



## THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

### 2012 USDA Breeder and Brokers Figures and Puppy Estimates

Number of USDA Class A and B licensed breeders and brokers (as of June 2012) = **3,303**

Number of USDA Class A and B licensed breeders that breed dogs for pet trade (not research breeders or other animal breeders) = **2,257**

Number of dogs kept solely for breeding purposes (based on an average of 87 dogs per licensed breeding kennel, per USDA inventory counts) = **196,359**

Number of female dogs kept for breeding purposes (based on conservative estimates 65% females; from kennels we have seen, the number of females is closer to 80%) = **127,633**

Number of puppies sold from USDA facilities per year [based on an estimated 4.7 puppies per litter per female (based upon average litter sizes for the top 10 AKC breeds) and 2 litters per year = **1,199,750**

#### **In addition:**

Nationwide numbers of large-scale breeding operations *not* required to be licensed by USDA are unavailable. In states where that data is tracked, the numbers are often far greater than two to one. For our estimates, we chose to use an equal number of unlicensed kennels as USDA kennels.

Assuming an equal number of unlicensed and USDA-licensed kennels, the conservative number of puppies born annually in puppy mills across the U.S. is **2,399,500.**

Note: currently there is no accurate nationwide system for capturing numbers of non-USDA licensed, large-scale breeding operations. Here are a few examples of state data we do have:

- Ohio has 149 USDA licensed breeders; however, research undertaken in 2011 shows that there are nearly 8,000 state licensed dog kennels total.
- Pennsylvania has 112 USDA-licensed breeders, yet there were 1,079 state-licensed breeding kennels at most recent count (2010). Only 134 of those kennels claim to sell more than 60 puppies a year.
- Illinois has 33 USDA-licensed breeders, but there are 836 state-licensed kennels (2008).
- Kansas has USDA-licensed Class A breeders, but there are 577 licensed by the state (2010). (Kansas licenses both USDA and non-USDA breeders, indicating that about half of the states licensed breeders are USDA-licensed and half are not.)
- Nebraska has 81 USDA-licensed breeders, and 487 state-licensed breeders.
- Missouri had 744 USDA-licensed breeders in 2012 and about 1041 licensed commercial breeders. (The state of Missouri licenses both USDA and non-USDA breeders.)

The AKC alone registered over 920,000 puppies in 2005. The AKC has acknowledged that registration with it has dropped dramatically, and that there are currently 20-24 other registries operating in the U.S.