

The Horrible Hundred 2019

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

For the seventh year in a row, the Humane Society of the United States is publishing a list of 100 problem puppy mills and dog sellers. The 2019 Horrible Hundred is a list of problem dealers in the United States that the HSUS is aware of, published annually to warn consumers about common problems at puppy mills, and to urge government oversight agencies, such as the United States Department of Agriculture, to live up to their enforcement obligations. It is not a list of the worst operations, because many puppy mills are not inspected at all and thus operate in secrecy.

Since our last report was published in May 2018, some of the dealers listed in that report appear to have closed their doors, including the notorious Laughlin Kennel (Robert Fink) in Massachusetts, Georgia Puppies (Craig Gray aka Reason Gray) in Georgia, and Samples Creek Kennel (Pam Baldwin) in Missouri. A few other Missouri dealers, including Pup 4 U, aka Cedercrest Kennel (Marilyn Shepherd aka Marilyn Williams), have been penalized by the state, but appear to still be operating as of the time of this report. Missouri has a history of allowing problem kennels to continue to operate on a smaller scale even after they have been penalized and downsized.

Missouri continues to have the largest number of puppy mills in this report for the seventh year in a row (22), followed by Iowa (13), Pennsylvania (12) and Ohio (eight). However, it's important to note that HSUS researchers are unable to get local inspection records from states that don't have kennel inspection laws, so states that have solid kennel inspection programs often have more dealers in the report. In contrast, some states that don't inspect dog breeding kennels at all, such as Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee, have few or no dealers in the report simply because documentation is scant.

Since our last report was released, we continued to find some of the same types of egregious violations on federal and state inspection reports, including violations for dogs found shivering in the cold, dogs with only frozen water buckets available or no water at all, dogs with untreated wounds, sick puppies who had not been



Above: State inspectors found filthy conditions and an emaciated Great Dane at D and S Puppies in Cumby, Texas. The operation markets its puppies on Facebook and at flea markets. /TX Dept of Agriculture, 2018

treated by a veterinarian, and underweight dogs with their ribs and spines showing. Twenty-seven of the dealers in this report are repeat offenders who have appeared in one or more of HSUS's prior reports on puppy mills.

The USDA is responsible for inspecting dog breeding kennels in every state if they have five or more breeding females and sell sight-unseen, for example through pet stores or online. However, over the past two years, there has been a very steep decline in enforcement at USDA. *The Washington Post* [reported in February](#) that USDA inspectors documented 60% fewer violations at licensed facilities in 2018 compared to 2017. *The Post* also [reported last October](#) that the USDA issued only 39 written warnings in the first three quarters of 2018, and it settled only one complaint against a puppy mill operator. In contrast, two years ago the agency issued 192

warnings and filed complaints against 23 licensees.

The USDA made some other very [troubling moves](#) in 2018, such as launching a pilot program that would alert some facilities about inspections in advance, and choosing to use its limited resources to [inspect small nonprofit pet rescues](#) that transport pets for a fee, even if those groups make no profit and only receive reimbursement for expenses. This will leave the USDA with even fewer resources to inspect unlicensed or chronically problematic puppy mills.

In fact, while the USDA was pursuing small, cash-strapped



Above: an underweight dog was one of several found in need of veterinary care at Cedar Ridge Australians, aka AussieDoodleWoods, in Alton, Missouri. /MO Dept of Agriculture, 2019

rescues, it appeared to ignore problems at some of the massive dog breeding operations we identified in our prior reports, including [Georgia Puppies](#), which state authorities finally closed down after finding more than 700 dogs in shockingly poor conditions in early 2019. Georgia Puppies had been selling puppies online with only a state license and with no apparent USDA license, as we revealed in our May 2018 report. And in April 2019, HSUS released a [new report](#) showing we found a massive rabbit breeder selling to a Petland store in Virginia; that breeder was also not licensed by the USDA, even though he had about 200 rabbits and admitted he had been selling them to the pet store for years.

USDA has also been working to weaken even the most basic rules that protect animals. In May 2018, the agency revised the written guide that its inspectors use. The new guide was missing many important elements, such as requirements related to identifying suffering animals and requiring veterinary examinations for sick animals. In fact, HSUS researchers are now seeing USDA inspection reports that show that even when inspectors found animals who were clearly injured or emaciated, they sometimes did not cite the issue as a “direct” or “critical” violation. “Direct” or “critical” citations are more serious designations and would trigger a follow-up inspection.

Disease outbreaks at puppy mills may become even more common now that the USDA no longer requires breeders or dealers with acutely ill dogs to take them immediately to a veterinarian. On several occasions, recent USDA records show, federal inspectors did not require a puppy mill owner to have a sick or emaciated dog physically examined or tested by a veterinarian. Instead, they sometimes allowed the licensees to call a veterinarian for advice during the inspection. For example, at a Kokomo, Indiana breeding facility, an emaciated, nursing mother dog that a USDA inspector found with her ribs and spine protruding was not examined by a vet; the inspector simply allowed the licensee to call his vet during the inspection, and the veterinarian instructed the breeder to feed the dog a different diet. This advice could put both the mother dog and her puppies in grave danger if the dog was emaciated for non-dietary reasons, such as an underlying infection or an intestinal parasite. The USDA's lax rules are putting dogs and their puppies in grave jeopardy.

Careless oversight of veterinary care at licensed dog dealers is an especially significant concern due to recent disease outbreaks that could spread not only to dogs but to their human families, such as a [canine brucellosis](#) outbreak at Double G Kennels in Knoxville, Iowa, that was [reported](#) by the state veterinarian in May 2019. Double G Kennels appeared in our [2018 Horrible Hundred](#) report due to a failure to provide adequate veterinary care to ailing dogs, yet he remains USDA licensed at the time of this report. Canine brucellosis is incurable in dogs and can spread to humans. In addition, more than [118 people](#) were sickened in an outbreak of a multi-drug-resistant *Campylobacter* infection that was traced back to pet store puppies in 2016-2018, many of them from USDA-licensed breeders and brokers, according to documents HSUS obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC admitted that some infections may still be occurring even though it is no longer tracking them.

But the public may never fully know which, if any, breeders linked to certain disease outbreaks were re-inspected and monitored for the problem. At the time of this report, the USDA continues to redact breeder names, addresses and license numbers on its public Animal Welfare Act records online, a practice that started in February 2017. In response to Freedom of Information Act requests, the agency is redacting these critical records nearly entirely—including the entire substance of inspection reports. The HSUS is currently engaged in litigation against the USDA for failing to provide this information that we believe the agency is mandated to disclose. We are also supporting new legislation that will require the USDA to restore the withheld information.

The USDA's redactions conceal the name of the owner or operator on many of the puppy sellers (about 14%) in this report. An additional 15% of the dealers in this report have been listed with a probable identity that HSUS researchers arrived at by comparing the USDA's redacted reports to other information. These instances are marked with a footnote. Without complete information on the licensees' identities, it is difficult for us to ensure that the agency is adequately implementing or enforcing the Animal Welfare Act, because we cannot always match inspection reports with other information in our records showing that certain licensees have a history of non-compliance with the welfare standards, and cannot see how the agency's Animal Welfare Act inspections vary over time or between facilities.

In several cases where we were able to link a licensee to a probable identity by comparing federal records to state records, we found dealers with repeated, serious violations on their state inspection reports that the USDA did not cite for a single violation on their most recent federal reports. For example at Puppy Love Kennel, aka Cory's Cuties in Elkland, MO, state inspectors found numerous problems, including several underweight dogs, in October 2018, but the USDA gave the facility a clean inspection report that same month.

The USDA did take a step forward in March 2019, when the agency proposed a rule that could prevent problem sellers who have had their licenses revoked from obtaining a new license under a family member's name. If

finalized, the rule could also prevent chronically noncompliant breeders from automatically obtaining renewed licenses, and it would require dog breeders to obtain annual veterinary examinations for each dog, and provide a continual source of fresh water. While the proposed rule is a good start, if the USDA is not diligently and accurately citing breeders for egregious problems, then the relicensing part of the rule will be moot. In addition, the USDA must do more to provide dogs with humane living quarters by eliminating the harmful—yet currently allowed under the USDA’s regulations—practice of keeping dogs in stacked cages and on wire or gridded flooring, and by requiring breeders to provide dogs with at least twice the current minimum space, among other important reforms. As of the publication of this report, the rule was still open for public comment, and may or may not be finalized as written. The public can weigh in on the [Regulations.gov website](https://www.regulations.gov).

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

It’s important to note that, although some of the puppy mills listed in this report have been accused of illegal conduct, not all of the issues noted herein are illegal, although many would agree they are inhumane. Stronger laws at both the state and federal level are needed to protect these dogs. To avoid supporting an inhumane breeder, puppy buyers should never purchase a puppy from a pet store, over the internet, or from any breeder they haven’t met in person.

The following list includes some examples of the types of problematic operations that many puppy buyers are inadvertently supporting.

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ARKANSAS

Farmington, Arkansas: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Kim and Mort Marshall, Heart Chasers K-9s¹ – Dog had severe eye injury with “mass of red tissue protruding from the cornea” and was oozing fluid from the eye; excessive feces and odor. During a May 30, 2018, USDA inspection, several problems were found at a breeding operation in Farmington, Arkansas. Direct quotes from that inspection report include:

“There was a black male pekingese named Halo [...] with an injured left eye. The eye was red and cloudy and had a mass of red tissue protruding from the cornea. A creamy white fluid was oozing from the eye and the fur around the eye was matted with yellow crust. The licensee stated that he was not aware of the injury. Eye injuries can be painful and should be appropriately addressed in a timely manner to ensure animal welfare.”

“The facility consists of an indoor whelping facility and 2 sheltered facilities with indoor/outdoor cement runs. In the older sheltered facility housing 9 pekingese dogs, there was an accumulation of feces on the ground at the end of the outdoor runs. There was also an open PVC pipe drain along one side of the outdoor runs that had a heavy buildup of feces inside the pipe and [...] there was an odor and flies were swarming the waste material.”

The issue with the Pekingese was listed as a “direct” violation, but the excessive feces issue was listed as “indirect.” Despite the issues noted, the facility remains USDA licensed as of the date of this report.

Prim, Arkansas: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Bill Nored, Dryfork Kennel² (repeat offender) – Dog had “jelly like protrusion” from the center of his eye; another had a mass the size of a plum and was extremely matted; dealer has over 130 dogs and has been in four prior HSUS reports. In March 2019, USDA inspectors found two dogs in obvious need of veterinary care at a dog dealer in Prim, Arkansas believed to be Bill Nored, Dryfork Kennel. The first dog was a seven year old Pomeranian who “had an opaque, red left eye with a jelly like protrusion from the center.” The inspection report stated that the problem “can be a sign of illness or injury and [can] be painful.” The same dog also had signs of advanced periodontal disease, with heavy plaque on his teeth and a “creamy white discharge.” The Pomeranian’s issues were cited as a “direct” violation, indicating the dog was in need of swift veterinary care. A second dog was found in need of veterinary care at the same inspection, but the issue was listed as “indirect.” The second dog was a poodle who had a mass in her mammary area “the size of a plum.” The dog was also “extremely matted,” according to the inspection report.

Bill Nored also appeared in our 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 reports due to repeated animal care issues, including a dead puppy and a dog with an apparent broken jaw. In July 2016, USDA inspectors found three dogs at Dryfork Kennel in need of veterinary care, including a 9-year-old Chihuahua who “appeared to have a broken bottom jaw,” a 1-year-old Chihuahua mix who had a round, fleshy mass in the corner of her eye, and a dachshund with hair loss and skin that was “crusty, scabbed and inflamed.” In November 2015, a dachshund was found with a walnut-sized growth on its abdominal area, and four additional dogs were found with patches of hair loss; in June 2015, a dog was so badly matted that she had “golf ball size matts of hair and waste material” and “dread lock shaped matts” hanging from her body, and a shih tzu was found with a combination of hair loss, hanging mats

¹ To the best of our knowledge, the Marshalls were the only USDA licensees in Farmington, Arkansas, at the time of the inspection.

² To the best of our knowledge, Nored was the only USDA-licensed pet dealer in Prim, Arkansas at the time of the inspection.

and “sores and drainage;” and multiple dogs were found in need of veterinary care, including a dog with her paw stuck in the wire flooring, a dog with red scabs, a limping dog and a dog with “green discharge” around the eye (June 2014). In October 2013, a USDA inspector found a dead 8-week-old puppy at Dryfork Kennel. When asked about the puppy, the owner admitted the puppy had been sick for two days, but had not been taken to a vet. During the same inspection, the inspector noted that the breeding dogs were caged in two trailers. The first trailer had “a strong ammonia [urine] smell which burnt the eyes and throat to the point of coughing.” In the second trailer, dogs were found living in almost total darkness. And in May 2011, a USDA inspector noted that, in addition to issues with the health of some of the breeding dogs, there were 12-14 large ‘hunting dogs’ running loose, nine of whom were “extremely thin to the point of ribs, hips and spinal column protruding.”

In August 2014, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Nored for inadequate veterinary care and unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Fifth time in this report.

Russellville, Arkansas: Name withheld by USDA – Underweight French bulldog had gaping and oozing wound. During a Nov. 20, 2018, USDA inspection, a seriously injured dog who had not been treated by a veterinarian was found at a breeding operation in Russellville, Arkansas. The licensee was issued a “direct” violation for the following issue:

“A black brindle female French bulldog named Bessie [...] had an approximately 2-3 inch diameter gaping wound on the underside of her neck. The skin appeared torn and pink tissue was visible underneath. There was a creamy white material oozing from the wound and dried yellow crust on the fur. The dog was alert but quiet and appeared thin. The licensee stated that she was not aware of the injury but upon discovery, the licensee immediately called the vet to schedule a same-day appointment. The vet later stated that it appeared to be a ruptured abscess. Injuries and infections are painful and can quickly progress to life-threatening conditions. All dogs must be observed daily for conditions affecting their health and welfare so that they can receive appropriate and timely treatment.”

GEORGIA

Buena Vista, Georgia: Navata Brink, My Munchkin Patch, formerly Brinks Puppy Pagoda (repeat offender) – State inspectors found feces smeared in puppy building, dogs in stacked wire cages that were in disrepair, and other dogs in decrepit outdoor hutches; facility had 76 dogs in 2019 despite a prior order to downsize. My Munchkin Patch, formerly Brinks Puppy Pagoda, failed a March 2019 state inspection due to poor housekeeping, poor sanitation and kennels in significant disrepair. State inspectors found 76 dogs on the property, some of whom were confined in stacked wire cages in a building and some of whom were in outdoor raised wooden hutches with wire bottoms. The inspector noted that both the indoor wire cages and outdoor hutches were in unacceptable condition. In addition, the puppy building was not sanitary, with “feces smeared on the floor,” and debris was littering the property in and around the kennel area. When the inspector asked the owner how long it would take her to take care of all the violations, the owner said she would need 6 to 8 weeks, an unacceptable amount of time to keep dogs in decrepit conditions.

Brink’s kennel also appeared in our 2014 Horrible Hundred report, after the Georgia Department of Agriculture quarantined Brinks Puppy Pagoda (a former kennel name with the same license number) due to a suspected brucellosis outbreak in 2012 and 2013. Brucellosis is a zoonotic infectious disease which can be very difficult to treat. Multiple dogs were euthanized on several occasions after testing positive for the disease, according to state records. The unhealthful conditions were foreshadowed in earlier inspection reports; in March 2012, a state inspector had documented serious overcrowding and poor air quality at Brinks Puppy Pagoda, conditions

which can contribute to the spread of disease. The inspector's notes indicated the state had set a limit of 20 dogs in the indoor portion of the facility in 2009 due to poor air quality, but that the limit had been "continuously violated," with as many as 40-70 animals found inside at subsequent inspections. Despite these repeated warnings, the kennel was up to 155 dogs by 2012 when it was quarantined.

The operation has been known to offer puppies for sale online, including on PuppyFind and on its own website, mymunchkinpatch.com. GA license ID #3694383. Second time in this report.

Luthersville, Georgia: James Godfrey, Godfrey Chow Kennel – Self-described "AKC inspected" breeder failed state inspections due to excessive feces, severely matted dogs and some dogs who had no water at all while others had only dirty water. In March 2019, Godfrey Chow Kennel was cited by a Georgia Department of Agriculture state inspector for several violations, including dogs who either had no water at all or only had dirty water, multiple dogs who had matted fur, and "excessive fecal accumulation in pens." In addition, the inspector noted that local animal control had identified Godfrey Chow Kennel as an operation that had been problematic, and was not even zoned to have a dog kennel at its location, even though it had been operating for years. Upon hearing that the operation did not have the required zoning permit, the state inspector had arrived to speak with Mr. Godfrey, but no one answered the door, even though a truck was in the driveway, indicating someone might have been home. The inspector and an animal control officer were able to view kennels that were out in the open, so they viewed them from outside, according to the state report.

The inspector noted, "The dogs are housed in makeshift pens with a tin roof laid on top of the pens" and the dogs were on a dirt floor, "despite Mr. Godfrey stating to his previous inspector last year that he would be pouring a concrete slab." The inspector issued violations for inhumane care due to "severe matting of multiple dogs, inadequate water and waste disposal." The inspector arrived again a few days later to see if conditions had been addressed. At that time, Mr. Godfrey again failed his inspection due to an ongoing problem with matted dogs and the dirt floor. At that time, Mr. Godfrey told his inspector that he was inspected by the American Kennel Club every two years and that he kept his records on AKC forms. The inspector verified that he was using AKC forms, but noted that some of the forms were incomplete. GA #36100445.

Rhine, Georgia: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Judy Hulett³ – Inspector found emaciated pregnant Great Dane with spine and ribs showing, other dogs in need of veterinary care; many dogs had been in the cold without adequate protection; facility had more than 500 dogs. On March 5, 2019, a USDA inspector visited a Georgia facility with more than 500 dogs and puppies on the premises and found dreadful conditions. The inspector found numerous sick or injured dogs, piles of feces, a building crawling with cockroaches, and many dogs who didn't have adequate protection from the winter weather. Just a few of the egregious issues found included a pregnant Great Dane who was "excessively thin" with her "spinal vertebrae, ribs, scapula, and pelvic bones" easily seen. The inspector indicated the dog had not been seen by a vet despite her emaciated condition. Two German shepherds were also found with ear injuries, a black Labrador had missing fur around her eyes, and a Boston terrier had "thick yellow- greenish mucoid discharge covering both eyes..." In addition, a pug had "an enlarged eye, which [appeared] dry and covered with [a] white stringy tissue," and two dogs had signs of dental infections. The inspector also found a lack of bedding for the outdoor dogs in cold weather, excessive piles of feces in some of the enclosures, and a "very large number" of cockroaches crawling around one of the buildings housing dogs.

³ To the best of our knowledge, Hulett was the only USDA-licensed dog breeder in Rhine, Georgia, at the time of the inspection.

ILLINOIS

Arthur, Illinois: Name withheld by USDA – USDA inspector found Labrador puppy “close to death” and three other puppies in the litter had died; licensee received “direct” violation for failing to obtain updated veterinary advice or inform their veterinarian that puppies were dying. On July 19, 2018, a USDA inspector arrived at an Arthur, Illinois, breeding operation to find an 8-week-old female Labrador retriever puppy “lying on its side, breathing very slowly and not moving.” The animal was unresponsive and had flies landing on her, according to the inspection report. The representative for the facility told the inspector that an infection had been diagnosed the prior week by the operation’s veterinarian, but it did not appear that the licensee had continued to keep in touch with the veterinarian about the condition of the puppies, and three of the other puppies in the litter had died. The inspector noted on the inspection report that she required the breeder to obtain “the needed treatment” for the puppy that day. Due to the limited information on USDA records, it is unknown whether the puppy continued to receive treatment after the inspection date, or whether she survived.

Arthur, Illinois: Name withheld by USDA – USDA inspector cited breeder with a “direct” violation for dog with signs of obvious ear and dental problems that had not been treated by a veterinarian. In March 2019, a USDA inspector cited an Arthur, Illinois, breeder with a “direct” violation due to a 12-year-old male miniature poodle who was found in obvious discomfort. The dog, named ‘Bobo,’ “was observed shaking its head,” and dark brown stains were on the hair under the dog’s mouth. The inspector looked more closely and saw that Bobo’s “left ear contained dark brown, dry debris,” and some of his teeth were encased in a heavy build-up of tartar-like material that was so thick that it “obstructed the view of the normal shapes of the teeth.” The inspector saw discharge and a dark pink area along the gumline, which are common signs of periodontal disease. When the inspector contacted the breeder’s veterinarian, the veterinarian indicated that the breeder had not called about Bobo’s ear or dental symptoms, and in fact had not taken Bobo in at all even though the dog had been obtained “several months ago.” The inspector indicated that the dog could be in pain and needed to be evaluated by a veterinarian.

INDIANA

Kokomo, Indiana: Name withheld by USDA, likely last name of Miller⁴ – Underweight boxer with litter of puppies had backbone, ribs, and hip bones “prominent and easily visible” – yet USDA allowed the operator to call a veterinarian instead of taking the dog in for an examination or testing, and did not cite the issue as a “direct” violation. During a June 2018 inspection, a USDA inspector found a violation that in prior years would have triggered a “direct” violation, and would have compelled an inspector to require the breeder to take the dog to a veterinarian for examination and treatment. Under the current USDA administration’s loose rules, however, the animal was not taken to a veterinarian for a diagnosis, no “direct” citation was issued, and it appears no follow-up visit was scheduled by USDA to check on the dog’s condition. The report stated:

“White female boxer with USDA tag #044 is too thin. Her backbone, ribs, and hip bones are prominent and easily visible. She is in the process of weaning a litter of nine puppies. Licensee increased her food when she noticed she was skinny, but did not see any improvement in her condition. Extreme weight loss is stressful and increases vulnerability to disease hazards. Licensee shall use appropriate methods to

⁴ There were two USDA-licensed breeding operations in Kokomo, Indiana, at the time of the inspection: one license is under the names Kathy and Raymond Miller, and the other license is under the names of Mary and Raymond D. Miller.

prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries. The attending veterinarian was contacted today during inspection. Guidance was given to the Licensee to increase the dog's protein intake when weaning was complete. Corrected at the time of inspection."

A malnourished animal cannot be diagnosed over the phone because a thin body condition could be caused by a number of factors that would require a physical examination, including parasites, tumors, an infection or an obstruction. Yet the USDA inspector allowed the licensee to resolve the issue by simply making a phone call to their veterinarian. Depending on whether or not the veterinarian guessed correctly about the dog's diagnosis, the condition of both the mother dog and her puppies could decline rapidly due to the mother's ill health. Because the USDA did not cite the issue as "direct" or "critical," there was not likely to be any follow-up by the agency on the mother dog's condition or on the health of her puppies, and we were unable to find any inspection reports to show that the USDA returned to check on the condition of this dog.

Loogootee, Indiana: Name withheld by USDA—Dogs' boxes had not been cleaned in several weeks; one had broken glass in it. During a March 2019 visit to a Loogootee, Indiana, breeder, a USDA inspector found eight "outdoor boxes" (presumed to be doghouse-like structures) "that contain huskies and German Shepherds under a covered cement run area that have not been cleaned or sanitized in several weeks," according to the inspection report, which did not identify the breeder by name or license number. The report noted that there was a "large buildup of hair and some feces in several of the boxes, with a brown/black grime and hair on the walls" and other surfaces. The report also noted that "there was broken glass from a window lying in the box of one of the dogs that had not been cleaned out" and that it was clear that the area had not been "cleaned or sanitized on a regular basis," which could lead to disease and health issues for the dogs.

Odon, Indiana: Levi Graber, Blue Ribbon Puppies—Large broker for Petland stores linked to sick puppies who carried drug-resistant disease. Records obtained by the HSUS in June 2018 found that Blue Ribbon Puppies, a massive pet store broker that sells hundreds of puppies each year to Petland and other pet stores, was linked to the drug-resistant disease outbreak that made at least [118 people](#) sick in 2016 and 2018. A number of the infected people became so ill that they were hospitalized. Graber was not identified in our prior Horrible Hundred report because his name was not promptly revealed by the CDC, which did not supply the requested records in response to our initial Freedom of Information Act request in a timely manner. Records were obtained only after undue delay and the involvement of our attorneys. Meanwhile, through state-level Freedom of Information Act requests, HSUS was able to find records from the Indiana Department of Health that linked Graber's property to the disease outbreak. In total, 10 Indiana breeders and a distributor (broker) were linked to the outbreak, among 30 individual breeders identified, covering eight states. The breeders in Indiana included Olen Kemp of Montgomery, John Chapp of Amboy, David Lapp of Greensfork, Paul Graber of Odon, Tim and Martha Wagler of Montgomery, Louis and Linda Graber of Montgomery, David Glick of Williamsburg, Ivan and Emma Graber of Grabill, and Levi Wagler of Montgomery. Although the CDC stopped tracking individual cases related to the disease outbreak in early 2018, new cases continue to be reported, and [lawsuits are pending](#) related to individual(s) who became extremely ill after contact with pet store puppies. Most recently, a [proposed class action lawsuit was filed in a Georgia](#) federal court in April 2019 by the family of a former Petland employee who became so ill after contacting a sick puppy that she was hospitalized.

Records the HSUS obtained from the Georgia Department of Agriculture in early 2019 indicate that even after knowing Blue Ribbon Puppies was linked to the drug-resistant strain of *Campylobacter* that allegedly infected some of their puppies, as well as some of their employees and customers, some Petland stores continued to buy puppies from Blue Ribbon Puppies. According to state inspection records, the Kennesaw, Georgia Petland store received at least two puppies from Blue Ribbon Puppies who came down with canine distemper in February 2019, and one of them died. The two sick puppies exposed at least six other puppies in the store to distemper,

and those buyers took their puppies home without knowing they had been exposed to a contagious disease, the Georgia inspection report indicates.

IOWA

Ackworth, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Helene Hamrick, Wolf Point Kennel⁵ (repeat offender) – USDA inspector found “direct, repeat” violation for a dog in need of veterinary care. During a July 16, 2018, inspection, a USDA inspector documented the following violations:

“Female Shetland Sheepdog (microchip #004520301) was observed repeatedly shaking her head. The inside of the dog’s right ear is a pink color with areas of darker red throughout. The affected area appears moist and inflamed. There is also dark brown material located within the affected area. The hair around the ear appears to be wet. The licensee stated that this dog was older and was not easy to handle. [...] Poor ear health could cause pain and discomfort to the dog.”

The issue was cited as a “direct,” repeat violation because another dog had been found with a veterinary issue during the prior visit, records showed.

The HSUS believes the un-named breeder is most likely Helene Hamrick of Wolf Point Kennel, who has appeared three previous times in our reports, and yet the USDA has not brought any enforcement action against her that we are aware of. Prior violations found at Wolf Point Kennel included food contaminated with live maggots and live beetle larvae (2017) and a Jan. 14, 2016, Official Warning for Violation of Federal 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 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 at Wolf Point Kennel, violations were found, including a number of dogs in need of veterinary care in 2015 and 2016. Fourth time in this report. IA #149.

Ames, Iowa: Anita Wikstrom, Unforgettable Schnauzers – State inspector found unsanitary conditions, too many animals for personnel to handle, strong odor and inadequate veterinary oversight. During a Nov. 27, 2018, state inspection, inspectors found a number of issues at Unforgettable Schnauzers, including unsanitary conditions, an inadequate number of personnel, and the lack of a veterinary inspection form. Notes from that inspection report include:

“Owner had just started cleaning prior to my arrival. Had picked up feces, but facility was very dirty--lots of fecal matter/dog hair build-up, strong odor, cluttered. Facility MUST be cleaned daily and completely sanitized at LEAST every 2 weeks, preferably more frequently.”

“Owner recognizes number of animals hard to manage--in process of rehoming older adults and reducing number of dogs overall. Aim to be down to 20 adults within the next year.”

“Per owner, vet came in October 2017, was supposed to come at beginning of November for 2018 but has not come out yet for veterinary inspection [more than a year later].”

⁵ To the best of our knowledge, Hamrick was the only USDA-licensed breeder in her town at the time of the inspection.

Inspectors tried to visit the facility again to investigate a complaint at least twice in March 2019, but no one was available to let them in. When inspectors finally gained access in April 2019, they found that many issues still remained. There was a “very strong” odor and multiple matted dogs, and missing veterinary records on the dogs. The owner was still talking about downsizing, but had not done so. IA #1475.

Britt, Iowa: Jolyn Noethe, Hobo K9 Rescue and J.A.K.’s Puppies –Massive puppy broker accused of setting up a fake rescue scheme, sued by Iowa attorney general; allegedly sold over 1,200 puppy mill dogs as “rescues” in areas that ban breeder puppies in pet stores. In March 2019, the Iowa attorney general’s office [announced](#) that it was suing an alleged puppy laundering operation that poses as a rescue group, but is allegedly a front for a commercial dog dealer. The “rescue” operation, Hobo K9 Rescue, is linked to a massive commercial dealer that sells breeder puppies to pet stores, J.A.K.’s Puppies. [The attorney general’s complaint](#) alleges that Hobo K9 Rescue sold more than 1,200 puppies to recipients in various states between September 2016 and July 2018, raking in more than \$700,000 while allegedly misleading buyers into thinking their puppies were rescued animals, and at the same time hiding the true identities of the breeders linked to the puppies. The attorney general’s lawsuit is asking for the allegedly sham rescue entity to be permanently dissolved.

In May 2018, the [Chicago Tribune first exposed](#) the fact that commercial dog breeders are creating bogus rescue groups to keep selling puppies to pet stores in areas that have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs in stores. Some, if not all, of the dogs sold by Hobo K9 Rescue appear to come from the same commercial breeders as the puppies sold in pet stores, according to the Tribune and animal welfare [groups](#) that have investigated the issue. In fact, sometimes puppies from the same litter are sold in two different ways, with one littermate going to a pet store in one town as a purebred breeder dog and the others sold as “rescues” in towns that prohibit the sale of puppy mill dogs in stores, according to the Tribune. The Tribune reported that Hobo K9 Rescue was selling hundreds of puppies in this manner, allegedly misleading families who think they are doing a good deed by taking in a rescued puppy. In addition, the dubious rescue has more than once failed to make its facility available for state inspection, once in December 2017 and again in October 2018. A failure to make the property and animals available for inspection could be a cover-up for animal welfare violations.

Although it appears that its allegedly bogus nonprofit could someday be shut down as a result of the lawsuit, at the time of this report, J.A.K.’s Puppies, the USDA-licensed dealer connected to the purported sham rescue, appears to be operating as usual. J.A.K.’s Puppies has sold hundreds of puppies to Petland stores and other pet shops around the country. IA #11166.

Cantril, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA—USDA inspector found dogs kept in extremely hot conditions on a day when a “heat warning” was in effect; building had a heat index of up to 109 degrees; dogs and puppies were showing signs of heat stress and panting. On June 18, 2018, the area of Cantril, Iowa, had been under a heat advisory due to very high outdoor temperatures. A “heat warning” was in effect, according to an inspection report. A USDA inspector arrived at a licensed facility that held more than 100 dogs and puppies, and found animals confined to two housing buildings that had a heat index of 108 and 109 degrees respectively. The majority of the dogs in both buildings were “showing signs of heat stress” according to the inspector, including many who were “open mouthed breathing” with an “increased respiration rate” and “tongues extended from their mouths.” At least one of the puppies found panting and showing signs of distress was only four-and-a-half weeks old. The licensee was issued a single “direct” violation at approximately 1:30 p.m. and was told to get the temperature down to a more comfortable level by 5:00 p.m. the next day. Records indicate that the USDA did not check on the temperature issue or visit again until performing a focused re-inspection eight days later. There

is no indication in the inspection report that a veterinarian was ever contacted to check the dogs or puppies for apparent heat stress or provide any treatment.

Chariton, Iowa: Nikki Nelson, Nelson's Cattle Dogs—Dogs at AKC-linked breeding operation were outside in the cold with inadequate shelter; pens "covered in ice." In November 2018, a potential puppy buyer reported Nelson's Cattle Dogs to the Iowa Department of Agriculture, claiming that when she visited the operation to purchase a puppy, she saw puppies outside in the cold, and dogs in cold, wet conditions without enough protection from the weather. The complainant also stated that several of the puppies she saw were sick with signs of respiratory problems, while some of the adult dogs had liquid diarrhea.

The complaint was received in mid-November, and the state investigated the complaint on Nov. 30, 2018. During the state's inspection, inspectors verified that Nelson's Cattle Dogs had a number of deficiencies related to dogs who didn't have adequate housing or protection from the icy cold. Issues found during the inspection included:

"Insufficient bedding, no bedding materials in sight, no regress from weather elements, pens covered in ice, unable to be properly cleaned. No action [had been taken] as discussed prior in the spring regarding the lean to shelter construction."

"At this point [there is] no other choice but to keep animals in the house away from the elements till proper shelter can be constructed. Recommend basement which we view[ed] or the garage until further construction to outside kennels can be addressed"

In December 2018, an inspector noted progress was being made on correcting the issues. On Jan. 10, 2019, the facility was approved for a state license, but the inspector noted that the dogs had wooden dog houses that were still in poor repair, the licensee was using tarps to line the outside walls of the kennel as weather protection, and that a new permanent structure for the dogs had not yet been built.

The inspector also noted in an April 2018 report that the dogs had AKC litter records. The operation offers AKC cattle dog puppies as well as corgis on its [Facebook page](#), where it offers "ground shipping" for puppies. The operation offers unregistered puppies for sale as well as registerable dogs, according to its ads. IA #11207.

Coon Rapids, Iowa: Greg Sporrer, Coon Valley Critters/ CVC Poms—Four puppies died and three were missing; licensee failed to get surviving puppies checked by a veterinarian even after inspector required it; operation had only one employee, which was not enough to take proper care of dozens of animals, according to state inspection report. During a March 2019 visit to Coon Valley Critters, Iowa state inspectors found a number of violations, and the kennel failed its state license inspection, according to state records. The violations included crowded housing, excessive feces that could increase disease hazards, and only one caretaker, who was "not sufficient to care for this number of dogs," which was a total of 46 dogs and puppies on the day of the inspection. In addition, the inspector noted that three puppies had recently died, and "the caretaker believes that the number of dogs she is currently caring for is too much for one person to handle, and that she is not able to monitor the litters as closely [as] she has in the past," according to the inspector's notes. The licensee apparently went on to indicate that she used to be able to give more care to weaker puppies, and "missing some symptoms early has resulted in the loss of these puppies," the report stated. The licensee was instructed to get the surviving puppies checked by a veterinarian. When inspectors arrived again in April 2019, they found that some issues had been partially addressed, but there were issues with odors, matted dogs and cleanliness. In addition, one more puppy had died, and three were "unaccounted for," and the licensee had not had the puppies inspected by a veterinarian as she had been directed to do during the prior inspection. The

kennel failed the April inspection as well. Earlier issues that were noted at prior inspections included a lack of an up-to-date veterinary inspection form, and issues with properly isolating sick animals (July 2018), and inadequate sale and vaccination records (October 2018). IA # 10899⁶.

Grinnell, Iowa: Julie Roberts, Sunshine Cavaliers – Breeder of AKC Cavaliers failed a state inspection for ten deficiencies, including a vermin infestation, unsanitary conditions and veterinary care concerns; offers puppies for sale online. During a June 12, 2018, state inspection, Sunshine Cavaliers failed a state inspection due to 10 different problems, including a lack of adequate primary enclosures, cleaning, sanitation and veterinary care, as well as improper recordkeeping and a vermin infestation. The property was later approved for a license in July 2018, but it appears that the July inspection was an “announced appointment,” so the licensee had advanced notice to clean up any issues.

At the time of publication, the operation appears to be selling online on a few websites, including its own site, sunshinecavaliers.com. As of Jan. 31, 2019, the operator stated on her website: “I do have puppies available!” On offer were puppies priced at \$2,000.

The phone number on Sunshine Cavaliers’ website is the same one that was recently listed on the AKC’s Marketplace for Julie Roberts in February 2019, although the ad was removed sometime between March and April 2019. According to the AKC’s Marketplace, Roberts has been breeding dogs since 1969. The AKC page stated, “AKC proudly supports dedicated and responsible breeders.” Unfortunately, the AKC has also [repeatedly fought laws](#) designed to crack down on harmful puppy mills, even those that simply require annual inspections for basic standards of care. IA #10897.

Melvin, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Connie and Harold Johnson, CW’s Quaint Critters⁷ (repeat offender) – Puppy broker repeatedly failed to let inspectors in facility, despite someone being home each time; hasn’t been inspected since 2016. This puppy broker (B dealer) licensed by the USDA has repeatedly failed to let inspectors into the facility during the agency’s last three inspection attempts, leaving the welfare of its animals completely unknown. It is a violation of the Animal Welfare Act to fail to make a facility available for inspection during normal business hours, because it could be a way of covering up poor conditions. Despite this repeat violation, it appears that the USDA continues to relicense the facility, and has not cited the violator with a “critical” or “direct” violation, even though someone was home at each inspection attempt and still did not allow inspectors to fulfill their obligation. During inspection attempts in December 2018, July 2018, and May 2017, a person was at the facility and spoke to inspectors, but gave various excuses for why no one was available to be present during an inspection. The operation’s last inspection was in June 2016, at which time violations were found for inadequate identification of puppies, foul odors/lack of ventilation, and puppies whose feet were falling through wire floors.

The HSUS believes this noncompliant operation is Connie and Harold Johnson, CW’s Quaint Critters, a “broker” or dealer that sells to pet stores across the country, because it was the only broker licensed in Melvin, Iowa, at the time of the inspection. IA # 4660. Fifth time in this report.

⁶ At the time of this report, the license had recently lapsed, but there is no indication that the business permanently closed.

⁷ Although the name was redacted on the inspection report, to the best of our knowledge CW’s Quaint Critters was the only USDA licensed dealer in the town of Melvin, Iowa at the time of the inspection. The operation appears to have dropped its USDA since then, but is still state-licensed.

New Sharon, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA⁸ (repeat offender) – Repeatedly dodged USDA inspectors, even when licensee was at home. During a June 5, 2018, USDA visit, an inspector arrived during hours that the licensee had stated were their optimal and normal business hours. Under the Animal Welfare Act, licensees are required to make their facilities available for unannounced inspections during their regular hours of business, but under the current administration, many operators simply don't bother to do so, because there appears to be a perception that few or no penalties will be applied. The USDA inspector noted:

“A responsible adult was not available to accompany APHIS Officials during the inspection process at 5:10 PM on 05-JUN-18. Inspectors arrived at 5:10 PM (optimum hours are after 5 PM on weekdays). Licensee answered the door and indicated that he had a meeting to attend at 6 PM and could not conduct the inspection.”

The inspection report indicated it was a repeat violation. The USDA finally did enter the premises on June 27, 2018, to inspect the operation; however, that inspection was part of the USDA's new “pilot announced inspection” program. The announced inspection program is not useful for determining the day-to-day health and welfare of the animals because licensees are notified in advance of the USDA's visit. Essentially, this noncompliant licensee was given an unfair advantage over compliant licensees by getting a pre-scheduled visit, effectively rewarding the operation for unacceptable behavior.

The facility was the same un-named operation that appeared in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, as determined by the fact that during the announced inspection, a recheck was done on the male Chihuahua mentioned in our 2018 report. The dog had signs of poor dental health during a January 2018 inspection. During that same inspection, at least 33 dogs were found in enclosures that had excessive feces, and a follow-up was done on four other dogs that had been found in need of veterinary care at a prior inspection.

The operation passed one inspection in August 2018. Second time in this report.

Riverside, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Loren Yoder⁹– Dog with missing hair, flaking skin and a crusty eye was seen biting and scratching herself and had not been treated by a vet; puppies were found in dangerous and dirty conditions; inspector noted dirt, grime and grungy water receptacles and an obvious rodent infestation. During a July 10, 2018, USDA inspection, the inspector documented many deficiencies at a breeding operation that held a total of 129 dogs and puppies. A few excerpts from the report include the following:

“There was an excessive buildup of thick dark brown to black layer of dirt, grime and debris on most of the inside plastic wall panel surfaces of at least 6 enclosures housing at least 12 dogs in the whelping area. There were cobwebs with spiders located on and within [many] enclosures. An excessive number of flies were present on the dirty walls and wet bedding within the enclosures.”

“Water buckets for the adults, and puppy water receptacles in 5 pens housing 8 dogs were dirty. Open water buckets contained sawdust bedding and there was a thick build-up of dark black to dark brown dirt, grime, hair, etc on the rim of many of the water buckets. Plastic puppy water receptacles had a layer of grime in the bowl and a layer of orange-ish brown film visible on the inside of the tank.”

⁸ There are two USDA-licensed breeders in New Sharon, Iowa: Beyer Kennel and Prairie Lane Kennel.

⁹ To the best of our knowledge, Loren Yoder was the only USDA-licensed breeder in his town at the time of the inspections. In addition, records received from the Iowa Department of Agriculture indicate it was the same facility.

“In the whelping area, containing 53 adult dogs and puppies, there were [an] excessive number of flies present. The licensee indicated that they do not have a plan for fly control and no fly strips were present. Cobwebs were present, filled with spiders and numerous flies, both inside and outside of the enclosures. In the whelping area, evidence of mouse holes were present at the front of the enclosures that lead into the enclosures.”

The facility was inspected again on Nov. 29, 2018. During the inspection, the inspector documented many new violations, including:

“An adult, black, female Newfoundland Dog (ID# 7E10064278), has an abnormal skin condition. The affected areas of skin are located along the inside of the hind legs, base of the ears, around both eyes, and slightly above the paw on the left-hind leg. These areas appear mostly devoid of hair, dry and crusty. The dog is continuously scratching areas around its left ear, lasting approximately 19 seconds. Immediately afterwards, the dog starts biting at areas along its back. The facility representative stated that a veterinarian has yet to evaluate the dog. [...] In addition, there is a moist greenish-colored discharge and dry crusty matter present around the dog’s left eye.”

“An enclosure located in the whelping room utilizes a gas heater that is hanging too low. There are six weaned Burnese Mountain Dog puppies that can potentially come in contact with the heater.”

“An enclosure in the whelping room containing six Burnese Mountain Dog puppies has not been properly cleaned and sanitized. The metal food receptacle and the plastic grate under the automatic water line has a thick layer of grime and organic material on the surfaces. The bedding on the floor contains a mixture of fresh and old feces. The licensee stated that the solid feces is picked up daily but the surfaces in the enclosure have not been sanitized in over 2 weeks.”

The operation is also licensed by the Iowa Department of Agriculture under the owner name Loren Yoder. State inspectors found similar violations in November 2018 to those documented by USDA. In January 2019, state inspectors indicated that the violations had been corrected or improved but a local resident complained the dogs were still in deep snow. During the January 2019 state inspection there were 138 dogs and puppies in the facility. IA #10700.

Sheldon, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Leonard Stover, Northwest Kennel¹⁰—Licensee had medications that expired up to 17 years previously stored for use on animals; feeders and enclosures were badly rusted and dirty. In July 2018, a USDA inspector found at least 18 different outdated medications stored for use on animals at a dealer’s kennel in Sheldon, Iowa. One of them was a hormone (testosterone) that expired in 2001, according to the inspection report, while another medication had expired in 2013 and others had expired within the past year. The licensee indicated that the expired medications were being used on the animals. “Outdated medications may not be effective in the treatment of conditions for which they are prescribed,” the inspection report stated.

In addition, the facility was found to be badly cluttered and dirty, and some of the structures were so badly rusted that it affected their structural strength. Some of the feeders were caked with old food, hair and/or dirt,

¹⁰ Although the USDA redacted the name on the inspection report, the HSUS believes this operation is Leonard Stover/ Northwest Kennel, because it was the only licensee in Sheldon, Iowa, with a B (dealer) license in 2018.

food was stuck to portions of rusty feeders, and some of the feeders were badly chewed. Rodent droppings were also found in the portion of the facility that housed cats.

Sioux Center, Iowa: Bruce Hooyer, Shaggy Hill Farm (repeat offender) – Several dogs died due to respiratory infections or as puppies. State inspector found dirty conditions with water that was unclean or spilled. Repeatedly failed state inspections or failed to let inspectors in, yet state continues to relicense. Even after appearing in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report due to our suspicion that it was operating as an unlicensed kennel, and after failing several state inspections over the past few years, Shaggy Hill Farm continues to do business in Iowa with little or no consequences, it appears, although it is now state licensed. In our 2018 report, we noted that the facility was disapproved for a license at a January 2018 visit because the inspector was not allowed in, yet the inspector noted they could hear “multiple dogs barking.” The Humane Society of the United States made a call to local authorities about the kennel in February 2018, due to concerns about its unlicensed status and the large number of dogs still on the property.

When inspectors finally got in later in 2018, a number of very serious violations were found. On June 13, 2018, Shaggy Hill Farm was disapproved during a state inspection. The following are selected quotes from that inspection report:

“Milkhouse: 3 of 4 pens had dirty or spilled (and empty) water dishes.”

“Schoolhouse: 3 of 26 pens had dirty or spilled (and empty) water dishes.”

“Since 8/8/17, 2 puppies were given away. 5 adults were euthanized by veterinarian, 10 adults died in 2017 due to age, whelping problems, sick (respiratory or cancer), 1 killed in a breeding fight. 3 adults died in 2018 due to sick (respiratory), whelping, and 1 unknown (old dog found deceased). 3 puppies died as newborns and 1 died during weaning.”

“VIF: 7/19/17: A.G. Beukelman, DVM plus rabies [waiver] thru 7/19/18. Of the 125 adults, [only] 61 had proof of current distemper vaccinations.”

On June 18, 2018, the kennel was re-inspected and conditionally approved, despite the fact that some issues with sanitation remained. Quotes from that state inspection include:

“It is agreed that by November 1, 2018, the number of adult dogs in the current facility shall not exceed 80. This will enable the dogs housed in the wire crib to be moved inside without crowding. These numbers shall not include puppies from nursing litters.”

The operation had 125 dogs and 33 puppies during its June 2018 inspection. IA #11102. Second time in this report.

Sioux Rapids, Iowa: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be John Thompson, TLC Weimaraners¹¹—Repeat violations for damaged structures and excessive feces; owner failed to make kennel repairs nearly five months after prior violations were noted, and still had violations at the follow-up inspection. A facility in

¹¹ The HSUS believes this operation is John Thompson/ T L C Weimaraners, because, to the best of our knowledge, it was the only USDA licensed operation in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, in 2018.

Sioux Rapids, Iowa, had a number of violations noted on its USDA report in March 2018, including excessive feces and rusty support structures. When the facility was re-inspected in August 2018, the same violations were still occurring and it was cited for four different repeat violations. In fact, some of the issues had worsened. Puppies were kept on gridded flooring that had its coating peeling off, which is a violation because it could hurt or entrap the animals' feet, and one of the dogs and her puppies were exposed to insulation that was protruding from a hole in their enclosure. Issues with excessive feces and rusty and damaged surfaces remained. At yet another inspection attempt in December 2018, no one answered the door to allow an inspector to access the facility, which is a violation of the Animal Welfare Act because it could be a way of hiding poor conditions.

KANSAS

Chapman, Kansas: Dorothy Stewart, Stewart Ranch (repeat offender)—State inspectors repeatedly found emaciated/underweight dogs and dirty conditions, including an “extremely thin” poodle, a limping Great Pyrenees, and an underweight Great Dane mother with seven nursing puppies. Serious animal care violations have been found at Stewart Ranch, a repeat offender on this list, for several years in a row, including numerous violations for emaciated animals and poor conditions. Since the publication of our May 2018 report, five other state inspections between June 2018 and February 2019 uncovered a number of new violations at each visit. Violations included a standard poodle who was “extremely thin, with backbone, hip bones and ribs very prominent” (June 2018), multiple violations for dirty conditions, a September 2018 violation for beagles who couldn't reach their water; a Great Pyrenees “limping significantly” (September 2018); a nursing mother Great Dane who was very thin and had seven “five week old puppies nursing on her” (September 2018), and dogs without adequate shelter from the winter cold (February 2019). As noted in our prior report, problems found at previous inspections included at least three other violations for underweight or ill puppies in 2017, and 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. Underweight and injured animals were also found during at least two state inspections in 2016. The facility had more than 90 dogs and puppies during a recent state inspection in February 2019. KS # CB000J04. Second time in this report.

Clyde, Kansas: Connie Fahey, Precious Puppies Kennels (repeat offender)—Some dogs had no water because it was frozen; owner was cited three years in a row due to repeatedly failing to protect dogs from the cold. During a February 2019 Kansas state inspection, Precious Puppies Kennels was found “unsatisfactory” due to a number of issues, including some water bowls that were frozen, and dead insects and vermin feces found in the puppy building. Inspectors noted that the outdoor temperature was 16 degrees when they arrived, and the buildings that housed dogs were not adequately heated. One building had an inside temperature of 31 degrees and the other had an inside temperature of 44 degrees. The facility had more than 80 dogs and puppies at the time of the state's inspection.

It was the third year in a row that Connie Fahey was warned about keeping dogs in the cold without adequate protection. She was also linked to repeat USDA violations in 2018, based on an inspection report we obtained from the agency's online records¹². In April 2018, Fahey's facility was cited for repeat violations for housing deficiencies, including dogs who were outside all night in cold weather without bedding material to keep them warm when the temperature had been as low as 35 degrees. And a year earlier, in April 2017, USDA inspectors

¹² The USDA reports had the kennel and owner name redacted, but were linked to Fahey because she was the only USDA licensee in Clyde, Kansas at the time of the inspections.

found dogs in one of the buildings who did not have enough protection from the cold when the temperature had recently been as low as 38 degrees.

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

Fahey’s operation appears to still be licensed by USDA as of May 2019, but the USDA no longer shares license numbers with the public. KS #CB000LV4. Second time in this report.

Dodge City, Kansas: Ivan Schnabel, Prairie Wind Bullies—State inspectors found dogs visibly shivering in the cold in 8 degree temperatures without acceptable shelter and no bedding; foul odors and pens “saturated with feces;” dogs had no drinkable water because it was frozen. State inspectors who visited Prairie Wind Bullies on an 8 degree day in February 2019 found a heartbreaking sight: many dogs had almost no shelter, with only broken dog houses and no bedding, and many were visibly shivering in the cold. Inspectors noted that ice and snow were “packed in to the kennels making multiple dogs shivering and not wanting to put their feet down.” One dog in particular was “not wanting to put his paws on the ground due to the cold temperature and was showing signs of distress due to not being able to place it’s feet on the ground,” according to the report. The inspection did not note how the dogs were standing without touching the ground, but they may have been standing on top of a dog house, or holding up one paw at a time. During the same visit, inspectors noted there were no records on the dogs, the dogs had no drinkable water because it was all frozen, and there was about a half inch of feces built up in multiple pens. In addition, inspectors “smelled a bad feces odor” as soon as they arrived. There is nothing in the February 2019 state report to indicate whether any follow-up actions were scheduled or whether a cruelty referral was made, or if any dogs were seized.

Prairie Wind Bullies also failed a state inspection in August 2018 for eight different violations, including dogs who didn’t have adequate protection from the weather, at least seven pens that were “saturated with feces,” and several dogs who had “green to blackish water in their buckets.” Although it had almost 30 adult dogs at a February 2019 inspection, the facility is licensed as a “hobby breeder.” Prairie Wind Bullies has offered bulldogs for sale online. KS #CB001QG6.

Glasco, Kansas: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Joyce Cairns, Unicorn Kennel¹³ (repeat offender) – Repeat violation for inadequate veterinary care: dog had hair loss and scaly skin that was bleeding; inspector found the licensee was not giving the dog his prescribed treatment. During a July 5, 2018, USDA inspection, the inspector documented the following issues:

“Male, adult Akita [...] has hair loss on both sides of his body, along the length of his back and on the outsides of his thighs. The exposed skin and the haired skin along his backbone and shoulders has a thick, scaly appearance in places. There is some fresh blood on the right side of the hairless area. The licensee

¹³ Although the kennel name was redacted on the inspection report, the HSUS believes this operation is Joyce Cairns/ Unicorn Kennel because to the best of our knowledge, it was the only USDA-licensed breeder in Glasco, Kansas, at the time of the 2018 inspection.

stated that this dog is under treatment for thyroid disease. Inspectors spoke with the attending veterinarian (AV) and verified this diagnosis. The AV also verified that he prescribed ongoing thyroid medication that the dog should be currently receiving. The licensee stated that she does not currently have thyroid medication for the dog and the dog is not receiving medication at this time.”

Issues with Cairns/ Unicorn Kennel that we noted in our last report include nine animals found in need of veterinary care during three USDA visits in 2017 alone. On Dec. 13, 2017, a USDA inspector gave Cairns a “direct, repeat” violation—one of the most serious types of USDA citations—for multiple dogs in need of veterinary care, just three months after four other dogs had been found in need at her kennel. The kennel is also inspected by the Kansas Department of Agriculture. The kennel failed a February 2018 state inspection due to numerous problems, including excessive feces, a strong odor and three dogs who needed care: a poodle with missing fur, a cockapoo who was matted and an Australian shepherd who was “thin” and “under vet supervision.” Unicorn Kennel also failed a state inspection on Jan. 18, 2017, when dogs were found standing in wet, dirty enclosures with excessive feces, and two additional dogs were found in need of veterinary care. KS # CB0009EC. Second time in this report.

Linwood, Kansas: Mary Feuerborn, Feuerborn Shihtzu Royal Palace—Found operating in October 2018 without a current license; puppies kept in small, rusty pens; state repeatedly warned about not enough employees; dirty conditions. State inspectors found unacceptable conditions at Feuerborn Shihtzu Royal Palace in September and October 2018, including puppies in “rusty portable pens,” dangerous and dirty conditions, and an owner who did not even appear to know how many dogs she had. Violations found at the October inspection included: operating without a current license, three litters of puppies who were kept in “rusty portable pens” in the garage, a repeat violation for unsafe conditions, and no accurate list of dogs on hand. The licensee repeatedly said that she did not have enough staff to help. Violations found during the September visit included unclean conditions, several dogs who were matted, lack of a veterinary care program, and lack of adequate personnel to properly care for the dogs. KS# CB00184U.

Manhattan, Kansas: Kelli Nelson, Got Game Bird Dogs— Inadequate shelter from the heat and cold; puppies had no water on a hot day and fought to get to the bowl when water was finally provided; breeder sells AKC puppies. Kelli Nelson sells AKC puppies online, including on the AKC’s Marketplace website, but buyers of her puppies may be shocked to know about the conditions their puppies really came from. During two different inspections in late 2018, state inspectors found that Got Game Bird Dogs did not have adequate weather protection for the dogs. During a September inspection, outdoor dogs had no shelter from the weather when the temperature was over 90 degrees, and puppies in the puppy building had no water. “When given water,” the inspector wrote, “all 5 fought to get [to] the bowl of water and drank the quart size amount of water in under one minute.” When an inspector returned on Oct. 29, 2018, the facility was warned to add additional bedding due to cold temperatures. Got Game Bird Dogs advertises puppies via the [AKC’s Marketplace](#) website, on their [own website](#), and on websites like PuppyFind.com, which the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills. KS# CB001TV1.

MARYLAND

Pocomoke, Maryland: Linda Brown, Jolindy’s German Shepherd Puppies– Breeder who was shut down in two states reportedly still operating. In July 2018, 38 German shepherd dogs and two puppies were seized from [filthy conditions](#) in a house in Pocomoke, Maryland. The Somerset County Sheriff’s Office successfully pressed [cruelty charges](#) against the facility owner, who had also lost her kennel license [in Pennsylvania](#) years ago. The dogs, several of whom were pregnant, were taken to Somerset County Dog Control, where their numbers increased to 54 after 16 more puppies were born at the shelter. Photos taken on the day of their removal show a

property littered with trash and surfaces smeared with what appears to be feces. Many of the dogs were filthy and soiled, while others were underweight and had medical issues. The operation was selling online as Jolindysgermanshepherds.com and on Facebook at Jolindy's German Shepherd Puppies.

Despite pleading guilty in the Maryland case, Brown showed [no remorse](#), and still appears to be breeding puppies, according to local sources. She was given three years of probation. As of April 25, 2019, her [website](#) was still active.

MASSACHUSETTS

West Brookfield, Massachusetts: Leah Shattuck, Winterhill Kennel —State and HSUS both received consumer complaints about sick puppies; at least one puppy had to be euthanized; breeder sells on PuppyFind.com. The Massachusetts Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health has received a number of complaints about sick puppies sold by Winterhill Kennel, according to state documents received by the HSUS. We have also received several complaints, and numerous complaints can be found [online](#) as well.

Two of the most recent complaints were received by the MDA in October 2018 and involved puppies with giardia and coccidia, at least one of whom became so ill that the puppy had to be euthanized.

MDA also received a complaint in 2016 related to an emaciated Labrador retriever puppy with bloody diarrhea; veterinary records noted that another puppy in the litter had died, and stated, "this puppy should never have been sold in this condition."

Winterhill Kennel offers puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com, a website that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. Additional consumer complaints are posted [on Yelp](#) and other online forums.

MICHIGAN

Vestaburg, Michigan: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Cheryl Rony¹⁴ (repeat offender)—Seller of AKC puppies had repeat violation for dogs with wounds that had not received prompt veterinary care. In August 2018, a USDA inspector issued a repeat violation to a breeder in Vestaburg for three dogs "that have wounds on their ears and heads caused by fly bites." The inspector went on to note that "each dealer shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care" that includes protection from injuries. The HSUS believes this breeder is the same breeder who had multiple severe violations in 2017 and was included in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report. Cheryl Rony was the only USDA-licensed dog breeder in Vestaburg, as of Feb. 2, 2019. Her 2017 violations included a golden retriever who died after being attacked by other dogs; the owner failed to immediately get the dog, named Gina, to a veterinarian and instead offered do-it-yourself treatment, and the dog died. Additional violations found in 2017 included: a dog with hair loss; repeated violations for puppies without water; repeated issues with dogs who went missing from the facility with no explanation for their whereabouts; unsafe housing; and a mouse infestation with unsanitary conditions.

As of April 5, 2019, it appeared that Cheryl Rony was no longer on the USDA's list of licensed dealers. However, Rony still had numerous [puppies listed for sale](#) on PuppyFind.com, a website that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills, including some unlicensed puppy mills. Rony lists many of the dogs as AKC-sired and/or AKC registerable. Second time in this report.

¹⁴ To the best of our knowledge, Cheryl Rony was the only USDA-licensed dog breeder in Vestaburg, MI at the time of the inspection.

MISSOURI

Alton, Missouri: Marlisa McAlmond, Cedar Ridge Australians, aka AussieDoodleWoods (repeat offender) —Multiple dogs and a puppy died or were euthanized after state inspection found them in poor condition; massive puppy mill with more than 300 dogs had numerous injured or underweight dogs and puppies at multiple state inspections for at least four years in a row. Cedar Ridge Australians appeared in our 2018

Horrible Hundred report due to underweight dogs, veterinary care issues and numerous other violations, and it appears that little has changed since then. State inspectors have found underweight or injured dogs again and again at Cedar Ridge Australians in the latter half of 2018 and in early 2019. In February 2019, the state issued a Letter of Warning to McAlmond due to multiple repeat violations. Issues photographed or documented during the February 2019 inspection included: multiple dogs who were too thin, including an underweight Shetland sheepdog named Cinnamon whose ribs were showing and whose dewclaws were so overgrown that one of them had curled all the way back around and into her toe pad; a dog with bite wounds; puppies who didn't have enough sheltered space; shelters that had no protection from



A dog had almost no clean place to stand at Patchwork Kennel in Aurora, Missouri, an operation where inspectors found a number of underweight dogs. The kennel sells AKC puppies. /MO Dept. of Agriculture, 2019.

the wind and rain; dogs who had no water or only dirty water; dogs in muddy enclosures with wet fur and mud in their coats, excessive feces and unsafe housing. In addition, the inspector noted that several dogs who had been found underweight and in need of veterinary care at a previous inspection in October 2018 had either died on the property or had been euthanized at the licensee's vet.

Conditions were also appalling in October 2018, when state inspectors documented numerous issues, including: a cattle dog who had a "non-weight bearing lameness to her left front leg with an extensive wound;" two bloodhounds with thin body scores, who "exhibited multiple bony prominence, obvious waists, and abdominal tucks;" an Aussie with a body score of 2 out of 9, with 5 being an average weight; the inspector said the latter dog had "loss of muscle mass and multiple easily palpated bony prominence;" two other thin Aussies with 2 out of 9 body scores; a poodle puppy with a 3 out of 9 body score who also "had a circular crusty patch of hair loss over the bony prominence of his right hip;" a Shih-poo puppy with a 3 out of 9 body score, as well as "fleas, and mild matting of his hair coat" (this dog was later euthanized); a fourth Aussie with a wound and patches of hair loss; and several repeat violations.

These horrific violations were similar to violations found in years past, which included 2017 violations for 25 puppies and adults "exhibiting a thin body condition" with "multiple bony prominence[s], notable abdominal tucks, notable waists and/or muscle atrophy," among other issues, and 2016 violations for dogs without water, underweight dogs, and dogs who were in cages that were too small. In January 2016, an inspector noted that the

licensee “was using a banding method to dock tails on weaned puppies,” which “is considered an unacceptable method to dock tails,” according to the state inspection report. “Banding” typically means wrapping a very tight rubber ring around the animal’s tail until it loses its blood flow and falls off; it is considered inhumane by many experts.

Cedar Ridge Australians advertises puppies on their website, as well as, on Puppyfind.com and NextDayPets.com, online sales sites that the Humane Society of the United States has linked to problem pet dealers in past Horrible Hundred reports. MO #AC0003CG. Third time in this report.

Aurora, Missouri: Linda Perry, Patchwork Kennel—Veterinarian found at least 10 underweight dogs with body condition scores of only 2 or 3 on a 9 point scale at AKC-linked breeder; most had paw irritations and one was bleeding from the feet and tail; others had injuries. During several state inspections in January and February 2019, inspectors found a number of severe issues at Linda Perry’s Patchwork Kennel, including at least 10 miniature American shepherds who were underweight, and many dogs who were smeared with feces due to being kept in extremely dirty conditions. All of the underweight dogs also had irritation on their feet or paws, which the veterinarian noted was probably due to standing in unsanitary enclosures. One of the dogs “had started to bleed from her feet and tip of her tail” during the inspection, while other dogs had lesions or ulcerations on their feet or legs. Even though the poor conditions were first noted on Jan. 24, 2019, the issues were not completely addressed even after inspectors made three more visits to the property, including a visit later in January 2019, one in February 2019 and one in March 2019. In addition, during the March 2019 inspection, some of the dogs had no water, and the inspector noted that one puppy had recently died at the facility. The operation also had several violations in 2018 for issues such as dodging inspections and inadequate housing. Several of Perry’s dogs and their puppies have been [registered with the AKC](#) and have entered competitions. MO #AC000E99.

Ava, Missouri: Marilyn Shepherd, aka Marilyn Williams, Cedercrest Kennel aka Pup 4 U (repeat offender) —State’s Attorney General filed an enforcement complaint in February 2019, alleging repeated failure to provide veterinary care to ailing dogs and unacceptable conditions; violations were found seven years in a row related to sick, underweight or injured dogs; owner’s representative repeatedly threatened a state inspector and brandished a gun during an inspection. Even after accumulating year after year of animal care violations and appearing in our Horrible Hundred report multiple times, Marilyn Shepherd (aka Marilyn Williams) continued to accumulate many more severe violations after our 2018 report was published. As of the date this report was prepared, she is still operating, but Missouri’s Attorney General filed suit against the business in February 2019, alleging a long list of incidents in which Marilyn Shepherd failed to provide timely veterinary care to ailing animals and confined animals in poor conditions, as well as incidents in which the defendant and/or her representative, Ronnie Williams, were belligerent or physically threatening to Department of Agriculture employees.

The latter seems to refer to incidents documented in state inspection reports in which a male subject on the property identified as ‘Ronnie Williams’ threatened state inspectors with bodily harm. During one visit, state employees documented the following incident: “Mr. Williams was confrontational and threatened bodily harm to AHO [Animal Health Officer] Hoopes. AHO Hoopes responded that he would defend himself if necessary. Dr. Cook continued to try to conduct the exit interview with Ms. Shepherd while Mr. Williams became more confrontational with AHO Hoopes. The two remaining category III violations were briefly mentioned to Ms. Williams, but the argument between AHO Hoopes and Mr. Williams was escalating. Mr. Williams then got in AHO Hoopes’ face and threatened to punch him.” It was not the first time state employees were threatened on the Williams property. A legal referral dated Sept. 24, 2018, claimed, “During an inspection which took place on

August 30, 2016, Ms. Shepherd referred to our staff with a number of expletives. During a follow-up inspection on September 8, 2016, Mr. Williams [wore a pistol] on his right side, Ms. Shepherd telling him that things were OK because she hadn't killed them yet. During an inspection which took place on August 28, 2018, more confrontation occurred, and the inspection had to be cut short."

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

Marilyn Shepherd/ Williams's alleged 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. Her online ads offer to ship puppies anywhere in the United States. The HSUS submitted a complaint to USDA in early 2018 about Shepherd/ Williams selling puppies online without a USDA license and in apparent violation of the 2006 agreement; however, as of April 2019, her website is still active and still offers to ship puppies in apparent violation of the law. The operation had 137 dogs and puppies at a recent state inspection (March 2019). MO #AC0002DJ. Fourth time in this report.

Climax Springs, Missouri: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Norma Dake¹⁵ – Emaciated mother dog had not been taken to a vet; excessive feces. During a Nov. 28, 2018, USDA inspection of a Climax Springs breeder, inspectors documented the following violations:

"An approximately 3 year old female Golden Retriever, "Sassy" (#97), with a litter of six 4 week old puppies appeared emaciated. She had an obvious visible waist and accentuated abdominal tuck. The tops of her lumbar vertebrae were easily visible and the pelvic bones were prominent. There was no discernible fat palpable with a gloved hand, bones were easily felt and the dog appeared to have a loss of muscle mass. The dog consistently maintained a hunched posture and would often go out of view of the inspector by going in or out of the sheltered building. According to a facility representative, he had noticed that the dog had gradually been losing weight since she had whelped. He continued that the dog had been offered full access to dry puppy kibble since prior to whelping and the dog had been dewormed about a week prior to the inspection. Although the dog continued to lose weight, the facility had not communicated the dog's thin body condition to the attending veterinarian."

"There were at least 9 enclosures throughout the facility housing dogs that contained greater than a day's worth of feces. Some of the enclosures were in the outdoor facility and others were in the outdoor portion of a sheltered building. It appeared difficult for some of the dogs to maneuver around the fecal material..."

In April 2019, a USDA inspection cited the facility for unsafe housing, noting that at least two support poles were so rusted that they had broken in half, and a gap in the fencing was large enough for a dog to stick his head through. MO #AC000L11.

¹⁵ To the best of our knowledge, Dake was the only USDA licensee in her town at the time of the inspection.

Curryville, Missouri: Tom and Debra Ritter, Cornerstone Farm aka Beginnings Ranch aka Puppies Purebred (repeat offender)—Chronically problematic kennel has violations year after year; state inspectors repeatedly found sick or injured dogs, dogs with skin disorders and patches of missing fur; sold puppies who died shortly after purchase. For the fifth year in a row, Cornerstone Farms, or Beginnings Ranch, as it is now known, is appearing in our Horrible Hundred report due to repeated problems with sick dogs and inadequate veterinary care. A few of the many state violations found since our 2018 report was published include: a “direct” violation for a poodle with missing fur who was squinting her right eye and had ‘yellow mucoid ocular discharge’ (July 2018); a Yorkie found with patches of missing fur and reddened skin (July 2018); lack of complete vet exams; three dogs listed as unsound for breeding who had not been removed from the breeding program, which could result in passing health problems to their offspring (July 2018); dogs added to the facility without documentation, which is an issue because it could indicate the operation could be getting dogs from unlicensed dealers (Nov. 2018); several matted dogs (Nov. 2018); a Pomeranian with hair loss and a Shiba Inu with reddened skin, scales and patches of hair loss (Nov. 2018).

The HSUS has received complaints from buyers who purchased sick puppies from the Ritters’ operation. The most recent complaint we received was in February 2019, when a buyer contacted us to say she had purchased a puppy with parvovirus from Beginnings Ranch. The buyer provided HSUS with a copy of her veterinary bills, which included a statement from the buyer’s vet, who had concerns “regarding the credibility of the breeder” because the puppy did not respond to treatment as a properly vaccinated dog would have responded. The puppy died on March 1, 2019.

The buyer and her veterinarian both noted that the photos the Ritters sent before purchase showed a puppy whose markings were distinctly different from the puppy the buyer received. This complaint also mirrors [similar complaints](#) about the kennel from prior years related to puppies received who did not seem to be the same as the ones advertised.

As we noted in our 2018 report, year after year, inspectors and veterinarians with the Missouri Department of Agriculture have found dogs in need of medical care at Cornerstone Farms. For example, in July 2017, 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. And 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. And 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. Additional issues found in 2015 included: two dogs who were underweight and had a body score of 3 out of 9 (5 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; dogs kept in buildings in temperatures over 90 degrees in the summer with no cooling mechanism in place; and many other problems. The facility is USDA licensed, but over the past several years, the USDA has not cited the Ritters for any significant violations, even when the USDA inspected on or around the same date as the state—a troubling trend that HSUS has noticed on other USDA reports as well. In April 2019, however, the USDA cited the Ritters for an attempted inspection violation, noting that their inspectors arrived for an inspection and contacted the licensee by phone, but the licensee did not make anyone available “to walk the inspector through

the inspection process.” Attempted inspection violations are a cause for concern, because some licensees dodge inspections to conceal poor conditions.

MO #AC00122Y. Fifth time in this report.

Edina, Missouri: Donald Schrage, formerly Rabbit Ridge Kennel, now renamed Green Acres Kennel (repeat offender)—More than 20 years of violations; chronically problematic kennel lost its USDA license in 2016, yet is still in business in Missouri and operating under a new name. Even after appearing in five of our six prior Horrible Hundred reports due to terrible conditions, and losing its USDA license, Rabbit Ridge Kennel, now newly named Green Acres Kennel, continues to operate in Missouri with a state license. During a September 2018 inspection, the facility had more than 100 dogs and puppies on the premises, having quickly re-built its numbers after dramatically downsizing to avert a shutdown in 2015. In September 2018, state inspectors found several problems at the facility that are very similar to its repeat violations of the past: an outdated program of vet care; a cocker spaniel with “ocular discharge in both eyes [and who] was observed shaking her head as if her ears were bothering her” who had not been treated by a veterinarian; and repeat violations for inappropriate identification on some dogs and for not keeping adequate records on the dogs at the facility.

As we noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report, after a long history of animal care violations that spanned two decades, we thought we had seen the end of animal mistreatment at Donald Schrage’s Rabbit Ridge Kennel when the USDA finally revoked its license in 2016. However, new reports the HSUS received in April 2018 showed that Schrage’s kennel, shockingly, remained state-licensed and continued to accumulate violations. 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 seemed to have more dogs 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.

Animal care problems at Schrage’s 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. But despite dramatically downsizing after the 2015 complaint, the kennel continued to violate the basic animal care regulations of the Animal Welfare Act. In November 2015, an inspector found a Lhasa apso whose eye was “partially crusted closed,” and unsafe enclosures. 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.

As noted in a United States Court of Appeals for the 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.

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 that began in 2017. Under the current administration's extra-tolerant policy toward puppy mills, the public should be aware that USDA could possibly relicense Donald Schrage soon under "Green Acres Kennel" or yet another business name.

MO #AC00131W. Sixth time in this report.

Elkland, Missouri: Cory Mincey, Puppy Love Kennel, aka Cory's Cuties—Four dogs "died suddenly" at the facility in less than three months; repeat violations for numerous underweight dogs, dogs with loose stools and excessive feces; owner also failed to let inspectors in during 10 different attempts; breeder sells mixed-breed and AKC puppies online through misleading websites like PuppyFind.com. State inspectors found violations again and again at Puppy Love Kennel in 2018 and early 2019, and also warned the facility about failing to make the property available for at least 10 different attempted inspections. Violations found in March 2019 included dogs who didn't have the required amount of cage space, dogs who had "little to no water," or only dirty water, two dogs who had been marked "unsound for breeding" by the facility's veterinarian who were housed with intact male dogs as if part of the breeding program, and a repeated problem with dogs who had loose stools and had not been adequately treated for the issue. In addition, the operation's license expired on Jan. 31, 2019, and the owner was not immediately granted a new one because they had failed to make the property available for re-inspection in February (one of 10 failed inspection attempts in the course of about one year).

Just a few of the many violations documented during a December 2018 visit included:

"Four dogs were noted to have died suddenly since the inspection in October."

"The enclosures in the whelping building and several outdoor enclosures still contained an excessive amount of feces accumulation. When asked when the last time those enclosures had been cleaned, the licensee stated that it had been approximately two to three days. This facility has been having issues with intestinal parasite infestation."

"The licensee had Logan [an underweight Boxer identified at the previous inspection] examine[d] by a licensed veterinarian and provided documentation of diagnosis and treatment recommendations. However, not all of the treatment recommendations were followed, nor all of the stated treatments documented. Additionally, Logan was still observed to have loose and bloody stools in his enclosure."

"There were still several dogs throughout the facility which were observed to be thin with body condition scores of 3/9 or less."

There were other violations related to unsafe housing conditions that could injure the dogs; expired veterinary records and numerous other problems. During an October 2018 state complaint investigation, numerous similar violations were found, including the following:

"Logan, a male, black Boxer which was housed in one of the chain link enclosures was observed to have loose, bloody stool. Fresh blood was observed by Dr. Schmidt in the hair around Logan's anus. Dr. Schmidt noted that Logan was thin with a body score condition of 3/9 on the Nestle Purina Body Score Condition Scoring Chart."

“There were thirty adult, small breed dogs being housed in [one particular] building.... All of the dogs on this side of the building were wet and covered in mud. We noticed a male Miniature Pinscher named Cooper to be thin with a body score condition of 2/9 on the Nestle Purina Body Score Condition Scoring Chart. We asked Mr. Mincey why Cooper was so thin, and he stated that the two female Miniature Pinchers with which he was housed did not share the food. A majority of the water provided to all of the dogs in this building was dirty and contained debris and algae.”

“The allegation that there were multiple dogs that were thin and in need of veterinary care was substantiated. We noted two dogs at the facility that were thin on the day of the investigation. Mrs. Mincey has been cited during previous inspections for thin dogs. We instructed Mrs. Mincey to consult with her attending veterinarian regarding thin dogs to develop a protocol to include body condition scoring and methods to determine the cause of weight loss and implementation of a plan once the cause has been determined. Furthermore, multiple enclosures were observed to contain loose and in one case, bloody stools on the day of the investigation. The diagnosis of hookworms was made by the attending veterinarian in April 2018, but Mrs. Mincey was not following instructions of the veterinarian to monitor and treat intestinal parasites.”

Shockingly, a USDA report that researchers linked to Mincey based on its location and other identifying details indicated that the USDA inspectors recorded no violations at Mincey’s kennel during the same month (Oct. 2018) that state inspectors found – and photographed – numerous serious violations, an indication that the USDA is failing to properly and accurately document animal care issues.

Mincey sells mixed-breed as well as “AKC-registerable” puppies online on the kennel’s own website, Coryscuties.com, as well as on third party websites like NextDayPets.com and PuppyFind.com. The HSUS has repeatedly linked PuppyFind.com to problem breeders and regularly receives complaints from people who have purchased sick puppies that they have found via PuppyFind. Mincey’s kennel also holds a USDA license, which means that puppies from this horrific breeding operation may be found in pet stores across the United States. MO# AC000ATS.

Frankford, Missouri: Tiffanie Kurz, Tiffanie’s LLC—State inspection found 35 puppies died during a six month period in 2018; puppies with parvo died without being taken to a veterinarian; massive broker has provided hundreds of puppies to Petland stores and other pet stores. Records obtained from the Missouri Department of Agriculture show that state inspectors went to Tiffanie’s LLC in June 2018 to investigate two complaints. According to the state’s complaint report: “The initial complainant made the allegation that dogs are neglected when they need medical care and dogs which do not sell are shot on the property in front of employees. The second complainant made the allegation that a Yorkshire Terrier died on June 14, 2018 because it was not taken to the veterinarian when employees informed the licensee the puppy was sick on the previous day.”

When the state investigated on June 25, 2018, they documented the following:

“Mrs. Kurz stated approximately one month ago the facility experienced a parvovirus problem they battled for two to three weeks which resulted in the death of approximately thirteen puppies. Mrs. Kurz stated the infected puppies came primarily from two different facilities, one owned by Debbie Phillips and the other owned by Shelly Kirschner.”

“Dr. Watson asked at what point a parvovirus suspect would [be] examined by a veterinarian. Mrs. Kurz stated she keeps in contact with the veterinarian to see what additional treatment recommendations are

needed, but parvovirus suspects are not usually examined by a veterinarian because most will die within 24 hours.”

“Dr. Watson asked specifically about a Yorkshire Terrier puppy cited in the complaint which was sick on June 13, 2018 and died on June 14, 2018. Mrs. Kurz stated she believed this to be the Yorkie or Shorkie which died of parvovirus. Mrs. Kurz stated the puppy’s body was taken to BGVC for necropsy, which cited the cause of death as parvovirus. When Dr. Watson asked Mrs. Kurz if she shoots dogs who do not sell, she stated ‘I don’t even own a gun’ and ‘no, I did not.’”

Ultimately, the investigation was unable to substantiate the claim that the licensee had killed puppies by gunshot; however, the investigation found that puppies were indeed not being taken to a veterinarian for parvovirus treatment, but often “treated” at the facility, sometimes resulting in death.

The number of dead puppies grew when additional records were perused as part of a July 20, 2018, state records investigation¹⁶:

“The acquisition/disposition records acquired from Tiffanie’s LLC, with acquisitions starting January 1, 2018 until June 25, 2018 were reviewed. During this time period there were thirty-five puppies that were recorded as having died since being acquired by the licensee.”

Additional violations found at Tiffanie’s LLC during the summer of 2018 included: a bulldog who was coughing and lethargic and had not been treated or seen by a vet; a vet care issue for a Shar-Pei mix who had patchy, reddened skin; puppies who didn’t have adequate space; and failure to follow veterinary advice.

Finally, during a February 2019 inspection, inspectors found that some of the issues had been resolved, but that multiple enclosures housing puppies showed evidence of loose stools, and there was no immediate indication that the licensee had discussed the issue with a veterinarian.

Shockingly, despite the very troubling problems found at Tiffanie’s LLC during three different state visits between 2018 and 2019, the USDA inspected twice during the same time period and documented no violations—following a recent pattern at USDA of lax oversight and apparent unwillingness to document serious animal care issues. MO #AC000SXL.

Galena, Missouri: Joe and Cyndi Farley, Pleasant Valley Puppies (repeat offender) —Sold underweight puppy who died of parvovirus; inspectors found that nine puppies at the facility had died of unknown causes; repeated problems with failure to provide adequate veterinary care. Violations were found at several different state inspections of Pleasant Valley Puppies in 2018, and at least one inspection in early 2019. In January 2019, issues documented by state inspectors included a boxer with inflamed skin on all four paws, a dog who escaped her enclosure, and a failure to maintain proof of recent veterinary examinations on the dogs.

In addition, in November 2018, the state investigated a complaint from a puppy buyer who said she had received a Weimeraner puppy from Cyndi Farley who had parvovirus and was “malnourished with prominent hip bones and ribs;” the puppy later died.

¹⁶ In addition to the 35 puppies who died on the property, it’s possible that many more puppies died after they were shipped to pet stores. Tiffanie’s LLC has provided hundreds of puppies to Petland stores and other pet stores in recent years, and several Petland stores have experienced outbreaks of parvovirus. The HSUS has received numerous complaints from Petland customers about puppies with parvovirus and other deadly diseases.

Additional issues noted during the Nov. 29, 2018, state inspection included:

“Licensee was unable to provide documentation of the date and method of disposition for nine puppies which she stated had died at the facility.”

“The licensee was able to provide a [outdated] program of veterinary [care] which was signed on October 5, 2017.”

“Licensee was unable to provide litter health records for a litter of Weimaraner puppies. Licensee was also unable to provide record of administration of Parvo Mix dispensed on October 17, 2018 by their veterinarian for the eight puppies in [that] litter that remained at the facility.”

“A male Miniature Poodle, #990000001620710, was noted by Dr. Cook to have matted hair on his front legs and hindquarters. The matted hair on the distal legs was damp and the inter digital skin of a fore paw was slightly inflamed.”

Despite the serious violations found at Pleasant Valley Puppies during four different state inspections between 2018 and 2019, the USDA inspected in July 2018 (between two noncompliant state inspections) and documented no violations—following a recent pattern at USDA of lax oversight and declining citations.

The year 2018 was not the first year that animals suffered inadequate veterinary care at Pleasant Valley Puppies. As we noted in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, in February 2016, the licensee was cited for using an inappropriate method for docking puppies’ tails; instead of removing the tails with special equipment and suturing them with stitches or glue as required on the facility’s veterinarian-authorized program of vet care, the licensee was “removing the tails by twisting them off and then applying blood clotter,” without suturing the skin, according to the USDA inspection report. In addition to employing this horrific and probably very painful practice, the licensee was found with numerous dogs in need of veterinary care, including a male English bulldog who was so thin that his spine and hip bones were visible through the skin, a Weimaraner with a bite wound, a puppy who was coughing, and a Shiba Inu who appeared to have an injury that was affecting normal movement.

Horrific violations were found later in 2016 as well. In June 2016, a USDA inspector found a female Neopolitan mastiff with “thick gray discharge in both eyes” and swollen skin around the eyes. The mastiff and four other dogs also had skin conditions such as hair loss and moist, reddened skin. In addition, the inspector noted several unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions, including outdoor enclosures that didn’t protect some of the dogs from the weather, inadequate cleaning and rodent feces in several areas.

In February 2016, state inspectors had found many other problems, including a bulldog who was underweight with his hips, ribs and spine structures visible, a Shiba Inu who had difficulty standing up, a Weimaraner with a swelling on her leg, some dogs who did not have adequate protection from the cold and others with “pendulous” matting.

The operation had more than 100 dogs and puppies at its January 2019 state inspection. MO #AC001XJL. Second time in this report.

Gallatin, Missouri: Pam Wilson (repeat offender) —Puppies found in unsanitary conditions; continued to operate with expired state license; prohibited from operating in Missouri, but still licensed by USDA. On May 17, 2018, state inspection agents found that Pam Wilson’s kennel continued to operate despite the fact that it was no longer licensed by the state. Yet it is still [licensed by the USDA](#) through June 2019, indicating that the

USDA renewed the facility's license in or around June 2018, despite the fact that it lost its state license and was found with poor conditions in May 2018. During that inspection, issues found at the unlicensed kennel included the following:

“Sanitation of the puppy room is below standards. Today there is less fecal matter present, but the area is littered with dirty papers, dirty cleaning supplies, and unnecessary items.”

“The license for this facility expired on 1/31/2018. Facilities licensed under the Animal Care Facilities Act (ACFA) must maintain a valid license, consent to inspection, and comply with requirements promulgated under the Act. This facility has failed to do so. On 3/23/2018, the licensee was given a deadline of 4/6/2018 to submit the remaining document(s) and fee(s) necessary to renew their Commercial Breeder license. As of today, those items have not been received. Effective immediately, you are prohibited from conducting any activity for which an ACFA license is required.”

“This license has been terminated and the licensee is prohibited from conducting regulated activity until a new license has been acquired and all requirements of 2 CSR 30-9 have been met.”

As we stated in our 2018 report, Wilson's kennel was cited for a number of state violations in June 2017, 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 operation's current USDA number is unknown because the USDA no longer shares license numbers with the public. Former MO # AC001XYR. Second time in this report.

Halfway, Missouri: David Swartzentruber, Happy Paws Kennel—Owner knowingly continued to breed a dog with a grade 4 heart murmur, risking passing on a life-shortening disorder to their puppies. In contrast with most of the other breeders in this report, Happy Paws Kennel does not have a long history of violations. However, an incident documented by a state inspector in July 2018 shows a shocking lack of concern about the wellbeing of the operation's puppies. The inspector noted that a male Cavalier King Charles spaniel named Tye had been marked unsound for breeding due to a grade four heart murmur. The breed is known for heart problems, and responsible breeders are careful to remove any adults with heart problems from their breeding programs. The inspector found that the dog was still being used for breeding. Such a shocking lack of concern for the health and heritage of its puppies could lead to many heartbroken families purchasing puppies from Happy Paws Kennel with expensive and life-shortening health problems. MO #AC0015HP.

Hannibal, Missouri: Jerry Gottman, Wagtime Puppies—“Direct” violation for shih tzu with “reddened, oozing skin” that had crusted areas; excessive feces and matted dogs. A number of issues were documented at Wagtime Puppies during a complaint investigation and state inspections in 2018. Issues began when a sheriff's office complained to the Missouri Department of Agriculture on or around February 2018, stating dogs at Wagtime Puppies allegedly had no water and there were strong odors and possible animal neglect. When an inspector visited the property on Feb. 3, 2018, a relative of the owner said no one was available to show them around. Then, shockingly, it appears that no one inspected, and no one visited again until March 5, 2018. At that time, investigators found filthy conditions, with feces smeared in some enclosures and in the dogs' fur. The dogs

had only dirty water, and their bedding was scant, “dirty and damp.” Mr. Gottman was instructed to correct the issues, but additional violations were found during follow-up visits in the latter half of 2018. Violations included a female shih tzu found in June 2018 who “had a long, matted hair coat. The eyes could not be seen and there was thinning hair along the dogs top line.” In September 2018, additional matted dogs were found, and the inspector noted a “direct” violation for a male shih tzu who “had reddened, oozing skin.” The inspection report stated, “There were areas on the neck where the skin had a raised, crusty appearance.” The licensee told the inspector he thought the dog had a yeast infection and “had bathed it with a medicated shampoo,” but the dog had not been examined by a licensed vet. In addition, the inspector noted issues with poor recordkeeping and unclean housing. MO #AC0025P3.

Hurdland, Missouri: Kris Peterson, Peterson Puppy Works—Charged by Missouri Department of Agriculture for repeat violations, including repeated failure to provide dogs with drinkable water; failure to address sharp points that could injure the dogs. In February 2019, the Missouri Department of Agriculture charged Kris Peterson of Peterson Puppy Works a \$100 “reinspection fee” for failing two consecutive inspections for an original violation. The violations in question appeared to be Peterson’s repeated failure to fix sharp points that could injure the dogs, and a repeated failure to provide all dogs with clean and drinkable water. Most recently, dogs were found in January 2019 with either no water at all, or water that was frozen or undrinkable, a problem that had also been noted in 2018 and 2017. During an October 2018 inspection, Peterson Puppy Works was also found with unsafe flooring; two litters with no identification; two puppies who were old enough to receive rabies vaccinations but were sold without proof that they had received the vaccinations; repeated issues with lack of adequate shelter from the weather, and the issues with no water and sharp points that could hurt the dogs. Similar issues were noted in 2017 as well. MO #AC000ZVX.

Iberia, Missouri: Allison Hedgpeth, Lonewolf Kennels, affiliated with Dog Mother Rescue Society—Commercial broker sells bogus “rescue” puppies in areas that have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs in pet stores. In 2018, the [Chicago Tribune exposed](#) the fact that commercial dog dealers are creating bogus rescue groups in order to keep selling puppies to pet stores in areas that have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs in stores. Lonewolf Kennels, based in Iberia, Missouri, and J.A.K.’s Puppies, based in Britt, Iowa, are two massive puppy mill brokers that allegedly have created “rescue” groups to sell essentially the same commercial breeder puppies to pet stores, taking advantage of some potentially ambiguous language in some cities’ laws. Some, if not all, of the dogs sold by Lonewolf’s “rescue” arm, Dog Mother Rescue Society, appear to come from the same commercial breeders as the puppies sold by their for-profit kennel, according to the Tribune and national animal welfare groups that have investigated the issue. In fact, the article reports that sometimes puppies from the same litter were sold in two different ways, with one littermate going to a pet store in one town as a traditional, purebred breeder dog and the others sold as “rescues” in towns that prohibit the sale of puppy mill dogs in stores. The Tribune found Dog Mother Rescue Society selling hundreds of puppies in this manner, allegedly misleading families who think they are doing a good deed by getting a rescued puppy. Hobo K9 Rescue (J.A.K.’s Puppies) is currently being sued by Iowa’s attorney general for its misleading practices, which are very similar to those of Dog Mother Rescue Society. MO # AC000QKH (Lonewolf); MO #AC00236C (Dog Mother Rescue).

Middleton, Missouri: Mark Ritter, Heritage Farms Kennel (repeat offender) —State inspector found dogs infested with fleas, lack of veterinary records, dirty conditions; operator dodged at least seven different USDA inspections. In July 2018, a Missouri state inspector found a number of problems at Heritage Farms Kennel. A veterinarian who spot-checked eight different dogs in different kennels found live fleas present on all of them. There were also no veterinary records of vaccinations or dewormings performed on any of the adult dogs, and there were six small-breed dogs housed outdoors who didn’t have enough shelter from the weather. In addition, there was a build-up of dirt and grime. Heritage Farms Kennel also appeared in our 2018 report, after a USDA inspector found “two adult female dogs in the whelping facility [who] were observed to be very thin.” 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, and a veterinarian had not been consulted about the dogs’ condition. In addition to the underweight dogs, the inspector also found an adult Pomeranian who had “clumps of fecal material” matted in his fur. In July 2017, Missouri state inspectors cited Heritage Farms for shelter structures that were in poor condition. They were “cracked and [this] created holes and gaps” that could potentially entrap or injure the dogs, according to the report. At the time of this report, Heritage Farms had a [D+ rating](#) from the Better Business Bureau due to an unresolved complaint about a sick puppy.

The owner also repeatedly failed to make the property available to USDA inspectors, including attempted inspections in March 2019, December 2018, November 2018, and August 2018 and three different dates in 2017. Repeatedly failing to make the property available for inspections is a significant cause for concern because it could indicate the owner was hiding poor conditions. MO #AC0026EH. Second time in this report.

Newburg, Missouri: Jenny Gabel, Gone to the Dogs Kennel—Pekingese and pug had obvious eye disorders; additional pug found with hair loss and thickened skin; bulldog had hair loss and skin lesions and was infested with ticks. During a state inspection in July 2018, an inspector found a number of problems at Gone to the Dogs Kennel, including several rusted or damaged structures, with some that could injure the dogs, and four dogs in need of veterinary care. The report stated:

[Regarding two dogs, Clyde, a black pug and Susie, a Pekingese, who had eye abnormalities with discharge]: “Upon closer examination, Dr. Cook noted that Clyde had moderate corneal pigmentation and mucopurulent discharge of his right eye and a mild mucopurulent discharge, corneal pigmentation, and a small white corneal opacity of his left eye. Dr. Cook noted that Susie’s right eye was cloudy with a small visible defect in the cornea indicative of a corneal ulcer. Susie’s left eye had a small white corneal opacity.”

“Dr. Cook noted that Diva, a black Pug (#7E10004540) had hair loss and mild thickening of the skin along her ventral neck, trunk, and extremities. There was crusting and scaling of the skin along the dog’s back.”

“Dr. Cook noted that Alaya, an Olde English Bulldog (#7E10004550), was scratching, had hair loss and a large number of ticks. The dog had mildly exudative skin lesions caudal to each ear, in between some of her toes, and in a few small areas on her trunk.”

The facility had 168 adult dogs and 87 puppies at the time of the inspection. MO #AC00075E.

Perryville, Missouri: Marcella and Bill Meyer, Indiancreek Puppies—Dog with a tennis-ball sized growth and dog with blood on his ears had not been treated or evaluated by a vet. In July 2018, a Missouri state inspector cited Indiancreek Puppies with three violations. One was for an identification violation, and the second was for a male bichon frise who had blood on both of his ears. “Upon closer examination,” the inspector wrote, “there was a small laceration on his left ear.” In addition to the dog with the bloody ears, the inspector found a female bloodhound with “a tennis ball size[d] growth on the right side.” Neither the bichon nor the bloodhound, it appears, had been treated by a veterinarian for their issues. The licensee was ordered to consult with their veterinarian. MO # AC000VNS.

Rogersville, Missouri: Wendy Laymon aka Wendy Faith Steffensmeier, A French Bulldog aka Frenchie Puppies, formerly Shadow Mountain Kennel (repeat offender)—Notorious dog dealer with a problematic history stretching back two decades obtained new license from state of Missouri, despite past issues with inadequate veterinary care, sick puppy sales, poor housing and failing to allow inspections. The state of Missouri recently re-licensed Wendy Laymon, a French bulldog seller with a 20-year

history of violations, lawsuits and consumer complaints. As far back as the late 1990s, Laymon, who currently sometimes uses the moniker Wendy Faith Steffensmeier, was being sued in small claims court in her then-home state of Washington for issues related to sick puppies and misrepresentation. Reportedly, she was convicted and sentenced to [jail time](#) in Washington after her puppy mill there was shut down, and she was restricted from owning any animals as part of her release. She then moved to Missouri, where she operated a kennel that racked up numerous state and USDA violations.

Ten years later, after many years of USDA violations, legal issues and consumer complaints, on March 27, 2009, the USDA also levied action against Wendy Laymon (dba Shadow Mountain Kennel / docket #08-0089) for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act. She was fined \$7,125 and banned from holding a USDA license for three years. Yet Laymon continued to be licensed by the state of Missouri for many years after that, and also held a “rescue” license with the state.

In August 2011, the HSUS submitted a complaint to the Missouri attorney general regarding the purported dog “rescue” group also run by Laymon, which was believed to be a front for discarding the kennel’s unwanted breeding dogs. The complaint contended that Laymon was violating the state’s consumer protection law by deceiving the public into believing that some of the dogs in her operation were rescued from other facilities, when in fact many of the “rescued” dogs could have been coming directly from her puppy mill.

In 2014, Laymon, under pressure, dropped her questionable rescue license and her state commercial kennel license, and for a few years she operated only as a hobby kennel, which would mean she had 10 or fewer intact female dogs. But in 2018, she admitted to a state inspector that she had exceeded that number. She applied once again for a kennel license. During a pre-license inspection in June 2018, which she failed, Laymon was found to have 58 adult dogs and one puppy. She had violations for wire flooring, inadequate records to explain where her dogs were sold, and lack of an inventory of the dogs on hand. After the failed pre-license inspection, the notorious problem dealer went on to refuse two more attempted inspections, one in August 2018 and one in September 2018. She finally passed a pre-license inspection on the fourth attempt and became state-licensed again in September 2018.

On her license application, Laymon stated in writing that all her puppies are sold outside Missouri to two out of state “business partners”—which makes it likely that she would need a USDA license. However, as of April 10, 2019, the HSUS could find no indication that anyone by the name of Wendy Laymon or Wendy Layman (an alternative spelling of her name) holds a current USDA license. She also provided an email address which seems to indicate that she may be using the alias “Wendy Faith Steffens” or “Wendy Steffensmeier.” There are two USDA-licensed dealers in Iowa that use the same last name, but none in Missouri.

When it was previously licensed, Laymon’s kennel was cited by Missouri Department of Agriculture officials for numerous violations, including selling an allegedly “rescued” French bulldog online without a rabies vaccination or health certificate (June 2012); several dogs with such long toenails that the nails had “curled back into the pad of the foot;” refusing to allow inspectors to look inside a building which appeared to be a kennel building but which Laymon claimed did not have dogs in it, and a period of more than two years during which Missouri state inspectors found there had been no documented veterinary visit to the kennel (2008 to 2010).

Laymon is currently offering puppies for sale on websites such as thefrenchbulldog.com, and has a self-named website, wendylaymon.org, which also exists under her alias, wendyfaithsteffensmeier.org. She also offers puppies for sale on third party sites such as PuppyFind.com. On her website, Laymon offers to send puppies to

buyers sight-unseen [using a puppy transporter](#), which would typically require a USDA license, which she does not appear to have.

MO # AC001PHH; Fourth time in an HSUS report: Laymon appeared previously in one Horrible Hundred report and in our 2010 and 2011 reports on Missouri's Dirty Dozen.

Sainte Genevieve, Missouri: Krystal Ballard, TLC K9 Kennels and Ballardhaus Rottweilers—“Direct,” repeat violations for dogs found without water in the summer; repeatedly cited for improper veterinary care.

Throughout 2018, state inspectors found numerous violations at TLC K9 Kennels, including three different violations for dogs without drinking water, violations for standing water and muddy dogs, inadequate shelter and inadequate veterinary care, and violations for animals missing from the facility with no explanation for what had happened to them.

During an August 2018 state inspection, a number of violations were found, including:

“During today’s inspection, there were three weaned puppies housed on the back porch without shelter provided. When asked where the puppies were housed the night before the licensee stated on the porch. In addition to the puppies there were two adult Dogue de Bordeaux with only one medium size shelter structure available.”

“The licensee stated she had been treating a male Rottweiler named Dyson for bite wounds he sustained three to four weeks ago. The licensee stated she had consulted with her veterinarian, but she had not kept any record of the consultation or the medication administration.”

“Three outdoor primary enclosures continued to have standing water during today’s inspection. Five adult dogs were observed to have wet feet, legs and ventral chest and abdomen.”

“Three puppies housed on the back porch, and four adults [...] did not have water provided during today’s inspection.”

During an additional August 2018 focused inspection, four animals were found with no water, and when the licensee was instructed to give them water, a Rottweiler “was timed to drink for more than one minute and forty-five seconds.” Dogs had also been found with no water during a February inspection. And at a follow-up inspection in September 2018, the inspector noted that all the dogs had fresh water, but that appeared to be only because a man was seen pouring water for the dogs as the inspectors were waiting to be let in to start the inspection. In addition, the inspection found that “the licensee’s program of veterinary care has expired and she stated she has not obtained a current program of veterinary care.” The licensee had also not obtained the required veterinary examination forms for her dogs, even though she had been warned about the issue previously. MO # AC002AKQ.

Saint James, Missouri: Sho-Me Labradors, Sandra Kozlowski— Continued to operate with more than 100 dogs, despite failing three pre-license inspections; inspectors who finally entered the property in October 2018 after four failed attempts found underweight dogs with ribs showing and numerous large-breed dogs confined to airline kennels. Sandra Kozlowski’s Sho-Me Labradors failed three state pre-license inspections between February and May of 2018 for issues such as dogs with hair loss or loose stools, dogs confined without enough space, and filthy conditions. Yet the kennel continued to operate, state records show. Issues found at the final failed inspection in May 2018 included damp and dirty dogs confined to damp runs, inadequate space and a repeat issue with expired medications. Yet even though she was denied a kennel license,

the licensee apparently continued to keep breeding dogs. In September and October of 2018, state inspectors tried four different times to inspect the kennel, but no one was “available” to let them in.

On Oct. 15, 2018, state inspectors arrived to investigate a complaint, and found a number of violations, including numerous large-breed dogs who were confined to cramped airline crates in the office, in the basement and even in the garage. The following quotes are excerpts from that inspection report:

“[The inspector] observed two yellow Labrador Retriever males, one in each group, that appeared thin with three to four ribs on each side visible through their hair coats.”

“Seven young adult dogs, all described as spayed and neutered, were observed in airline-style crates in the office. Mrs. Kozlowski stated that the dogs were being crate trained. I informed Mrs. Kozlowski that the airline style crates appeared to be too small for several of the dogs, and they would not meet ACFA¹⁷ standards.”

“Two adult female dogs were observed in airline style crates in the garage.”

“Four spayed, older adult dogs were housed in airline crates in the basement as well. [...] I informed Mrs. Kozlowski that the airline crates were not considered an appropriate primary enclosure according [to] ACFA regulation.”

“In the upstairs portion of the home, three adult dogs were observed loose and six adult dogs were housed in airline style crates.”

“I asked Mrs. Kozlowski what her plans were for her facility. She indicated that she would be reapplying for her ACFA license in November.”

“The allegation that there were 75-100 dogs at the location was confirmed. I observed 100+ dogs while at the facility in October. According to ACFA records from May of 2018, there had been approximately 85 adult dogs and 38 puppies at the location when the final pre-license inspection was conducted and the ACFA license was denied.”

It appears that Sho-Me Labradors may be continuing to operate without a license, possibly as a hobby breeder. As of April 25, 2019, their website was still active, and [a tab](#) for “baby puppies available” lists a phone number to “call for availability.” But the kennel’s name was not on the most recent available state license list (February 2019).

Vienna, Missouri: Dan Berhorst, D & B Kennel—Repeat violations for excessive feces; strong odors; inspector found blood on the walls; no proof of vaccination for some of the dogs. State inspectors found violations for excessive feces at D & B Kennel in July 2018 and December 2018. Additionally, during the December inspection, the inspector noticed dried blood “covering the walls of the interior of an enclosure.” The licensee claimed it was because the groomer had clipped a dog’s toenail a few days prior and it had bled. Other violations found at the facility included strong odors and excessive feces (December 2018), multiple dogs without proof of rabies vaccinations (July 2018), and dogs who were missing or added to the facility without documentation (which could indicate animals died or were purchased from unlicensed dealers) in both July and December 2018. Additionally, during three inspections in a row, multiple dams and puppies did not have a solid resting surface as required by law (August 2017, July 2018 and December 2018). MO #AC000F79.

¹⁷ Animal Care Facilities Act, a law that outlines standards for breeders, shelters, pet stores and similar dealers in Missouri.

West Plains, Missouri: Ellen Roberts, Rocky Top K9s (repeat offender) —Dogs found with patches of missing fur, itchy skin, fleas and/or diarrhea. Even after appearing in a prior Horrible Hundred report for a plethora of animal care violations, Rocky Top K9s was again found with dogs in need of veterinary care in September 2018. A state officer investigating a complaint found numerous problems, including five dogs with missing patches of fur and some who were seen itching, one dog who had thickened and pigmented skin and was crawling with live fleas, and evidence of diarrhea in four of the enclosures.

Rocky Top K9s also appeared in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report and two earlier reports. As we stated in our 2017 report, serious animal care violations have been found at the facility in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013. For example, USDA inspectors found five different repeat violations at the July 2016 visit, including a male boxer with a “bleeding, open wound” and a female boxer who was so thin that her “ribs and hip bones were easily observed.” In addition, the temperature inside one of the buildings was excessively high (94 degrees) and inspectors noted several repeat violations for unsafe housing conditions. In July 2016, a Missouri state inspector noted a number of problems, including a high concentration of flies, and several dogs and puppies in need of veterinary care which the licensee claimed to be treating, but he had no documentation of any treatments. In December 2016, a state inspector found a bulldog with loose stool whom the licensee also had no record of being treated.

Violations noted in our May 2016 report included: an underweight boxer with ribs and backbone visible (March 2016); a boxer found with numerous ticks on her chest, neck and back (March 2016); two Boston terriers with eye injuries (November 2015) and a bulldog who was squinting her eyes and rubbing her face, and had swollen tissue around her eyes and ears that was “dark red” with brown discharge (November 2015). Violations noted by USDA inspectors in 2014 included: a bulldog with “reddened skin and hair loss” and a boxer who was thin with easily visible ribs (October 2014); four 10-week-old English bulldog puppies who were coughing and seemed to be sick, but had not been treated by a vet, and a boxer with signs of mange (February 2014). Similar violations, including several sick and underweight dogs and puppies, were found by inspectors in 2013.

Rocky Top K9s offers puppies for sale on its own website, rockytopk9s.com, on its [Facebook](#) page, and on third party websites such as PuppyFind.com. The HSUS has repeatedly linked PuppyFind.com to problem puppy mills and consumer complaints about sick and dying puppies. MO #AC00124U. Fourth time in this report.

NEBRASKA

Friend, Nebraska: Roy T. Schrunk, Rocking T Kennel—State inspector found dogs with open wounds; puppies kept in filthy conditions, not enough staff to properly care for animals; operator was issued an official warning. State inspectors marked Rocking T Kennel “unacceptable” during a May 23, 2018, state inspection, and sent an extensive warning letter to the facility. The inspection noted the following violations:

“Two Adult female St. Bernards, one twelve year old, and the other female being thirteen years old, need to be examined by a vet. Both dogs have open wounds, fresh blood is present on both dogs. Water dishes located outside by west facility need to be cleaned, water is not clean, and algae, is present in water dishes. Pup pens located in west facility need to be cleaned of feces inside of the pens, and under the pens. Trash located inside of buildings needs to be removed from the facility. Weeds, and grass located in east outdoor pens needs to be cut. Dirt holes located in outdoor pens, needs to be filled in with dirt. More employees are needed to properly care for the dogs, and to keep standards in compliance.”

At a follow-up inspection on June 6, 2018, state inspectors found some conditions had improved but they also found new violations, stating: “Three year old Bichon-Poodle mix, needs to be examined by a vet. The dog has

what appears to be a hot spot, and needs vet care. This same dog needs to be groomed, over [10%] matted hair is present.”

At the June inspection, the facility had 46 dogs and 30 puppies. Rocking T Kennel offers puppies for sale [on its own website](#), and on [PuppyFind.com](#), where Schrunk describes himself as “a small breeder.” Although he does not appear to have a USDA license as of April 11, 2019, Schrunk’s kennel offers shipping across the United States on its PuppyFind page. If the kennel is shipping puppies to buyers that don’t pick them up in person, it would be required to obtain a USDA license and undergo USDA inspection, a rule that USDA appears to be doing little to enforce in recent years. NE# KN936.

Monroe, Nebraska: Greg Kerns – State inspector found unsafe housing, inadequate vet care plan; five dogs were tethered to trees and others were running loose. In August 2018, the Nebraska Animal and Plant Health Protection office received a complaint about a breeder who had dogs running loose, and allegedly the dogs were killing livestock. The complainant also alleged that the dogs were thin and not being properly cared for. During a resulting Aug. 20, 2018, state inspection, an inspector found some dogs running loose while others were tethered to trees. The inspector also found a number of violations, including improper food storage, unsafe conditions, housing that was not structurally sound, and lack of a veterinary care plan. The inspector wrote: “Vet care plan, needs to be completed. Tethering of dogs is not allowed, five dogs are [tethered] to trees. Fix holes along north wall located inside of facility. Remove sharp wire, fix wire holes located inside of facility. Five to six dogs are running freely, dogs do need to be confined. Fill in dirt holes. Cover dog food, located in food storage area, to keep dog food fresh, and insects, and rodents out.” The breeder received two “direct” violations and five indirect violations. The operation had one compliant inspection in September 2018. NE# KN1559.

Naper, Nebraska: Michael and Dustie Roth, Nebraska Heartland Kennels—Received an official warning from the state in October 2018 for unsanitary enclosures, improper waste disposal, and dogs and puppies not protected from wet and cold conditions. In October 2018, Nebraska Heartland Kennels failed a state inspection, and subsequently received a warning from the state. Some of the issues found included: puppies in cold conditions with only wet bedding that wasn’t sufficient to keep them warm; dogs in a trailer who did not have adequate bedding; excessive feces that wasn’t being cleaned daily; and failing to provide a way for dogs to stay out of mud, or standing water. The operation offers puppies on [Facebook](#), where they claim to be a breeder of huskies, Shiba Inus and beagles. A March 16, 2019, post reads, “We had a new litter of Huskies!! 6 babies total!! Let us know if you want one.” Shiba Inu puppies were also offered in January 2019. NE # KN1556.

Plattsmouth, Nebraska: Brenda Carroll, Carroll Sell Farms (repeat offender)—State found AKC breeder’s facility “routinely noncompliant,” including repeated problems with facility not having enough employees to properly care for the dogs and “piles of feces.” State issued an official warning and suggested major downsizing of facility. Even after appearing in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, Carroll Sell Farms continued to fail to provide proper care to dogs on the property, according to public records the HSUS reviewed. State inspection reports show the facility was cited for violations at four different inspections between May and September 2018, only passing one inspection in November after being given an inordinate amount of chances to come into compliance. Some of the violations found since our last report was published include: excessive trash and clutter (July 2018); not enough employees to properly care for the animals (May and August 2018); and a limping dog who needed to be taken to a vet (September 2018). The facility was rated “unacceptable” at an Aug. 29, 2018, state inspection and given an official warning for violating Nebraska’s Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act.

During that visit, the inspector wrote:

“Facility is routinely non compliant, with program standards, sanitation issue’s continue, along with other non compliant items. More employee’s are needed to properly care for the dogs, or major downsizing is needed to get facility in total compliance. All dogs pens located inside of facility need to be cleaned, piles of feces, needs to be removed. South outdoor pens, dogs cannot escape mud, or standing water, along with 2-3 pens located inside of barn have mud or wet surfaces. Dogs need to be kept in a clean dry environment, with clean dry bedding. Inside and around outdoor pens grasses, and weeds need to be cut, or mowed. Outdoor pens located in north facility, need to have proper shade to protect dogs from summer heat. One dog located in north facility, did not have proper shelter, dog house that was present was full of water, dogs need to have access to shelter at all times.”

During a September 2018 re-inspection, the inspector noted that the operation had planned to downsize:

“Mrs. Carroll recognized that she needed to downsize to properly care for the dogs and submitted a list of about 54 dogs that were to be released to an out of state rescue organization within about 2 weeks. With the release of these dogs, she will be down to about 20 dogs. In the interim, Mrs. Carroll is enlisting the help of a friend to help care for the dogs.”

On Nov. 13, 2018, the operation passed one inspection and was down to 10 dogs and 21 puppies. However, the long history of noncompliance at this facility suggests that it is likely to increase its numbers, and its violations, again as time progresses.

Carroll has links to the AKC and in fact owned a miniature American shepherd who recently won an [Award of Excellence](#) in 2018.

Carroll appeared in our 2017 and 2014 Horrible Hundred reports for similar issues. During several state inspections in 2016, numerous problems were found at Carroll Sell Farms, including a dog with an injured leg (Sept. 8, 2016), inadequate shelter for the dogs (Sept. 8, 2016 and Feb. 4, 2016), filthy conditions (Sept. 8, 2016 and Feb. 4, 2016), and other citations for not enough employees to properly maintain the kennel (Sept. 14, 2016 and Sept 8, 2016). In addition, dogs were found without adequate weather protection in February 2016, an issue that Carroll had been repeatedly cited for in winters past.

Issues we noted in our 2014 report included dogs in 4-degree temperatures with frozen water. In that report, we noted that the operation failed to meet state standards at four consecutive state inspections between January 2013 and February 2014. At all four inspections, dogs were found either with no water or water that was frozen. Inspectors had notified Carroll in January 2013 that dog flaps were needed on the outside dog houses and that the dogs needed fresh, unfrozen water, but she still had not corrected the problem on the 4-degree day more than a year later, according to state inspection records. A February 2016 inspection found the same issue.

It is unclear why the state continues to allow Carroll Sell Farms to operate when it has failed so many inspections over such a long period of time. NE #KN1109. Third time in this report.

Walthill, Nebraska: Heather Campbell—Underweight German shepherd; bulldogs kept in building without adequate ventilation; issues with veterinary care; received official warning from the state. During an Oct. 9, 2018, state inspection, Heather Campbell’s facility was rated “unacceptable” by a state inspector due to a number of issues, including having no current veterinary care plan, excessive trash, bulldogs kept in a building without adequate ventilation, and a “skinny black German Shepherd female” who needed to be seen by a veterinarian. Campbell was issued an official warning letter after the inspection for six different violations,

including failing to provide proper veterinary care, sanitation, waste disposal and ventilation. When the state re-inspected on Oct. 29, 2018, it rated the facility “conditionally acceptable,” even though a number of problems were still present. The inspector found that dogs in two of the pens were being targeted aggressively by other dogs and needed to be moved, and the veterinary care plan was still not updated, because the licensee claimed she couldn’t get in touch with her vet. Despite the repeated failure to provide updated veterinary records, the licensee was given ten more days to get her veterinary care plan faxed in. NE# KN1306.

Wood River, Nebraska: Prairie Chesapeake, Mark Griesman (repeat offender)—Fined \$2,000 by the state in June 2018 for repeated deficiencies, including an injured, paralyzed dog who went days without veterinary care and was later euthanized, and several underweight dogs. Even after appearing in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, Mark Griesman was found again and again with unacceptable conditions, including a dog named Blondie who was partly paralyzed and had been injured days previously without receiving proper care, according to state records, and another dog who was “looking very thin;” water bowls that still contained ice; and “poor conditions throughout” the facility. The operation was finally fined \$2,000 by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture in June 2018.

During an April 17, 2018, state inspection, the operation was rated “acceptable,” despite its egregious history and the following notes by the inspector:

“Blondie the partial paralyzed dog was euthanized along with Sky the thin dog which is claimed to have had cancer. Blondie had suffered an injury a week prior to 4-16-18 inspection without vet care. Several others appear thin and will advise to have examined for cancer. Mr. Griesman’s ability to clean/sanitize and move dog’s in such a short amount of time shows his ability to take care of the animals but his continued non-compliance issues and lack of providing dogs in need of care shows the disregard of the animals. Request administrative hearing.”

On May 28, 2018, the operation suffered a barn fire, but when discussing the fire, the licensee allegedly seemed more concerned about his upcoming administrative hearing and not the fire, according to state fire investigation records. He reportedly stated that “accidents happen.” In June 2018, the hearing was cancelled by the Department of Agriculture after a settlement was reached; the licensee was fined \$2,000 and told to stay in compliance, but that apparently did not occur; in July 2018, he was again found to have several violations, including incomplete health records.

As we noted in our prior report, Mark Griesman was found with terrible conditions and underweight dogs in 2017 as well. He had properties at two locations that were found to be unlicensed. Even after he pursued a license, he was unable to maintain acceptable conditions, and was given a warning by the state. A few of the many violations found at his property(ies) in 2017 included a repeated failure to obtain veterinary care records on the dogs, at least one dog who lacked sufficient food, a dog with a puncture wound near the eye, unsanitary conditions, and “strong odors [of] urine and feces.” NE# KN1342. Second time in this report.

NEW YORK

Burlington Flats, New York: Darlene Damulis, PaDar Pets—Failed to let state inspectors in for six different inspections in 2018; inspectors who arrived after three consecutive failed attempts found “critical” non-compliances, including strong odors, filthy conditions and lacking adequate veterinary plan; facility lacked a USDA license despite admitting to transferring large numbers of dogs to another dealer. PaDar Pets is a large dealer, with 91 dogs and 41 puppies found at a recent state inspection. But despite the large number of

animals, a caretaker is hardly ever available when inspectors come to call, which causes significant concerns because it means no one is consistently present and taking care of such a large number of animals. The facility failed to have an adult present for inspections on June 26, July 2 and July 18, 2018, and also on three different dates in August. When an inspector did gain access on July 26, 2018, they found a number of violations, including the following:

“Cage wire is rusting and cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected.”

“Odors present on both floors of the kennel building.”

“Inadequate [light] for proper cleaning and observation on the first floor of the kennel building.”

“Water, feces and urine present in the collection area of the wash-down below the dog’s cages on both floors. Also, a source of the odor. Observed three Yorkie’s in mud in one outdoor exercise enclosure.”

“Current Veterinary Plan written by current attending veterinarian not available. The plan was signed on 4/2/18 by the attending veterinarian who has since closed her practice and retired as of 4/30/18.”

“One puppy born 10/30/17 sold on 4/23/18 had no proof of current rabies vaccination.”

“Dealer states that quite a few dogs are being given to another licensed pet dealer. Because of this activity, Darlene may need to apply for a USDA license also.”

It appears that Darlene Damulis is also [offering some puppies on PuppyFind](#), a notorious website the HSUS has linked to puppy mills, and is offering worldwide shipping. Shipping puppies to buyers one has not met in person would require a USDA license. But as of April 11, 2019, there was no indication that anyone by the name of Damulis, PaDar Pets or any business in Burlington Flats, New York had obtained a USDA license. NY #302.

Dundee, New York: Name withheld by USDA – Two dogs were matted over 90% of their bodies; both were so badly matted in the rear that it made it difficult for them to defecate. Puppy was found “visibly shivering” in the cold; Yorkie escaped and was killed. During an October 2018 USDA inspection, a number of severe issues were found at a Dundee breeding operation with a history of violations. Two dogs, a Maltese and a Maltese mix, were found so severely matted that feces was caught in their fur and it was difficult for them to defecate due to all the heavily matted fur covering most of their bodies, including the anal areas. Despite the dire condition of these two dogs, the inspector failed to cite the issue as a “direct” violation, which would have triggered a follow-up recheck. In addition, a puppy was found shivering in the cold during the same inspection, and other puppies were seen nearby “curled next to each other for warmth.” This issue was also not listed as “direct.” The USDA inspector also cited the operator for a repeat violation for dirty conditions during the same October inspection. During a June 2018 inspection that seems to be linked to the same facility, the operator received a “critical” violation due to multiple puppies and dogs digging out of the enclosures, one of whom was a Yorkie who was subsequently killed after being able to enter the enclosure of a larger dog. Another dog had escaped and killed a chicken. During the June inspection the inspector also noted, “For several of the smaller breeds of dogs, the feeders are several feet off the ground making it necessary for the dogs to continually jump up to access food or potentially jump into the feeder. It was requested by the inspector that a thin Yorkie with the feeder high up, was given a bowl of food on the ground, and when given easy access food, the dog began to eat continually for an extended period of time.”

Dundee, New York: Name withheld by USDA—Dog was badly matted over nipple area while puppies were trying to nurse; another dog had bloody discharge and had not been taken to a veterinarian; USDA did not cite either issue as a “direct” or “critical” violation under current lax oversight. In February 2019, a USDA inspector found three dogs in need of care at a Dundee breeding operation. All of them were badly matted, and one of them had matted fur covering her nipple region where puppies were “actively trying to nurse.” That dog and another dog were also so badly matted in the rear that they had feces caught in the fur near their tail area. In addition, one of the dogs, a female Havanese, who had whelped puppies a few weeks earlier, “had bloody discharge coming from the vaginal area.” In past years, a USDA inspector would almost certainly have required a dog with bloody discharge to be taken to a veterinarian for an examination and treatment. But in this instance, the breeder was simply told to have the dog “assessed,” yet was not ordered to take the animal to a veterinarian or to provide proof of treatment, and the issue was not cited as a “direct” or “critical” violation. Under these lax new rules, both the breeder and the USDA failed to protect a dog who may have been suffering from a life-threatening condition such as a uterine infection. The condition of this nursing dog could also endanger her puppies.

Hudson, New York: Curtis Rist, Hudson Labradoodles—Repeatedly dodged inspections; “heavy odor” of feces and urine and poor ventilation. State inspection records show a very problematic history at Hudson Labradoodles in both 2018 and 2019. In March 2019, the facility was found to have poor ventilation, excessive feces, dirty conditions and a “toxic” smell. These issues were repeated problems that had also been noted earlier in 2019 and in 2018 as well.

Prior issues also included dodging inspectors. For example, on Jan. 13, 2019, a state inspector arrived to conduct an inspection and gave the owner, Curtis Rist, a “non-compliant critical” violation for refusing the inspection: “Mr. Rist was present and denied entrance to do an inspection. Mr. Rist spoke with Ms. Colon and understood the consequences of not allowing an inspection.” On Jan. 18, 2019, an inspector was permitted inside the operation, but found a critical violation for two dogs who did not have rabies vaccinations, and also noted that one dog was in need of grooming and there was no veterinary plan or exercise plan available, which is a requirement under the state law. Finally, on Jan. 31, 2019, the inspector noted that some issues had been addressed but that there was a “heavy odor” of feces and urine inside the kennel run area and that the facility needed better ventilation.

In February 2018, the licensee was cited for a “critical” violation for telling an inspector three times by text message that he would be available at the kennel for an inspection and then not showing up. He did pass an inspection later that month. But then in December 2018, an inspector who was trying to conduct an inspection could not find the licensee again, yet saw a number of serious concerns while searching for him. The inspector wrote:

“Upon arrival this inspector looked around outside and called Hello several times loudly. The doors to the runs and the main door was open. I opened the building door and turned down the radio which was one step inside and called hello several times. No one answered so I went back outside. The front of the building was littered with open dog food cans and general debris and garbage. The inside was very odorous, but nothing obvious making the smell. Both sides of runs were odorous as well with feces being washed out of runs onto the pea gravel and grass areas. The runs were wet. The dogs feet and lower legs were wet too. The dogs appeared healthy but dirty especially feet and lower legs. All dogs in the outside runs had water and empty dishes.”

NY # 669.

Port Crane, New York: Rachel Meade Driesbaugh, Sunset Kennels (repeat offender)– State inspectors found cages too small, “excessive, noxious” odor of urine and feces; puppies exposed to contagious dog; excessive trash. During a December 2018 state inspection, a variety of serious violations were found at Sunset Kennels, including:

“At least two primary enclosure cages [...] did not [have] enough space to permit every animal the ability to lay down with legs outstretched all at the same time.”

“Excessive, noxious urine/fecal odor present in main housing building.”

“Inadequate lighting for cleaning and proper observation for approximately 1/3 of building/cages.”

“Whelping box not provided for at least 2 nursing mothers. One whelping box was too large for the primary enclosure, preventing the mother from being able to [fully separate] herself from the pups.”

“Healthy animal being housed with animal with kennel cough in isolation room. Sick animal was also allowed to occasionally roam in kitchen of house and expose the pet dog as well as puppies being shown to potential customers.”

“Multiple primary enclosures had a mixture of fresh sawdust and soiled newspaper shreds. Excessive debris in exercise yard poses risk of injury and/or disease to animals. Room where puppies were allowed to roam free when shown to [potential] buyers had large amount of moving boxes and personal items making it easy for puppies to become lost and/or injured.”

“Large amount of trash on premise of which were not properly contained to prevent spillage or destruction from pests.”

“Antibiotics in treatment plan to be used in house at discretion were not up to date and do not have vet approved and recorded doses to be used.”

“Two animals sold without health findings being notified in writing to purchaser, at least 5 health certificates had information edited or added without vet initialing edits.”

The owner also failed to make the facility available for inspection on two occasions that same month.

Sunset Kennels also appeared in our 2014 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, in December 2012, a state inspector found a number of serious violations at this kennel, including a puppy with a runny, crusty eye that was almost completely crusted shut; a strong urine smell in the back kennel; and matted dogs in need of grooming. Another state inspection in November 2013 found dirty conditions, a strong odor, two dogs who did not have rabies vaccinations and no program of veterinary care. NY #579. Second time in this report.

Stanley, New York: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Allen Nolt, Leaning Ash Kennels¹⁸ (repeat offender)—USDA inspector found underweight dog in “poor condition” with “ribs, hips and spine clearly visible” and “thin patches and rough fur.” During a September 2018 USDA inspection, an inspector found a dog in very poor condition who had not been seen by a veterinarian. The inspector wrote:

¹⁸ To the best of our knowledge, Nolt was the only USDA licensee in Stanley, NY at the time of the inspection.

“A female Maltese [...] was very thin with ribs, hips and spine clearly visible, her belly was rounded. Her hair coat was also in poor condition with thin patches and rough fur. The licensee states that she had groomed her in the past month and that she appeared to have lost more weight since the grooming. The dog was housed with several other dogs and had access to dry food. She was moved into a separate enclosure and given a wet/dry mixed diet which she began to consume. Due to her poor body condition but willingness to eat, there may be underlying health related issues contributing to her weight loss. Her poor body condition should be communicated to the attending veterinarian so that he has the ability to give adequate guidance on health related issues.”

The licensee had 84 dogs and puppies at the time of the inspection. The HSUS believes the licensee to be Allen Nolt of Leaning Ash Kennels, because he was the only USDA-licensed dog dealer in Stanley, New York at the time of the inspection. Nolt also appeared in our 2018 report after a USDA inspector found two dogs in need of veterinary care at a Stanley 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. Second time in this report.

Woodhull, New York: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Levi O. Hershberger¹⁹—Piles of feces were discarded in open area instead of being removed or disposed of; bichon dog was heavily matted over 90% of his body with twisted and corded fur. In February 2019, a USDA inspector found a Woodhull breeder removing feces from primary enclosures and then dumping the feces just a “few feet away” in an outdoor area, where it was “left to accumulate.” As the inspector noted, the practice “may pose an increased risk of contamination and disease.” Failure to properly dispose of feces can also be very harmful to the environment. In addition, the inspector found at least one dog, a bichon, who was badly matted over 90% of his body, “with matted fur being twisted tightly and corded.” The inspector noted, “heavily matted fur pulls and separates from the skin causing potential skin irritation, may not insulate the dogs well and can be painful.”

OHIO

Fredericksburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA –Puppies found in cage that was much too small for them; mouse feces throughout the kennel. During an August 2018 USDA inspection, an inspector noted a number of problems at a Fredericksburg dog breeding operation, including:

“Five weaned puppies were in an enclosure that was too small for them. Three of puppies measured 11 inches and two measured 12 inches. Altogether, they required 1,515 square inches of space [under the rules of the Animal Welfare Act]. The enclosure measured 36.25 inches by 24.5 inches for a total of 888.125 square inches of space. The puppies were short 626.875 square inches.”

“Mouse feces was observed throughout the kennel. Mouse feces was observed on a shelf, the window sills, on top of the lids of the food containers, and next to the medications and dewormers. The licensee

¹⁹ To the best of our knowledge, Hershberger was the only USDA licensee in Woodhull, NY at the time of the inspection.

admitted the mice have been a problem. Mice can contaminate food sources and transmit disease. An effective pest control program must be implemented....”

Forty-one dogs and puppies were present at the kennel at the time of the inspection.

Fredericksburg, Ohio: Joseph M. Yoder (repeat offender)—State inspectors found excessive feces, “evidence of flies and mice” in kennel; sale of underage puppies. In June 2018, Ohio state inspectors cited Joseph M. Yoder’s kennel for a number of violations, including an accumulation of feces under the outside kennel runs; a dog pen with no housing structure in it to protect dog(s) inside it from the weather; dirty whelping pens; “evidence of flies and mice” in the kennel; “opened food storage containers” with holes in them; multiple expired medications present, and inadequate records on puppies, as well as puppy sale records that indicated “multiple puppies were sold under 8 weeks of age,” an apparent violation of state law. When state inspectors returned for a re-inspection about a week later, the cleaning and housekeeping issues had been corrected, but state inspectors still found incomplete records on the puppies, as well as an ongoing issue with possible underage puppy sales. OH #CB0001QN. Second time in this report.

Fremont, Ohio: Jacqueline J Simon, Simons Poodles—Seller of AKC puppies has nearly 100 dogs; repeatedly cited for poor veterinary oversight; offers to ship puppies online, apparently without a USDA license. In late May 2018, Simons Poodles failed a state inspection due to missing veterinary forms, including lack of an annual written program of care for the facility, including guidance on behavioral and social needs and exercise, as well as a lack of “labels or guidelines for dosage procedures for various medications,” including some strong antibiotics, a livestock dewormer and another drug that inspectors apparently found in the facility. The operation was found “non compliant” at the May inspection, and a re-inspection occurred on June 26, 2018. However, even though the re-inspection was nearly a month later, inspectors who arrived found the facility was still non-compliant with the same issues. A lack of adequate veterinary oversight can be very harmful to dogs and puppies, especially if they are given strong medications that may not have been prescribed by a veterinarian.

Simons Poodles [advertises AKC puppies](#) for sale on its website, and on websites like [PuppyFind.com](#), where it offers to ship puppies to buyers. Breeders who ship puppies to buyers they do not meet in person are required to hold a USDA license, but a review of the online USDA license list by HSUS staff on April 10, 2019, revealed no licensed dealers in Ohio with the last name Simon, and no licensed dealers of any name in Fremont. OH #CB000AKX.

Loudonville, Ohio: Daniel and James Miller, Happy Mountain Canine Facilities—Linked to underaged puppy sales and lack of veterinary oversight. The Millers have two licenses in Ohio, both listed at the same address. One is under the name Happy Mountain Canine Facilities, and the other is under the licensees’ names only. During an inspection of the latter in August 2018, the Millers were found “noncompliant” by state inspectors due to “multiple puppies [who] were found to be sold less than 8 weeks of age,” an apparent violation of [state law](#). The sale of underage puppies is a significant concern because underaged animals are especially prone to illness, may not be fully weaned, and don’t have mature immune systems. Under the Happy Mountain Canine Facilities license number, state inspectors found violations in August 2018 for dogs who didn’t have enough space in their enclosures, lack of a written health care plan provided by a veterinarian, including guidance on other issues such as behavior, exercise and procedures for dew claw removal and tail docking. Expired medications were also found at the facility. Authorities re-inspected the facility in September 2018 and found additional issues: four outdoor enclosures had no shelter structures to protect the dogs, and veterinary health care plans were still missing. OH #CB0009Z7 (Happy Mountain) and CB0008M2.

Millersburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA – French bulldogs lived in solitary confinement in cages smaller than a bathtub; were only let out of their cages for half an hour per week. During a June 2018 USDA inspection of a Millersburg breeder, the inspector noted that at least five of the dogs on the property were kept in cages that were too small, without social housing, and without adequate exercise. Some of the dogs were approximately 25-inches long and were kept in cages that were only 51-by-31 inches. This means that some of the dogs spent nearly every hour of their lives in a space that was only 4.25 feet by 2.5 feet, or smaller than an average bathtub.

The USDA report stated:

“Five French Bulldogs were housed individually. [...] The licensee stated that the dogs went into the exercise yard once a week for a half an hour weather permitting. The attending veterinarian was consulted by the inspector about their guidance for these animals and the licensee did not meet the requirements they indicated...”

“Section 3.8(c)(3) provides additional options for meeting dogs exercise requirements such as access to a run or open area at the frequency and duration prescribed by the attending veterinarian, however, the licensee is neither meeting the minimum space requirements for exercise within the primary enclosure, nor the Attending Veterinarian’s guidance for exercise outside of the enclosure.”

The report went on to note, “The lack of appropriate exercise can affect the dogs’ mental and physical health, and impact the growth of young dogs.”

The lack of exercise appears to be a violation of both federal and state laws. The property had more than 100 dogs and puppies on it at the time of the inspection.

Millersburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA – Two shih tzus were found with painful-looking eye disorders and had not been treated by a veterinarian; USDA failed to cite the issue as “direct” or “critical.” During a June 2018 USDA inspection, two dogs at a Millersburg, Ohio property were found with obvious eye disorders that the inspector noted were likely painful and could even lead to blindness. Despite the fact that the conditions were likely causing pain to the animals, the violation was not listed as “direct” or “critical,” which would have triggered a faster follow-up by the agency. The first dog noted in the report was a white female shih tzu whose right eye was “colored a filmy blue with a large white opacity on the surface, with thick yellow discharge along the bottom eyelid and the face matted with wet fur.” The same dog’s left eye also had “a small amount of brownish yellow discharge and a white pinpoint opacity on the surface.” The second dog, a black and white female shih tzu, had “the right eye colored a filmy blue with red streaks across it, and the white part of the eye [was] injected with red. This eye is similarly wet and the hair surrounding is matted by a thick yellowish brown discharge.”

The facility representative said they were “not aware of this condition and no treatment was being administered at the time of the inspection. There was no eye medication on hand during the inspection,” according to the inspection report. The inspector noted, “The eye is an extremely sensitive organ, and even slight problems are painful. Conditions affecting eyes that are left untreated can also lead to irreversible blindness.”

The property had 113 dogs and puppies on it at the time of the inspection.

Millersburg, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA, believed to be Abe R. Yoder, Woodside Kennel²⁰ – Boston terrier and bichon had open lesions, but had not been taken to a veterinarian; other dogs had matted fur; dirty food receptacles. During an Oct. 3, 2018, USDA inspection, an inspector documented a number of serious problems at an operation we believe is Woodside Kennel. Quotes from that report include:

“Dog #54, a Boston Terrier female, has a large open lesion on her right side that is about 2” wide and about 5” long starting at the base of her neck to about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way down her side and shoulder area. The lesion is wet with an area of the wound, approximately 1.5 x 2.5 inches in diameter, that is dark red, crusted, and sloughing exposing the underlying tissue. There is a thick, creamy, white/yellow discharge coating the underlying tissues. The Licensee stated that he noticed the issue on 10/2/2018 and started treating with Dermajell. This product was prescribed to the Licensee for another animal with a past issue (no diagnosis or reason for treatment was listed on the prescription). In addition, there was no written guidance in the Program of Veterinarian Care for the use of Dermajell or how to treat lesions of this size. The Licensee did not contact the Veterinarian for guidance until after the inspection had been completed. This condition is something that should have been apparent to the Licensee during his daily observation.”

“Dog #25, a Bichon female, was noted to have an open lesion on her hind quarters. The lesion is irregular in size and shape, but is approximately 0.75 inches by 2 inches in its widest spot. The surface of the lesion has a thin brown crust covering nearly the entire surface with a mild amount of yellow-white discharge present. The skin surrounding the lesion is mildly pink and swollen. The licensee is currently treating the lesion with Dermajell. This product was prescribed to the Licensee for another animal with a past issue (no diagnosis or reason for treatment was listed on the prescription). In addition, there was no written guidance in the Program of Veterinarian Care for the use of Dermajell. The Licensee has guidance in his Program of Veterinarian Care for mild scrapes, minor cuts or hot spots. However; Dermajell is not currently listed in the Program of Veterinarian Care. Upon further examination, this dog was also noticed to have 2 cuts/[scratches] on her right side that the Licensee called “razor burn.” The Licensee stated that the dog had recently been clipped and that he had not noticed these areas or started treatment prior to today’s inspection. In addition, the cuts/scratches should have been apparent during the Licensees daily observation or during their use of Dermajell on the animals open lesion. The Licensee did not contact the Veterinarian prior to today’s inspection for the issues identified above.”

In addition, at least four dogs had “moderate to severe matting” during the inspection, including one male Yorkie who was matted over 75% of his body, and 26 of the self-feeders were very grimy.

There were more than 200 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. OH #CB0006FN.

Shiloh, Ohio: Name withheld by USDA – Bleeding dog with pus-like discharge had not been taken to a veterinarian; USDA only cited the issue as “indirect,” possibly endangering her life. During a Dec. 18, 2018, USDA inspection, the inspector found a dog who was bleeding and had a pus-like fluid leaking from the vulva, and had not been treated by a vet. The inspection report states:

“Dog [...] was noticed to have blood on her hind legs. Upon further examination, there was blood and a thick yellow/green discharge noticed coming from her vulva. The Licensee stated that he had noticed this

²⁰ Although the name was not on the USDA inspection report, it was linked via state reports with matching details.

periodically since she whelped her puppies on 12/3/2018 however; he had not contacted or consulted with his veterinarian.”

Shockingly, the USDA did not cite the issue as a “direct” violation, which would have triggered faster follow-up by the agency. Failing to require the breeder to immediately take the bleeding dog to the veterinarian could very well have put the dog’s life in danger. Symptoms like bleeding and pus-like discharge coming from the vulva in a dog who recently gave birth could be a sign of an advanced uterine infection or another life-threatening condition that could endanger both the mother dog and her puppies. The USDA’s shocking lack of urgency in this case highlights its recent trend toward weaker enforcement as it focuses on “educating” breeders rather than protecting dogs.

The report also noted dirty conditions, with “an excessive accumulation of hair, feces, food waste and other organic material built up under [many of] the enclosures,” and noted that the facility also had a noticeable odor that the inspector believed was linked to the dirty conditions. At the time of the inspection, there were almost 90 dogs and puppies on the property.

OKLAHOMA

Howe, Oklahoma: Name withheld by USDA – USDA inspector found squinting dog with apparent eye injury that had not been treated by a veterinarian and another dog with signs of dental disease and loose teeth.

During a Sept. 17, 2018, USDA inspection, an inspector found two dogs with obvious physical issues that had not been addressed. One of the dogs was a male poodle who was “squinting his left eye” and had “clear drainage collecting around the left eye and eyelids.” The inspector wrote, “The ‘white of the eye’ is more red on the left side when compared to the right. There is a white color visible within the left eyeball. The licensee had not identified this problem before the inspection and had not communicated the problem to the attending veterinarian. [...] The squinting suggests that this eye is painful.”

The inspector also noted that a female Pomeranian had very clear signs of dental disease, with a build-up of calculus on the teeth and two loose teeth that were easily moved, and noted that “dental disease can be painful as it can cause damage to the gum tissue, teeth, and the bone of the jaw supporting the teeth. Dental disease can also impact the ability of the dog to eat normally and affect the overall health of the animal.”

The inspector noted that both of the dogs’ conditions could be clearly seen and should have been addressed before the inspection. In addition, almost half of the adult dogs on the property did not have any identification, which is a violation because it makes it impossible to track the movement of the animals or accurately identify their medical records and other documents.

PENNSYLVANIA

Belleville, Pennsylvania: Israel Byler, Walnut Grove Kennel – Received citation from the state for lack of rabies certificates on two dogs, inadequate space, inadequate exercise area and poor air quality. During a September 18, 2018 state inspection, Walnut Grove Kennel received a citation from the dog warden for four different noncompliant issues. According to that report:

“Wardens viewed that there were 2 dogs at the kennel facility for breeding and the kennel owner did not have rabies certificates present for those dogs. Kennel owner was instructed to get proof to the inspecting warden [but] no proof was received.”

“Wardens viewed that the kennel owner did not have sufficient primary enclosure space for all dogs present at the kennel facility.”

“Wardens viewed that the kennel owner did not have sufficient exercise area space for all dogs present at the kennel facility.”

“Wardens noted humidity levels above 70% in the main kennel building during this inspection.”

Despite the fact that the state inspectors found unvaccinated animals and other issues on September 18, it seems that USDA visited the same property the day before – and didn’t cite the kennel for a single violation.

The kennel had more than 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. The kennel later corrected the issues and passed a state inspection on Oct. 19, 2018 and in April 2019. PA #04299.

Dilliner, Pennsylvania: Richard Garrison, Mapleridge Kennel – Received citation from the state for poor conditions; strong urine odor; excessive feces; some dogs’ bedding was saturated in urine. During a Dec. 14, 2018, state inspection, Mapleridge Kennel received a citation from the dog warden for eight different violations. Some of the quotes from that inspection report include the following:

“Wardens noticed a strong urine type smell in the kennel area. Wardens noted and measured ammonia levels between 10-20ppm of ammonia.”

“Wardens observed bedding in primary enclosures that was covered in hair and wet from urine.”

“Wardens observed excessive amounts of excreta in outdoor runs.”

“Wardens observed urine soaked bedding and bedding laying in urine. Also observed fur and debris inside primary enclosures containing dogs.”

“Wardens observed primary enclosures containing dogs with large amounts of urine on the floor that was soaking bedding, support pipes along bottom of kennels that were rusted through leaving sharp edges, a buildup of wet/urine soaked fur and debris on bedding, a strong ammonia odor and mop buckets filled with dirty water.”

The kennel had a compliant inspection on Jan. 28, 2019. PA #02146.

Dry Run, Pennsylvania: Hope Wadel, Hopeful Kennels—State inspector found dealer with fraudulent bills of sale and other records with false information. Dealer had also received underage puppies and did not have required veterinary records on dogs. State inspectors who visited Hopeful Kennels in November 2018 found a number of problems. The operation was missing many of the required veterinary records on dogs, and had some information in the records that was not “truthful and accurate.” In addition, the owner provided bills of sale for two litters of puppies which “contained fraudulent information.” Inspectors also determined the kennel had received at least seven puppies who were under eight weeks of age, which is a violation of Pennsylvania state law. Having fraudulent records is a significant issue because it could indicate that a licensed dealer was receiving puppies from other, unlicensed dealers, or that the puppies weren’t receiving the right veterinary care. Purchasing or selling underage puppies is also high cause for concern because puppies under eight weeks of age generally do not have a strong enough immune system to be separated from their mother and transported for sale.

In addition to the other violations, the kennel was operating out of its license class, meaning it had not notified the state of the correct (larger) number of animals it was selling per year, which would have triggered different requirements. The November inspection report shows the kennel had sold or transferred 284 dogs in 2018. It was only licensed to sell 50. The kennel had also failed to obtain a certified ventilation system and a written program of veterinary care, and was not providing all the dogs with unfettered access to an exercise area as required under state law. PA #16524.

East Earl, Pennsylvania: James Burkholder, Whispering Spring Kennel LLC (repeat offender) – Repeatedly failed to get adequate veterinary care for dogs; received citation from state in August 2018 for interference with officer, refusal of entry; poor veterinary care. Twenty different noncompliant issues cited in 2018 alone. During two different inspections in 2018, Whispering Spring Kennel was found with a combined total of 20 different violations related to poor animal care. The kennel was also found with dogs in need of veterinary care, operating outside of its license class, and a refusal to allow officers to view all of the dogs (August 2018). The kennel received a citation from the dog warden during its August 2018 state inspection. A few of the many problems documented in that report included:

“Wardens were unable to verify a written program of Veterinarian Care.”

“Wardens observed that several dogs over 12 weeks of age were being housed on metal strand flooring.”

“Wardens noted all primary enclosures housing adult dogs over 12 weeks of age in the kennel that were not provided unfettered clearance to an exercise area.”

“Wardens were unable to verify veterinary records for all dogs on the premises.”

“During this inspection the kennel owner stated that there were dogs in the house. This Warden explained to the kennel owner that Wardens would need to view the dogs in the house to view the primary enclosures to ensure they were in compliance. The kennel owner and his wife denied access to the dogs in the house. There was no way for Wardens to confirm the number of dogs that were kept in the owner’s home.”

The issues with wire strand flooring and lack of a written program of veterinary care were repeat issues that the kennel had been cited for in prior years and should certainly have known to correct. Whispering Spring Kennel also appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to similar problems. Some of the issues documented in last year’s report included multiple problems found at a March 2018 inspection that had already been pointed out during a prior (December 2017) inspection that still had not been fixed. During the December 2017 inspection, a dog warden found 11 different unsatisfactory conditions, including the fact that there was no verified program of veterinary care (again), and no proof that the required veterinary exams had been conducted on all the dogs on the premises. In addition, the warden noted that the kennel had surpassed the “noncommercial” kennel class in numbers and was not operating under the correct commercial kennel permit (the same issue found in 2018). 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. 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 inadequate housing exercise areas for the dogs.

Over the past nine years, the kennel has been directed to get veterinary checks on dogs during 14 different state inspections. It appears that nothing is improving at Whispering Spring Kennel despite the dog wardens' many efforts to notify the operators about poor conditions and the changes needed.

No 2019 reports or updates were available at the time of this publication. PA #02470. Third time in this report.

Ephrata, Pennsylvania: Susan and Paul Hoover, Butter Fly Kennel (repeat offender)—Received two verbal and written warnings from the state in fall 2018 for inadequate ventilation that was keeping the dogs too hot, unsafe housing, inadequate recordkeeping, and the sale of at least one underage puppy. Butter Fly Kennel received verbal and written warnings from the state in September and October of 2018. The September warning noted that dogs were kept in temperatures over 85 degrees without adequate ventilation or air conditioners present, and noted irregularities with the recordkeeping, including inadequate information on where dogs were dispensed. The October warning documented poor housing construction, with “broken pieces of fencing” that could injure the dogs; dogs at the kennel that had no records on them, including a litter of four Yorkshire terrier puppies that were not listed on records – which is a concern because it could indicate puppies coming from unlicensed dealers or not getting adequate veterinary documents – and at least one puppy who was sold underage.

The facility had a compliant inspection in November 2018, but the facility has had a number of other problems in the past. Butter Fly Kennel appeared in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report due to a number of issues, including a December 2017 citation for issues that included: 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. 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.

The operation had a compliant inspection report in April 2019. PA #04525. Second time in this report.

Greencastle, Pennsylvania: Joyce Marques, Circle M Kennel – Dog warden made two cruelty referrals in 2019 related to multiple dogs who had not received medical treatment, including multiple dogs with masses and one with a possible mandible fracture; veterinary examinations ordered for 15 dogs in 2018/2019; owner received multiple citations for poor conditions. Circle M Kennel failed five different state inspections during the first few months of 2019 and the second half of 2018 for issues such as strong odors/poor ventilation and inadequate veterinary care. During the most recent inspection available at the time of this report, on Feb. 22, 2019, a warden ordered veterinary examinations on 11 dogs and made a cruelty referral based upon at least two dogs with veterinary concerns that had not been treated even though the warden had previously ordered it. These dogs were “Peaches,” a small dog with a worsening mammary mass, and “Prince,” a male dog with “severe periodontal disease” and loose teeth. In January 2019, dogs found in need of medical care included an underweight dog with a sunken eye, multiple dogs with suspicious masses, and multiple dogs with signs of severe periodontal disease, including some whose disease was so advanced that it was described as “trench mouth,” and at least one whose infection appeared to be eating away at her jaw (described as “possible mandibular fracture”). Wardens also issued citations in July 2018 and October 2018, and a verbal and written warning was issued in June 2018. Issues found in June included: a strong ammonia (urine) odor in the kennel;

incomplete records and lack of rabies vaccination records, and inadequate provisions for exercise. Issues found on July 26, 2018, included poor housing construction, a repeated issue with strong urine odors, unsanitary conditions and four dogs who required veterinary examinations for dental issues. In October 2018, the kennel was cited for the third time that year for a strong odor, a condition that was found again in 2019.

At the time of this report, the operation was listed as unlicensed yet “open” on the state’s website.

McClure, Pennsylvania: Kirby Bubb, Susquehanna Valley Kennels– State inspectors found dead rodents in the kennel; dirty and unsafe conditions; dogs kept in unsafe temperatures; enclosures that were too small for the dogs. During a February 2019 inspection, state inspectors found many problems at Susquehanna Valley Kennels, including unsafe housing structures, “large accumulations” of feces, inadequate heating in cold weather, dogs in cages that were too small and dogs who didn’t have enough space for exercise. It was the third inspection in a row that the kennel failed; numerous similar violations were found during the kennel’s November and September 2018 inspections. Quotes from the September inspection include the following:

“Wardens viewed the presence of dead rodents inside the breeding building of the kennel facility. Wardens also viewed cobwebs on chain link throughout the kennel facility. Additionally, wardens also viewed the presence of rusted metal in the exercise areas that contained dogs. Wardens also viewed standing feces filled water pools outside the whelping enclosures that were filled with insects.”

“Wardens viewed the presence of rust in several areas of the kennel, sharp metal in several areas of the kennel, dirt build-up in several areas of the kennel, and presence of rats and cobwebs in kennel facilities.”

“Wardens viewed on the data logs that the kennels ambient temperature was below 50 degrees and above 85 degrees for significant periods of time.”

“Wardens also viewed dead rats in the breeding building of the kennel.”

“Wardens viewed primary enclosures that were too small for the dogs.”

PA #03165.

McDonald, Pennsylvania: Blanche S. Plute – Received warnings from the state in 2018 and 2019 for issues such as rusted, unsafe enclosures; foul conditions and strong ammonia odor; food receptacles caked with old, dirty food. During a December 2018 state inspection, a kennel operated by Blanche Plute received a verbal and written warning from the dog warden. Some selected quotes from that document include:

“Wardens observed exuberant amounts of rust on all primary enclosures within facility containing dogs.”

“Wardens observed a floor drain clogged with uneaten food/debris.”

“Wardens observed rusty metal strand flooring in disrepair.”

“Wardens observed a strong smell of ammonia [urine] and recorded levels of 30-50 PPM on ammonia test strips.”

“Wardens observed numerous food/water receptacles that were dirty and caked along edges with debris and chewed.”

“Wardens observed substantial amounts of scale/debris/fur on all primary enclosures and on floor under primary enclosures, soiled paper in catch pans under primary enclosures, and very large amounts of rust on all primary enclosures rendering them unable to be sanitized.”

Even after receiving this detailed warning from state inspectors, several of the same problems were found at a follow-up inspection in February 2019, including the issues with poor housekeeping, sanitation, ventilation and maintenance. The kennel was then issued another verbal and written warning on Feb. 21, 2019. More than 60 dogs and puppies were on the premises at the time of the February 2019 inspection. One inspection in April 2019 was compliant. PA #03271.

Narvon, Pennsylvania: John King, Sunrise Kennel—Received verbal and written warning from the state for dogs kept in windowless, poorly ventilated building. Sunrise Kennel received a citation from the state in February 2018 for a number of violations, and in November 2018, it was issued a verbal and written warning. The November warning was related to dogs who did not have fresh air because they were in a building with “no windows, dog doors open, or mechanical ventilation to provide for such.”

The February 2018 citation was related to numerous deficiencies, including dirty food and water receptacles, accumulations of dirt, hair and grime, and dirty beds kept for use with nursing mother dogs.

A December 2018 and an April 2019 inspection were compliant. At that time of the April inspection, there were 76 dogs on premises. PA # 05126.

Newville, Pennsylvania: Margaret Graf, Eichenluft Working German Shepherds (repeat offender) – Seller of “AKC registered” puppies failed multiple state inspections due to lacking veterinary records on individual dogs, operating without the required license type, and lack of exercise area; history of repeat violations goes back almost 10 years. During a February 2019 inspection, state inspectors found a variety of problems at Eichenluft Working German Shepherds, including some dogs who had only frozen water available to them, dogs kept in temperatures that were too cold, multiple housing violations, including inadequate space and exercise areas, and a lack of individual veterinary records on dogs. During a Nov. 6, 2018, inspection, state inspectors documented a dozen different violations at Eichenluft Working German Shepherds, including many that were repeated issues. Wardens stated that the kennel owner “violated the kennel’s license type and failed to obtain the correct license for the types and volume of business being conducted,” that there was no written program of veterinary care and no records available to show that dogs had been recently checked by a veterinarian, as well as dogs who didn’t have access to an exercise area. These were all virtually identical to the February 2019 violations.

Eichenluft Working German Shepherds has appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for similar problems. And, as we noted in our 2018 report, Margaret Graf, the owner, has a history of criminal infractions, including failure to keep a kennel in sanitary and humane condition (2010, guilty plea), operating a kennel without a license (2010, guilty plea), and a 2017 guilty plea for failing to keep a kennel in sanitary and humane conditions, failing to display a current and valid kennel license, and failing to keep proper kennel records.

State inspectors 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 the 2017 Horrible Hundred report, state kennel inspectors also found dozens of animal care violations at Eichenluft Working German Shepherds during multiple visits between February 2016 and January 2017. In December 2016 alone, inspectors found 35 different unsatisfactory issues, including 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 inspection, Dec. 21, 2016). Many of these violations had been found again and again over the course of the year.

Problems at the kennel go back to at least 2010, when it received a verbal warning for multiple non-compliances, including unsanitary conditions and inability to prove rabies vaccinations for the dogs, according to state records. The kennel’s “AKC registered” German shepherd puppies 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. PA #06585. Third time in this report.

Richland, Pennsylvania: Nancy J. Nolt, Rocky Ridge Pets – Failed three recent inspections for issues related to unsanitary conditions; dogs were found on unsafe wire flooring; others had feces mixed in with their bedding and along the walls and floors. State inspectors found multiple deficiencies at Rocky Ridge Pets during inspections in February 2019, November 2018 and October 2018. During its February 2019 inspection, issues were noted with poor housekeeping, poor sanitation, an unacceptable use of uncoated wire strand flooring, poor maintenance, and a puppy who was old enough to receive the required rabies vaccine but had not received it. The issues were especially concerning because the kennel had already failed two prior inspections, and had only increased in size since then. During an October 2018 state inspection, Rocky Ridge Pets received a citation for unsanitary conditions, including excessive feces and bedding that was mixed with excreta. Even after receiving this warning, similar and new issues were found at a follow-up inspection in November, when the wardens observed two dogs pushing over fencing and escaping their enclosure, 12 dogs “housed in the same primary enclosures that did not meet the minimum amount of floor space as required by law,” bedding that was “mixed with days worth of excreta,” excessive feces in the enclosures, and “an accumulation of excreta along the walls and floors” of many of the dogs’ enclosures. The last three violations were unchanged from the October inspection, even though the licensee had been previously warned about the filthy conditions. PA #16836.

Shamokin, Pennsylvania: Heather Leshock, Stone Lion Kennel – Received a state warning for puppies kept outside in the cold with no access to a shelter, dirty conditions, and dogs “covered in mud [and] muck,” plus a citation for five animals lacking rabies vaccinations. During a Dec. 3, 2018, state inspection, Stone Lion Kennel received a verbal and written warning due to a number of substandard conditions, including “puppies in a chain link enclosure with no access provided to shelter which protects them against inclement weather, preserves their body heat and keeps them dry;” “dogs housed in areas of the kennel grounds that had puddles of standing water and [who were] covered in mud, muck and [exposed to] potential disease hazard;” and puppies who were not listed on the records, indicating that the kennel could be obtaining dogs from unlicensed dealers or failing to keep proper health records on dogs. The kennel also failed to have fire extinguishers and/or smoke detectors as required by state law.

During a follow-up inspection in February 2019, the problematic conditions found in December had been addressed, but the kennel received a citation for five animals who did not have rabies vaccinations as required by law. The facility passed one inspection in March 2019. PA #16957.

TEXAS

Cumby, Texas: Deborah Pence, D and S Puppies—Referred to law enforcement for suspected animal neglect due to Great Dane in emaciated condition; excessive feces; breeder markets puppies on Facebook.

During a November 2018 state inspection, the inspector found a Great Dane in emaciated condition. The dog was so thin that the issue was reported to law enforcement for suspected animal neglect. The inspector wrote: “I observed a Brown, Black and White Colored Great Dane in a pen that had rib and pelvic bones protruding out of the animal that were easily seen and identified as problematic.” The breeder admitted she had not taken the dog to her veterinarian for the condition, but suspected the animal was “wormy” and was giving self-diagnosed medication for worms. Local authorities required the breeder to take the dog to the veterinarian for treatment, and upon receiving proof of the veterinary visit, the case was downgraded to an “incident only” report, and it appears the breeder was not criminally charged.

Another violation found at the November 2018 inspection was excessive feces in one of the small, raised pens that resulted in the two dogs inside it “having to move around inside the pen avoiding the dried-up waste.”

Photos taken at the time of inspection, obtained by HSUS via a public records request, show additional problems that were not detailed in the inspection report: the emaciated Great Dane was in a muddy pen with pools of standing water, and had only small “igloo” style dog houses for shelter. A second large dog in the pen with the emaciated dog also looked underweight and had a prominent spine and ribs showing, but was not mentioned in the report. In addition, the raised pen that was described in the violation for excessive feces appears to be too small, and is constructed of what appears to be rusty wire, unsealed wood and plastic gridded flooring. The two dogs in the enclosure appear to have barely enough room to turn around. The licensee was cited for having a pen that was “not structurally sound.”

D and S Puppies advertises puppies on Facebook, where it [announced three recent litters](#). The Facebook page indicates that the operator and her family members bring the puppies to Canton and McKinney for sale. Canton, Texas has a massive open air dog market. TX #239.

Cumby, Texas: Martha Ann Singleton, MJ’s Farm—Dogs kept in small cages without exercise; breeder’s veterinary records were years out of date; unsafe conditions. In August 2018, a state inspector documented numerous troubling conditions at MJ’s Farm. Violations included two enclosures with sharp, rusted wires that could injure the dogs, a lack of any recent veterinary records on the dogs, and dogs kept in small cages who were not taken out regularly for exercise. In a state document, the inspector noted that he asked Ms. Singleton about the issues and she told him that she didn’t take the dogs out of their small pens for exercise and didn’t “remember some things very well.” When asked for records from 2017 or 2018 showing that the dogs had received veterinary care, the licensee reportedly acted confused and said she didn’t know where any paperwork was. When pressed on the issue, she handed over some files that “were not current and dated back to 2015,” according to the report. Photos taken by state inspectors and acquired by HSUS as part of a public records request show dogs in small, raised enclosures outdoors that appeared rusty and dirty. The inspection report also noted that floors in the puppy room were not being cleaned and sanitized regularly. TX #283.

Mabank, Texas: Skyllar Cummings, Carla Hendrickson and Kelton Roberson, CKS's Dachshunds—Fined \$5,750 by the state of Texas for repeatedly selling puppies under an expired license, failure to obtain required veterinary exams and rabies vaccines; offers AKC puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com, a website HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills. In February 2019, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation fined Skyllar D. Cummings, Carla L. Hendrickson and Kelton L. Roberson for acting as dog breeders under an expired license and for failing to ensure that each animal used for breeding was examined by a veterinarian at least once a year. The department also found that animals had not been vaccinated for rabies. The department fined the trio \$5,750, but allowed them to pay a reduced fine of \$4,315 if certain conditions were met. The violations were particularly egregious since the operation had been found selling puppies without a license in 2017 and violated the rules again in 2018. Both times, they were found selling one or more puppies even though their license had lapsed. Inspectors also found dog housing in poor repair and recordkeeping violations. The operation advertises AKC dachshunds and mini cocker spaniels for sale online via PuppyFind.com, a website that HSUS has repeatedly linked to problem puppy mills and unlicensed puppy mills, and on blesseddoxies.com. As of April 15, 2019, the operation was still advertising “show quality” puppies on PuppyFind even though it seems that it no longer has a current license. Former TX #261.

Slaton, Texas: Gail Claborn, Circle 5 Aussies—Cited for excessive feces “layered on wire floor panels” and rust on kennels. In August 2018, a state inspector cited Circle 5 Aussies for a “failure to remove excreta and food waste daily from primary enclosures” after finding numerous dogs in concrete runs or wire dog kennels with excessive feces. In the garage of the home there were three wire dog kennels housing mother dogs and puppies, and photographs taken by the inspector, which were acquired by HSUS as part of a public records request, show mother dogs with up to seven puppies in cages with multiple piles of feces that were mashed into the wire floors, with only small areas that were clean enough for the dogs to stand on. In addition, the inspection report noted excessive rust on some of the kennel structures. The operation advertises puppies on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/circle5aussies) and on its own website, www.circle5aussies.com. TX #298.

WISCONSIN

Cumberland, Wisconsin: Roger Riebe, Meadow Ridge Kennel—Dogs kept in the cold when temperatures had been as low as 18 degrees; some had partly frozen water bowls, a repeat violation. Meadow Ridge Kennel received a warning notice from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture in November 2018 due to a repeated problem with dogs exposed to unacceptably cold temperatures. The dogs were inside a building, but the heater was off, according to the warning notice. The inspector noted, “the location of the facility had been experiencing below freezing temperatures for multiple weeks prior to the inspection. At the time of the inspection the outdoor air temperature was approximately 18 [degrees] F; the indoor air temperature was approximately 35 [degrees] F in the aisle. The indoor holding area was noticeably cold... [and] many of the water containers in the building were partially frozen. [...] This is a repeat violation from a 12/02/2014 inspection.” During the same inspection, a Pomeranian named Cocoa was found with signs of periodontal disease, with inflamed gums. The dog also had an “abnormal bump” on her abdomen. The operation also holds a USDA breeder license, although the USDA no longer shares license numbers with the public through its online database. WI #268594-DS.

Dalton, Wisconsin: John Bontrager, Jr.—Received official warning from the state due to matted dogs and unsanitary conditions; feces in part of the kennel had not been cleaned in a week. In October 2018, John Bontrager, Jr. received a warning notice from the state of Wisconsin due to a number of deficiencies at his breeding kennel. The issues included a Maltese in need of dental care, dogs with matted fur and unsanitary conditions. The sanitary problems included excessive feces on the floor in nine enclosures, and solid resting

areas in two of the kennels that were “soiled in dog excrement.” According to the state inspection report, “This facility breeds and sells small mixed-breed puppies wholesale to William Yoder (Iowa) and other puppy dealers. Bontrager also holds a USDA license (35-A-0368).” WI #402707.

Edgar, Wisconsin: Name withheld by USDA; believed to be Adam and Suzannah Helman²¹ – Puppies died after they were born outside in February in a doghouse with no floor. In March 2019, the USDA cited an Edgar breeder with a “critical” violation after four golden retriever puppies presumably froze to death after being born outside in the cold. According to the USDA report, the puppies were born in an inadequate outdoor shelter with no floor in February 2019. In addition to having no floor, the shelter had open window-like openings that allowed the cold air inside. According to the USDA report, the licensee later moved the mother dog to an indoor kennel enclosure, where she gave birth to three more puppies. USDA regulations require outdoor enclosures such as dog houses to have a “roof, four sides and a floor,” as well as adequate nesting material or other ways of allowing dogs to keep warm during harsh weather conditions. Not only would a responsible breeder likely have known that the mother dog was expecting puppies, but even dogs who are not pregnant and about to give birth should be given access to a warm shelter for their own comfort and safety. This facility is also state licensed under WI #468314-DS.

Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Ervin W. Bontrager – Puppies were kept in a pen that was smeared with excrement; pug had green discharge covering her eye; matted dogs and unsanitary conditions; received warning letter from the state. In October 2018, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture cited Ervin Bontrager with a number of violations, including a failure to keep dogs adequately groomed, a failure to take a dog in need of medical care to a veterinarian in a timely manner, a failure to control pests and parasites, and dirty conditions. The facility had about 90 dogs and puppies at the time of inspection. Some of the most problematic issues noted during the visit included a litter of pug puppies kept in a pen that was smeared with excrement, and an adult female pug who had dried green discharge covering her eye; when the dried discharge was wiped away, fresh greenish discharge appeared. The dog had not been taken to a vet for the apparent infection. Bontrager was issued a warning notice for the violations. The issues were not the only ones found at his facility in 2018; in March 2018, a puggle had been found with a vaginal prolapse, a condition in which part of the dog’s birth canal protrudes from her body. Bontrager was ordered to follow his veterinarian’s recommendation and have the dog spayed to correct the problem. Bontrager is also licensed by the USDA. WI #403282-DS.

Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Name withheld by USDA – Dog had signs of severe dental disease; two dogs went missing from kennel with no record of their fate. During a July 3, 2018, USDA inspection, a Hillsboro breeder was found with a repeat violation for a dog in need of medical care. The dog had such advanced dental disease that the root of a tooth was exposed and the tissue would “lightly bleed when touched.” In addition, some of the teeth were loose and others had pus-like material around them. In addition, two dogs that had been previously cited in July 2017 as needing veterinary care were missing from the kennel and the licensee had no documentation of what had happened to them, although there was documentation that they had been to a vet. The licensee claimed they had been given away.

Loyal, Wisconsin: Kimberly K. Gostomski, Maplevue Doxies, aka Maplevue Kennels—State refused to renew license of AKC breeder due to dogs without water, poor grooming and inadequate housing for dogs; operation still lists puppies online. In September 2018, the state of Wisconsin notified Kimberly

²¹ To the best of our knowledge, the Helmans appeared to be the only USDA-licensed breeders in Edgar, WI at the time of the inspection.

Gostomski that she would not be granted a license if she chose to re-apply for the year starting Oct. 1, 2018. The decision was reached due to a number of violations found at Mapleview Kennels in 2017 and/or 2018, including matted dogs, overcrowded enclosures, dogs found without water, ventilation problems that didn't give dogs enough fresh air, and dirty conditions. Five of the issues were repeat violations, which the breeder was notified about in May 2017; she was then given a conditional license in August 2017, but continued to have violations in December 2017 and July 2018. In a letter from the state, Gostomski was warned, "The inability to follow the rules, regulations and conditional license order along with the continued repeat violations committed pose[s] a serious health and safety risk to the dogs housed at your facility." The letter went on to note that without the new license, the kennel would not be permitted to sell more than 24 dogs per year. Although Mapleview Doxies no longer holds a state license, it still has [active websites](#) where it boasts its link to the AKC and lists puppy photos. On the website, the breeder states she is AKC inspected. Former WI# 267982-DS.

Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin: Lisa Erdenberger, Breezy Bluff Kennel– Received official notice of noncompliance and warning from the state due to excessive feces in dog enclosures, dirty food and water receptacles, and at least one dog in need of vet care; breeder later had veterinarian euthanize the dog rather than providing treatment. In July 2018, the state of Wisconsin sent an initial notice of noncompliance and then a warning letter in August 2018 to Lisa Erdenberger due to a number of noncompliant issues at Breezy Bluff Kennel. The issues included excessive feces covering a large area of the kennels, dirty food receptacles and water receptacles that appeared rusty. In addition, at least one dog, a bichon named Lucy, was found in need of veterinary care. Lucy needed dental cleaning and nail clipping, and also had some matted hair that was covering her eyes, according to the inspector's notes. The notes also stated that "a large majority of the dogs in the kennel also had overgrown nails." Upon being told to correct the issues and take Lucy to a veterinarian, the breeder did so, but elected to have Lucy euthanized rather than treated for a heart murmur and cataracts.

The state inspection report indicated that Erdenberger is also USDA licensed. Mysteriously, USDA did not cite her kennel for any violations during their visits in March 2019 and March 2018. The HSUS has asked USDA to reach out more to local departments of agriculture to find out about dog breeders with significant violations, but as of early 2019, it does not seem to be doing so on any regular basis.

Breezy Bluff Kennel offers puppies for sale via online classified ads. On at least one [website](#), Breezy Bluff Kennel states that it is "a small kennel that is inspected by AKC [American Kennel Club]." WI #412259.

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 seller appears to be providing misleading or potentially fraudulent information to puppy buyers;
- Whether a facility's violations seemed newsworthy and of interest to the public;
- Whether the dealer was listed in one of the HSUS's prior reports and has continued to accumulate violations since then;
- The availability of consumer complaints, investigation reports, photographs or news articles; and
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business 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 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 (i.e., 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 have scant information available. States such as Missouri and Pennsylvania 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 or support the industry by buying from puppy mills.

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

Find out more information visit humanesociety.org