buildings that were almost 100 degrees Fahrenheit with high humidity, dogs with their ribs showing and dogs with visible injuries. Inspectors also found a female bull terrier who was spinning frantically in her enclosure in an abnormal manner, and who wasn't treated for her distressing condition even after the business was warned about the problem. During a June 2017 inspection, the operation had 55 dogs at the facility, and was cited for having no veterinarian visit to the facility since March 2016. Quotes from USDA inspection reports include the following:

"The single housed adult female Bull Terrier is exhibiting abnormal repetitive (stereotypic) behavior. During the inspection on June 28, 2017, & June 29, 2017, this dog was observed spinning in circles repeatedly in a fast motion. The care takers were unaware of what care this dog has received from the last inspection..."

"During the February 7, 2017, inspection the adult female English bulldog named Elizabeth (microchip #900085000072610) had an injury she received about two weeks prior by going under some damaged fencing with sharp edges. The wound was approximately 1/2" deep and 3" to 4" long and an inch wide is located at the left front rib area behind her shoulder appears to be healed. The wound now appears to be healed, however there was no written documentation available to show this dog was seen by the attending veterinarian as cited during the February 7, 2017, inspection."

"During this inspection on June 28, 2017, and June 29, 2017, the adult French bulldog named Madonna (microchip #9000085000072632) and an adult female French bulldog

name Rima had an occurrence of diarrhea in their enclosures. Madonna was observed thin, dull coat, and ribs [visibly] showing. The care takers were asked by [the visiting veterinary officer] how long they had diarrhea and they stated about 2 weeks off and on."

"This facility has not provided adequate veterinary care for its dogs under this section 2.40(b)(2) during previous inspections on 11/24/14, 7/16/15, and 2/7/17."

"On June 28, 2017, at 11:00 am, the indoor kennel was not being sufficiently cooled to protect the dogs from high temperatures and humidity for their health and well being. The ambient temperature in the indoor kennel was 99.6 F, with high humidity level of 70%. Most all of the dogs during this inspection were panting..."

"During the inspection on June 29, 2017, at 12:30 pm, the ambient temperature was from 98.7 F and 99.6, with a high humidity level of 75%. Again most the dogs were panting some heavier than others. The adult female English Bulldog Elizabeth (#9000850000072610) was panting [and] laying down in the kennel with foam around her mouth and on the floor from heavy salivation."

"During this inspection on June 28, 2017, and June 29, 2017, nearly all enclosures at this kennel had [...] 3 to 5 occurrences or more of soft piles of stool. There are many dogs at this kennel appear to be slightly thin with dry and dull coats and some were observed scratching."

"During this inspection of this kennel on June 28, 2017, and June 29, 2017, there were excessive amounts of excreta in most of the dog enclosures."

Despite identifying itself as a breeder on its website, the operation is licensed with USDA under a B license, which means it may breed some of its own dogs and also re-sell puppies bred by others. One inspection in March 2018 was compliant. USDA # 58-B-0615.

## **GEORGIA**

Meigs, Georgia: Patti West, Lorrains [SIC] Yorkies (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Continued to</u> <u>have overwhelming odor and matted dogs despite warnings from inspectors; offers to</u> <u>ship puppies to buyers sight-unseen but is not licensed to do so by USDA.</u> Even after appearing in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report due to overwhelmingly foul odors, matted dogs and other problems, Lorrains Yorkies continued to be cited for some of the same problems as recently as August 2017. An August 2017 state inspection showed that the Georgia Department of Agriculture renewed Patti West's kennel license even though an overwhelming smell permeated the room and many of the dogs were matted – issues that West had been warned about in the past. The inspector wrote, "[Regarding] the strong ammonia odor in the puppy room. We have discussed this in the past. [Ms. West] is currently leaving the windows open at night until 12:00 the next day. At that time she turns on the AC and closes the window. The smell is overwhelming, and I have instructed her to consult an HVAC contractor before my return [visit]." Even after noting these violations, the inspection reported stated, "the license has been renewed." We could find no evidence that a follow-up inspection ever occurred, as of March 2018.

As we noted in our 2017 report, in June 2016, state records show that Lorrains Yorkies was inspected and investigated by several individuals at once, including representatives from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, county animal control, local law enforcement and the director of a local humane society. A report from the Georgia Department of Agriculture states, "[Inspector] was accompanied by law enforcement because they were looking for, and had a search warrant to look for, stolen dogs. Upon inspection/investigation six (6) of the stolen/microchipped dogs were

recovered by law enforcement. Upon my inspection it was noted, and violations were issued for the following: the smell of ammonia [urine/feces] was so overwhelming in the puppy room outside that masks had to be worn for the inspection. [It] is noted that most of the adult dogs are matted and filthy. The outside ambient temp of the pens was 95 degrees. There are no records kept at all according to Ms. West. There are no records at all indicating where the dogs have come from, and where they have gone to. I have issued a STOP ORDER until these issues are resolved. It is noted that Ms. West was arrested by Colquitt County Sheriff's Dept." (June 28, 2016.)

Consumer complaints, which we have not verified, are online at Ripoffreport.com.

We could find no record that authorities ever charged West with receiving stolen property, theft or any other crime related to the allegedly stolen dogs, but a news report on the case states that the dogs were linked to West after a DNA test: http://www.walb.com/story/32349311/stolen-dogs-recovered-thanks-to-dna-test.

As of April 12, 2018, West advertises puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com and on her own website (lorrainsyorkies.com), which offers to ship a puppy to the airport of the buyer's choice—but West does not appear to have an active USDA license, which would be required to legally ship puppies as pets sight-unseen. GA #36104933. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Nashville, Georgia: Craig Gray, Georgia Puppies – <u>Massive dealer with 450 dogs was</u> <u>cited by state for dogs housed permanently in temporary enclosures: dogs found without</u> <u>adequate space</u>. Georgia Puppies is a massive dog dealer that had approximately 450 dogs, according to the most recent available state inspection report (February 2018). In February 2018, a state inspector failed the dealer for structural issues, noting that dogs in a large outdoor building had "outgrown their provided space" and required "larger permanent enclosures." The inspector also noted that "there are several buildings at this facility [where] dogs are housed in temporary enclosures permanently." The dealer was given a violation for "structural strength" and instructed to transfer dogs to permanent enclosures. This appears to indicate that a number of dogs were found living permanently in crates or crate-like enclosures rather than in adequate dog runs. There are significant concerns that such a massive operation could be overcrowded.

Georgia Puppies offers puppies for sale via its own website, and through online breeder classified sites like PuppyFind.com. The operation's PuppyFind page, as of March 28, 2018, had many different puppies listed, along with an offer to ship them to "select areas." The operation also has a Facebook page where it regularly posts photos of puppies for sale and answers inquiries by private message. The operation does not appear to have a USDA license. GA license #36102005.

## ILLINOIS

Humboldt, Illinois: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Clifford E. Herschberger<sup>5</sup> – <u>Thin puppy who had diarrhea for a week had not been taken to a veterinarian; inspectors</u> <u>found "buildup of dirt and grime."</u> In July 2017, a USDA inspector found a sickly puppy at Herschberger's facility who had not been treated by a veterinarian. "There is a Boxer puppy (approximately 8 wks old) that is thin in appearance and had loose diarrhea, that appeared to have some blood in it," the inspector wrote. "While the diarrhea had been noticed over the past week, there has been no treatment, or contact with the veterinarian for proper diagnosis or treatment." The inspector insisted that the licensee take the puppy to a veterinarian. In addition to the underweight puppy, the inspector found dirty conditions, noting: "There are several primary enclosure walls and 4 feeders that have a moderate buildup of brown dirt/grime on the walls, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Although the licensee's name was redacted on the inspection report, to the best of our knowledge this breeder was the only pet breeder licensed by the USDA in the town specified on date(s) of the inspection.

inside the feeder troughs. While the enclosures are [allegedly] cleaned 2 time[s] a day, the sanitation schedule is only once per 3 weeks. This is too long of a time period to wait to sanitize and clean properly. A buildup of dirt and grime can be a source of bacteria which can cause possible health issues."

## INDIANA

Greens Fork, Indiana: Name withheld by USDA–Puppy found dead in water bowl had bloody wounds; another dog with a large wound had not been treated by a veterinarian; puppies did not have adequate shelter from the wind and rain. In August 2017, a USDA inspector found a gruesome sight in a Greens Fork, Indiana, breeding operation. The inspector wrote: "A puppy was observed drowned in its water bowl. This small, eight week old, female, American Eskimo puppy was observed singly housed yesterday. Today, it shared an enclosure with a fully grown, approximately 35 pound, female Shiba inu mix. The puppy was fully submerged in blood tinged water, eyes bulging, with agonal convulsions when this inspector pulled her out of the water bowl. It was too late, she was dead. The puppy had bloody bite wounds on her head and body. The Shiba inu had blood on its chest. It is unknown exactly how the puppy ended up in the water bowl, or if she was alive prior to entering the water. Regardless of these details, clearly this young puppy was attacked by the older adult dog resulting in her death."

The inspector noted that it is a violation of the Animal Welfare Act regulations to keep young puppies in enclosures with unrelated adult dogs. The puppy's injuries and death could have been avoided with more careful monitoring of the dogs in the facility, a practice that is typically lacking in large, commercial dog breeding operations, where dozens or even hundreds of dogs often receive very little supervision.

The terrible death of the American Eskimo puppy was not the only severe violation found at the kennel. The previous day, a USDA inspector found several problems at the same operation, including an injured Akita, which was described as follows: "The female Akita [...] has a large wound on her left shoulder. It occurred about three weeks ago when she tried to jump the fence. She has not been examined by a veterinarian," the inspector noted. In addition, "in the exercise yard, the dogs have dug holes under the fence that allow them to escape. During inspection, one Shiba inu mix and three husky mixes escaped out of the yard. A few weeks ago, the Akita female climbed one of the fences and became entangled at the top, injuring her shoulder."

The inspector also found issues that were ongoing after a prior inspection in May 2016. The inspector wrote, "In May 2016, the dogs in the kennel had their teeth evaluated and scored by the attending veterinarian. At that time, several dogs [needed dental care]. It was recommended these dogs have their teeth cleaned and that all dogs be evaluated again in November 2016. At the time of [today's] inspection [in August 2017], none of the dogs have had dental cleanings nor were they evaluated last November."

The inspector also found puppies without adequate space or protection from the weather: "The puppies in the outdoor enclosure do not have adequate shelter. Nine large breed puppies have been in this enclosure for the past month. One portable kennel is present. All of the puppies cannot fit into it, nor is it sufficient to provide protection from wind/rain, as the holes in the sides and open front door would not adequately protect the puppies from inclement weather."

Finally, the inspector found unsanitary conditions and a strong odor, noting: "Urine and feces accumulates in the area under the elevated outdoor pens and needs to be cleaned. A strong odor is apparent when near this area."

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#### Montgomery, Indiana: Name withheld by USDA- <u>Underweight boxers had their ribs and</u> hip bones showing, flaking skin, and crusty eyes; another dog had explosive diarrhea for

weeks. On Jan. 30, 2018, a USDA inspector found two female boxers at an unidentified Montgomery, Indiana, breeding operation. The dogs had flakey, dry skin with some reddened areas, "irritation in both ears," and were underweight with their ribs and hips prominent. In addition, both dogs had "a build-up of green/yellow material surrounding both eyes." The inspection report noted that although a veterinarian had been contacted about the two boxers "over 6 weeks ago," the veterinarian had only prescribed a shampoo, the dogs were not improving, and the licensee had not contacted the vet again to discuss further treatment. The inspector also noted that a Boston terrier, described as a black and white male, had "explosive diarrhea" that also had not been adequately treated. The dog had been given a treatment two weeks prior, but the treatment was not working and nothing further had been done, according to the inspection report.

The licensee was directed to correct the problem by Feb. 5, 2018. But it appears that the USDA did not check up on any treatment that the dogs received for almost a month. A focused, follow-up inspection report was dated Feb. 27, 2018. At that time the inspector verified that she had contacted the breeder's veterinarian, who claimed the dogs had received the required treatment. It appears that the USDA did not physically verify this.

Odon, Indiana: Name withheld by USDA- Puppies found in sweltering kennel building with heat index of 103 degrees were lying on their backs, panting heavily with signs of heat stress; second building had a heat index of 108 degrees with more dogs panting heavily inside; one nursing mother found "lying flat out and panting." In September 2017, a USDA inspector found a very distressing sight at an Odon, Indiana, breeding operation. Dogs were found in two kennel buildings, both of which had a heat index over 100 degrees and very little ventilation. A whelping building had a heat index of 103 and a building housing additional dogs had a heat index of 108 degrees Fahrenheit. According to the inspection report, dogs in both kennels "were panting heavily throughout the inspection," and the dogs were of a short-nosed breed that "are very susceptible to respiratory distress from heat stress when environmental temperatures are high." The inspector spotted one female with puppies who "was lying flat out and panting heavily (signs of heat stress)" while "the neighboring enclosure contained 8 pups that were lying on their back[s] and side[s], separated from each other and panting, so they were also showing signs of heat stress." In addition, the inspector noted filthy conditions, with a heavy fly infestation. The inspector also noted that the licensee refused to sign the inspection report, as is normally required at the end of an inspection.

Reelsville, Indiana: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Mark D. Lynch, LBL Kennels<sup>6</sup> – <u>Inspectors found five dogs in need of veterinary care including dogs with runny, red</u> eyes and signs of dental disease. In October 2017, a USDA inspector found five dogs in need of veterinary care at LBL Kennels. The dogs were all hound breeds who had runny eyes and/or signs of dental disease. One dog had "clear to opaque discharge" coming from the eyes and "the lower lids of both eyes appear [to roll] inward causing the hair to have contact with the globe." Another dog had a left eye that "appeared red, with yellow/green discharge adhered to the lower lid," as well as overgrown nails and teeth that were "covered with a thick layer of brown-to-grey material, with slightly swollen gums." A third dog had eyes that were reddish and hazy. The inspector noted, "Eye problems are painful and may lead to blindness if left untreated."

In addition, the inspector found that the breeder used a powdered insecticide, "Sevin %5 dust," which the dogs were exposed to via "their skin, eyes and as an inhalant" and that could be dangerous to the dogs because it wasn't included in the approved veterinary plan.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> To the best of our knowledge, Lynch/LBL was the only USDA licensed breeder in Reelsville, Indiana, at the time of the USDA inspection.

## **IOWA**

Ackworth, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Helene Hamrick, Wolf Point Kennel<sup>7</sup> (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Dogs had live maggots crawling in their food; dog's feet</u> <u>were falling through gridded flooring; licensee received prior official warning from USDA.</u> During a June 2017 visit, a USDA inspector found contaminated food in at least three of the feeders at Wolf Point Kennel, including "live maggots, live beetle larvae, skins of larvae that had pupated, and at least one live adult beetle." The inspector also found three different repeat violations in February 2017, including a repeat violation for expired medication, a housing violation and a violation for a shih tzu whose feet were repeatedly falling through "Tenderfoot" flooring, a type of gridded flooring which can entrap and injure paws.</u>

Wolf Point Kennel's Helene Hamrick appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report due to a Jan. 14, 2016, Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations received from USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations related to a repeated failure to let inspectors in the kennel and veterinary care violations. Inspectors visited Wolf Point Kennel nine times between December 2013 and December 2015, but were only given access to the kennel four times out of the nine visits, a significant repeat violation of the Animal Welfare Act. "No access" violations are a significant concern because inspectors can go many months or even years with no ability to check on the welfare of the dogs. During most of the visits that inspectors were able to complete, violations were found. Issues found in 2015 included a shih tzu with eye and dental issues and a "red lumpy swelling" in his mouth (July 2015), a bichon with signs of advanced dental disease (July 2015), a bichon with "thick, dense areas of matted hair" along his body and "green discharge" on his eye, and two other dogs who were so severely matted that they had balls of densely matted hair dangling off their bodies (February 2015). In February 2016, four dogs were found in need of medical care, according to inspection reports. USDA #42-A-0124; IA #149. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Bloomfield, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA- <u>Dead Chihuahua found with large, open</u> <u>wound had gone unnoticed by the licensee.</u> On Sept. 12, 2017, a USDA inspector found "a deceased female Chihuahua" in the outdoor section of a kennel in Bloomfield, Iowa. The dog had apparently gone unnoticed by the licensee. The inspector wrote, "The dog is located at the end of the enclosure lying on her right side up against the enclosure gate. There is a large, circular open wound in the lower left side of the abdomen directly in front of the left hind leg. The licensee said this dog tended to have intermittent issues with uterine infections during the time she has been at the facility." The licensee, when asked, noted he had not specifically checked on the outside portion of the kennel the day before to monitor the dogs in that area. During the same inspection, two other Chihuahuas were found with severely overgrown nails, and one of the dogs had such severely curved nails that "the dewclaws on both front legs have grown completely around and are nearly touching the back of the digit." These problems indicate a significant lack of oversight of the animals at the facility. USDA license, # unknown.

Cincinnati, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Henry Sommers<sup>8</sup> (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Multiple repeat violations</u>; Yorkie had foot swollen to twice its normal size; <u>puppy had swollen eyelids with yellow discharge; bichon had open wound on her neck.</u> Since the publication of our last report, the USDA has found repeat violations at an operation we believe is owned by Henry Sommers, who appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> To the best of our knowledge, Hamrick was the only USDA licensed dog breeder in Ackworth, Iowa, at the time of the USDA inspections.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> To the best of our knowledge, Henry Sommers was the only USDA licensed breeder in Cincinnati, Iowa, during the first half of 2017.

Sommers has repeatedly been found with animals in need of veterinary care and dangerous housing.

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, one of the most severe kinds of violations the USDA can find, 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 the licensee 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.

During the time of the February and May 2017 inspections, Henry Sommers was the only USDAlicensed breeder in Cincinnati, Iowa, which is how we linked him to his inspection reports even though the USDA had redacted his name and license number from those records. As of March 2018, he was one of three USDA licensed breeders in Cincinnati, Iowa. Consequently, even though the USDA has published reports listing similar violations at a Cincinnati breeding operation in December 2017 and February 2018, we were unable to definitively link the December 2017 report and February 2018 report to Sommers due to the USDA's redactions of names and license numbers from the publically available reports. The other two licensed breeders in the same town are David E. Lee and Melvin Miller/Windy Knoll Kennel.

As we noted in our previous Horrible Hundred report, 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. On May 25, the USDA inspector verified that the puppy had been treated, but when federal inspectors returned for another inspection on June 1, the licensee was on the property but refused to allow the inspectors to conduct their review, according to USDA records. During subsequent visits, USDA found four Yorkies with hair loss around their ears, and some had dark crusting and scabs on their ears (June 6, 2016). Three dogs had signs of advanced dental disease (June 6, 2016). A Maltese-Yorkie puppy had "severe crusting" and matting around both eyes, which was so problematic that one of the eyes could not be visualized (June 6, 2016). The report also notes various unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Two of the Yorkies with hair loss, crusting and scabs on their ears and some of the dogs with dental disease still had not been treated when the inspector visited again 10 days later. In addition, USDA inspectors made another attempted visit on June 13, 2016, and were again turned away by residents of the property.

Violations noted in our 2016 report included a very thin Yorkshire terrier whose "shoulder blades, ribs, hip bones and spinal column were easily felt with little body fat covering them," and who also had significant dental disease and loose teeth (March 2016). Another Yorkshire terrier had "red abrasions/wounds along her side" and dried blood stuck in her fur (March 2016). Inspectors also

noted moldy food and filthy and unsafe conditions (March 2016). In January 2016, USDA noted a "strong animal waste odor" so pungent that "one inspector felt a burning sensation in her eyes and the other inspector felt a burning sensation in her throat." USDA found multiple dogs in need of veterinary care in 2015, including a Yorkie who was holding up one back foot; the inspector noted the foot was swollen and abraded and that one of the nails had curled all the way around and into the toe pad (November 2015). In addition, several dogs were found with such advanced dental disease that they had missing teeth and/or could no longer hold their tongues inside their mouths (October 2015); and USDA found a dog with "mucus accumulating below both eyes" and discolorations on the eyes (October 2015). In September 2014, a USDA inspector found that a veterinarian hadn't visited the facility since 2012, and a Boston terrier was limping; photographs from the USDA show filthy cages and excessive feces.

USDA #42-A-1329. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Ionia, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be David Horning<sup>9</sup>- Fifteen dogs found in need of care during March 2018 USDA inspection included a dog with a bleeding mouth, a dog with a red and oozing eye, dogs with patches of missing hair and irritated skin, many dogs with dental disease and two dogs with injured feet; USDA listed most of the issues under a single "Direct" violation. In March 2018, the USDA paid a visit to David Horning's breeding operation and found multiple dogs with painful-looking veterinary or grooming concerns. The dogs in need of care included a bichon frise who had significant dental disease and who had blood around her mouth, a cavalier spaniel with an inflamed eye that was "completely red" on the part of the eye that should have been white and that had a cloudy discharge, and a Yorkie with an "extensive area of hair loss" and flaky skin. The inspection report also noted that an English bulldog had an open lesion on her paw, and a shih tzu had reddened skin around her neck and chest, thinning hair and crusty material near her ears. In addition, several dogs had signs of dental disease, matted fur and/or feces-like material clumped in the fur, severely overgrown nails and other issues. Altogether, 15 dogs were found in need of care, and 14 of them had issues that needed to be evaluated by a veterinarian, according to the inspection report, yet the USDA cited the breeder with only a single "direct" violation.

A direct violation is one of the most serious violations that a USDA inspector can give, because it indicates an animal was found in need of care in the very near future. Yet citing Horning with only one violation for 14 injured dogs seems grossly inaccurate.

The facility has approximately 200 dogs and puppies, according to the recent inspection report.

**Ireton, Iowa: Dean Dekkers, Double D Kennels – <u>Dogs with unsafe housing; inadequate</u> <u>space; excessive feces; failure to obtain enough adult staff to care for 90 dogs.</u> During a state inspection on Nov. 7, 2017, Double D Kennels received only "conditional" approval by the state after it failed to meet a number of basic state requirements, including requirements for sound structures, adequate ventilation, adequate space, adequate waste disposal, as well as a lack of veterinary oversight and other problems. The inspector also noted that the facility apparently didn't have enough staff to properly care for all of the 90 dogs and puppies on the property. The kennel had also received "conditional" approval the prior year for several very similar concerns. After the November 2017 "conditional" inspection, the kennel did pass a follow-up inspection, but not because they hired additional staff; the owners simply told their inspector that their children would be required to help out more. State #106.** 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Although there was no name on the online inspection report, to the best of our knowledge David Horning was the only USDA-licensed breeder in Ionia, Iowa, at the time of the inspection.

Knoxville, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Tim Galeazzi, Double G Kennels<sup>10</sup>– Inspector found emaciated shih tzu nursing six puppies and emaciated poolle who appeared "depressed and lethargic" with little body fat or muscle, puppies on unsafe wire flooring. In November 2017, a USDA inspector found two severely underweight dogs at Double G Kennels. Both dogs, according to the inspection report, had "an emaciated body condition" with little to no body fat or muscle, and hips, backbone, ribs and shoulder blades that were "prominent and easily felt." The underweight dogs were noted as a "direct" violation. In addition, the shih tzu, a female, was found nursing six puppies. Her low body weight potentially put both mother and puppies at risk. The poolle, also a female, appeared "depressed and lethargic," according to the USDA report. Neither dog had been evaluated by a veterinarian for their poor body condition. In addition to the two underweight animals, inspectors found a potential burn risk in some of the enclosures, where four adult dogs and approximately 18 puppies were found near heat lamps that were close enough for them to touch, and 23 puppies were found housed in unsafe enclosures that allowed their feet and legs to pass through the wire flooring—a significant risk for entrapment or injury.

In March 2018, USDA inspectors returned to the operation, and found a repeat violation for another veterinary issue: a Chihuahua was found with "excessively long" nails that were "starting to develop a severe curve." Overgrown nails, according to the inspection report, could "interfere with the ability of the dog to stand normally and can get caught in the wire cage flooring causing injury to the dog's foot." In addition, the inspector found some dogs in the whelping area who did not have adequate head space.

Double G Kennels holds a USDA Class B dealer license, which means it is licensed to sell puppies bred by others (for example, to pet stores) in addition to puppies raised on its own property. The operation also sells puppies through its own website and via PuppyFind.com, a website that we have repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills. USDA license, # unknown; state #11164.

Lucas, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA<sup>11</sup> – <u>Inspector found 17 dogs needing veterinary</u> care; ten of them disappeared before the next inspection. Dogs had infections and injuries; one "cried out" in pain while being handled. The USDA has been to visit a facility in Lucas, Iowa, again and again throughout 2017, finding dogs in need of veterinary care repeatedly. On May 8, 2017, an inspector found no fewer than 17 animals who needed some form of veterinary care, including a dog with an injured foot, dogs with severe dental disease, and issues such as severely impacted, matted fur encasing large parts of the dogs' bodies. When the inspector returned two days later on May 10, he noted that some of the animals had been treated, but 10 of the animals who had needed care were "no longer at the facility." There was no mention in the inspection report of what had happened to the 10 dogs, or whether they were even still alive. For example, one of the missing dogs was a male Yorkshire terrier that the inspector noted had such bad dental disease that he had a pus-like discharge coming from his gums and under his eye. The inspector wrote, "There is a hard mass above the upper left cheek teeth that the licensee had not noticed. When the inspector gently pushed on the mass a creamy yellow discharge came out between the eyeball and the lower eye lid."

Another animal who was missing at the next inspection was a female shih tzu who was so heavily matted that all four of her legs and all four paws were heavily encased in "large, heavy, dense" mats, and matted fur was "tightly bound against the skin" near her ears. Another dog who disappeared was a male shih tzu with a raw, open wound on his paw.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Although the name was redacted on the USDA inspection report, to the best of our knowledge Tim Galeazzi/ Double G Kennels was the only USDA-licensed B dealer in Knoxville, Iowa, at the time of the USDA inspection.
<sup>11</sup> To the best of our knowledge, there were only two USDA-licensed breeders in Lucas, IA during the time of the inspection: Carol Stroud and Daniel and Evelyn Ryan.

At the same inspection, a male Chihuahua was found with signs of dental infection and was in such discomfort that the inspector wrote: "When the inspector made contact with the dog's mouth he would pull away and thrash about and the dog cried out while the inspectors were examining the mouth."

The USDA did not mention any warning or charges related to the fact that dogs in need of medical care had disappeared from the kennel. The inspectors did make additional visits, and determined that the male Chihuahua and some of the other animals received treatment; however, some of the animals still had not been treated as of a Sept. 26, 2017, follow-up visit – more than four months later. USDA license, *#* unknown.

New Sharon, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA<sup>12</sup>– <u>Dogs in need of veterinary care included</u> <u>two German shepherds with raw, open wounds; repeat violation for lack of adequate</u> <u>veterinary care</u>. When a USDA inspector visited a New Sharon, Iowa, breeder in June 2017, he found several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a female dachshund with signs of advanced dental disease, a female miniature pinscher with an eye problem, and two German shepherds with open wounds. When asked what was being done to treat the German shepherds, the licensee produced a bottle of ointment that had expired almost four years previously, and two other medications that had expired more than a year previously. The dogs had not been taken to a vet.

During a follow-up visit in January 2018, the inspector noted that the four dogs found in need of veterinary care during the June 2017 inspection had been evaluated by a veterinarian, but also noted additional, new issues to be addressed. These issues were a repeat violation for a Chihuahua with signs of dental infection, and another violation for an excessive build-up of feces that covered several of the outdoor areas of the kennel. USDA license, # unknown

Sioux Center, Iowa: Shaggy Hill Farm – <u>Unlicensed kennel; believed to have over 140</u> <u>dogs, yet failed to let state inspector on property</u>. In January 2018, a state inspector arrived at Shaggy Hill Farm to inspect the kennel after a prior "consultation" at the unlicensed kennel in August 2017 had found over 100 dogs, plus 43 puppies, and unacceptable conditions. The facility was disapproved for a license at the 2018 visit because the inspector was not allowed in, yet the inspector noted they could hear "multiple dogs barking." The fact that dogs were still at the kennel is a significant concern because of issues found at the August 2017 "consultation." At that visit, state inspectors noted that the building's structure was not up to code, there was no isolation plan for sick animals, the operation had inadequate records on the dogs, and there were no adequate arrangements with a veterinarian to care for the animals. 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, but to our knowledge, the dogs are still on the property and authorities expressed to HSUS that they felt no laws were being broken. Former state ID #11102.

Unionville, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Fox Creek Kennels aka Iowa Fox Creek Kennels<sup>13</sup> – <u>Great Danes found in 7 degree weather with their water bowls</u> <u>frozen solid (January 2018); Great Dane found in emaciated condition with ribs and</u> <u>backbone showing.</u> The USDA has only two licensed dog breeding operations in Unionville, Iowa, and only one of them is known to specialize in Great Danes and mastiffs: Fox Creek Kennels. Fox Creek Kennels lists only Great Danes and mastiffs for sale on its website,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> To the best of our knowledge, there were only two USDA-licensed breeders in New Sharon, Iowa, at the time of the inspection: Carol Beyer of Beyer Kennel, and Dennis and Donna Van Wyk of Prairie Lane Kennel. Due to the USDA redactions, it is not possible to determine which kennel incurred these violations.
<sup>13</sup> To the best of our knowledge, at the time of the inspection, there were only two USDA licensed breeders in Unionville, Iowa: Fox Creek Kennels and Hillside Kennels. Fox Creek Kennels is known to specialize in Great Danes and mastiffs, and dogs described in the USDA inspection were found on the Fox Creek Kennels website.

iowafoxcreekkennels.com. Sadly, USDA inspection reports (with breeder names redacted but with the same city, state and breeds listed as sold by Fox Creek Kennels) indicate that Great Danes have been found in terrible conditions at the kennel. For example, on Aug. 28, 2017, a USDA inspector wrote: "Female Great Dane ('Chelsea,' microchip # 7E10227518) has an emaciated body condition. The hips, backbone, ribs and shoulder blades are prominent and easily seen beneath the hair coat and there is little body fat covering the animal." Chelsea is one of the breeding females pictured on Fox Creek Kennels' website (accessed on March 1, 2018). In January 2018, a USDA inspector found Great Danes in outdoor enclosures in 7 degree weather at a Unionville, Iowa, kennel where a majority of the water bowls were completely frozen. One Great Dane was seen licking the snow and another was seen "licking the ice in the water receptacle," according to the inspection report. When the inspector told the licensee to give the dogs drinkable water, they drank profusely, according to the report. In addition, during the same visit, five mastiff puppies were found in a shelter that was far too small for them.

## **KANSAS**

Baileyville, Kansas: Tim Deters, Dusty Roads Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Problem</u> <u>breeder with ~200 dogs dropped USDA license after years of violations, yet still offering</u> <u>puppies sight-unseen on PuppyFind.com without a federal license</u>. Tim Deters appeared in our Horrible Hundred reports in 2013 and 2014 when he was still USDA licensed, due to multiple violations for issues such as underweight animals, severely matted dogs, unsafe conditions, and sick or injured dogs who had not been treated by a veterinarian. Deters was issued a citation and penalty from USDA in 2013 for more than \$8,100 due to a number of violations.

Deters's USDA license was cancelled in January 2014, but he immediately acquired a new USDA license and a new customer number under the name Dusty Road Kennel, which also appears to have been cancelled in 2016. As of April 2018, there are no USDA licensed breeders under the name Deters or Dusty Roads Kennel in the state of Kansas. Nevertheless, Deters remains state licensed under the name "Nancy and Tim Deters, Dusty Roads Kennel."

With a state license but no federal license, Deters is only permitted to sell puppies directly to the public – not to brokers, pet stores or online sight-unseen. Nevertheless, as of April 5, 2018, Dusty Roads Kennel had 11 puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com, a website that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills and unlicensed breeders. The kennel also offers puppies on its own website, dustyroadpuppies.com. On its PuppyFind ads, Dusty Roads Kennel offers to ship puppies anywhere in the United States. Breeders who ship puppies sight-unseen are required to be licensed and inspected by the USDA if they have more than five breeding female dogs. Deters' most recent Kansas state inspection noted that he had approximately 200 dogs and puppies.

A state inspection in November 2017 was compliant, but the history of problems at the kennel is concerning. Violations at Dusty Roads Kennel included two state violations for "no contact" in October 2017, and violations for a housing issue and incomplete records in April 2017. In January 2016, a state inspector who was responding to a complaint found a shih tzu puppy who appeared lethargic and had pale gums. In March 2012 a USDA inspector documented a Yorkshire terrier with a broken jaw who had not been adequately treated; her lower jaw moved freely from side to side, a condition the inspector noted "can be painful, lead to a decrease in appetite, and infection in the mouth."

The Kansas Department of Agriculture has a history of relicensing even the most problematic dog breeders, including some whose licenses have been revoked or cancelled by the United States Department of Agriculture. KS lic # CB001MZH; Former USDA numbers: #48-A-2150, USDA #48-A-1801. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Chapman, Kansas: Dorothy Stewart, Stewart Ranch (also owns Dorothy's Pet Shop, Junction City)—<u>State inspectors repeatedly found puppies with ribs, hip or tail bones</u> <u>protruding, filthy and unsafe conditions</u>. According to state records, Dorothy Stewart breeds and sells dogs via her own pet store. Underweight or ill puppies were found at her breeding operation during at least three state inspections in 2017. The facility failed an August 2017 inspection for a long list of problems, including two Great Dane puppies who had "ribs [and] tailbones prominent [with] big bellies," which could be a symptom of malnutrition or parasites. The owner failed the August inspection but was re-inspected in October, at which point she passed her inspection even though one of the puppies was still underweight with "prominent back, rib and hip bones." A February 2017 inspection also found a "Great Dane puppy (runt) on [the] thin side" as well as a Yorkie with eye discharge. Approximately 70 dogs were present at the facility during the February 2017 inspection.

During multiple visits in 2016 and at least one visit in 2015, Kansas state inspectors found repeated evidence of poor conditions at Stewart Ranch. In August 2016, an inspector found multiple repeat violations for issues such as unsafe, dirty conditions; an underweight boxer; a Pyrenees with an open wound, and another dog with matted fur and weepy eyes who needed to be seen by a vet. In July 2016, additional repeat violations were found, including four enclosures that were "saturated" with feces, a dog with a wound that had not been treated by a vet, housekeeping issues, pest problems, and dogs in dank conditions who were soaking wet. In March 2016, dogs were found without adequate protection from the wind, rain and cold. KS lic# CB000J04.

Clyde, Kansas: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Connie Fahey<sup>14</sup>, Precious Puppies Kennels aka Connie's Precious Puppies—<u>Poodle found "curled up in the corner" had a</u> <u>disintegrating jaw and open holes in his mouth; dogs also had greenish water,</u> <u>inadequate protection from the cold</u>. In December 2017, the USDA gave Fahey a direct violation, one of its most urgent categories, 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 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 inspector also found a number of unsafe housing conditions and greenish build-up in some of the dogs' water bowls during the December visit.

During a prior visit in April 2017, inspectors found dogs in one of the buildings who did not have enough protection from the cold when the night time temperature had recently been as low as 38 degrees, according to the USDA report. The operation also failed at least one of its state inspections in 2017. USDA #48-A-2172; KS lic #CB000LV4.

Elk City, Kansas: Michelle Miller, Plum Crazy Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Puppies found</u> with skin condition; dogs were in muddy enclosures with standing water; facility still operating in 2018 despite year after year of problems. The Kansas Department of Agriculture has allowed Plum Crazy Kennel to remain in operation for years, even after repeated problems. The kennel was named in four of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, yet it somehow remains statelicensed in 2018, despite failing to allow inspectors into the kennel at least nine times over the years, and having additional problematic inspections after we published our last report.

The most recent inspection report we were able to obtain from the Kansas Department of Agriculture noted that Plum Crazy Kennel passed an inspection in August 2017— even though the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> To the best of our knowledge, this breeder was the only one licensed by the USDA in Clyde, Kansas, at the time of the USDA inspections.

inspector found Doberman puppies with a skin condition that the licensee was only treating with a medicated shampoo; the inspector asked the operator to fax in medical records because she apparently did not have any proof that the puppies had been examined by a veterinarian for their condition. The inspection also found standing water and muddy conditions that dogs were forced to stand in. In addition, the August report noted that there were 28 adult dogs on the property, even though Miller had been under orders since 2015 to gradually reduce the number of dogs on her property to 25. Twenty eight adult dogs were also found at the January 2017 inspection, at which time Miller had been reminded about the 25 dog limit. Miller seems to fail to take state orders very seriously, which isn't surprising considering that the state has repeatedly found violations and has, in recent years, done very little about them.

As we noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report, repeated issues in preceding years included many visits by inspectors during which no one was "available" to allow inspectors to view the kennel; concern about the weight of a nursing mother dog (Aug. 2016); a temperature in the whelping room over 90 degrees, which exceeds the Kansas Pet Animal Care Act limit of 85 degrees, and some outside dogs without adequate shade (June 2016; still passed inspection); inspector noted a concern because "puppies [were] extremely tiny" (Jan 2016; passed inspection anyway); expired license (Jan 2016; allowed to renew anyway); notification about expired license, possible fine if continuing to conduct business without a license (Dec. 14, 2015); and a consent decision and final order in which Miller agreed to pay \$2,750 in civil penalties for repeated failure to care for dogs (Feb 2015).

Miller also failed three consecutive state inspections between January 2013 and June 2014, and the state of Kansas took her to court in early 2015 (*In Re: Michelle Miller d/b/a Plum Krazy Kennel*, Case No. 15 AH 10698 (Feb. 27, 2015)). As part of a 2015 consent agreement, Miller agreed to reduce her numbers to 25 dogs total for a period of two years. However, in the years since, it appears that Miller failed to let inspectors in to count dogs or monitor conditions on at least nine different occasions—a massive waste of state resources and the Department of Agriculture's staff time. In addition, during at least three different visits, she was found with more than 25 adult dogs.

Issues found at previous inspections included: unsanitary conditions; dogs and puppies who did not have an adequate amount of space; strong odors; infestations of flies, mice and fleas; dogs housed in rusty cages; dogs without enough protection from the cold and wind; and six dogs in need of veterinary care, including some who were underweight with prominent hip bones and ribs. KS # CB000U5L. **FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Glasco, Kansas: Joyce Cairns /Roberson, Unicorn Kennel—<u>Repeated violations for dogs in</u> <u>need of veterinary care; emaciated corgi found listless, with spine visibly protruding;</u> <u>Pekingese in need of surgery was not treated effectively more than six months later.</u> Conditions at Unicorn Kennel appear to belie its fanciful name. Severe animal welfare issues were found at the kennel within the last year, both by USDA and state inspectors, with the USDA finding at least nine animals in need of veterinary care during three visits in 2017 alone.

On Dec. 13, 2017<sup>15</sup>, 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 dogs noted on the December report included two dachshunds with signs of advanced dental disease, including one who had so much dental calculus on some of her teeth that it "causes a visible bulge to the face when the dog's mouth is closed." Both dogs had loose teeth and a pus-like discharge on the gumline. In addition,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Although the breeder and kennel name were redacted by USDA on the 2017 inspection reports, to the best of our knowledge this breeder was the only one licensed by USDA in the town specified during the date(s) of the inspection.

the inspector found a Pekingese with signs of an ocular disorder; the white part of her eye was red, there was greenish discharge, and the cornea was dull and uneven. The inspector also found unprotected heat lamps that were dangerously close to whelping dogs.

Three months earlier (Sept. 6, 2017), a USDA inspector found four other dogs in need of veterinary care, including an emaciated corgi and a Pekingese named Blondie, whom the owner had been directed to get care for in February, and who had still not been adequately treated more than six months later. Quotes from that report include:

- "Female, tan and white Corgi ("Montana" DOB 1-04) with chip number 070 156 111 was lying quietly in the enclosure and appeared reluctant to move. Her body condition is very thin with the vertebrae, spines of the scapulae, and points of the hips easily palpated. The spine is visually protruding and the abdominal tuck is excessive. There is thick, creamy discharge on the left side of her mouth and lips."
- "Female, cream colored Pekingese ("Blondie" DOB 12-09) with chip number OAO2223563 has thickened ear tissue obscuring the opening of both ear canals." The inspector noted that the dog had been diagnosed by the licensee's vet after the previous inspection as requiring ear surgery, but the licensee had not pursued the surgery. In addition, the veterinarian had provided both an eye and an ear medication for Blondie more than six months previously, but neither medication was being given as directed.
- "Adult, male red Shih Tzu ("Red" DOB 5-06) was observed to have a wet chin and lips. The dog resisted having his mouth examined and pulled his head away quickly. Inspectors were able to see a thick coating of dental tartar on the few remaining 'cheek teeth.' Inspectors were unable to get a complete view of the dental condition of this dog..."

The September inspection also noted an update on two other dogs who had been found in need of veterinary care during a February inspection, stating they had been evaluated by a veterinarian, but did not specify whether the dogs had recovered. The third dog identified in the February inspection was Blondie, the Pekingese with severely thickened ear tissue, who was found in September to be still suffering from the same condition.

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.

The state inspection in February 2018 showed that Cairns had approximately 200 dogs and puppies at her puppy mill. USDA #48-A-1027; KS lic# CB0009EC.

Jetmore, Kansas: Carol Slovacek/ CTM Kennel –<u>State continues to relicense kennel</u> <u>despite owner's repeated noncompliance, failure to let inspectors in and apparent failure</u> <u>to abide by consent agreement (limit of 30 dogs).</u> Carol Slovacek failed multiple state inspections in 2017 and 2016, according to state inspection reports, and has failed to let inspectors visit the kennel at all on three different attempts between July 2017 and February 2018. Yet to the best of our knowledge, she remains licensed in 2018, despite failing her state inspections in March 2017, April 2017 and May 2017, and not letting inspectors in since the May visit.

State records show that inspectors attempted to visit CTM Kennel in July 2017, October 2017 and February 2018. Nobody was available to let them in. The three failed inspection attempts were of significant concern, because inspectors were trying to follow up on a series of failed inspections during which they had found many violations. Violations found at a May 2017 failed inspection included a kitchen "saturated" with feces, an excessively matted dog, and unsafe, cluttered

housing conditions. Issues found at a failed inspection in April 2017 included excessive feces and "trash inside w/ dead animals" – nothing was noted in the report about the reason the animals had died, whether the licensee was required to provide treatment records on the dead animals, or even if they were dogs. Violations found in March 2017 were of a similar nature: excessive feces, a strong foul odor, and large amounts of trash and waste, in addition to a puppy with a matted eye.

In late 2016, Slovacek failed to let inspectors in during two different attempted visits, and during the second attempted inspection, her license had also expired (Nov. 10, 2016)—yet when inspectors visited again 12 days later (Nov. 22. 2016), they gave her a passing inspection even though she did not have a current veterinary care form, didn't have complete records on the puppies, had more dogs than allowed under her consent agreement, had let her license lapse and had dirty conditions, according to a state inspection report. Additional violations found in 2016 included: dogs in the summer heat without shade, dogs inside hot buildings in August who didn't have enough air flow, filthy conditions and inadequate records on the dogs (summer 2016); dogs with scabs and "crusty places" on skin – parasites suspected, excessively filthy and unsafe conditions, inadequate records on puppies (April 2016 – failed inspection). KS lic # CB001HX4 (2017) and CB001C92 (2015, 2016).

Lyndon, Kansas: Sheila Jenkins and Dyann Van Eaton, Wild Heart Pups, aka Wildheart Enterprises, aka Wildheart Ranch/ Wildheart Goldendoodles and Labradoodles – <u>"AKC inspected" kennel failed numerous state inspections; dogs found in icy conditions in 7 degree weather; buyer says puppy died in her arms just 36 hours after purchase. A</u>

KCTV5 report 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. The puppy, a miniature schnauzer, was a birthday present for the daughter of the family, who was holding the puppy when she died. 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). To add insult to injury, the seller refused to take responsibility for the fate of the puppy, according to the news report.

Records received from the Kansas Department of Agriculture show that problems have 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 significant problems have been found at multiple state visits since then. 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.

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 noted in 2016 included a puppy area that was "engulfed in feces and urine" (Feb. 2016) and similar issues to those found in more recent years, including dogs without adequate protection from the cold, unacceptable housing and filthy conditions.

On its website, Wild Heart Pups claims to breed schnauzers, labradoodles and poodles and says it no longer breeds goldendoodles.

The facility also claims on its website that some of its puppies are American Kennel Club (AKC) 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 lic #CB001JBS (former lic #CB001DTW).

# McLouth, Kansas: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Mary Pierson, Pampered Puppy Kennels<sup>16</sup>—<u>Husky with limp and an open wound had not received proper treatment</u> <u>almost three weeks after her injury</u>.

On May 22, 2017, a USDA inspector found an injured Siberian husky at Pampered Puppy Kennels who had not been adequately treated for her injury, even though it had happened almost three weeks before. The inspector noted that the dog was holding up her left front leg "50 percent of the time" and walked with a limp when she did put weight on it. The inspector noted that the owner claimed she had called her veterinarian for advice when the injury first happened on May 2, but she had no documentation of the call or the recommended treatment. The owner claimed she had been treating the dog herself, but the dog was still limping 20 days later, according to the report. The inspector noted that ineffective treatment of medical problems "cause the healing process to be delayed [and can cause] unnecessary pain, discomfort, or suffering."

In addition, the same dog had a ½ inch pink, moist lesion on her foot pad that the licensee claimed was from injury by a piece of barbed wire. The injury had happened on the same date as the leg injury, but since the animal had not been physically examined by a vet, it was not clear from the report if the paw wound and leg wound were two different injuries that occurred as part of the same incident. The paw wound also had not been adequately treated, and the licensee admitted she had run out of medication for the dog but had not refilled it even though the injury clearly had not healed. The inspector wrote, "an untreated open wound can lead to further medical complications, unnecessary pain and distress for the animal." The licensee was also cited for unsafe and unclean housing conditions at the same inspection. USDA #48-A-2165; KS lic #CB001BWY.

## MASSACHUSETTS

Oxford, Massachusetts: Robert Fink, Laughlin Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Combination</u> breeder/ pet store fined \$4,500 by the state for poor conditions; consumers report sick

**puppies.** Even after appearing in our previous Horrible Hundred report due to eyewitness accounts of poor conditions and consumer complaints about sick puppies, nothing appears to have changed at Laughlin Kennel. Documents received from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resource's Division of Animal Health by the Humane Society of the United States in late 2017 found the kennel has been fined for inadequate animal care, after buyers complained about receiving sick and dying puppies. State records indicate the store was fined \$4,500 in October 2017 for poor ventilation, inappropriate temperatures and puppies who had insufficient water available, violations that were of a "severe nature," according to the state's Notice of Assessment and Penalty. The state also fined Laughlin Kennel in June 2017 for violations found in May. The state agency had received complaints about puppies with issues such as tapeworm, giardia, kennel cough and pneumonia. In August 2017, Boston 25 News reported on two customers who purchased very ill puppies from Laughlin Kennel; at least one of the puppies died.

As we stated in our 2017 report, Laughlin Kennel is a combination breeder/ pet store that has a history of consumer complaints. Consumers have reported puppies who were diagnosed with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Although her name was redacted from the USDA reports we viewed, to the best of our knowledge Mary Pierson was the only USDA licensed breeder in McLouth, Kansas, at the time of the USDA inspection.

parvovirus, kennel cough and pneumonia, submitting complaints to state agencies, the local news media and the HSUS. The local Fox news station reported in March 2016 that the kennel had been the subject of more than two dozen complaints filed with the state in the last three years – a number which has only gone up since then.

A former employee released photos and video documentation in 2015 showing dogs in cramped cages, a puppy with a deformed leg, dogs covered in feces and dogs dying of illness in the non-public areas of Laughlin Kennel. "It just wasn't right," the employee told a local CBS station. "They kept him [the dog with a deformed leg] in a cage half his size. He couldn't even stand up." The exemployee's video shows dogs in stacked cages that are so small that the puppies' spines brush the tops of the cages.

The store owners sell some dogs they breed on premises and some puppies supplied by others. According to their website, they breed wheaten terriers, and broker "more than 30 other breeds of dogs."

Recent consumer complaints, which HSUS has not verified, can be found on Yelp.com, the Better Business Bureau and other consumer websites. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

## MICHIGAN

Vestaburg, Michigan: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Cheryl Rondy<sup>17</sup>–<u>Dogs in</u> <u>the cold; dogs and puppies repeatedly found with no water; USDA inspector stated</u> <u>facility was "not maintaining these dogs and puppies at even our minimum standards in</u> <u>the areas of basic animal needs.</u>" During three different visits between March 2017 and August 2017, USDA inspectors found a variety of serious problems at a kennel that we believe to be operated by Cheryl Rondy, including a repeated problem with dogs and puppies who did not have any water, dogs in need of veterinary care and insufficient protection from the weather. Quotes from inspection reports include:

- "There is a female, black lab [...] with significant hair loss. There is no record of when/if this medical issue was noticed or any communication with the attending veterinarian documented." (Aug. 9, 2017)
- "There have been several adult, breeding dogs that have been removed from the facility. [...] There is no [record] created to show where these animals went." (Aug. 9, 2017)
- "There is an unknown ear med that has been transferred to a ketchup bottle that has no label and no instructions for use by the attending veterinarian. There is panacur [drug] that has been transferred to a mustard bottle that does not have a label on it." (June 26, 2017)
- "Several dogs and a litter of 3 1/2 month old, weaned puppies did not have water at time of inspection. When offered water the dogs and puppies drank for 70 seconds plus straight."
   (June 26, 2017)
- "All of the shelters for the outdoor housing enclosures have no bedding in them. There are approximately 12 adult dogs and two 9 week old puppies in separate enclosures. The licensee stated they added bedding, wood shavings, one month ago. Temperatures today

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Although the USDA redacted the name on her inspection reports, to the best of our knowledge Cheryl Rondy was the only USDA-licensed breeder in Vestaburg, Michigan, at the time of these inspections.

were in the 40's and 50's. Overnight temperatures have been in the teens and highs are predicted to be in the twenties this weekend and next week." (March 7, 2017)

- "The majority of dogs and puppies had no water and when offered water drank readily and for an extended period of time. Multiply housed dogs all tried to get their heads in the bucket at the same time." (March 7, 2017)
- "The licensee and employees are not maintaining these dogs and puppies at even our minimum standards in the areas of basic animal needs. This includes water, shelter, maintaining the facility and cleaning." (March 7, 2017)

An inspection in January 2018 was compliant.

## **MISSOURI**

Alton, Missouri: Marlisa McAlmond, Cedar Ridge Australians (REPEAT OFFENDER) -Massive operation with more than 400 dogs had repeat issues with veterinary care; 26 puppies and dogs were thin, with ribs showing, noticeable waists and/or muscle atrophy; inadequate and unsafe housing. During two state inspections in 2017, Marlisa McAlmond was cited for disturbing conditions at her kennel, including many dogs who were underweight. In April 2017, inspectors found issues with inadequate shelter, veterinary care deficiencies and business requirements. There were two repeat violations from 2016 for housing that did not allow dogs and puppies to "sit, stand and lie in a normal manner" and for an Australian shepherd that had been found lame at a prior inspection and who had still not been examined by a veterinarian. During the April visit, inspectors did find a new dog in need of veterinary care; a bloodhound was found to be thin with her "ribs and other bony prominences" visible. She was found with a litter of eight puppies, who were only a few weeks old.

While many of the prior issues had been corrected at the time of a November 2017



A basset hound appeared to be almost blinded by a thick, yellowish-green eye discharge at Samples Creek Kennel in Edgar Springs, Missouri. The licensee, Pam Baldwin, admitted she was aware of the dog's condition but was not applying any recent treatment. /Missouri Dept of Agriculture, 2017

inspection, inspectors found additional violations that were even worse. Several dogs were seen climbing and escaping over fences in their enclosures, with some entering the enclosures of other dogs. In addition, the inspector found 25 weaned puppies and adults "exhibiting a thin body condition" with "multiple bony prominence[s], notable abdominal tucks, notable waists and/or muscle atrophy." According to a veterinarian, the dogs had a body score of only two or three out of nine (five is ideal), which would indicate they were too thin. While the licensee was able to provide

documentation of some treatment, the conditions of most of the dogs were not improving, according to the report. At the time of the November inspection, McAlmond had over 420 dogs and puppies at her facility.

State inspectors also found injured dogs at Cedar Ridge again and again in 2016. For example, in March 2016, an inspector found an underweight Australian cattle dog, five puppies who were coughing and two puppies who were lame. In addition, at least 13 puppies and dogs were found without water and a number of dogs 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. In addition, the procedure is usually performed on puppies when they are five days old or younger and their tails are very tiny; it is not usually performed on weaned (older) puppies.

In addition, during the January 2016 inspection, a mother dog and her puppies were found in an enclosure so small that the mother dog could not even stand or sit in a normal manner within her shelter box, and the inspector found an underweight bloodhound with a body score of three out of nine (five is ideal).

Cedar Ridge Australians advertises puppies on their website, as well as, on Puppyfind.com and NextDayPets, two online sales sites that the Humane Society of the United States has linked to dealers in past Horrible Hundred reports. MO #AC0003CG. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Anderson, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Joyce Walters, Select Pets<sup>18</sup> (REPEAT OFFENDER) – Puppies with feces matted in their fur were in a cage that had not been cleaned in days; Yorkie had bloody stool. On June 27, 2017, a USDA inspector found puppies soiled with feces at Select Pets. The inspector wrote: "Three elevated enclosures, housing a total of six puppies, in the indoor housing facility had a build up of fecal material. Licensee stated that it was last cleaned on Sunday and the inspection was conducted on Tuesday. The puppies were noted to have 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. In August 2015, USDA inspectors 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." Both state and federal inspectors found a number of additional problems at Select Pets. 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> To the best of our knowledge, Select Pets was the only USDA licensed broker in Anderson, Missouri, at the time of the inspection.

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. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Ava, Missouri: Marilyn Shepherd aka Marilyn Williams, Pup 4 U, aka Williams Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER)– Inspectors found injured dogs five years in a row; severely matted dogs; one dog was so matted the breed was unrecognizable and the dog also had lice. Breeder was permanently barred from holding a USDA license in 2006 but she is still in business under a state license and selling online. Even after appearing in two of our prior reports for underweight, sick and/or injured dogs who were found at her kennel four years in a row, Williams/Shepherd was found with additional violations in August 2017. The violations, which were documented photographically by state inspectors, included a Skye terrier who had "wounds with dried blood on both ears"; there was no evidence that the dog had been treated by a veterinarian for the injuries. In addition, a white schnauzer was so badly matted that the animal was no longer recognizable; the same dog also had a live louse on it. Numerous additional dogs were so excessively matted that some of the matted clumps of fur were pulling on the skin, and one photo showed a dog with matted fur that was heavily soiled with a brown substance that resembled mud or excrement.

As we noted in our last report, during several state inspections between July and November 2016, injured dogs were found again and again at Pup 4 U. In some cases, Williams failed to prove she had obtained any veterinary care for injured animals, even a month after some of the injuries were first pointed out by the state inspector. These animals included a Welsh terrier with hair loss and an open, crusted wound, a giant schnauzer with crusty discharge around the eye and ulcerated skin under the eye, a shih tzu with signs of an ulcerated cornea, and a Skye terrier who had difficulty walking, all of which were first noted during a July 2016 inspection. Additional injured animals found in late 2016 included a schnauzer with a "gaping laceration" of the abdomen (Aug. 30, 2016), a westie with "draining wounds" on the left ear (Nov. 1, 2016) and numerous dogs who had signs of eye disease, skin problems or excessive matting.

As we stated in our prior reports, in 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013, state inspectors found sick or injured dogs at Williams Kennel. Dogs found in need of medical care we noted in prior reports included: an underweight dachshund with "prominent vertebrae, ribs, and loss of muscle mass" who was nursing five puppies (January 2016); a fox terrier with a skin lesion that extended across its abdomen (January 2016); a miniature schnauzer with hair loss around the eye (January 2016); a lhasa apso with "bilateral mucopurulent discharge and pigmentation of the eyes" (November 2015); a Brussels griffon with ocular discharge, dental disease and overgrown nails (September 2015); a bearded collie who was limping and had a "wide strip of hair loss on his back" who was not taken to a veterinarian even though the licensee was instructed to have him treated (March 2015); a miniature poodle with eye discharge and gum disease who was not treated by a veterinarian even after the inspector requested it (March 2015), a Brussels griffon with an eye disorder and a lump (August 2014); a shih tzu with eye discharge and crusty skin (August 2014), a Welsh terrier who could not walk normally (Oct 2014), an affenpinscher with patches of hair loss (August 2014), several dogs with bloody wounds or hair loss (March 2014) and a puppy with a gaping laceration on its head (March 2014). Repeated problems have also been found with dogs who didn't have sufficient protection from the cold, and puppies with their feet passing through the wire flooring, which poses a significant risk of entrapment or injury.

Marilyn Shepherd/Williams's mistreatment of animals stretches back more than a dozen years. She was assessed a civil penalty of \$25,000 for operating as a USDA dealer without a license and was permanently barred from obtaining a USDA license in 2006, which should preclude her from selling puppies to pet stores or online sight-unseen. But Williams has a website at pup4u.com and also has many puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com, a website that Humane Society of the United States

researchers have linked repeatedly to puppy mill operators and questionable breeders. Her online ads offer to ship puppies anywhere in the United States. The HSUS submitted a complaint to USDA about Shepherd/Williams selling puppies online without a USDA license and in apparent violation of the 2006 agreement. MO #AC0002DJ. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Clark, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA – <u>Shih tzu had such a tight chain around her</u> <u>neck that she had open lesions and "blood like matter" on neck; a second dog appeared</u> to have a broken leg, yet USDA inspector did not cite either painful issue as "critical" or <u>"direct."</u> A USDA inspector who visited a Clark, Missouri, breeder on June 21, 2017, found two dogs with severe veterinary issues that, shockingly, were not cited as "direct" or "critical," even though one dog had a significant neck injury and the other appeared to have a broken leg. Citing the issue as "critical" or "direct" would trigger faster follow-up by the agency.

According to the USDA report, a shih tzu was found with "pink tissue about the size of a pea near the tear duct area of the right eye, protruding out onto the eye. On this same dog, the ID chain was tight and had caused sores around the dogs (sic) neck. These sores were open lesions under the chain, and reddish skin around the same areas as the lesions. There was also blood like matter on the left side of the dog between the ear and front shoulder. The hair was missing around the neck in the area of the chain and lesions. The lesions were about 1/4" - 1/2" wide and circling the neck."

In addition to the shih tzu with the neck wound, a Maltese had signs of a broken leg: "Maltese #142 was limping on its right front leg. After the licensee pulled the dog out, the inspector pointed out to the licensee, the right foot (wrist area) could easily be felt moving in a direction that is not the normal direction the foot should move."

In addition to the two severely injured dogs, the facility was swarming with flies: "Throughout the facility, excessive flies were noticed around the animals, on the ground near animals, and food and water waste located inside the dogs' enclosures. These flies were concentrated around feces in the enclosures as well as around food on the ground that had fallen to the ground or had been cleaned out of feeders. Many damp areas in the pens also had many flies."

The Humane Society of the United States brought the June 2017 inspection report to the attention of a USDA representative and noted that the severe injuries found in the dogs should have been properly cited and followed up on to protect the safety of the animals. The fate of the two injured dogs is unknown; the USDA no longer posts warning letters or fines assessed on its website.

Clinton, Missouri: Kimberly Coleman, TLC Kennels (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Direct, repeat</u> <u>violation for injured dog: underweight shar-pei found bloodied and severely wounded:</u> <u>year after year of violations.</u> Kimberly Coleman has appeared in all five of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to terrible conditions and multiple injured dogs found on her property by both state and federal inspectors. But shockingly, she still remains both USDA-licensed and state licensed in 2018, to the best of our knowledge. In February, April and November 2017, additional violations were found at Coleman's kennel. In April 2017, state inspectors found a schnauzer with matted hair; a buildup of feces, hair, grime and dirt in the pens; and some cages that were too small. In November, state inspectors found two doors broken off their hinges and no smoke or heat detectors in one building. In February 2017<sup>19</sup>, USDA inspectors found a female shar-pei who was severely injured, with "blood matting down the hair around her right ear and fresh lacerations," on both of her hind legs. The lacerations were so severe that they left "a loose skin flap hanging." The

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> The February 2017 USDA inspection report does not have a name on it due to the USDA's redactions; however, to the best of our knowledge, Coleman was the only USDA-licensed breeder in Clinton, Missouri, at the time of the inspection.

same dog was also severely underweight with "a defined waist and visible rib cage." During the same inspection, puppies were also found in a cage that was too small.

As we noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report, USDA inspectors have found similar problems at TLC Kennels for several years in a row. Repeated issues involve inconsistent veterinary care, poor sanitation and a failure to give regular access to inspectors. For example, during a September 2016 USDA inspection, an adult female poodle named Posey was found "lying on her side in an enclosure with three other adult dogs." The poodle "did not move her legs or appear able to rise," according to the inspection report. "When the licensee attempted to pick her up she appeared painful," the report continued. "Even when she was removed from the enclosure, the dog made no effort to stand or use her legs and back." A follow-up report dated Oct. 11, 2016, noted that the poodle had been taken to a veterinarian after the inspection, but was "no longer at the kennel." Nothing else is on record about whether Posey survived. Additional violations found at the September 2016 visit included "a strong odor of urine and feces in the whelping area" and excessive feces in both the indoor and outdoor parts of the kennels.

During a January 2016 inspection, an inspector found conditions so filthy that many white dogs appeared brown, and a puppy with his or her hind legs dangling all the way through the wire flooring; the inspector noted that the puppy appeared to have been "stuck for some time." Significant violations have been recurring at the kennel since at least March 2014, when an inspector found a dog who was "extremely thin with minimal muscle mass so that nearly all her bones (shoulders, spine, ribs, hips, legs, etc.) were prominent," among other issues. During a January 2014 state inspection, inspectors noted that several dogs had a body condition score of only two or three out of nine (five is ideal), indicating that they were very underweight. USDA #43-A-4973; MO #AC000JRV. **SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Curryville, Missouri: Debra Ritter, Cornerstone Farms (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Huge</u> <u>Internet seller with more than 375 dogs has been cited by state inspectors year after</u> <u>year for poor conditions; dogs had diarrhea, hair loss and fleas; USDA mysteriously finds</u> <u>no violations</u>. Cornerstone Farms appears for the fourth time in the Horrible Hundred report due to repeated problems documented by state inspectors. Year after year, inspectors and veterinarians with the Missouri Department of Agriculture have found dirty conditions, ramshackle enclosures, and dogs in need of medical care at Cornerstone Farms. The most recent state inspection that our researchers were able to obtain in time for this report was from July 20, 2017, at which time a veterinarian noted: "there were multiple dogs located in different enclosures throughout the facility that had pruritus [severe itching], flea dirt, alopecia [hair loss], and in some cases, a heavy flea infestation." The flea issue had been noted during the kennel's prior inspection in October 2016, and at other times during previous years, yet still had not been corrected. The inspection also found that some of the dogs had diarrhea; dogs or puppies with diarrhea have also been a recurring issue at the kennel. The inspector also found some dogs without adequate shelter and dirty conditions.

Despite the fact that state inspectors regularly find deficiencies in basic standards of care set forth under Missouri's kennel laws – some of which are documented in photographs taken by state inspectors – USDA inspectors have repeatedly failed to document any violations at Cornerstone Farms. In a 2018 book exploring commercial dog breeding, "The Doggie in the Window," author Rory Kress said she found inspection reports from the state and from the USDA that were created on the same date, yet contained different information. The author noted, "USDA inspectors failed to notice or document a single violation at Cornerstone Farms even when they went to the facility on the exact same day that state inspectors found and documented a dozen." <sup>20</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Page 260, "The Doggie in the Window," Rory Kress, Sourcebooks, Inc. (2018)

Cornerstone Farms has also been the subject of consumer complaints for several years due to allegedly selling sick puppies as well as puppies with questionable records. As stated in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, in September 2016, reporter Chris Hayes with Fox2 in St. Louis confronted the facility owner, Debra Ritter, after receiving a complaint about a sick puppy sold in June 2016. That puppy, Kylie, reportedly required \$3,000 in medical care to survive and also came with conflicting paperwork that seemed to indicate the puppy was many months older than promised.

A Rolling Stone magazine writer interviewed Ritter for the January 2017 article, *The Dog Factory: Inside the Sickening World of Puppy Mills.* When asked by writer Paul Solotaroff about the "11 straight years of state violations" that Hayes said he found during his research, Ritter referred to the violations as "nuisance charges." Hayes also told Solotaroff he could find no evidence that Ritter ever paid a fine to the Missouri Department of Agriculture despite years of animal care violations, according to the article.

As we noted in our 2017 report, in August 2016 alone, Missouri state inspectors found a dozen violations at the kennel, including an underweight dog, dogs with loose stools, dogs with fleas and missing fur, two lame dogs, a dog with signs of an ear infection, dirty conditions and more.

A state inspection dated Jan. 21, 2016, found violations for a number of problems, including four puppies with bright red blood in their stools; additional dogs with "loose stool" and others with "dark, bloody stool;" a persistent strong ammonia (urine) odor; and excessive feces. Some additional issues found between February and December 2015 included: two dogs who were underweight and had a body score of three out of nine (five is ideal); "many dogs" found scratching with fleas; several dogs who had patches of missing fur, eye disorders, diarrhea, and/or were coughing; a strong ammonia (urine) odor in one building that "can have detrimental effects to the health and well-being of the dogs; " inadequate bedding provided to dogs when the temperature was only 33 degrees; a puppy found with all four feet passing through the wire flooring (a significant risk of entrapment and injury); "numerous dogs" with matted hair; dogs with bloody, mucoid stools; expired medications kept for use on the dogs; dogs kept in buildings in temperatures over 90 degrees in the summer with no cooling mechanism in place; enclosures for some dogs that were too small according to minimal guidelines; a cocker spaniel who was found repeatedly shaking her head and who had "a build-up of a dark substance and a creamy-colored discharge in and around the ear canal;" and cages that were dirty, rusty or coming apart. Although many of the violations were corrected at subsequent state inspections, new violations were regularly found.

In our 2014 report, we noted that the facility was selling puppies online without a USDA license. In August 2015, the USDA finally issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Cornerstone Farms for conducting regulated activity without a USDA license on at least 11 different dates. The facility is now licensed under USDA #43-A-6000; MO #AC00122Y. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Edgar Springs, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA- <u>"Mound of feces" was 10 inches high;</u> dogs with frozen water had been licking at solid blocks of ice seeking moisture; dogs had hardly any protection from the bitter cold when temperatures had been as low as 14 degrees F. On a bitter cold day in January 2018, a USDA inspector found a sad sight: dogs at an Edgar Springs breeding operation had insufficient protection from the frigid weather, and their water buckets were frozen solid. The inspector saw indentations in some of the frozen water buckets that indicated dogs had been licking at the ice to try to obtain drinkable water. In addition, the inspector noted that the dogs in outdoor enclosures had little or no bedding in their igloo-style shelter structures, when the temperature the night before had been as low as 14 degrees. The inspector also found dirty conditions in the operation's whelping facility, with some of the outdoor runs having "excreta and dried fecal residue on 70 to 80 percent of available surface flooring." The inspector also noted that, "one outdoor enclosure has a mound of feces at least 10" high in the middle of the outdoor enclosure."

**Note:** Due to the USDA's redaction of names and license numbers on its inspection reports, it is possible that these inspection reports link to another Edgar Springs kennel, Pamela Baldwin/ Samples Creek Kennel (below), where similar violations have been found for many years. Consequently, this entry is listed separately here. There is at least one other USDA-licensed breeder in Edgar Springs, Missouri (Norisa White/ Dog-Gone Kennel), and Humane Society of the United States researchers were unable to tell which of these two breeders was cited for the violations.

Edgar Springs, Missouri: Pamela Baldwin, Samples Creek Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) -More than 30 dogs found underweight, sick or injured in 2016-2017; some were limping or had open wounds; one dog had eyes completely covered in yellow discharge; another had an enlarged, bulging eye. Breeder sells to Tiffanies LLC, a massive pet store broker. Horrendous violations have been found again and again at Pamela Baldwin's Samples Creek Kennel. Baldwin has appeared in all five of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to terrible conditions and multiple underweight, sick and injured dogs found on her property by both state and federal inspectors. But shockingly, she still remains USDA licensed and Missouri state licensed as of March 2018, to the best of our knowledge. The most recent report that we were able to acquire from state records is from September 2017. State inspectors once again found dogs who were injured or ill, including a basset hound whose eyes were completely covered with a pus-like mucoid discharge; records showed the licensee was aware that the dog had an eye disorder, yet she had not been providing any recent treatment. Inspectors also found a French bulldog who was "repetitively vomiting" and had six piles of vomit in her enclosure, as well as dogs who had fleas, crusty skin and missing fur, and issues such as excessive feces and unsafe housing. Many similar violations were also found by state inspectors in May 2017, according to state records.

In February 2017<sup>21</sup>, a USDA inspector found many other violations, including: a 10-year-old female boxer "who was very thin with prominent ribs, hips, spine and shoulders and an abdominal tuck." The 10-year old dog was found in an outdoor enclosure on a cold February day and had pale mucous membranes. In addition, a female rat terrier was squinting and had eye discharge and was nursing young puppies. Some dogs were excessively matted to the point that the hair was twisted or clumped, and a basset hound had hair loss and a scabby wound. In addition, some of the dogs lacked adequate shelter from the cold when the temperature was only 35 degrees and windy.

It appears that conditions at Samples Creek Kennel have failed to meet legal requirements for years, yet both the state and USDA repeatedly renew its license. The operation may be hiding some of its history from potential puppy buyers by selling dogs through brokers who do not have violations. For example, documents received from the state of Missouri in April 2018 via an open records request show that Pam Baldwin sold more than 20 puppies to Tiffanie's LLC between June and September 2017. Tiffanie's LLC is a massive Missouri dog broker that in turn sells the animals to pet stores across the country. Tiffanie's LLC's retail customers include Petland, the largest chain of puppy-selling pet stores in the U.S.

The recent violations mirror violations that we've documented in our prior Horrible Hundred reports, indicating that nothing much has changed at the kennel despite repeated visits by state and federal inspectors.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Although there was no name on the Feb. 2017 USDA inspection report, Humane Society of the United States researchers connected it to prior, identified reports via dog ID numbers.

Some of the many sick or injured dogs noted in our prior report included: a Shiba inu with bloody lesions (Oct. 13, 2016); a miniature pinscher and a golden retriever who were both limping and frequently not putting weight on their affected limbs (Oct. 13, 2016); a boxer with a 1-inch skin lesion that was oozing and inflamed (Aug. 10, 2016); a female basset hound named Reba with a "heavy amount of a thick creamy green discharge in both eyes" (Aug. 10, 2016); another female basset hound named Cece, who was very thin and seemed fearful (Aug. 10, 2016); two German shepherds who were both very thin and seemed fearful (Aug. 10, 2016); and a female Shiba inu who was repeatedly running in circles and had a patch of inflamed skin and missing fur (Aug. 10, 2016).

In addition to the dogs found in need of care by USDA inspectors, Missouri state inspectors also found numerous dogs in need of treatment, including:

- A weimeraner with bite wounds. (Nov. 2, 2016)
- A basset hound with thick, yellowish-green eye discharge, whose condition had been noted during prior inspections but still not effectively treated (Nov. 2, 2016) – the same dog still had eyes completely covered in yellow pus-like material as of a state inspection in September 2017.
- Two Chihuahuas with such bad dental disease that they were missing some teeth and the roots of some remaining teeth were exposed; they had still not been seen by a veterinarian more than a year after the issue was first pointed out. (Feb. 16, 2017)
- A rat terrier with an eye disorder, who still had not been seen by a vet more than a year after an inspector first pointed out the issue. (Feb. 16, 2017)
- A basset hound with skin lesions and inflammation, who still had not been seen by a vet more than a year after an inspector first pointed out the issue. (Feb. 16, 2017)

Baldwin received an official warning from USDA in May 2016 for direct veterinary care violations and inadequate pest control. Starting in early 2017, however, the USDA stopped posting such warnings on its website or making them available to the public without improper redactions, so it is unknown if she has been warned, fined or suspended in 2017 or 2018.

Problems at Samples Creek Kennel stretch back to at least 2013, when the facility's state violations included dirty conditions, contaminated water and many dogs who appeared sick or injured, including a female dachshund who was unable to walk on her back legs and a Jack Russell terrier who had leg and foot injuries so severe that the open wound exposed muscle and bone. USDA #43-A-4762; MO #AC000EGW. **SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Edina, Missouri: Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – Problem puppy mill with more than 130 dogs still accumulating violations under a state license, despite revocation of its USDA license in 2016; violations have spanned more than two decades. After a long history of animal care violations that spanned two decades, we thought we had seen the last of animal mistreatment at Donald Schrage's Rabbit Ridge Kennel when the USDA finally revoked its license in 2016, which is why we did not include the operation in our 2017 report. However, new reports that the Humane Society of the United States received in April 2018 show that Rabbit Ridge Kennel, shockingly, remained state-licensed in Missouri and continued to be cited for violations as recently as September 2017. The violations found by state inspectors in September 2017 included excessive feces, improperly maintained enclosures, a dog whose whelping box contained two inches of water, so the dog "did not have a dry place to rest," nonfunctioning smoke detectors, and fecal accumulations "hanging from the expanded metal flooring in the whelping building," which also had an accumulation of cobwebs, dirt and debris. And despite the fact that Schrage, without a USDA license, is now prohibited from selling to pet stores or over the internet, he seems to have more dogs now than ever before: 93 adult dogs and 43 puppies were found at the September 2017 inspection, compared to between 68-74 adult dogs and between 19-38 puppies in 2015.

As we noted in our 2016 report, during a March 2016 inspection, a USDA inspector found several noncompliant issues at Rabbit Ridge Kennel, including a dog with a "1 ¼ inch long fluid-filled" mass on the ear and green discharge near the eye, grimy and unsanitary conditions, and a veterinary care program which wasn't being followed correctly.

Animal care problems at Rabbit Ridge Kennel date back to at least 1996, when the USDA filed its first official complaint against Schrage for repeated violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Another complaint was filed in February 2015; the 24-page complaint by USDA documented more than 90 dogs and puppies found in need of medical attention over a four-year period, including emaciated, bleeding and injured dogs who had not received veterinary care. Yet despite dramatically downsizing after the 2015 complaint, Rabbit Ridge Kennel has continued to violate the basic animal care regulations of the Animal Welfare Act. In November 2015, an inspector found a lhasa apso at Rabbit Ridge Kennel whose eye was "partially crusted closed," and unsafe enclosures with sharp points that could injure the dogs. In June 2015, a USDA inspector noted that 44 dogs were missing from the kennel with no explanation for their whereabouts. The USDA inspector counted 23 dogs on hand during the June inspection, although there were only records for 11 of them. Yet just a few months later, in October 2015, Missouri state inspectors visited the kennel and found 68 adult dogs and 19 puppies, and in December, state inspectors found 74 adult dogs and 38 puppies. It appears that after briefly downsizing to satisfy USDA inspectors, the owner either quickly "found" the missing dogs, or purchased more dogs to again start increasing his kennel's size. This is of significant concern due to the ongoing animal care problems at the kennel. We have contacted the USDA repeatedly to express concerns about why this kennel is still in business when it has repeatedly failed to meet its most basic animal care responsibilities.

As noted in a recent Fourth Circuit decision regarding a challenge to the USDA's practice of renewing licenses of noncompliant licensees, "[t]he descriptions of past violations by . . . entities [including Schrage] . . . are particularly disturbing" and included some dogs who were so ill or injured that they had to be euthanized.<sup>22</sup>

The USDA's 24-page February 2015 complaint against Schrage was once available on its website, but appears to have been taken down as part of the agency's massive data cover-up in 2017. Former USDA #43-A-1957; MO #AC00131W. **FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Elkland, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA- <u>Two dogs were so thin that they had</u> <u>"obvious visible waists" and visible vertebrae; excessive feces, with "mashed and caked</u> <u>fecal material" covering large parts of flooring; some dogs were unable to move around</u> <u>without stepping or standing in feces</u>. A breeder in Elkland was found with nine different USDA violations in March 2018, and four of them were repeat violations. The violations included two dogs, an adult boxer named Lily and a miniature pinscher puppy named Layla, who were so thin that they had "obvious visible waists and abdominal tucks" and "the tops of their lumbar vertebrae were visible and the pelvic bones were becoming prominent." When asked about the condition of these two dogs, the licensee admitted that they noticed the dogs were getting thin and thought the dogs might be getting "bullied" by another dog in each enclosure over the food. However, the dogs had not been moved to separate enclosures or taken to a veterinarian.

During the same inspection, unsafe housing with jagged edges was found, as well as dirty conditions and an excessive build-up of feces. The inspector described several areas of the kennel that had mashed and caked or dried fecal material covering large parts of the floor, with some accumulations so pronounced that the dogs had difficulty "walking, standing, sitting or laying" without coming into contact with their own wastes. In addition, some of the dogs were found

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals v. United States Dept of Agric., 861 F.3d 502, 505, FN 4 (4th Cir. 2017).

without adequate protection from the weather when the temperatures had been in the mid 30s overnight.

Although the USDA redacted the name on the inspection report, it's worth noting that there were only three licensed breeders in Elkland, Missouri, at the time of the inspection: Angela L. Smith of Family Lane Pets, Cory Mincey, and Trina Thomas. Angela L. Smith appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report for numerous problems with sick or injured dogs and unsafe conditions. In May 2015, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Smith for several animals who had not received adequate veterinary care. The animals included an English bulldog with a large open wound on her head that was so deep that it exposed the tissue beneath the skin. Despite the warning, additional animals in need of veterinary care were found at Family Lane Pets again in November 2015. In March 2016, Smith cancelled her USDA license, but she has now reappeared on the USDA's list of licensed breeders in 2018.

Elkland, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA – Puppies found smeared with feces in a feces-encrusted cage; dogs with empty water bucket drank excessively after inspector instructed breeder to give them water; three dogs disappeared from facility after owner was told to obtain veterinary care for them. When a USDA inspector paid a visit to an Elkland, Missouri, breeder on June 15, 2017, she found a number of severe issues, including three dogs who had been listed on a prior document as needing veterinary care, who had disappeared from the facility: "According to the hands on veterinary inspection conducted on October 28, 2016, there were three adult dogs identified as Bella, a Toy Poodle, #0A01600619, DOB 10/1/11, Raven, a Toy Poodle, #0A01600179, DOB [12/14/05] and Prince, a Toy Poodle, #0A01601932. These three dogs were diagnosed with severe periodontal disease according to the veterinarian's records. The licensee stated [today] that these dogs were no longer at the facility. When asked if they had received treatment for the periodontal disease prior to leaving the facility, the licensee stated that the veterinarian had not been contacted for treatment and [the dogs] had received no treatment prior to being re-homed." There was, in fact, no proof that the animals had been "re homed" and it is possible that they were simply destroyed; the inspector appears to have relied on a verbal story told by the breeder regarding what really happened to Bella, Raven and Prince.

In addition, the inspector found a Pomeranian in need of care: "There was a female Pomeranian identified as Cookie #0A01602528, DOB 9/3/10 that had been diagnosed on October 28, 2016 with severe periodontal disease, according to the hands on veterinary inspection. The licensee stated that this dog had not been taken to the veterinarian for treatment nor had there been any discussion with the veterinarian concerning treatment. Upon observation of this dog, thick amounts of brown, yellow and green substance covered approximately 30%-60% of the front teeth, the back teeth were completely encased with a thick brown substance. The gum lines appeared to be receded."

The inspectors also found a strong odor of ammonia from decomposing wastes. They wrote, "This odor was observed by the inspectors by sensations of stinging and burning to their eyes and nose during the entire inspection of this building."

In addition, "in the whelping house, there was an enclosure containing one adult Miniature Pinscher and 10 puppies. A gallon bucket was in this enclosure and used for a water receptacle. This bucket was empty when first observed by the inspectors. When asked how often water is offered to the animals, the facility representative stated that they are given water in the mornings and again between 5pm and 7pm each day. When asked when the last time this enclosure had been offered water, the facility representative stated, 'Last night between 5pm and 7pm.' At 1330 the inspectors requested that the dogs in this enclosure be offered water. As soon as the bucket was filled, the adult dog began drinking and continuously drank for one minute and fifty six seconds. The abdominal area of this dog increased in size dramatically as the dog drank." But that still wasn't all. During the same June 2017 inspection, the inspectors found "at least six enclosures containing ten adult dogs and three puppies that had enough feces that the dogs were having to walk through it to maneuver through the enclosure. The feces was mashed and dried into the cracks of the pavers that constructed the floor in the Husky enclosure. Also, there was hair embedded into the dried feces in this enclosure. Mold was observed growing on the feces in the outdoor portion of the whelping building in an enclosure containing one adult Saint Bernard and six puppies. There was also 2-4 cups of food waste observed on the ground in at least two of these enclosures." Excessive feces were also found in the whelping house: "In the whelping house, there was an enclosure containing an adult female Miniature Pinscher and 10 puppies approximately three weeks old. This enclosure floor was completely covered with feces (including the plastic type box that some of the puppies were in). The adult nor the puppies could not walk, stand, sit or lay anywhere in this enclosure that was not covered in feces. A blanket was on the floor of this enclosure, yet it too contained feces. The puppies were soiled on their feet and on their backs."

Inspectors returned a few days later the same month, and found that the licensee had corrected a number of the conditions. However, there was still an extremely strong odor that caused the inspectors to cough and their eyes and noses to sting and burn, according to the report. The inspectors noted that they experienced these symptoms for approximately thirty minutes after leaving the property.

Although the USDA redacted the name on the inspection report, there were only three licensed breeders in Elkland, Missouri, at the time of the inspection: Angela L. Smith of Family Lane Pets, Cory Mincey, and Trina Thomas. Angela L. Smith appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report for numerous problems with sick or injured dogs and unsafe conditions. In May 2015, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Smith for several animals who had not received adequate veterinary care. In March 2016, Smith cancelled her USDA license, but she has now re-appeared on the USDA's list of licensed breeders in 2018.

Gallatin, Missouri: Pam Wilson – Admitted using a cattle prod to break up dog fights; direct violation for puppy with crusty scabs and other dogs with similar issues; licensee admitted she caught a rash from the dogs, yet none of the animals with skin disorders had been seen by a veterinarian. In June 2017, a Missouri state inspector found nine violations at Pam Wilson's kennel, including issues with unsafe housing, inadequate cleaning, unsafe animal handling and lack of proper veterinary care. Two separate veterinary care issues were cited, including one "direct" violation for a French bulldog puppy who had scabs and crusty areas from her neck to her midline (spine). According to the licensee, multiple other dogs had similar lesions and she had apparently "develop[ed] itchy rashes herself after handling some of the dogs." None of these dogs had been seen by their veterinarian at the time of inspection for the issues, which could be caused by scabies or other parasites. The inspector also noted that there was no current program of veterinary care available. Other violations noted at this inspection included a cattle prod found in one of the rooms that the licensee claimed she used to break up dog fights. The inspection report stated, "The licensee shall immediately discontinue use of any non-species appropriate training/management equipment to prevent unnecessary injury, stress, or trauma to the animals." Other concerns noted at this inspection were about "20 exposed power outlets" accessible to the dogs and puppies in the licensee's house, among other issues.

When the inspector followed up two months later in August 2017, the licensee had complied with some of the previous violations, but the power outlets remained exposed to the animals and damaged drywall was still present in one of the rooms. MO # AC001XYR.

# Granby, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA – <u>Inspector found dog with bloody discharge</u> oozing from open surgery site; shih tzu had green crust along eyelids. In August 2017, a

USDA inspector found a disturbing sight at a Granby, Missouri, dog breeding operation. The inspection report notes that a female dachshund "had a thick, blood-tinged, gray discharge coming from a surgery site on the abdomen. The licensee explained the dog underwent a Cesarean-section a week prior. Even though the sutures were intact, the edges of the skin were not apposed [joined together]."

Failure to notice a dog with a gaping and oozing surgery site is an indication of a severe lack of oversight at a breeding operation. In addition, it isn't clear from the inspection report whether the inspector checked with the licensee's veterinarian to see if the operation had been performed in a professional setting. During the same visit, the inspector found that another dog, a male shih tzu, "was exhibiting watering from the right eye. Upon examination, the conjunctiva appeared red, the cornea opaque and there was a green moist crust along the edges of the eye," according to the inspection report.

Our researchers were unable to find out if the two dogs were ever adequately treated for their problems due to the USDA's redactions of breeder names and license numbers from its inspection reports.

**Note:** Lynn Sartin / Lynn Sartin Kennel, a breeder who has appeared in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report, is one of two USDA-licensed breeders in Granby. Sartin had a number of violations involving shih tzus and other breeds of dogs in the past, and may be the owner of this operation. The only other USDA-licensed breeder in Granby appears to specialize in huskies (Hegers Husky Haven).

Jamesport, Missouri: Jimmie Holyfield – <u>Inspector found cluster of cockroaches in</u> <u>kennel; piles of feces so numerous that dogs had difficulty moving without stepping in it.</u> On Jan. 17, 2018, a state inspector found repulsive conditions at a breeding operation owned by Jimmie C. Holyfield. Photographs taken by the inspector and acquired by the Humane Society of the United States as part of a public records request show cages with mounds of feces so numerous that it appeared the dogs would be unable to walk normally without stepping in it; in particular, mounds of feces from large breed dogs such as boxers appeared to be covering significant portions of the floor surface in some cages. In addition, the inspector photographed a cluster of about 12 live cockroaches and noted that the roaches were found "in multiple areas of the facility."

Similar issues were found at the same facility just a month earlier, in December 2017. During that visit, inspectors found an "excessive amount of fecal buildup in direct contact with the animals," a rodent infestation "throughout [the] facility," loose wires on cages that "pose a risk of injury to the animals," and at least one dog who had multiple piles of "unformed, reddish colored feces" and needed to be seen by a vet. USDA licensed, license # unknown; MO# AC000R58.

Lebanon, Missouri: Jason and Ashlae Simmons, Simmons Farms– <u>Breeder of AKC puppies</u> was repeatedly found with sick or injured dogs yet had no proof of veterinary care for their issues; inspector found mother dog with "prominent ribs" nursing puppies. Between August and October 2017, state inspectors found several veterinary care issues at a kennel owned by Jason and Ashlae Simmons in Lebanon, Missouri. On Aug. 8, 2017, a state inspector and a district veterinarian found two dogs, a mastiff and a Shiba inu, that the licensee could not provide documentation for regarding treatment for their poor health and/or injuries. The mastiff, named Sasha, was found with "prominent ribs" and pelvic bones, and was housed with her two nursing puppies. The licensee claimed to be treating the dog with a homemade concoction and supplementing her food, yet could not provide documentation of the treatments. The second dog, a Shiba inu, was found to be lame on one of her front legs. When the vet examined closely, she saw that the surface of one of the pads was injured, with an exudate (seeping fluid) on the surface of the paw and between two toes. No documentation of consultation with a veterinarian or veterinary treatment was available.

Issues with sick dogs continued in October 2017 when the veterinarian returned with the inspector and found a black and white female schnauzer with discharge in both eyes. Again, the licensee was unable to provide documentation regarding the eye issue or prove that they had consulted with the kennel's attending veterinarian. Another vet care issue noted at the October inspection was a repeat violation for inability to completely follow the parasite protocol from their written program of veterinary care (also cited in August 2017). Simmons Farms advertises puppies on the AKC marketplace, on the kennel's own website https://simmonsfarms.weebly.com/ and on sites such as NextDayPets and PuppyFind.com. USDA Class A license; MO #AC00144L.

Marshfield, Missouri: Bobbie Lyell, Oak Wood Farms—Many dogs were underweight with patches of hair loss; at least one of them had lice; others had discharge from eyes or ears; veterinary issues found at three separate inspections in 2017. At three consecutive 2017 state inspections at Oak Wood Farms, Bobbie Lyell's operation was found with numerous violations. In August 2017, an inspector found unsafe housing, unlabeled medication that may not be suitable for dogs, inadequate protection from the elements, inadequate enclosure and shelter space, inadequate treatment records and a number of veterinary concerns. The inspector noted that the whelping building did not have any type of climate control, which could be harmful to young puppies, and two enclosures did not have any shade from the summer sun. Two dogs appeared to have been under treatment for specific issues, yet no treatment records were available. Veterinary issues cited at this inspection included the lack of a program of veterinary care and no annual hands on examinations of dogs, along with several dogs in need of medical care. One of the violations was listed as "direct" for four huskies that had "dull hair coats, patches of hair loss, and thin body conditions with multiple bony prominence." Upon closer examination, one of the dogs was also found with lice. Other medical issues noted included a dog that was lame; dogs with hair loss, including at least one with exudate (leaking fluid); and another husky with eye discharge, with moistened skin and hair loss around the eyes.

When the inspector returned about a week later for a focused inspection for the veterinary care issues, one of the four underweight huskies with hair loss had been examined by a vet and treatment was given for all. However, it does not appear that the other dogs listed in the August report had received veterinary care and none of the other issues were examined at that time. Two months later (Nov. 13, 2017), when the state came back with a district veterinarian for another inspection, they found several other issues, including more dogs in need of veterinary care. Issues included a French bulldog with a hematoma on its ear with discharge in the ears and one eye; at least four dogs found with a thin body condition, including one of the same huskies from the August inspection that had purportedly been treated; and dogs with skin or eye issues. Inspectors also cited Lyell for dirty water or lack of water and inadequate shelter for the dogs. MO#AC002EUP.

**Middleton, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Mark Ritter, Heritage Farms Kennel aka Heritage Farms, LLC<sup>23</sup> – <u>Two nursing mother dogs were found "very thin"</u> <u>with prominent spine and pelvic bones.</u> In August 2017, a USDA inspector found "two adult female dogs in the whelping facility [who] were observed to be very thin" at Heritage Farms, LLC. The dogs were female Siberian huskies named Gypsy and Bella. The inspection report noted: "Both dogs had obvious visible waists and abdominal tucks. The tops of their lumbar vertebrae were visible and the pelvic bones were becoming prominent. Each of the dogs were housed with their litter. 'Gypsy' had a litter of 7 puppies that were approximately 2 ½ weeks old. 'Bella' had a litter of** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Although the breeder and kennel names were redacted by USDA on the inspection reports, to the best of our knowledge, this breeder was the only one licensed by USDA in the town specified during the month of the inspection.

8 puppies that were approximately 3 ½ weeks old." A veterinarian had not been consulted about the dogs' condition, according to the USDA report.

In addition to the underweight dogs, the inspector also found an adult Pomeranian who had "clumps of fecal material" matted in his fur. The inspector noted that "matting can be uncomfortable and can increase the risk of skin sores," and directed the licensee to have the dog groomed.

Mark Ritter is listed as the owner of Heritage Farms Kennel in Middleton, according to Missouri state records. In July 2017, Heritage Farms was cited for shelter structures that were not in good repair. They were "cracked and [this] created holes and gaps" that could potentially entrap or injure the dogs, according to a state inspection report. USDA # (unknown); MO #AC0026EH.

Montgomery City, Missouri: Linda Kay Butler, High Point Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>AKC-linked breeder had repeated problems with veterinary care; several puppies in one</u> <u>litter had died; others had no records of vaccines or treatments.</u> High Point Kennel is an AKC-affiliated kennel that advertises on the AKC Marketplace website. At its most recent available state inspection, the kennel had about 80 dogs and puppies. Missouri state inspectors found issues at High Point Kennel during two different inspections in 2017, as well as in 2016, 2015 and 2014.

The most recent state inspection that was available at the time of this report was from October 2017. At that visit, the kennel was found to have resolved two violations that had been found in January, but five new violations were found. These violations were related to a lack of adequate veterinary documentation and a failure to keep proper records on puppies, which could result in mixing up puppies or giving the wrong treatments to the wrong animals. In fact, records indicated that several puppies in one litter had died, and other litters of puppies had no cage cards at all to identify which animals were which or to document their veterinary histories.

According to a January 2017 report, a state inspector found a German shepherd at High Point Kennel who appeared to be reluctant to walk and bear weight on her leg.

Violations were found repeatedly by state inspectors at High Point Kennel throughout 2014, 2015 and 2016 as well. During an October 2016 state inspection, a Labrador retriever puppy was found in an enclosure that was so covered in fecal matter that the puppy had no clean place to stand, several dogs had diarrhea, and there were unsafe conditions found that could injure the dogs. Violations found during a March 2016 state inspection included two dogs who did not have adequate shelter and a repeated problem with unsafe enclosures that could injure the dogs. The unsafe conditions were mentioned repeatedly throughout 2016 but not corrected until the January 2017 inspection. And a December 2015 state inspection found several dogs in need of veterinary care, including an underweight Labrador who had a body condition score of three out of nine (five is ideal); three German shepherds who had been found with "bloody lesions on the tips of the ears" during an August 2015 inspection and who still had not been treated by a vet; acting as a dealer (reseller) without the required dealer license, and pest control issues.

Violations documented earlier in 2015 included: failure to have a documented program of veterinary care; failure to fecal test puppies with loose stool even after instructed to do so by both the attending veterinarian and the state inspector; improper vaccination of puppies; and two dogs with no water. Violations found in 2014 included: the use of "castration bands" to dock the tails of puppies; dogs in 27 degree temperatures without adequate protection from the cold; strong odors (noted on four inspections); unsafe conditions and sharp points (noted on four inspections); some adult dogs without rabies vaccinations; dogs with bloody or loose stools; a Weimaraner puppy who "was walking with a stiff gait" and seemed reluctant to raise her head; and dogs with matted coats and overgrown nails. MO #AC0004PP. FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.
Neosho, Missouri: Kallie and Josh Bateman, Puppy Travelers, Inc. – <u>Twenty-four puppies</u> <u>seized at end of long transport to pet store were found in filthy conditions, small cages</u> <u>without water; the transport operation shares space with Pinnacle Pet, LLC, a massive</u> <u>puppy broker.</u> Puppy Travelers is an umbrella business for several smaller, USDA-licensed transporters that deliver puppies to pet stores. Under the federal Animal Welfare Act, transporters are required to carry animals only in safe, clean and humane conditions, and to give the puppies regular access to food and water. In February 2018, 24 puppies were seized from a Puppy Travelers transport van outside a Petland store in Fort Myers, Florida. The puppies were found with "urine, feces and no water" in their cages, according to news sources, and many of them were sick. According to local NBC reportage, documentation, microchip information and the vehicle's registration were called into question. The investigation into the transporter started after puppy buyers complained about puppies who had died soon after they were purchased from the Petland location.

Puppy Travelers consists of six regional transportation entities, each one holding its own USDA license. We believe the businesses are all linked based on their state business filings. They occupy an address directly adjacent to Pinnacle Pets, a large Neosho broker that also re-sells puppies to pet stores across the country. The two appear to be so closely related that both Pinnacle Pet and the Batemans (under a previous business name, Bateman Diversified, LLC) were cited by USDA for a deadly incident that occurred in September 2015 when numerous puppies overheated on a transport vehicle after the air conditioning malfunctioned. It appears that no one was immediately overseeing the animals, or they would have noticed that the puppies were in distress before severe injuries occurred. In addition, the individuals who handled the overheated puppies did not immediately take them to a vet. One of the puppies died en route to a pet store and eight of them died at Pinnacle Pet's address, according to a USDA inspection report on Pinnacle Pet/ Sobrad LLC dated Sept. 21, 2015<sup>24</sup>.

Additional violations found at the Bateman's prior business, Bateman Diversified LLC in Exeter, Missouri, include: accepting 21 puppies for transport without verifying the animals had food and water within the last four hours, hazardous mesh flooring in vehicle cages that allowed puppies' feet to pass through, and a repeat violation for inadequate space in six enclosures between two different vehicles.

Based on the recent news stories and history of violations with previous licenses, we have ongoing concerns about the Batemans and their transportation operations. Former USDA #43-T-0030. (The current license numbers are unknown due to USDA redactions.)

#### Novelty, Missouri: Michael Franke, North River Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) –<u>Puppies had</u> loose, bloody stools; inspectors warned breeder four times about keeping dogs on wire flooring without adequate resting surface; one dog had hair loss and reddened ears.

Since the publication of our last report, state inspectors have found violations at North River Kennel at four different inspections between May 2017 and January 2018. Violations found during that time period included: two direct violations for inadequate space; a repeated problem with puppies who had loose, bloody stools; a Labrador with alopecia (hair loss) and reddened ears, a Labrador who was shaking her head constantly and had brown discharge in her ear and who also had a wound on her flank, and various housing and sanitation problems.

In January 2018, a number of dogs were found in cages that were too small, including "enclosures that housed three juvenile Boston terriers that measured in length [only] sixteen and seventeen inches." In August 2017, a state inspector found that some of the housing structures were falling

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> The USDA's inspection report documenting the incident that resulted in nine puppy deaths has since disappeared from the USDA's website.

apart; an outside portion of some of the enclosures was being held up by a pipe, but the "pipe [had] been knocked out from underneath several of the enclosures," causing them to sag in a manner that was "not structurally sound." In addition, several dogs had "no access to their sheltered structure" because the openings in the structures had been placed up against a wall. During the January 2018 inspection, the facility had more than 200 dogs and puppies on the premises.

As we noted in our 2017 report, USDA inspectors also found multiple issues at Franke's kennel in 2016. In September 2016, USDA inspectors found a Boston terrier puppy with puncture wounds and oozing eyes, 11 Labradors with "varying degrees of open wounds," and filthy conditions. They also found cages that were too small and food that was either dirty, caked and/or contaminated with a mold-like material. Violations found in 2015 included more dogs that were in cages that were too small, and a Boston terrier with a litter of puppies who were smeared with feces.

Franke had one compliant USDA inspection in October 2016. However, just months later, Missouri state inspectors noted no fewer than 15 new noncompliant issues at the kennel. Issues found during the December 2016 state inspection included: three Boston terriers with runny, bloody stools; a Boston terrier with bite wounds and lacerations; a Labrador retriever had inflamed and swollen ear canals filled with a "dark, moist debris" and was shaking her head repeatedly; 13 puppies were in cages that didn't give them enough space, and conditions were unsanitary, with excessive feces.

It appears that Franke is no longer licensed by the USDA in 2018. Former USDA # 43-A-5663; MO #AC000N2S. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Novelty, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA– <u>Dog's wound had not been treated by a</u> <u>veterinarian; food was contaminated with feces; dogs did not have enough protection</u> <u>from the bitter cold in winter or high heat in summer.</u> In July 2017, a USDA inspector found dogs panting in very hot buildings at a Novelty, Missouri, breeding operation. She noted that some of the dogs were flat-faced breeds, which can be very susceptible to overheating, and that the temperature inside the building was 88 degrees. At the same operation, additional violations were found in March 2017, including dogs found in below-freezing temperatures without enough protection from the cold. The inspector also found a number of injured dogs during the March inspection, including the following:

- "An adult female Boston Terrier (OAO2617666/OAO2057825), housed by herself, was holding her left rear leg up and not bearing any weight on it. According to the licensee, he had noticed the dog's condition on Monday (20 Mar 17). On closer observation, one of the middle digital pads on the dog's left rear foot had a lesion on it. The pad appeared to be lacerated in a linear fashion (approximately <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch in length) near its edge and the affected area was reddened. According to the licensee, the dog was under observation but the dog had not been examined by a veterinarian nor was the dog receiving any treatment."
- "An adult female chocolate Labrador Retriever (4B5D1F5F16) had an approximately 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inch diameter region of hair loss on its left side. The skin in this area appeared dry and flakey with reddened regions."
- "An adult female chocolate Labrador Retriever (4B613887116) had an abnormal eye condition. The dog's left eye appeared slightly larger than the right eye. The left eye appeared mostly dilated with very little of the iris visible. A line of clear discharge was observed in the corner of the dog's left eye extending down the dog's nose toward the mouth."

- "The food in 3 of the outdoor self-feeders, affecting 6 dogs, has become contaminated with rodent droppings and/or dog feces. In the mouth of one of these feeders there was a large, walnut sized clump of a light brown colored material, possibly old dried caked food. The dogs in these enclosures could not eat the food without eating the contaminated food."
- "All of the outdoor self feeders, affecting 39 dogs, are dirty. The trough areas of these self feeders have an accumulation of hair, dirt, grime and other organic material."
- "In all of the outdoor enclosures, affecting 36 dogs, the large converted hog feeders have a large amount of rodent droppings, bird droppings, and spiders on and/or inside of them."

Due to similarities between USDA photographs taken during the above inspection and photographs taken during state inspections, it is possible that the un-named breeder above is Michael Franke / North River Kennel, who is identified separately in this report. However, due to redactions on USDA inspection reports, it was not possible for Humane Society of the United States researchers to definitively link these particular reports to Franke.

## West Plains, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA – <u>Dogs had bleeding, open wounds;</u> <u>Yorkie had hair loss and fleas; French bulldog was seen coughing and gagging.</u> In August 2017, a USDA inspector found several dogs in very poor condition at a West Plains breeding operation. One dog, a female boxer, had "a bleeding, open wound at the base of her left ear" which the owner had not noticed or treated although, "the helper said that he saw it a few days ago and sprayed some 'blue stuff' on it." In addition, a dog named Summer, an Olde English bulldog, "had a bleeding, open wound with a gray discharge at the base of her left ear," according to the inspection report, but "the owner had not noticed the wound and it had not been treated." Another dog in need of care was a male Yorkshire terrier named Tommy, who "had thinning hair on his chest, around his eyes, and the top of his head. Numerous fleas were observed on the belly and face. There also was an open wound at the base of his left ear," according to the report. During the same inspection, a male French bulldog named Gizmo "was observed to have frequent episodes of repeated coughing and gagging. While being observed, he coughed up a white foamy discharge." The inspector also found an excess of flies and fleas, with one dog who had "numerous fleas on his

Once again, the USDA has redacted the name and license number of this breeder on its inspection report. However, there are similarities between some of the dogs in the USDA's inspection report and a breeder who has appeared in some of our past Horrible Hundred reports, **Ellen Roberts**, **Rocky Top K9s**, which is in West Plains. Similar issues have been found at Roberts' facility in the past, and on Rocky Top's website, there are two dogs named Tommy and Gizmo, which are two of the dog names mentioned in the USDA's report. The USDA inspector identified Gizmo as a French bulldog and the website identifies him as Boston terrier, but the two breeds look very similar. Tommy is identified on the website and in the USDA's inspection report as a Yorkshire terrier.

# West Plains, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA– <u>Boston terrier found shivering in the</u> cold; multiple dogs had barely any protection from the cold in 29 degree temperatures.

In January 2018, a USDA inspector visited a breeding operation in West Plains, Missouri, and found dogs in the outdoor part of the facility with little or no protection from the weather when the temperature was only 29 degrees Fahrenheit. At least one of the dogs, a Boston terrier, was seen visibly shivering in the cold, according to the inspection report. The inspector listed this violation as a "Direct, Repeat" violation because it was apparently one the owner had been warned about in the past, and was directly affecting the wellbeing of the animals. However, due to the USDA's redaction of names and license numbers on most of its pet breeder inspection reports, it was not possible to determine whether the issue was ever fully addressed. The fate of the Boston terrier is unknown.

face, belly, legs and head."

## **NEBRASKA**

Fort Calhoun, Nebraska: Jeff Dross – <u>Failed state inspection after inspector found rodent</u> <u>and insect infestations; feces not cleaned for five to seven days; dogs were only given</u> <u>fresh water "about twice a week."</u> In July 2017, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture marked an inspection of Jeff Dross' facility in Fort Calhoun as "unacceptable," citing two direct violations and five indirect violations ("direct" violations are generally more severe). The violations included a lack of pest control, noting that insects and rodents "have eaten away at foam insulation, which is falling into dog pens." The state inspector also noted in his report that feces needed to be removed from all pens, inside and out, and outside pens needed to be sanitized because they had urine stains and an "odor problem." Five days later, state inspectors conducted a re-inspection of Dross' facility and again found non-compliance for lack of proper pest control.

On Dec. 4, 2017, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture received a complaint about Dross' facility due to concerns about the care of the dogs. A state inspector visited the facility the next day and found several non-compliant issues, writing in a follow-up report that, "All dog pens inside, and outside need to be cleaned, pens have not been cleaned of feces for 5-7 days. Water present in water dishes was dirty ... Indications that dogs were given fresh water about twice a week." It was unclear from the report whether the licensee received a fine or official warning. NE license# KN787.

Grand Island / Wood River, Nebraska: Mark Griesman, Prairie Chesapeakes –<u>Received</u> warning from the state; dog with wound hadn't been taken to a vet two days later; insufficient food, water and shade: unacceptable veterinary care: dangerously decrepit housing. On May 17, 2017, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture found Mark Griesman to be operating without a license at two different locations, one in Grand Island (identified as his residence) and one in Wood River. The inspector wrote, "two adult dogs were observed to be thin and had watery eye discharge." The department sent Griesman an official warning stating that one of the sites "must be ready for inspection by June 2, 2017."

On June 19, 2017, inspectors arrived at Griesman's residence in Grand Island where they found eight violations, including an outdated/incomplete vet care plan with no records of wellness exams ever performed; no records of purchased dogs, puppy sales or puppy deaths; a shelter that was not structurally sound, with "walls bowing away from frame, rot in wood," and "points from broken wires and uncovered bolts [that] have potential to injure dogs."

Around the same time in June 2017, state inspectors examined Griesman's new facility in Wood River to determine if it qualified to operate as a breeding facility. Again, inspectors found no records of a vet care plan for the new facility.

On July 10, 2017, Griesman's residence in Grand Island was re-inspected. The state cited Griesman for the same non-compliant issues that he was cited for a month before, such as lack of complete acquisition and disposition records, and no records of wellness exams or vaccinations.

A few weeks later, the state re-inspected Griesman's new facility in Wood River, found it to be "acceptable" and approved its use as a breeding facility. With the approval of his Wood River facility, Griesman now holds two separate state licenses, one for each facility. But on Aug. 28, 2017, about a month after the state inspector marked it "acceptable," a routine inspection at Griesman's Wood River facility turned up three direct violations and two indirect violations, and it was rated "unacceptable." Violations included:

• Lack of sufficient food, "one pen of a younger dog (Jubee) was observed reaching through fence to pull back feces from other pen and eating it. Lack of feces in Jubee's pen when others have feces indicates that Jubee may not be receiving enough food."

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- Water bowls with "algae growth."
- "Strong odors [of] urine and feces."
- Inadequate protection from direct sun.

The inspector commented that, despite the fact that it passed inspection in July, "In less than one full month conditions at KN1342 [the Wood River facility] have fallen to a failing inspection," and recommended a compliance hearing with Griesman and the department. Two weeks later in September 2017, the Wood River facility was found to be "unacceptable" at yet another inspection, and received a warning from the state. Violations included: dogs only given water once a day, by Griesman's own admission; dog shelters "covered with mud, visible tracking of mud and feces;" inadequate protection from the weather; and a failure to treat "for internal/external parasites."

In October 2017, Griesman met with the department of agriculture and agreed to certain "recommendations" involving reducing the amount of adult dogs, ensuring adequate shelter, maintaining sanitation and keeping individual health records.

On Nov. 6, 2017, the state re-inspected Griesman's residence and found one direct and two indirect violations, including shelters with no wind or rain break, two dogs unaccounted for in the records, and fencing with points that could cause injury to the dogs. On the same day, the Wood River facility was re-inspected and found to be "unacceptable." The inspector discovered that a dog named Victor suffered from, "a puncture wound under [the] right eye," two days earlier and had not yet been seen by a veterinarian, writing, "Dried blood was around and under the wound." In addition, dogs in some of the shelters had no protection from the wind or rain. State Facility License# KN1342 and KN967.

Orchard, Nebraska: Diana Burden, Tall Pines Kennels (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Online seller</u> received official warnings from the state in 2017 and 2016; puppies found in the cold, many without bedding in 46 degree room; inspectors repeatedly found unsanitary conditions; ordered facility to downsize. Even after appearing in our prior Horrible Hundred report after the state of Nebraska gave her a warning for numerous violations, Diana Burden received another warning from the state just a few months later, in July 2017. In an August 2017 letter, the state department of agriculture requested that Burden downsize to 50 dogs within 10 days, and placed conditions on her license, including better cleaning, providing updates to the department on required animal housing improvements, and an increased number of inspections. Burden was also required to refrain from any repeat violations and to get permission from the state in the future if she was to increase her stock of dogs.

This compliance plan was due to violations found at inspections between October 2016 and July 2017. Burden did manage to have some compliant inspections after the agreement was reached (Aug. 29, 2017, Oct. 11, 2017 and Nov. 15, 2017). But in December 2017, more violations were found. Burden was cited for two different direct violations when puppies were found in rooms that were only 45.7 degrees and 46 degrees respectively. Bedding was only seen in a few pens, but the law requires bedding to be provided to all dogs and puppies when temperatures are below 50 degrees.

As we noted in our 2017 report, Burden's previous warning from the state was in November 2016. That warning stemmed from numerous violations, including an accumulation of two weeks' worth of feces and urine, a lack of adequate employees to take care of the kennel, a rodent infestation and mouse feces in the kennel, and a repeated problem with strong odors in the kennel. In addition, the warning noted that a Yorkie was found with "urine and feces clumping [in] fur" and other dogs were found with "feces attached near their anus area," while another Yorkie was found with matted fur covering more than 10 percent of his body. The issue with matted feces around the anal area can occur when dog cages are so unclean that the dogs are left sitting in their own feces. Some of the issues, including the poor ventilation, excessive feces and poor sanitation, were first

noted during an inspection in October 2016 and still had not been cleaned up adequately as of a follow-up inspection in November. As of November 2016, the facility had about 92 dogs and puppies, according to state records. The facility sells puppies online via classified websites such as NextDayPets.com and via its own website, tallpineskennel.com. NE # KN914. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Newport, Nebraska: Milton Lewis, Rock Hill Dog Ranch – Egregious problems with sick and injured dogs; one puppy had a leg torn off, according to state report; owner euthanized 14 unwanted dogs and puppies, refusing offer to send them to rescues; some were euthanized only because of burrs stuck in their fur. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture received a complaint on Sept. 18, 2017 about Milton Lewis' breeding operation in Newport. The complainant claimed to have inside knowledge and stated that even though the operation had passed a June 2017 inspection, it had only done so by hiding injured dogs and concealing some of the dogs in other locations on the property that the inspector never visited. In addition, the complainant said that the dogs did not get regular food and water, and the facility had a high rate of puppy mortality.

Two days after receiving this complaint, state inspectors visited Lewis' facility and began what would become a very long, extensive, and horrific follow-up report. After arriving on the property, the inspectors first observed that almost all of Lewis's dogs were out of their pens, huge holes had been dug to escape the pens, and puppies and adults were running together. They saw no shelters in the pens and several large holes dug in the ground so deep, "you could not even see the dog in them." There was "a large accumulation of feces" and "junk/trash" in the pens and yard.

One inspector noted that a golden retriever with its head in a hole appeared to be dead but, "[Lewis] said it wasn't dead but it had gotten in a fight with the other dogs. [The inspector] asked to go in and look at the dog but [Lewis] wanted to bring the dog out to her. When [Lewis] put the dog on the ground, all the dogs around us started attacking the Golden Retriever in a pack like mentality. [Lewis] had to fight the dogs off the Golden [until he] could get her back into her pen." The dog was then inspected inside of the pen and was found to have "puncture wounds" on her back leg and a swollen eye. "[The inspector] asked if he was going to take the dog to the vet and he said he had texted her and he was to give it an antibiotic. He showed [the inspector] the text he sent at 11:08 am which was after we had arrived at his facility."

The inspectors moved on to the whelping building and saw, "several litters of puppies most about 4 weeks and no moms in with them." They asked Lewis to put the mothers with their corresponding puppies but Lewis, "wanted [the inspectors] out of the building to do this." One inspector went to the car to get a microchip scanner and returned to find that, "Milton was holding a yellow/white lab puppy who had just gotten its leg bitten off by another dog which had followed Milton into the whelping building."

The inspectors advised Milton Lewis "to take the puppy [and the previously mentioned injured] Golden to the vet and we would stop the inspection and continue when he returned." As the inspectors headed toward their vehicle, "Milton came out of the house with his paperwork and wanted to continue the inspection." The inspectors insisted Lewis take the two injured dogs to the vet immediately. Twenty-five minutes after leaving the property, the two inspectors arrived at the vet but it would be another 50 minutes until Lewis arrived at the vet. Lewis had another injured dog with him, "a Newfoundland male dog who had fly strike on his nose. Milton was going to just euthanize this dog, because he could not get it to heal." The golden retriever was treated and returned to the kennel owner with medication, but the male Newfoundland and the puppy with the missing leg were euthanized.

Upon returning to the facility to continue inspection, several labradoodles were observed in a pen who were not there before, according to the state report. The inspectors also noted another golden retriever that had "scarring on its back." Before leaving for the vet, one inspector asked Lewis about the unseen area west of the whelping building where they heard barking and Lewis said he had labradoodles there. The inspectors noted that this pen had never been mentioned or shown to an inspector at any inspection. Lewis then said that he did not use the west pen although there was food on the ground and barking heard from that area earlier.

Returning again to the facility, the inspectors also noted some of the dogs were matted and there were sand burrs growing in pens, causing a Great Pyrenees to limp, perhaps because of burrs in the dog's paws. One last instruction from the inspectors was to, "not to forget to groom the poodle male that was matted and had burrs in his fur and [licensee] replied that he was just going to have the dog euthanized to fix the problem. The dog was a male and [he] didn't use him anyway. [An inspector] said she could find him a shelter or rescue for the dog but Milton said he would rather euthanize the dog to fix the problem."

On Sept. 21, 2017, Lewis contacted a state inspector, "about euthanizing 14 dogs/puppies. The reasons Milton gave were; grooming required (burrs caught in fur), lack of buyer interest in certain breeds and mixed breed dogs/puppies. [The inspector] mentioned the option of rescues/shelters to Milton, but Milton rejected [the suggestion] for various reasons."

Seven days after the initial inspection, which had resulted in 11 violations, a re-inspection at Lewis' facility turned up one indirect violation for incomplete individual health records. Another routine inspection on Dec. 11, 2017, found one direct violation for unclean pens and accumulation of feces.

The Humane Society of the United States has grave concerns about the future of the dogs at Lewis's operation due to the heartless treatment of animals there, as described in the state reports. In particular, the decision to euthanize dogs appears to have been made for sheer convenience rather than to relieve untreatable suffering in the animals. In fact, it appears that the breeder went out of his way to taunt the inspector by asserting his decision to euthanize dogs with burrs in their coats rather than have them groomed.

Lewis is a USDA-licensed breeder. State inspection reports seem to show that Milton Lewis was inspected by the USDA in summer 2017 and that violations were found, but a search of online USDA records in April 2018 turned up no reports that seemed to be linked to his facility. According to a recent state report, Lewis has more than 100 dogs and puppies at his operation.

Lewis offers puppies for sale through a public Facebook group called Nebraska Puppies, as well as through NextDayPets, and PuppyFind where he claims to be "a hobby breeder that lives on a ranch." The Humane Society of the United States has linked PuppyFind to numerous repeat offenders on our Horrible Hundred list. USDA licensed, license # unknown; NE license# KN855.

Swanton, Nebraska: Mitch and Alisa (Alica) Pesek (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>AKC-linked</u> <u>breeder repeatedly found keeping dogs outside without adequate protection from the</u> <u>weather; cited for underweight and wounded dogs several years in a row</u>. AKC breeder Alisa Pesek has appeared in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for keeping dogs outside without enough protection from the weather and for underweight and injured dogs, yet state inspectors again found similar issues after our last report was published.

During a July 2017 inspection, a state inspector found an underweight dog who also had a "sore or hot spot" and matted hair who needed to be examined by a veterinarian. The inspector also noted that some of the dogs did not have adequate shade in the summer heat. Although these issues may not be severe enough to catch attention under normal circumstances, they are concerning

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because the kennel has been repeatedly found with similar problems. The year 2017 was at least the fourth year in a row that inspectors found similar problems at Pesek's kennel, even though Pesek was listed on the AKC's website as a "Breeder of Merit" for several of those years, until at least 2016.

As we noted in our 2016 report, even after being in our May 2015 Horrible Hundred report for underweight dogs and other significant animal care issues, the Peseks were found with yet another underweight dog and an injured dog during a state inspection in June 2015. This was a repeated issue at the kennel. In March 2015, the inspector noted that "3-4 dogs do appear to be underweight." In addition, a dog named Dazzle was found limping with an injured foot during the June 15, 2015 inspection. During a February 2016 inspection, the inspector did not identify any underweight dogs, but noted excessive feces, improper waste disposal and inadequate protection from the wind and rain. Photos obtained by the HSUS in 2015 show similar problems at the kennel in years past; dogs were outside in the cold and snow without adequate indoor shelter, and at least one had a visible injury to the leg.

As noted in our 2015 report, in March 2014 and again in November 2014, the Peseks received official warnings from the state of Nebraska for severe animal care issues. The November warning alone outlined five different issues, including failure to provide "enough nutritious food to maintain body weight," failure to have enough employees to properly care for dogs and failure to maintain a current veterinary plan. According to the warning, "at least 15% of the adult dogs were reported to be very thin and underweight," and "dogs were reported to have serious and severe levels of internal parasites (whipworms and hookworms)." Despite these violations and the many other violations found, as of April 25, 2016, the AKC's website still listed Alisa Pesek as an esteemed Breeder of Merit. Her name disappeared from the site sometime in late 2016 or 2017. NE #1115. **FOUTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Randolph, Nebraska: Jo Ann Steiger, In God's Hands Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>State</u> <u>inspectors repeatedly found unsanitary conditions and insufficient veterinary care</u>. Even after appearing in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to injured dogs and unsafe and unsanitary conditions, state inspectors continued to find violations at Jo Ann Steiger's kennel during at least two inspections since our last report was published. At an inspection in July 2017, a state inspector noted two beagles who had masses or swellings that needed to be examined by a veterinarian. The inspector also found unsanitary conditions and rusty cages during the same visit, issues that had been a recurring problem at the kennel in prior years. When a state inspector returned again in October 2017, some conditions had been corrected, but the kennel was still unsanitary.

During four different state inspections in 2016 alone, inspectors found multiple deficiencies at In God's Hands Kennel, usually in relation to unsanitary conditions and lack of veterinary records. In August 2016, an inspection found unclean conditions, a mouse infestation and no individual health records on the dogs. In May 2016, the kennel had no written veterinary care plan and had dirty conditions and excessive rust that did not allow surfaces to be properly cleaned. In March 2016, state inspectors found no veterinary care plan, unsanitary conditions and inadequate waste disposal. In January 2016, cages were found to be in poor repair, with sharp points that could injure the dogs.

In January 2014, Steiger received an official warning from the state of Nebraska for dogs and puppies kept in "bitter temperatures" without enough protection from the cold, dogs with frozen water who had not had potable water for "at least 16 hours," and accumulations of wastes and feces. Despite this warning, poor conditions continued to be documented at the kennel. In February 2015, Steiger received another warning for the very same issues, as well as the lack of a veterinary care plan, two injured dogs, and unsafe conditions.

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Steiger appears to sell puppies online via www.ingodshandskennel.weebly.com although she does not appear to have a USDA license, which would be required in order to ship puppies sight-unseen. This issue was noted in our prior reports, but on her website, Steiger still claims that puppies are available for shipping anywhere in the United States as of April 17, 2018. NE #KN1104. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

## **NEW YORK**

Dundee, New York: Name withheld by USDA- <u>Puppy was unable to walk on injured leg;</u> <u>no vet had visited the facility in over a year.</u> In December 2017, a USDA inspector found a puppy with what appeared to be a significant leg injury at a Dundee breeding operation. The puppy was found in a whelping box, holding his or her leg out straight. When the puppy was picked up, he or she "did not appear to be able to bend [the] right hind leg" and when put down on a flat surface, "the puppy did not bend [the] leg, pull leg under body, or use leg to ambulate." The puppy had not been treated by a veterinarian for the apparent injury or disorder. In fact, during the same inspection, the inspector noted that no vet had visited the facility in more than a year, and the veterinarian that the licensee was taking puppies to off-site for "puppy checks" was not the one listed on their program of veterinary care. The inspector noted that the facility needs to "designate one veterinarian to oversee herd health of the kennel and who is aware of preventative protocols, treatment plans and dental care."

Lyons, New York: Classy Creations –<u>Dogs had matted fur, wounds, red and oozing sores</u> on their feet, "dirty ears with black tar-like debris," "not enough trained employees" per inspection report; dozens of violations. USDA inspectors found significant, repeat violations at Classy Creations during at least three different inspections between June 2017 and November 2017. At the November 2017 inspection alone, the USDA found veterinary violations in five different areas. Violations found in 2017 included:

- A dog in the whelping area with puppies had a spray called "Blu-Kote" on her feet, apparently used to treat inter-digital cysts. The spray was also on her fur in the nipple region. The dog had nursing puppies, and the inspector pointed out that the directions for the spray bottle said "dogs should not be allowed to lick the sprayed area," putting the puppies at risk. (November 2017)
- A puppy who had been returned to the facility after several weeks was put right back into the puppy room with other puppies, rather than being quarantined to check for illness. (November 2017)
- Three dogs were found "shaking their heads repeatedly" and one had a wound behind her ear, likely linked to scratching the ears due to ear infections. The dogs were being treated only with apple cider vinegar, which was clearly not effective, according to the inspector. (November 2017)
- At least one of the dog feeders was found repeatedly "filled with feces" and during the June 2017 inspection, one of them was so "filled with feces [that] the food was not able to get into the main trough area due to the accumulation." (June 2017, August 2017)
- Dogs were housed in a building that "has not been cleaned in multiple months," and buckets of water were filled with "bugs, fecal material and debris." (August 2017)
- An inspector noted the facility "does not have enough trained employees to carry out an acceptable level of husbandry practices and care required for [the] dogs." (August 2017)
- A male Pomeranian "caught the inspector's eye due to an abnormal walking movement and appearance of being matted." (June 2017)
- A male Pomeranian was "wet with overly matted fur and dirty ears with black tar like debris which made it impossible to visualize the ear canal. This dog was shaking its head from side to side which indicated irritation." (June 2017)

- "A Cavalier # C08 had ears that were dirty that needed to be cleaned. The dog was shaking its head from side to side indicating irritation. This dog also [had] two inter digital cysts that were red, oozing and irritated on the front right paw and left rear paw." (June 2017)
- A male shih tzu had "hair loss from the tip of the tail approximately three inches down the base. In addition, the tip of the tail was red and appeared irritated." (June 2017)
- "There were two cans of wet dog food in the refrigerator next to vaccines and old eggs. Both cans were Vitality brand that had expiration dates of July 2010. Both cans were rusted around the bottom and one had a small hole due to rust. These cans were maintained in the fridge where other items are currently in use with the dogs." (June 2017)
- "The shelter box for the outdoor puppies has old wet straw with insects living in the bedding." (June 2017)
- "The outside enclosure in the back of the property housing several large breed dogs has an accumulation of feces throughout the enclosure that is not being cleaned." (June 2017)
- "Several of the wire mesh enclosures in the main kennel have feces that are not falling through the wire mesh. Old feces that had turned white were found under pieces of cardboard or heating mats when they were moved." (June 2017) USDA #21-A-0160.

Penn Yan, New York: Name withheld by USDA– <u>Underweight dog found with "prominent</u> <u>back bones and hip bones" and "easily felt ribs," others found with matted fur and long</u> <u>nails; puppies exposed to dangerous wire floors.</u> In December 2017, a USDA inspector found multiple problems at an unidentified Penn Yan kennel, the most significant of which was an underweight four-year-old dog with his spine and hip bones visible and his rib bones easily felt. The dog had access to food but had not been assessed for an underlying health issue which may have caused him to lose weight. In addition, four dogs were found with matted fur and long nails, and one had signs of dental disease. The inspector also found puppies in an enclosure with dangerous wire mesh, which could entrap or injure their feet, and coated wire flooring that had the coating coming off the wires, which exposed the dogs to potential foot injuries.</u>

Penn Yan, New York: Name withheld by USDA- <u>Dog found blinking her eyes continuously</u> and pawing at her face; another had an injured ear that had not been treated; dirty <u>conditions.</u> In June 2017, a USDA inspector found a dog with an injured ear which "appears to be healing overall but there is also still a small open area of red tissue. No treatment was given to the dog." In addition, a female dog was found "blinking her eyes continuously and pawing her face. She did not seem to want to open the right eye. The licensee looked closer at the eye and there appeared to be some irritation." The inspector also found dirty conditions: "There is an accumulation of hair, some trash items (bags) and feces that needs to be removed from underneath the wire mesh enclosures. This excess of hair can trap urine and feces and lead to strong odors in the area." The inspector also noted that the licensee lacked a formal arrangement with a local veterinarian to oversee the health care of the animals.

# South Butler, New York: Rainbow Creek – <u>Kennel sold underage puppy</u>; <u>Pekingese dog</u> <u>had rusty chain around the neck and missing fur; another dog was matted in feces.</u>

In August 2017, a USDA inspector found several dogs in need of care at Rainbow Creek, including:

- A cocker spaniel with "a build up of tarter on the teeth, and the gums are red and irritated. The facility has a plan for dental care in the program of vet care, but this dog has not been identified as needing dental care despite the condition of the mouth."
- "A Bichon # 238 had matted fur around the feet, ears and anal region. There was fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus."
- "A Pekingese # 128 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 8 weeks of age. More than 100 dogs were present at the facility during the time of inspection. USDA #21-A-0179.

Stanley, New York: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Allen Nolt, Leaning Ash Kennels<sup>25</sup> – <u>Inspector found "heavily matted" dog and dog with red, irritated swollen</u> <u>paw, signs of infected ears and scabs.</u> During a November 2017 visit, a USDA inspector found two dogs in need of veterinary care at a Stanley, New York, breeding facility. One of the dogs was a male Cavalier who was "heavily matted behind the ears, underneath [the] neck, and behind the rear legs." The inspector wrote that "once the fur becomes matted, it pulls and separates from the skin causing potential skin irritations," and stated that the dog needed to be groomed. In addition, the inspector found a bichon who was "favoring the right rear foot." Upon closer observation, the inspector saw that the dog's paw pads were "red, irritated and swollen." In addition, the dog appeared to have infections in both ears. The insides of both ears were "red with brownish grainy discharge" and there were scabs at the base of both ears. The dog had not been treated by a veterinarian for his or her injuries.

## ΟΗΙΟ

Baltimore, Ohio: Yolanda B. Smith – <u>Failed three state re-inspections in 2018; inadequate</u> <u>veterinary records; Chihuahua found to be lame on front leg; cages too small</u>. State inspectors visited Yolanda Smith's kennel three different times during the first few months of 2018, state records show, and found violations during each visit. During two different inspections in January and February 2018, Yolanda Smith failed to have adequate records of veterinary oversight at her kennel, according to state inspection reports. She was found "non-compliant" at two of the visits. In addition, during a Feb. 6, 2018 visit, an inspector found that the owner was unable to prove that a female merle Chihuahua who was found to be lame during the previous inspection (Jan. 30, 2018) had been treated by a veterinarian for her injury. Additional issues that had been found during the January visit included cages that were too small, cages without a solid resting space, and multiple enclosures that were lacking visual barriers (solid partitions between cages). The licensee fixed some of these issues after the warning, but the issue with cage size still had not been corrected as of a Feb. 27, 2018 re-inspection. In addition, even though she was warned in January about the need for proof of a valid veterinary relationship, the licensee still had not corrected the issue almost a month later (Feb. 27, 2018). OH # CB001E28.

Canton, Ohio: Susan Fitzgerald / Whiskers, Wings and Wild Things (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Unlicensed breeder who admitted to neutering puppies without a veterinarian and</u> <u>without anesthesia is still selling via her pet store and online, two years after the state</u> <u>revoked her license.</u> Susan Fitzgerald first appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report after the Ohio Department of Agriculture revoked her High Volume Breeder License due to numerous animal care violations, according to news reports. Perhaps the most egregious violation was Fitzgerald's admission that she neutered puppies herself, without anesthesia, according to an ABC news 5 report. Other violations documented in Fitzgerald's state inspection reports include a lack of veterinary care, the sale of underage puppies, a lack of ventilation and a significant odor. For these and other reasons, we listed Fitzgerald in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report, yet she remains in business in 2018, despite the fact that she still does not appear to have a USDA license or a state kennel license. The HSUS has reported Fitzgerald to both the USDA and local authorities, but as this report was being prepared (May 4, 2018), she was still unlicensed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> To the best of our knowledge, Allen Nolt was the only breeder licensed by the USDA located in Stanley, New York, during the time of the inspection.

Fitzgerald sells puppies via PuppyFind.com and other websites, and also sells puppies and other animals via a pet store in Canton with which she is associated, called Whiskers, Wings and Wild Things. A recent complaint to the HSUS stated that the pet store was filthy and the animals were reportedly not given proper medical care; the store had below-average ratings on Yelp.com, YellowPages.com, and a number of other online consumer platforms (as of March 20, 2018). Several reviewers mentioned a strong odor, puppies who looked sick, and animals kept in cramped enclosures in the store.

A commercial breeder who breeds at least 9 litters and sells 60 or more puppies in a calendar year is required to obtain a state high volume breeder license in Ohio. A ballot measure currently being proposed could lower that threshold, and require more breeders to obtain a license. The ballot measure would also require Ohio breeders to adhere to significantly higher standards of care.

As we stated in our 2016 report, in February 2016, Ohio state agents seized a 1,000 pound black bear from Fitzgerald's property after the Fitzgeralds were repeatedly warned about putting him in a more secure enclosure and failed to do so.

In 2016, the HSUS reported Fitzgerald to the USDA due to the belief that she appeared to be selling puppies online, sight-unseen, without the required USDA license, yet as of May 7, 2018, it appears that there is still no one named Fitzgerald licensed in Ohio by USDA or by the state. Her ads offer to ship puppies "worldwide" on national websites, such as NextDayPets and PuppyFind, websites that the HSUS has linked to unlicensed puppy mills. Fitzgerald offers puppies for sale on these pages: http://www.nextdaypets.com/directory/dogs/uid/659819.aspx; http://www.whiskerswingswildthings.com/#!/buydogs http://www.puppyfind.com/l/?acct\_id=268216&sid=s0s08g05m4la7o1tporhogpvv1

Former OH #CB0008HA. SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Charm, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA– <u>Two dogs had such severe dental disease that</u> <u>the roots of their teeth were exposed; dogs showed discomfort and tried to pull away</u> <u>when their mouths were touched.</u> In December 2017, a USDA inspector found two dogs at an un-named kennel in Charm, Ohio, who had such severe dental disease that the roots of their teeth were exposed. One of the dogs, a male Cavalier, also had swollen gums and some of his teeth were loose. The inspector stated that "the dog allowed his head to be petted" but "continuously pulled away when his mouth was touched. Showing discomfort, he pawed at my hand..." The other dog, a female bichon, had "pronounced root exposure" and several loose teeth, and her gums "bled when touched." The inspector noted that she was able to pet the dog but that when she tried to touch the dog's mouth, she "continuously ducked her head in discomfort and tried to pull away..."

Dental disease is common in puppy mill dogs. It is often painful and sometimes reduces a dog's ability to eat. It can lead to tooth loss and eventually bone loss in the jaw, as well as more systemic infections, and heart, liver and kidney problems, according to the American Veterinary Dental College.

**Dundee, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Dwayne E. Yoder<sup>26</sup>, DL Goldens –** <u>Dogs had moldy food and rusty feeders; no veterinary exams on dogs.</u> In July 2017, a USDA inspector found dogs with moldy food at a Dundee, Ohio, breeding operation. The inspection report described conditions as follows: "Three primary enclosures containing two dogs each had feeders that contained moldy food. The eighth kennel on the left hand side and the third kennel on the right hand side containing Yorkshire Terriers showed a collection of moldy food in the corner of both the feeders. The primary enclosure in the middle of the kennel containing two Havenese has a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Although the name was not on the USDA inspection report, Yoder was linked to the kennel via state records that listed the kennel's last USDA inspection date.

large rusty feeder with cobwebs in the corner. Mold is on the tray of the feeder and moldy food is scattered along the tray. [In addition] the second kennel on the left hand side which contains no dogs also had moldy food left in the feeder." Moldy food can cause illness in dogs and deprives them of their basic need for wholesome, palatable nutrition. In addition to the USDA violations, Yoder also received a state violation in March 2018 for not having physical examination records on the dogs in the kennel, as required by law in the state. USDA #31-A-0645; OH #CB001ETS.

## **Fredericksburg**, Ohio: Joseph M. Yoder – <u>Warned three times within one year about</u> <u>unsafe/ wire flooring; excessive feces, unsanitary conditions</u>. In November 2017, state inspectors found dogs on unsafe flooring at Joseph Yoder's facility, stating that "flooring on the inside of the sheltered structure sagged and bent under the dogs." It was the third time within a year that Yoder was cited for unsafe flooring, after being warned in March and May of 2017 about similar problems. Yoder was also cited for a number of sanitary issues during different dates in 2017. During the November 2017 inspection, he was cited for dirty water bowls. In May 2017, Yoder's inspection found excessive feces and unclean conditions, and in March 2017, inspectors found a dog with an eye disorder, unclean conditions, excessive feces and expired medications. OH #CB0001QN.

# Loudonville, Ohio: John J. Nisley (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Sold underage puppies despite</u> prior warning: prior issues with sick and injured dogs: sells more than 250 puppies a year. Even after appearing in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to injured and/or sick dogs found at the facility, inspectors continued to find additional violations at John J. Nisley's facility at two other inspections in late 2017. In September 2017, he was found to have sold at least five puppies who were underage, an issue he was well aware of because he was cited for the same problem in 2015. Underage puppies (under eight weeks of age) are extremely vulnerable to illness because they have not had an adequate amount of time to build up their immune systems and respond to vaccinations. Also, in August 2017, Nisley was found to have inadequate records documenting the dogs on hand, which could indicate he was receiving dogs from unlicensed individuals or disposing of dogs in a mode of commerce (such as online) which he was not licensed for.

In 2016, a state inspector found a male Siberian husky at Nisley's facility with sores on his ears and head. In photos included with the report, the husky also appeared thin, although no concerns about his body weight were noted in the report. In September 2015, a state inspector found a number of violations at Nisley's kennel, including a poodle who was "limping excessively on her front left leg." The owner "verbally confirmed that the dog was being 'sold in a day,' but made no affirmation that the dog was in pain until acknowledgement by the animal health inspector," according to the inspection report. The inspector also noted that two boxers at the facility "appeared to be very lethargic" and were in need of immediate veterinary care. There was no documentation to show that a veterinarian had been to the facility or treated the dogs, according to the report.

During the same visit (Sept. 1, 2015), the inspector also found that "the majority of the dogs that are housed in the outside facilities are not provided with a sufficient amount of clean, drinkable water on a continual basis [but were] checked once a day or every few days," according to the report. In addition, more than 75 percent of the food and water receptacles were unclean and many were filled with "inadequate and filthy water" or with "mud, feces and other undesirable materials lacking any type of sanitation."

Nisley also received a warning in November 2015 for selling underage puppies. OH #CB0009Z7. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

Millersburg, Ohio: Daniel E. Miller, Mills Kennel – Repeated veterinary care deficiencies, including tail docking and dew claw removal without appropriate veterinary guidance; excessive feces and filthy conditions. State inspectors have found numerous violations at Daniel Miller's kennel, including repeated problems with dogs kept on uncoated wire flooring, a lack of an adequate veterinary care program, and filthy conditions. During a February 2018 inspection, the kennel was found "non-compliant" due to multiple dogs with matted hair, expired medications, and an incomplete program for addressing the dogs' behavioral and social needs as well as incomplete veterinary guidance on tail docking and dew claw removal. The issue with incomplete veterinary oversight is one that had been pointed out during past inspections. Between July 2017 and September 2017, inspectors noted on at least two different visits that the facility lacked an adequate veterinary care program, with no full documentation that "the kennel veterinarian had conducted physical examinations, provided a written health care plan or conducted B. canis [brucella canis] testing." In addition, the July report noted that the facility had wash downs under the cages, but no drainage system, which resulted in "an excessive buildup of feces that had not been removed over a long period of time on the wash downs," and excessive feces were also noted inside the cages and on the ground. In addition, many dogs had overgrown nails, general conditions were unsanitary, and none of the dogs were being identified properly. The latter is a problem because it could make it very difficult to provide correct paperwork on the dogs or to monitor their individual health records. Daniel E. Miller does not have a USDA license, but is licensed in Ohio and is inspected by the state as a commercial breeder. Ohio # CB00194Q.

Millersburg, Ohio: Mose D. Nisley, Forever Home Puppies– <u>Inspector found "very</u> <u>underweight" Great Dane; dog with eye disorder; cages too small</u>. Despite the fact that Forever Home Puppies boasts of "7 acres [of] fenced" space on its website, a March 2018 inspection found dogs confined to cages that were too small, and two dogs with medical issues. A female Great Dane was found to be "very underweight" and needed to be evaluated by a veterinarian; another female Great Dane had "protrusions of both eyes" that needed to be evaluated by a veterinarian; and multiple weaning cages were found to be too small. Forever Home offers puppies for sale online via foreverhomepuppies.com. USDA #31-A-0594; Ohio # CB000UPH.

Millersburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA – <u>Twenty-four dogs found with injured feet</u>, many of them trembling, limping or with blood clots on feet; many had been bleeding for hours without treatment. In July 2017, a USDA inspector found a distressing sight at a breeding operation in Millersburg, where a USDA-licensed breeder had severely cut back the nails of two dozen dogs, including cutting some of the nails completely off at the base, leaving many dogs actively bleeding and showing other signs of trauma. The inspector wrote: "Approximately 25% of the adult dogs in the kennel had had their nails [cut] excessively short by the licensee. The dogs that were examined appeared sore as they tried to pull their feet back, drooled, attempted to bite the inspector, [and] they licked and chewed their feet and trembled as well as defecated and urinated during the exam." The inspector went on to describe that some of the dogs appeared lame, "which was exhibited by being hesitant to bear weight on a limb, licking the feet and limping. Multiple dogs had feet [that] were bloody and had blood clots stuck to the feet." The inspector noted that "the sensitive pulp of the nail was exposed in 24 dogs," and listed a detailed description of the affected dogs, many of whom were still actively bleeding at 4:45 pm even though their nails had been cut off in the morning. Despite what appears to be deliberate cruelty or at the very least gross negligence by the licensee, the violations were not listed as "direct" or "critical" in the USDA's online records. Instead, the 24 dogs were listed only under a single, "indirect" violation.

Millersburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA– <u>Dog had crusted skin with discharge; others</u> <u>were matted or had missing fur; inspectors found dirty conditions.</u> In July 2017, a USDA inspector found several dogs in need of veterinary care at a Millersburg, Ohio, breeding operation, according to a federal inspection report upon which the licensee's name had been redacted. The dogs included a female golden retriever with a severe skin problem that the inspector described as follows: "[She had] crusting skin with serous discharge. Some areas appeared reddened and others showed a blackening of the skin. No treatment was being provided. The licensee had made no notes on the dogs [SIC] condition."

Other dogs found in need of care included a bichon frise who was "loosely matted all over its body," and another bichon who "was noted to have hair loss and saliva staining all down its back."

In addition, the inspector found dirty conditions, described in the report as follows: "Some of the wire coating for the sides of the cages has worn off. Spiderwebs are in the corners of the cages with spiders. Cobwebs were seen on the ceiling. Less than 20% water nipples show signs of build up and the same number of feeders have hair and food residue under the lip of the feeder. Deceased flies were noted on the chains holding up the whelping boxes and a multitude of flies were seen in the kennel."

Millersburg, Ohio, Name withheld by USDA– <u>Dog had a mass the size of a softball that</u> <u>was pink and draining; puppies exposed to fly infestation; dirty conditions.</u> In July 2017, a USDA inspector found a dog at a breeding operation in Millersburg who seemed to be suffering from a severe abscess that was not being treated by a veterinarian. The inspection report stated that the dog had "a draining area associated with a circular mass that was the size of a softball on the outside of his right knee. On the area there was a 1.5 [inch] circular area of hairloss. This area was pink and moist. The area was speculated to be a draining abscess." In addition, the kennel was swarming with flies, with puppies directly exposed to the pests. The inspector wrote: "Flies were found in multiple areas in the dog housing area. In the whelping areas and covered the dividers of the enclosures. Efforts have been made to reduce the number of flies in the whelping area by putting up fly strips. The windows are open with 1 by 1 [inch] wire covering the openings. This will keep out larger pests, but does not assist with fly reduction. The outdoor enclosure has a high number of flies around the food. The highest number of flies was observed around the outside pen with nursing Boerbol puppies."

Millersburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA– <u>Yorkie found "excessively matted, wet and</u> <u>smelling of urine," multiple dogs in need of veterinary care included dogs with hair loss</u> <u>and missing teeth; licensee mixed his own drug concoction that had not been approved</u> <u>by a veterinarian.</u> On May 31, 2017, a USDA inspector found numerous dogs in poor condition at a breeding operation in Millersburg. A female Maltipoo "was found with excessive tartar to both upper arcades of teeth [and] several pre-molars missing." The dog also had "a circular area of hairloss on the left flank area" with the exposed skin appearing darkened in color. In addition, a male Yorkie was found "excessively matted, wet, and smelling of urine [with] excessive matting over most of the dog but especially around the face and muzzle," and a female Cock-a-Poo was found to be "matted over most of its body and in need of grooming. This dog also has tartar build-up especially on the upper pre-molars and molars. A film of greenish-yellow material was also noted on at the gumline of the upper pre-molars and molars." Several other dogs were found with similar issues.

In addition, the licensee was found with his own concoction of mixed medication which had not been approved by the attending veterinarian. The concoction was in a bottle that was labelled "recipe for Cocitia<sup>27</sup> [SIC]." The recipe for the mixture, which was attached to the bottle, called for "several drugs including pills and liquid to be mixed together," according to the USDA inspection report. When the inspector asked about the recipe, the licensee said that "he got the recipe from another breeder [for use on] parasites," but he admitted that the mixture had not been prescribed by his veterinarian and that his veterinarian was probably not aware of it. The inspector noted that drugs that were not prescribed by a veterinarian might not be safe.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Probably coccidia

Sugarcreek, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA– Dog had bleeding gums, loose teeth and a draining abscess; she struggled and winced when inspector handled her; other dogs had scabs, bald and crusty areas of skin or injured paws. In August 2017, a USDA inspector found several dogs with painful-looking injuries at an unnamed Sugarcreek, Ohio, kennel. One of the dogs was a female King Charles Cavalier spaniel with signs of severe dental disease. She had "over 80% coverage of tartar build up on the back molars, multiple teeth on the left side of the mouth are mobile and the gums bleed when touched and an abscess is draining on the right upper side of the mouth." The inspector added that the dog seemed to be in pain: "The dog exhibited signs of pain during the exam including struggling and wincing." In addition, the inspector found at least two dogs who had painful-looking paw injuries, which are common in puppy mills that use wire or gridded flooring. One of the dogs was a female pug who "was noted to have a nail that was completely missing on the right front paw. The area appeared raw and had a clear discharge coming from the nail bed." The other dog, a female Boston terrier, "had several round bald crusty areas of skin on her flanks and four red and swollen paws. The dog's chest and neck appeared to be red and had scabs and crusty skin." Missing nails can occur in puppy mills if the dog's nail becomes so long that it curves around wire or gridded flooring; the nail then gets pulled out when the dog tries to free itself. Swollen and red paws are often the result of dogs standing on painful wire flooring, which sometimes forces their toes to splay and straddle the gaps, leading to blisterlike pustules.

## **OKLAHOMA**

Ardmore, Oklahoma: Shannon Smith, Shannon's Kennel – Breeder operated without a license for five years; repeatedly found with no vaccinations or medical records on dogs. In April 2017 and September 2017, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture visited Shannon Smith after receiving a March 2017 complaint about two breeders working together, Shannon Smith (unlicensed) and Mary Hanson (licensed). Smith was not licensed by the ODA, and the complaint alleged that Mary Hanson used Smith as her partner, moving dogs to her operation when she allegedly did not want all of them to be seen by animal control or her inspector. The complaint alleged that the dogs were kept in filthy conditions at both properties, with inadequate veterinary care. The ODA responded by sending a letter to Smith in March 2017 notifying her that she had been the subject of a complaint as an unlicensed breeder. After thus notifying her and effectively giving her advanced notice of a visit, an inspector visited Smith in April 2017. At that time, according to records received by the HSUS from ODA, Smith initially failed to let inspectors into the kennel. When she did let inspectors in about an hour later, Smith admitted to inspectors that she had allowed her license to lapse about five years prior. She had 33 breeding dogs and puppies on the property. Smith was asked to provide medical records on the dogs but had none, not even proof of rabies vaccinations.

For unknown reasons, it appears that the ODA did not visit Smith again until about six months later, on Sept. 12, 2017. At that time, Smith still did not have medical records showing that all of her dogs had been examined by a licensed vet, nor did she have current rabies vaccinations on all of her adult dogs, according to the inspection report. But on Sept. 25, 2017, the ODA reported that "all corrective actions are complete and the complaint has been closed." For some reason, the state of Oklahoma gave Smith a license, despite the fact that she had been unwilling or unable to provide proof of adequate veterinary care even with six months' time to prepare. Smith is now licensed by the state with breeder license #187. There is no indication that the state ever issued a fine or penalty to Smith for operating for five years as an unlicensed breeder.

NOTE: During the April visit, the inspector noted that Mary Hanson called Shannon Smith to see if she could bring dogs over. During the September visit, the inspector found that at least two of the dogs on Smith's property belonged to Hanson. This lends some credence to the original complaint, which alleged that the two breeders were working together.

Chandler/ Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: "Miguel Delgado," aka Tom Coleman (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Breeder with long history of sick dogs was sent warning letter for failure to</u> <u>inform Oklahoma about past license revocation in Georgia; he also previously operated in</u> <u>Ohio.</u> Tom Coleman, aka "Miguel Delgado," received a letter of warning from the state of Oklahoma in July 2017 for lying on his dog breeder license application related to past problems with his kennel. The warning stemmed from a 2016 complaint, after the HSUS notified the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture that we believed "Miguel Delgado," aka Tom Coleman, had obtained a license as a dog breeder in Oklahoma without fully informing the state of his past license revocation in Georgia.

As we noted in our 2013 Horrible Hundred report, Tom Coleman had a long and multi-state history as a problem puppy mill. Coleman moved to Oklahoma from Ohio in 2015. Before moving to Ohio, Coleman was state licensed as a pet dealer in Georgia, but in February 2012 the Georgia Department of Agriculture revoked his license for violations of the Georgia Animal Protection Act. The revocation stemmed from repeated incidents during which Georgia inspectors found sick and sometimes deceased dogs in Coleman's kennel who tested positive for brucellosis, a serious zoonotic disease, followed by Coleman's failure to properly contain the disease and comply with a quarantine.

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

Canine brucellosis is an increasingly less rare bacterial disease which is highly contagious to other dogs and can spread to cattle or humans.<sup>28</sup> In recent years it has become a rising concern in Ohio<sup>29</sup> and Oklahoma and is considered a reportable disease in several states. It is a concern for state agriculture departments because of its ability to spread to other species.

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

Ohio state records show that the Ohio Department of Agriculture also quarantined Coleman's facility in March 2012 and again in May 2012, after being alerted by the Georgia Department of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> According to the Oklahoma State Department of Health, in humans brucellosis can cause a range of symptoms that are similar to the flu and "may include fever, sweats, headache, back pain, and physical weakness. Severe infections of the central nervous systems [or] lining of the heart may occur. Brucellosis can also cause long-lasting [or chronic symptoms] that include recurrent fever, joint pain, and fatigue." While brucellosis is more prevalent in countries that do not have effective domestic animal health programs, the HSUS has received a disturbing increase in the number of reports of outbreaks at commercial dog breeding facilities within the last few years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> In a 2015 document, the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture reported that 15 humans were infected with brucellosis between 2000-2009.

Agriculture about Coleman's history and the disease risk. March 2012 records show that Ohio state officials found "approximately 400 dogs" on the new property. Knox County, Ohio, kennel records in 2013 indicated he still had a puppy mill there, with approximately 225 dogs on the property.

After appearing in our first Horrible Hundred report in 2013, Coleman moved out of the state, and later resurfaced in Oklahoma. We made the connection after receiving a new complaint from someone who visited the property to see a puppy. The complainant stated that Coleman was now selling puppies under the name Miguel Delgado.

The HSUS requested records of fines or penalties assessed against Oklahoma breeders, but could find no evidence that Coleman was ever fined or penalized (beyond receiving a warning letter) for lying on his application. He remains state licensed in Oklahoma as of March 2018. THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

East Earl, Pennsylvania: Whispering Spring Kennel, LLC (REPEAT OFFENDER) -Instructed to get vet checks for dogs 13 times between 2010 and 2017; received warnings/ citations at seven different state inspections since 2010. During a March 2018 inspection, multiple problems were found at Whispering Spring Kennel, including many that had 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, 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 not operating under the correct commercial kennel permit. The warden also found a number of puppies over 12 weeks of age being housed on metal strand flooring, which can endanger the animals, is very uncomfortable, and does not meet the state regulations. In addition, some of the dogs were found without access to exercise or an outside area, again in violation of Pennsylvania law. During a 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 dogs without access to an exercise area, in addition to maintenance problems.

Over the past eight years, the kennel has been directed to get veterinary checks on dogs during 13 state inspections. The most recent veterinary checks were ordered during the September 2017 inspection, based on the dog warden's "observations of the condition of dogs during [the] inspection," according to the state kennel inspection report.

As we reported in our 2017 report, during a January 2017 inspection, the kennel was told to get rabies vaccination for two of its dogs and received a citation. And in 2016, Pennsylvania dog wardens required veterinary checks on dogs at Whispering Spring Kennel in both June and December. The kennel was also instructed twice in 2016 and at least once in 2017 to keep the required records on dogs entering and leaving the kennel. Such records are important because they ensure that the kennel is not obtaining dogs from unlicensed dealers or disposing of dogs improperly. PA #02470. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

## Ephrata, Pennsylvania: Butter Fly Kennel – <u>Cited for unsanitary conditions, puppies from</u> <u>undocumented sources; vet checks ordered on dogs; tried to hide puppies from</u>

**inspector**. In December 2017, a dog warden performing a state kennel inspection gave Butter Fly Kennel a citation for a number of issues, including excessive feces, debris and signs of a rodent infestation; puppies on the premises who came from undocumented sources, which could be an indication that the kennel was obtaining puppies from unlicensed breeders; and two dogs who were old enough to be vaccinated for rabies that had not been vaccinated. In addition, a vet check was

ordered on an unspecified number of dogs "based on [the] warden's observations of the condition of dogs." The warden also noted that the kennel owner "was hiding a litter of seven puppies" during the inspection, possibly because the owner could not document where the puppies came from or could not document their health records. The problems with dogs in need of veterinary care and puppies from undocumented sources are issues that the kennel had been warned about in the past; in August 2016, the kennel received a written and verbal warning for failing to have records on all its dogs; in addition, a vet check was ordered on an unspecified number of dogs at the kennel. PA #04525.

# Gap, Pennsylvania: Fill-in-the-Gap Pets aka Infinity Pups (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Cited for</u> <u>failure to protect dogs from the cold, unsanitary conditions, and buying from unlicensed</u> <u>dealers in December 2017; failed five state inspections in 2016 for similar offenses.</u>

Despite appearing in our May 2017 Horrible Hundred report due to three different citations and failed five state inspections in 2016 for multiple non-compliances, Fill-in-the-Gap Pets was once again found with 10 different unacceptable conditions in December 2017. The December 2017 inspection noted unsanitary conditions, dogs who did not have adequate protection from the cold, dogs obtained by the kennel from an unlicensed, out-of-state dealer, and without the required health certificates, and incomplete records on the dogs, which could indicate that the kennel was obtaining or selling dogs from unlicensed puppy mills. These violations were similar to issues the kennel was cited for in the past. Violations documented in our prior Horrible Hundred report included: missing veterinary records and acquisition records, dogs without enough space, inadequate ventilation, excessive feces, dirty conditions, unsafe conditions such as sharp points and edges that could injure the dogs, and not enough fire detectors or smoke alarms. The establishment has at times offered puppies for sale on online classified sites such as GreenfieldPuppies.com and InfinityPups.com and on Facebook under "Infinity Pups." They also offer AKC puppies for sale on their own website, purebredgoldens.weebly.com.

The facility did pass state inspections in January 2018 and March 2018, but we have concerns about its overall history of repeated problems. The operation is also USDA licensed under the names Marvin and Sadie Riehl. USDA licensed, license # unknown. PA #06648. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Sunny Slope Kennels (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Repeatedly</u> <u>failed to get dogs examined by a veterinarian, even after warning; kennel previously</u> <u>closed down in 2010 but re-opened in 2012 and has had violations every year since then.</u> Even after appearing in our May 2017 Horrible Hundred report due to inadequate veterinary care, Sunny Slope Kennels was cited again 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 records showing that all the dogs had recently been examined by a vet. 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.

As we noted in our prior report, state inspectors 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. The kennel did pass one inspection in September 2016, one in January 2017 and one in November 2017, however, there are concerns about the kennel due to its history of recurring non-compliances. 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. An inspection in March 2018 was compliant. PA #08642. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: Weaver Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Wardens repeatedly</u> ordered vet checks on dogs; more than a decade of violations. The year 2018 is the second year in a row that Weaver Kennel has appeared in our Horrible Hundred report, and the kennel only seems to be increasing in size; it had between 50 to 90 dogs at its most recent inspections, and recently applied to upgrade to a larger kennel class (Nov. 17, 2017) after being warned that it was operating as an unlicensed kennel (outside its licensed kennel class) on November 7. An inspection in September 2017 found that the kennel did not have adequate acquisition records on several of its dogs, an indication that it could be receiving dogs from unlicensed puppy mills. In addition, the dog warden ordered a veterinary check on a dog for an unspecified issue, and the kennel was also found to have imported a dog over state lines without the required health certificate. The kennel was issued a citation at that time.

Violations have been documented off and on at Weaver Kennel since at least June 2006. Recurring issues found during prior years include: animals in need of veterinary care, dangerous uncoated wire flooring, dogs without rabies vaccinations, and poor sanitation and housekeeping. Three times in 2015, the kennel was ordered to get veterinary checks of dogs after wardens visited the kennel (August 2015, April 2015 and March 2015). During the August 2015 inspection, the dog warden noted, "There were three (3) dogs that vet checks were ordered on. Two (2) dogs were Jack Russell types with dental issues and wounds on their cheeks. The third dog was a lhasa apso type with dental issues and a 'rubber jaw,' loose lower jaw. The kennel owner did not have proof of adequate veterinary care for any of the dogs." During the same inspection, additional dogs were found in need of grooming and nail trims, and decrepit wire flooring was found to be broken in areas and sagging under the weight of the dogs. In addition, the kennel was warned three times in 2015 to get dogs vaccinated for rabies (August 2015, April 2015 and March 2015). An inspection in March 2018 was compliant. PA # 03232. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

**Mifflintown, Pennsylvania: Henry Swarey/ BowWow Hollow Pets, aka BowWow Hollow Puppies (REPEAT OFFENDER) – Massive dog dealer quarantined for giardia in kennels:** <u>linked to complaints about sick puppies.</u> BowWow Hollow Puppies is a massive dealer that transfers hundreds of puppies a year. The kennel appeared in our first Horrible Hundred report in 2013 under its prior name, BowWow Hollow Pets, due to multiple consumer complaints about sick puppies. More recent records show that sick puppies continued to be linked to the kennel as recently as September 2017, when the kennel was ordered to have its water analyzed and some of the dogs fecal tested for giardia. Shortly thereafter, the kennel was quarantined for giardia, a contagious parasite that can cause intestinal distress and bloody diarrhea, and that can spread to humans if not contained. After multiple re-inspections, the quarantine was lifted on Nov. 29, 2017.

The kennel also failed to let USDA inspectors in to conduct a March 2018 inspection<sup>30</sup>, which is a violation. The inspection report stated that a "minor family member" met the inspector at the door and stated that the licensee "wasn't home and would not return until the evening."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Although there was no name on the March 2018 USDA inspection report, to the best of our knowledge, Swarey was the only USDA B-licensed dealer in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania, at the time of the inspection.

Signs of trouble were present earlier in 2017, when the kennel received a written and verbal warning from the state due to inadequate ventilation, poor housekeeping, and foul odors. These unsanitary conditions could well have been linked to the spread of giardia, which can be shared through fecal contamination and improper cleaning. Because the dealer is licensed by the USDA as a "B" dealer, also known as a random source dealer, hundreds of puppies could have been sold to pet stores all over the country between the time these violations were found and the time the facility was quarantined. If sick, the puppies could in turn have contaminated pet stores and made other puppies ill.

As we noted in our earlier report, in 2011, the state's Office of Dog Law issued a warning to the kennel for inadequate cage space. There were 121 puppies on the premises at the time. In November 2011, the state's Office of Dog Law ordered the kennel to obtain veterinary examinations on ten dogs, including puppies who seemed lethargic or ill, some of whom had bloody matter dripping onto the shavings in their cages. And during one of the facility's 2012 USDA inspections, federal inspectors cited BowWow Hollow Pets for selling puppies from undocumented dealers.

The kennel is licensed in the state to keep and sell more than 500 dogs a year. Their B dealer license allows them to sell an unlimited number of puppies bred both onsite and by others. In addition, the facility sells puppies over the Internet via www.BowWowHollowPuppies.com and sometimes on third party sites like Lancasterpuppies.com. USDA #23-B-0190; PA #016849 (previously PA #04448). **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Newville, Pennsylvania: Margaret (Molly) Graf, Eichenluft Working German Shepherds (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Licensee still in business in 2018 despite pleading guilty to failing</u> to provide sanitary and humane conditions; failed seven state inspections in 2016 and 2017. Margaret Graf, the operator of Eichenluft Working German Shepherds, 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 cited Eichenluft Working German Shepherds for numerous problems in November 2017, including not having veterinary records on all of the dogs, no written program of overall veterinary care for the kennel, 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 operating outside of its license class.

As we noted in our previous 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 unsafe housing conditions and dogs without 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. 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 kennel inspection report, Dec. 21, 2016). Many of these violations had been found again and again over the course of the year.

In January 2017, some of the issues had been corrected, but the dog warden still found 12 different violations that were new or remained uncorrected. The violations included dogs who still did not have adequate shelter from harsh weather, ventilation that was still poor, no veterinary records on some of the dogs, and no written program of veterinary care for the kennel (state inspection, Jan. 25, 2017). 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 German shepherd puppies are 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.

While there is some indication that the state could be in the process of revoking Eichenluft's license (it was listed as "pending approval" in January 2018), the license number was still listed as active on the Pennsylvania Office of Dog Law's website as of March 26, 2018. PA #06585. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Somerset, Pennsylvania: Lauradale Kennel – Inspector found dogs in ice-covered kennels in 38 degree temperatures; entire inside of kennel building was coated in ice; citations for filthy conditions and excessive feces. On Jan. 8, 2018, a dog warden who tried to conduct an inspection of Lauradale Kennel was unable to complete the inspection due to hazardous conditions. The hazards were caused by "ice covered floors and walls on the entire interior kennel area," which created unsafe conditions for both the dogs and the inspector who was trying to perform the inspection. The inspector ended up having to cut the inspection short before it could be completed. Before he did so, he noted unsanitary and unsafe conditions, frozen drains and inadequate temperature protection for the 42 dogs and four puppies in the kennel, who were confined in the ice-coated building, which had a temperature of only 38 degrees. Inspectors also found numerous problems at Lauradale Kennel during prior visits, giving it several citations in 2016-2017 for issues such as filthy conditions, excessive feces, a strong ammonia (urine and feces) odor, and signs of rodent infestation. The kennel was also cited in December 2017 for refusing entry to an inspector. The kennel did pass an inspection on Jan. 24, 2018 and some other inspections in prior years; however, due to the frequency of citations, we have concerns about repeated problems at the kennel. PA #03714.

**Strasburg, Pennsylvania: Walnut Run Kennel (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Issued a verbal and</u> <u>written warning in 2018 for unsanitary and unsafe conditions, including poor air quality;</u> <u>history of prior warnings.</u> Even after it was listed in our prior Horrible Hundred report due to failing several state inspections in 2016, Walnut Run was cited again in January 2018 for multiple problems and the state issued a verbal and written warning. The issues found in 2018 included: excessive feces, dirty feeders, and a nonfunctional ventilation system, resulting in unacceptable air quality.** 

As we noted in our prior report, in October 2016, the kennel received a citation for many issues, including dirty conditions, excessive feces, a repeated problem with puppies missing from the kennel who were not accounted for in the paperwork and inadequate veterinary records on the dogs. An April 2016 warning also involved dogs who were missing from the kennel with no explanation for what had happened to them, and other records violations (April 2016). In December 2016, the state issued yet another warning due to a lack of adequate housing and exercise conditions at Walnut Run. An inspection in March 2018 was compliant. PA #14644. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

## **SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Freeman, South Dakota: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Joette Peterson<sup>31</sup>** (**REPEAT OFFENDER**) – <u>Multiple repeat violations; Saint Bernard had open wound</u> <u>swarming with flies; dogs had no food bowls and their food was thrown on the ground.</u> During a July 2017 inspection of Peterson's facility, a USDA inspector found three violations, two of which were repeat violations. One repeat violation was for inadequate housing maintenance that made surfaces hard to sanitize. The second repeat violation was for inadequate veterinary care, after a dog was found with an open wound that was swarming with flies. The inspector wrote: "A female Saint Bernard identified as 'Beckles' (DOB 12-2011, Microchip #A02396226) was observed to have an open sore/wound on the top of the nose area. The sore area was approximately 3/4 to 1 inch in size and appeared partially ulcerated, red and moist. Flies were observed landing around the affected area." In addition, the inspector issued a violation for unsanitary food, due to the fact that there were no feeders or bowls for the dogs, and food was being thrown on the ground for the dogs to eat, increasing the risk for contamination.

Although the USDA did not list a name on the July 2017 inspection report, we linked it to Peterson via a microchip number reported for the injured dog, "Beckles," which links Beckles to prior identified inspection reports under the licensee Joette Peterson. The issues with wounded dogs and excessive flies are issues that inspectors have documented at Peterson's kennel in the past. Peterson appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report due to keeping dogs in the freezing cold without adequate protection from the weather and injured dogs.

In the 2016 Horrible Hundred report, we reported that many violations were found at Peterson's kennel by USDA inspectors in August 2014, including two injured dogs with open wounds that were buzzing with flies, unsanitary and unsafe housing and a lack of pest control, and that during the Jan. 13, 2016 inspection, seven of the facility's dogs were found outside in the cold when the daytime temperature was 35.9 degrees. The dogs had no bedding in their dog houses nor any additional heat source, according to the USDA inspection report. According to Weather.com, the weather in that part of the country reached lows of approximately zero degrees at night on Jan. 12, 2016, the night before the inspection.

A history of problems at the kennel goes back to at least May 2013, when a Mr. Peterson actively refused to let an inspector take photographs of a noncompliant issue during an inspection in which multiple violations were found. USDA #46-A-0377. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Plankinton, South Dakota: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Elvina Johnson<sup>32</sup>/ Johnson Kennels – <u>No vet had visited the facility in three years; Weimeraner had "thick</u> <u>vellow-green discharge" from both eyes; Labrador had partly ulcerated skin lesions;</u> <u>puppies housed in poor conditions.</u> In May 2017, a USDA inspector found that there was no evidence that a veterinarian had visited Johnson Kennels since June 2014. The inspector noted that the most recent written program of veterinary care was dated June 15, 2014, and that even the 2014 veterinary plan was missing some important data, such as details on parasite control and euthanasia methods. In addition, the inspector found two animals who were in need of veterinary care. One of the animals was in such acute need of care that the issue was cited as a "direct" violation, which indicates that the animal was showing signs of discomfort or distress. The dog was a nine-year-old male Weimeraner named Fritz, who had "thick yellow-green discharge" coming from both eyes and crusted, dried green material on the lower eyelids. The other dog was a 10-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Although the name was not on the USDA inspection report, Peterson was linked by dog microchip numbers to prior inspections and prior Horrible Hundred reports.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Although the name was not on the USDA inspection report, to the best of our knowledge, Elvina Johnson was the only USDA licensed breeder in Plankinton, South Dakota, at the time of inspection.

year-old male yellow lab named Shane who "was found to have thickened, darkly pigmented and partially ulcerated areas of skin." In addition, the inspector found puppies housed in an inappropriate manner with chewed plywood that could be a sanitation or splinter hazard.

## **WISCONSIN**

Augusta, Wisconsin: David Kurtz – <u>Sick puppy sold without a veterinary visit; parvovirus</u> <u>linked to kennels; limping dog had not been taken to a veterinarian.</u> David Kurtz operates his dog breeding facility between two locations in Wisconsin. A customer filed a complaint in February 2017 regarding a puppy who appeared to be suffering symptoms of parvovirus. The puppy had been sold by the licensee. 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 inspectors, Kurtz denied the disease was present his facilities and claimed he had not had any deaths at his kennel recently, according to state records obtained by the Humane Society of the United States. 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 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 made contact with the primary veterinarian and she stated that she was aware that his 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 locations had uncovered multiple violations. The puppy involved in the complaint was found to have been sold without a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI). 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 CVI, 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 running through four enclosures 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.

In addition to the state, the USDA also found violations linked to Kurtz. The December 2017 inspection report for an address in Augusta, Wisconsin, identified as "site #13150," which is the address on some of Kurtz's state inspection reports, documented a dog with a leg injury and another with a skin condition.

Specifically, the inspector noted that a "cockashon" (cocker spaniel mix) was "limping on its left front leg." When asked about the condition of the dog, the licensee said they had noticed the condition two days prior, but had not contacted their veterinarian about it. The inspector wrote, "a dog limping indicates that there is something medically wrong [...] The dog may be in pain and may have some kind of infection [that could] spread to other parts of the body." During the same visit, the inspector found a female dog named Teddy who had a rash on her underside and red spots on her abdomen, some of which were scabbed over. The inspector noted that a veterinarian had diagnosed the dog with 'hot spots' two weeks prior, but the veterinarian's treatment plan had not been followed and the dog's condition was now worse. The inspector noted that both dogs were in

danger of infection and that the licensee needed to communicate with their veterinarian about the dogs. USDA licensed, license # unknown. WI #402317.

## Black River Falls, Wisconsin: Ryan T. Handly, DesignerPuppy.com, and WisconsinPuppies.net (REPEAT OFFENDER) – <u>Dogs "exposed to excrement falling from</u> <u>higher enclosures" per inspection report; strong odor of ammonia and feces; state</u> <u>inspectors issued three official warnings in 2016/2017 for multiple violations, yet Handly</u> <u>accumulated new violations in January 2018.</u> After appearing in our 2017 report, Ryan Handly continued to have issues at multiple kennel locations, according to state records, and there are indications that he may have as many as four different locations in different parts of the state. During two state inspections in August 2017 (at both the Black River Falls and Vesper locations), inspectors found incomplete vaccination records and a number of other problems.

Then, on Nov. 15, 2017, inspectors found more violations at one of Handly's locations. Inspectors found incomplete litter and vaccination records; continued lack of a written behavior and socialization plan; four enclosures 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 more concerns about sanitation. Based on these violations, the state issued an official warning notice. However, even after being warned by the Department of Agriculture, Handly was again cited for many more violations in January 2018. Violations included "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 and soiled bedding. Handly was later issued a notice of non-compliance due to the January 2018 violations.

Inspectors have found issues at Handly's operation(s) for several years in a row. As our previous Horrible Hundred report stated, in August 2016, the state of Wisconsin issued an official warning to Ryan Handly for multiple non-compliances found during a July 2016 inspection, including a lethargic puppy who was found lying in a water bowl with pale gums. When questioned about the lethargic puppy's condition, the owner admitted he had been aware of it, but no recent veterinary care had been provided. The puppy later tested positive for giardia and coccidia. Other violations found at the same inspection included: puppies sold without vaccination records; most of the dogs had no water and some were panting; some of the dogs who did have water had only dirty, contaminated water; multiple mother dogs with their puppies were found in cramped wire cages that didn't give them enough space to allow sufficient movement; some dogs were very matted; conditions were dirty; some walls were made of unpainted plywood and the dogs were chewing holes in the walls large enough to stick their heads through.

Despite the August 2016 warning, when state officials went back to re-inspect the kennel in September, they found many problems were still occurring, according to state records. Most of the dogs still had no water, and those that did have water had only dirty water; no medical records were available; no follow-up records were available on the lethargic puppy who had been seen in July; conditions were still dirty; and many of the cages with mother dogs and puppies in them were still overcrowded (Sept. 8, 2016). In November 2016, the state issued a second Official Warning notice due to the violations found during the September inspection.

According to the state documents, "Handly sells small-breed puppies advertised on his websites. Handly owns adult breeding dogs that are housed at various locations within Wisconsin." The Vesper location is on Raymond Hirschberger's property, according to state records, and Hirschberger is the "caretaker" of dogs and puppies owned by Ryan Handly at that location. Handly sells puppies via websites such as DesignerPuppy.com and WisconsinPuppies.net. The Wisconsin Puppies website offers shipping across the U.S., although our researchers could find no indication that Handly had the federal license that is required for those who ship puppies online to unseen buyers (as of May 7, 2018). WI#268582. **SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.** 

Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Jesse W. Yutzy – <u>State inspection found dogs and puppies shivering</u> in the cold; licensee ordered to pay \$1,499 to court; placed on conditional license due to repeated non-compliance. Between 2016 and 2017, Jesse W. Yutzy had repeated issues complying with Wisconsin dog breeder regulations. In May 2016, Yutzy was issued a stipulation agreement, and in June of that year, he was given a consent order, which placed conditions on his license for two years. If he did not comply with state regulations, he would be ordered to pay the fine laid out in the stipulation. However, starting in September 2016, inspectors found violations at every subsequent inspection, according to records received by the Humane Society of the United States. Three attempted inspections between March and April 2017 forced the department to schedule an announced inspection to ensure the licensee would be available.

Finally, in May 2017, inspectors were able to get inside the facility. They found violations for incomplete disposition records, incomplete vaccination records and three dogs housed alone without daily contact with other dogs, which could lead to socialization and behavioral issues. Compliance agents briefly followed up 10 days later and noticed the kennel was "cool and damp" and that the "majority of the dogs with short hair and puppies were shivering and appeared cold." Inspectors returned on July 18, 2017 and found repeat problems with the disposition and vaccination records (Records of disposition and vaccination are vital to ensuring that puppies are protected from deadly diseases). After the two routine inspections in May and July, compliance officers determined that Yutzy was still not conforming with conditions set forth in his compliance agreement from 2016. He was ordered to pay the \$1,499.50 to the county court for violating his agreement (Case No. 16-C-25). USDA licensed, license # unknown. WI#283657.

## Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Joshua W. Yutzy – <u>Inspection cut short due to sick puppy;</u> <u>"extreme and unacceptable accumulation of excrement," strong odors and flies. Many</u>

**repeat violations.** State inspectors found violations at four separate inspections in 2017 at Joshua Yutzy's facility. After two attempted inspections in March 2017, inspectors were able to briefly visit the kennel in April, but ended 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 an "extreme and unacceptable accumulation of excrement" and other issues, according to state inspection records we obtained.

After issuing Yutzy an official warning for violations in April and May, inspectors returned on two occasions in July 2017 to check on compliance, and found even more problems. 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. It is unclear when or if these violations were ever corrected. WI#283658.

New Auburn, Wisconsin: Jeffrey and Angela Kellen, J.A.K. Kennel – <u>Mother dog and</u> <u>puppies found in the cold; excessive feces; compliance actions issued twice in two</u> <u>months by state authorities.</u> In December 2017 and January 2018, Wisconsin state inspectors attempted to inspect J.A.K. Kennel in New Auburn on three separate occasions, yet no one was available to let the inspectors inside. After contacting the breeder on the second attempt on Dec. 20, 2017, the state was able to conduct a brief inspection, and found multiple violations. Violations included housing in disrepair with sharp metal points that could injure the dogs, a mother dog and a four-day-old litter of puppies who were found without an adequate heat source when temperatures were 38 degrees Fahrenheit, accumulations of feces, poor sanitation, and two dogs with a "significant amount of matted hair."

When inspectors returned in January 2018, some of the violations had not been corrected, and they observed new issues. Once again, enclosures were found to be unsafe, and inspectors noted excessive feces and other sanitation problems. New issues cited at the Jan. 12, 2018 inspection included: water buckets that were empty and/or filled with frozen water (the licensee admitted the dogs had been without fresh water since the evening before), dirty feed containers, lack of enrichment objects, insufficient bedding in outdoor shelters, and inadequate lighting in one of the kennel rooms, which could make it difficult for the caretakers to adequately check on the dogs. Due to the multiple violations in December and January, the department issued two notices of non-compliance. WI#274480.

## Stetsonville, Wisconsin: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Aaron Hostetler<sup>33</sup> – <u>"Critical" violation for dog with significant leg injury; leg had gone untreated for almost</u>

**a year.** In July 2017, a USDA inspector gave Aaron Hostetler a "Critical" violation, the USDA's most urgent violation category, for a female dachshund who appeared to be unable to walk with, or bear weight on, one of her front legs. When asked about the dog's injury, the broker stated that the dog had "received an unknown injury to her leg in August 2016 while he was away from his facility," but the inspector noted, "Veterinary care was not provided to the dog by the caretaker at the time of the injury nor the licensee upon his return." This timeline indicates that by the time the inspector noted, "untreated injuries can be painful and can lead to abnormal healing and loss of use of the injured body part." Hostetler has a "B" dealer (aka broker) license, which enables him to sell puppies bred by others, as well as puppies raised on his own property. This means he could be selling puppies to any pet store in the country, as well as online.

## Thorp, Wisconsin: Name withheld by USDA – <u>Boston terrier puppy was listless and had</u> <u>swollen head; licensee resisted taking the puppy to a vet until inspector insisted.</u> In

December 2017, a Thorp, Wisconsin dog breeder, showed a shocking disregard for a seriously ill puppy pointed out by her USDA inspector. The puppy, described as a two-week old Boston terrier, was found by the inspector "listless and not moving around much." According to the inspector, when he touched the puppy, "it felt as if the back of the puppy's head was swollen and possibly filling with fluid." When the inspector asked the breeder if she had contacted a veterinarian about the puppy, she claimed the puppy had recently been acting normally and so she did not know there was a problem. When the inspector offered to stop his inspection so that she could immediately take the puppy and she indicated to [the inspector] that there was no need to contact the Attending Veterinarian." The inspector insisted, stating in his report that: "A listless puppy that isn't moving around much indicates the puppy is probably having a serious medical problem and if left untreated the condition will most likely continue to worsen and the puppy will probably die." Only upon the insistence of the inspector did the breeder contact a veterinarian, indicating that had the inspector not happened to come to the facility that day, the puppy would probably have been left to die.

The licensee reportedly called the veterinarian about the sick puppy after the inspector insisted, although it does not appear that she physically brought the animal in for professional treatment. The USDA inspection report says only that "the licensee has contacted the Attending Veterinarian"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Although there was no name on the USDA inspection report, to the best of our knowledge, this broker was the only one licensed by USDA in the town at the time of the inspection.

and treated the puppy per his/her instructions." There is no note on the inspection report regarding the fate of the puppy.

Thorp, Wisconsin: Name withheld by USDA– Puppy had scabs and cloudy eye; west highland terrier had a puncture wound on her neck. In December 2017, a USDA inspector found two dogs in obvious need of veterinary care at a Thorp, Wisconsin breeding operation. The first one was a "shipoo" (shih tzu / poodle mix) puppy who had recently been given fluids by the licensee, and who had "lost its hair in the area surrounding where the needle had been inserted under the skin" by the licensee. The puppy had "at least three scabs" near the wound, and also had one eye that was clouded over. Despite these obvious issues, the puppy had not been taken to a licensed veterinarian for treatment. In addition, the inspector found an adult female West Highland terrier who had a puncture wound on her neck that "could be painful and if left untreated could become infected," according to the USDA inspection report. The licensee claimed they had not noticed the westie's puncture wound or the puppy's eye problem. Neither of the dogs had been treated by a veterinarian for their conditions. Despite the significance of their injuries, the USDA inspector did not cite the breeder with a "Direct" violation, which would have triggered faster follow-up by the agency. Instead, the licensee was given three days to "have these animals evaluated by the attending veterinarian."

## 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 information was available (note: most federal warnings and other enforcement records have been removed from public view since early 2017, as part of the USDA's data purge);
- 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 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 at the time of publication.

Due to the fact that many public records are no longer available and/or sortable on the USDA's website, it is possible that some breeders or dealers listed in this report have had compliant inspections, additional violations, or license status changes that were not available to Humane Society of the United States researchers when we prepared this report. It is also possible that some businesses were listed more than once, due to multiple inspections performed on different dates which could not be linked under one business name because of the lack of names or license numbers on most of the USDA's public Animal Welfare Act records pertaining to pet breeders and

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dealers. In some cases, we were able to link a likely name to a USDA inspection report because there was only one USDA-licensed breeder or broker in the town listed on the report during the time of the inspection, or because researchers were able to link certain information that was found on previously unredacted records with the redacted records (ie, dog microchip numbers). Those cases are identified in the text or in footnotes.

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, such as Arkansas, Florida and Indiana, have scant information available. States such as Missouri, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin keep excellent records on pet dealers. Some states that do have pet breeder inspection laws did not fully respond to our public records requests, leaving researchers with very little information on problem kennels in their states.

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 and/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 or 2017) 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, contact our Puppy Mill Tipline at 1(877) MILL-TIP or see www.humanesociety.org/reportapuppymill.