



## Shipments of Puppies from Missouri to California During 2009

October 11, 2010

**Data description:** The State of Missouri's Department of Agriculture/Division of Animal Health requires the completion of a Small Animal Health Certificate by consignors/shippers of dogs leaving the state of Missouri. On an approximately monthly basis, the state of Missouri sends copies of these certificates to officials in states where dogs were received. In California, those certificates are received by the California Department of Food and Agriculture Department and then transferred to the California Department of Public Health (at the request of the state's public health veterinarian). Neither agency has any statutory obligation or resources to process the certificates. Approximately two years' worth of paper certificates (most of which are hand-written duplicates of the original signed forms) are housed in boxes at the CDPH offices in Sacramento and are made available for public viewing/copying on site consistent with the State's Public Records Request Act. The health certificates include information about the consignor/shipper (name and address), date, transport type (e.g. air or truck), consignee/recipient name and address, species, breed, age, sex, description, vaccination record, and veterinary identification/signature.

**Project scope:** After electronically scanning certificates received from Missouri consignors/shippers between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009, The Humane Society of the United States built a Microsoft Access database and solicited volunteers to enter the data from these certificates so analysis could be completed. This data was entered between February and May of 2010, resulting in nearly 10,000 individual records in the dataset. Corrections were made to eliminate data entry inconsistencies and typographical errors.

**Project goal:** To quantify and analyze the flow of puppies (defined as dogs/canines under a year of age) from Missouri to California.

### **Highlights:**

- Approximately 8,980 dogs under a year of age are documented to have entered California from Missouri (shipped either by truck or air) during calendar year 2009.
- The average age of the dogs was 9.7 weeks (median was 9 weeks). Puppies are received in California either by retail pet stores (6,293 puppies received by 76 stores in 17 counties) or by individuals either for private ownership or resale (2,687 puppies received by individuals in all 58 counties).

- The largest single Missouri consignor/shipper is The Hunte Corporation, the country's largest puppy broker/re-seller, based in Goodman, Missouri. Approximately 30 percent of the puppies received in California from Missouri were trucked to California pet stores by The Hunte Corporation.
- More than two-thirds of the puppies coming from Missouri during 2009 went to Southern California – primarily to pet stores and individuals in Orange, Los Angeles and San Diego counties.
- Ten pet stores account for nearly half the state's shipments of puppies from Missouri to California.
- Small breed dogs dominate the supply – nine of the top ten (by shipment volume) dog breeds average less than 25 pounds when full-grown.
- Shipments of so-called “designer breeds” (hybrids of existing recognized breeds) approach 20 percent of the total.
- Several California individuals received more than 10 puppies from Missouri, suggesting re-sale activity, including two individuals who each received 100 puppies during 2009.
- At a conservative average retail price of \$1,000 per puppy, the 2009 shipments from Missouri to California approach \$9 million in retail sales value.
- One Missouri puppy dealer (Gingerich) found shipping at least five puppies to Californians during 2009 was cited by the USDA for 62 pages of serious Animal Welfare Act violations, including underweight dogs shivering in the cold, dying puppies who had not been treated by a vet, and feces covering 75% of the total outdoor floor space in some enclosures. Gingerich has now dropped his USDA license but remains state licensed in MO.
- Another Missouri puppy dealer (Cheney) who sold at least 19 puppies to California pet stores in 2009 is the subject of more than 500 pages of USDA enforcement records and animal welfare act violations.
- Missouri puppy dealer (Tidwell) who sold at least seven puppies to California pet stores in 2009 was cited by the USDA for performing invasive surgeries on her own and brokered puppies without a veterinary license.

## SUMMARY STATISTICS

	Number	Percent of Total
<b>Total Puppies</b>	8,980	100%
<b>Top 5 Receiving Counties</b>	6,998	78%
<b>Shipped to Southern California</b>	6,414	71%
<b>Shipped to Pet Store</b>	6,293	70%
<b>Top 10 Shippers</b>	5,444	61%
<b>Shipped from Class B Dealer</b>	5,223	58%
<b>Top 10 Pet Stores</b>	4,050	45%
<b>Shipped via Airline</b>	4,021	45%
<b>Top 10 Breeds</b>	3,569	40%
<b>“Designer” Breeds</b>	1,659	19%
<b>Top 10 “Designer” Breeds</b>	886	10%
<b>Top 10 Individuals</b>	452	5%

## TOP 10 SHIPPERS

Rank	Shipper	City	# of Puppies	% of Total
1	The Hunte Corporation	Goodman	2,718	30%
2	CC Inc.	La Belle	985	11%
3	Mid America Pet	Neosho	656	7%
4	Sanjon Kennel/Sandi & John Blake	Louisburg	584	7%
5	Cristy Bowyer	Meadville	120	1%
6	Tracy's K&J Pets	Fair Grove	109	1%
7	Penny James	Polo	77	1%
8	Belisles Kennels	Osceola	72	1%
9	Tammy Graham	Kirksville	64	1%
10	Shonda Madison	Cassville	59	1%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5,444</b>	<b>61%</b>

## TOP 5 COUNTIES

Rank	County	# Puppies	% of Total	% of Human Pop
1	Orange	2,490	28%	8%
2	Los Angeles	2,105	23%	27%
3	San Diego	1,011	11%	8%
4	Placer	986	11%	1%
5	San Bernardino	406	5%	5%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6,998</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>50%</b>

## TOP 10 PET STORES

Rank	Store	County	# Puppies	% of Total
1	Chien Et Chat	Orange	985	11%
2	Petland*	Placer	866	10%
3	Pet Pantry	Orange	433	5%
4	Just Paws Pets	Los Angeles (N Hollywood)	375	4%
5	California Pet	San Diego	309	3%
6	Moon Doggies	San Bernardino	245	3%
7	Russo's Pet	Orange	237	3%
8	Pets Pets Pets	Orange	233	3%
9	Just Paws Pets	Los Angeles (Arcadia)	200	2%
10	California Pets	Orange	167	2%
<b>Total</b>			<b>4,050</b>	<b>45%</b>

\*Note: store closed in mid-December 2009.

## TOP 10 BREEDS

Rank	Breed	# Puppies	% of Total
1	Yorkshire Terrier (Yorkie)	775	9%
2	Maltese	521	6%
3	Beagle	408	5%
4	Dachshund	323	4%
5	Shih Tzu	310	3%
6	Chihuahua	306	3%
7	English Bulldog	263	3%
8	Pomeranian	228	3%
9	Morkie (Maltese-Yorkshire Terrier)	218	2%
10	French Bulldog	217	2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,569</b>	<b>40%</b>

## TOP 10 "DESIGNER" BREEDS

Rank	Breed	# Puppies	% of Total
1	Morkie (Maltese-Yorkshire Terrier)	218	2%
2	Puggle (Pug-Beagle)	151	2%
3	Cockapoo (Cocker Spaniel-Poodle)	111	1%
4	Maltipoo (Maltese-Poodle)	96	1%
5	Shih Poo (Shih Tzu-Poodle)	78	1%
6	Cavachon (Cavalier King Charles-Bichon Frise)	51	1%
7	Yorkipoo (Yorkshire Terrier-Poodle)	49	1%
8	Pomapoo (Pomeranian-Poodle)	45	1%

9	Pekepoo (Pekingese-Poodle)	44	0%
10	Goldendoodle (Golden Retriever-Poodle)	43	0%
<b>Total</b>		<b>886</b>	<b>10%</b>

#### TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL RECIPIENTS

Rank	Recipient	County	# of Puppies
1	Krista Dragna	Los Angeles	100
2	Danna (or D'avia) Messick	San Diego	100
3	John & Rose Ellis	Placer	83
4	Stephen Wonn	Los Angeles	52
5	Todd Howard	San Diego	31
6	Courtney Bradshaw	Los Angeles	29
7	Michele Walker	Santa Cruz	18
8	Jeff Adams	Santa Clara	14
9	Mike Astrosky	Ventura	14
10	Helen De Rosa	Santa Clara	13
<b>Total</b>			<b>452</b>