

# The Horrible Hundred 2022

## A 10<sup>th</sup> annual overview of problem puppy mills and puppy sellers in the United States

The 2022 Horrible Hundred report is our 10th annual report on problem puppy breeders and dealers in the United States. The Humane Society of the United States has published the Horrible Hundred report annually since 2013 to warn consumers about common problems at puppy mills and puppy-selling dealers, and to push for new legislation and stronger enforcement of humane laws.

Altogether, our 10 years of reports have covered more than 650 breeders and dealers in 33 different states<sup>1</sup>. Over that same period:

- More than 200 puppy sellers who have appeared in our past reports appear to have closed or lost their licenses. A few dozen have been fined, criminally charged or jailed.
- Approximately 1,420 dogs have been rescued from Horrible Hundred breeders who closed.
- Eleven states and hundreds of cities and towns have passed new laws cracking down on puppy mills or preventing pet stores from selling puppy mill dogs.
- Missouri has had the highest number of dealers in the report for 10 years in a row.

While many dealers who appeared repeatedly in our reports have closed, some dealers who have appeared four or more times in our reports remain in business despite repeated and egregious animal care violations. They include: Henry Sommers in Iowa, who admitted to his USDA inspector that he killed some of his dogs by injecting them in the abdomen and then left them alone in their cages to die; Steve Kruse in Iowa, where more than 55 dogs have been found sick or injured since 2015; Sandra Kozlowski in Missouri, who surrendered 83 dogs to the state between 2019 and 2020 due to poor conditions but is still active; and Cory Mincey in Missouri, an American Kennel Club-affiliated breeder who has been sued and fined by the state's attorney general after numerous sick and emaciated dogs were found on her property. There are 44 dealers in this report who have appeared in two or more of our prior reports, and eight dealers who have been in



A poodle with sparse hair and crusty matter in his ears was one of several dogs found in poor condition at PugPekinPoo-Tzu kennel in Missouri, which is appearing in this report for the third time. *Photo by Missouri Department of Agriculture, 2021*

<sup>1</sup> The total number of dealers is fewer than 1,000 due to many “repeat offenders” who appeared in more than one report.

the report five or more times. The HSUS urges authorities to take stronger action on dealers in this report, especially repeat offenders.

Every year, HSUS researchers study hundreds, sometimes thousands, of pages of government inspection reports and other records to identify pet seller issues that the public should be aware of. But despite the significant problems outlined in this report, the Horrible Hundred is not a list of the worst dog breeders. There are approximately 10,000 puppy mills in the U.S., and many puppy mills are not inspected at all, thus no verifiable records on their conditions exist.

Since we released our 2021 report, some of the dealers listed in that report have closed and relinquished their remaining dogs. A few of the sellers who closed down were: Laurie Lund/ Cridder Creek Kennel in Missouri, who [was permanently banned](#) from operating as a commercial kennel and who relinquished more than 110 dogs to [the Humane Society of Missouri](#); Marilyn Shepherd's Cedercrest Kennel (aka Pup4U), which had appeared in six of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, and from which [42 dogs](#) were finally confiscated; and Jenn Miller of Jenn-Air Aussies of Bernville, Pennsylvania, who was charged with [animal neglect](#), had her license revoked and surrendered her remaining dogs to the [Pennsylvania SPCA](#).



Henry Sommers in Iowa told his USDA inspector that he killed unwanted dogs by injecting them in the stomach, then leaving them alone in their cages to die. *Photo by USDA, 2021*

Despite cracking down on some of its most notorious repeat offenders, Missouri continues to have the largest number of puppy mills in this report (26), followed by Iowa (17), New York (12) and Kansas and Wisconsin (seven each). However, states with few or no dealers in this report are not necessarily doing a better job of preventing puppy mills. Ohio and Oklahoma, for example, are known to have large numbers of puppy mills, but both states failed to respond to the HSUS's document requests in a timely manner this year, leading to scant information and only a few dealers in the report. HSUS researchers are also unable to get local inspection records from states that do not have kennel inspection laws (such as Arkansas, Florida and many others) and states that do not share records under public right-to-know laws (such as Minnesota). In addition, some states such as Indiana have commercial breeder inspection laws on the books that they rarely enforce, and our requests for public records often yield scant information. Indiana has more puppy mills in the United States than any state except Missouri, but our records requests for information on breeders with violations yielded almost nothing of value, indicating the state is not vigorously inspecting.

The United States Department of Agriculture is the only agency that has the authority to regulate breeders in all 50 states, if the breeders have more than four breeding females and sell to pet stores, brokers or online sight-unseen. USDA does not inspect breeders who only sell directly to the public. Nationally, USDA's enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act at commercial breeding kennels continues to be problematic. Its [own 2021 internal audit](#)

revealed that USDA has not been following up on complaints effectively, and routine inspections can be sporadic. But USDA has made some improvements since the publication of our last report in May 2021. Since then, in the second half of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022, the USDA issued 33 Official Warnings to dog breeders and dealers, as well as two administrative complaints. The USDA also revoked the license of a horrific dog dealer, Daniel Gingerich of Seymour, Iowa, in October 2021, and worked with the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure that his surviving dogs went to rescues and shelters for rehoming. Gingerich’s license was the first dog dealer license that USDA has revoked in about four years.

Our research also found that, as recently as April 2022, USDA was still hiding some violations by listing them as “teachable moments” in a separate part of the website and not on the licensees’ inspection reports. Under USDA’s own rules, “teachable moments” are supposed to be used only for minor violations that can be easily corrected. But our research found that USDA was still improperly listing some significant issues as teachable moments, including unsanitary and unsafe conditions, puppies caged on dangerous wire flooring, and other issues that could directly impact dogs’ well-being and health. As of May 4, 2022, after much urging from the HSUS, other nonprofits and Congress, USDA confirmed it will end the use of “teachable moments,” but an exact timeline for ending the practice had not yet been announced.

More than half of the dealers in the report are USDA-licensed, but it appears that some additional breeders listed in this report are operating in a manner that would require a USDA license, yet they have not obtained one.

Almost half of the 100 dealers in this report are “repeat offenders” who were listed in one or more of our prior reports. At least 11 of the dealers in this report have sold puppies to [Petland](#), the largest chain of puppy-selling pet stores in the country, although it’s very likely that number is much higher; Petland purchases mostly from brokers (resellers), so the original breeder information is often hidden. Many of the dealers in this report are also affiliated with the American Kennel Club, an organization that proports to be a champion of dogs, but in fact lobbies regularly against humane laws that would help stop puppy mills.

Readers can help stop this cruelty by refusing to buy a pet from any breeder they have not met in person and whose facility they have not visited. To avoid supporting an inhumane breeder, buyers should never purchase a



Magdalena McGowan/Orchard Kennel in Missouri has been repeatedly found keeping dogs in cramped and decrepit conditions, yet she remains licensed.  
*Photo by Missouri Department of Agriculture, 2021*

puppy from a pet store, over the internet or at a third-party location such as a parking lot. Buyers should make sure to visit a breeder and [see the conditions](#) in which their puppy was born and raised.

For more information on how dealers were selected for the report, please see the [Methodology](#) section at the end of the report.

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## ARKANSAS

**Alta Madewell/M&M Toy Kennel, Fayetteville, Arkansas: Inspectors found roaches “in all areas of the kennel” at breeder who sold to Petland, as well as at least four dogs who had issues such as hair loss, discomfort and red, thickened skin.** According to an August 2021 USDA inspection report (which has now disappeared from USDA’s website, but a copy of which was saved by HSUS researchers), USDA inspectors documented issues with health care and cleanliness at M&M Toy Kennel. Inspectors noted, “The last time the attending veterinarian visited the premises was March 30, 2020. The program of vet care states that visits will occur annually. Several untreated medical conditions were identified during this inspection.” Dogs with health issues included:

“Banjo, a brindle male French Bulldog [who] had a procedure done by the veterinarian in June 2021 to treat his ears. However, at the inspection, his ears were red, thickened, full of dark brown debris, and he was shaking his head as if his ears bothered him. The licensee had finished all prescribed medications in June but had not contacted the vet nor scheduled a follow-up examination to address his continued discomfort. Isaac, a cream male French Bulldog (last 4 digits of microchip #2359), had 2 spots of hairloss with reddened, thickened skin—one on his left neck/shoulder and one on the inner side of his right elbow, measuring approximately 2in x 1in. The licensee had not previously noticed nor treated these spots. Blue Raven, a blue brindle female French Bulldog (last 4 digits of microchip #0097), had a right ear that was red, thickened, full of dark brown debris, and she kept shaking her head as if her ear bothered her. The licensee had not previously noticed nor treated her ear. Sandi, a cream female French Bulldog (last 4 digits of microchip #5797), had an ear condition that the licensee had treated that morning. However, she also had hairloss with red thickened skin on her left rear foot and toes that the licensee had not previously noticed nor treated.”

In addition to the unhealthy dogs, inspectors noted: “There were roaches in all areas of the kennel, ranging in size from 1/4 inch to an inch long. They were on the floor, on and under counters, in empty medicine boxes, in the drain, and in automatic feeders.”

It is unknown why USDA took down the August 2021 inspection report, and USDA did not respond to a specific question about the missing report to explain why that specific report is no longer visible in the online database.

Photos taken by an HSUS investigator from the road in March 2022 show ramshackle conditions at the property, with outdoor enclosures for the dogs that seemed to be held up with thin plastic pipes that were leaning and appeared structurally questionable; USDA’s inspectors are supposed to ensure that dogs are kept in structurally safe and secure enclosures for their safety.

Violations noted at prior years at M&M Toy Kennel included an attempted inspection in March 2019, during which the breeder neither picked up the phone nor came to the door, and a violation in August 2014 for dirty conditions. Shipping documents studied by the HSUS found that Madewell has sold puppies to multiple pet stores across the country over the past several years, including at least two different Petland stores. Petland is the largest chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. USDA #71-A-0376.

[Bill Nored/Dryfork Kennel, Prim, Arkansas: USDA gave “teachable moments” to six-time repeat offender instead of documenting violations on his inspection reports \(repeat offender\)](#). Bill Nored is appearing for the seventh time in this report after dodging one USDA inspection and being found with issues at two other USDA inspections since the publication of our last report. The inspection that Nored dodged was in May 2021, when he failed to answer his phone after an inspector called him on two different numbers, and also did not come to the door when the inspector knocked, according to USDA records. “No access” violations are a cause for concern because they could indicate there were serious issues on the property that the breeder did not want an inspector to see.

Despite this issue, and Nored’s history of prior violations, USDA did not do its due diligence when inspectors returned two more times, once in late May and again in November. On May 27, 2021, USDA gave Nored only a “teachable moment” for failing to keep adequate records on dogs, an issue he should have been well acquainted with after being in business for more than a decade. The inspector wrote that on the official forms, “Some dogs are missing their dates of birth and some are missing the seller name and full address” and also noted that he was “missing puppy ID numbers and description information.” Such issues could be problematic when providing full and complete vaccine records and in preventing the sale of underage puppies or puppies from unlicensed breeders.

In addition, when a USDA inspector visited again in November 2021, Nored was given another “teachable moment” for rusty cages, “which prevents required cleaning and sanitization.” The fact that the USDA kept the cleaning and record-keeping violations off Nored’s public inspection reports is extremely problematic, based on his prior history, which includes several direct and repeat violations. This apparent misuse of the “teachable moments” program is one of many reasons the HSUS opposed that practice and pushed to have it ended. At publication time, USDA claimed it was planning to end the practice of issuing “teachable moments,” but no specific timeline for changing the process was announced.

Nored last appeared in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report. At that time, we noted that he received an August 2019 repeat USDA violation for a poodle with signs of advanced dental disease; the inspector indicated Nored had received veterinary advice on the issue, but Nored admitted he had not followed the advice. And in March 2019, USDA inspectors found two other dogs in need of treatment. The first dog was a Pomeranian who had dental problems as well as “an opaque, red left eye with a jelly like protrusion from the center.” The second dog was a poodle who had a mass in her mammary area “the size of a plum.” The poodle was also “extremely matted,” according to the inspection report.

Bill Nored also appeared in our 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014 reports due to repeated animal care issues; there is not enough space to list them all here, but they included limping or injured dogs, a dead puppy, a dog with an apparent broken jaw, and a dog who had such matted fur that the mats were described as looking like hanging golf balls or dreadlocks. 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 veterinarian. In August 2014, USDA issued an official warning to Nored for inadequate veterinary care and unsafe and unsanitary conditions.

Nored did pass some USDA inspections, including two in 2017, two inspections in 2019 and one inspection in 2020, but does not appear to be able to stay in compliance for long. USDA #71-B-0170. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SEVENTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## GEORGIA

**Kathryn Barber/K-Bar Kennels, Patterson, Georgia: State inspectors found dead dog in kennel who “appeared to have been dead for a couple of days,” and a limping dog, at property with more than 120 dogs—breeder was only cited for a waste disposal issue (repeat offender).** State inspectors who visited K-Bar Kennels on Dec. 27, 2021, found a small dog dead in the kennel. A photo of the deceased dog taken at the inspection shows a black-and-tan female dog, similar to a miniature pinscher, lying over a shovel. The dog’s face seems to be partly decomposed. The inspector only cited the owner, Kathryn Barber, for a waste disposal violation, but noted that the dog appeared “to have been dead for a couple of days.” The inspector added, “The body was stiff, had an odor and was beginning to decay.” Nothing was mentioned on the inspection report about whether the dog had ever been to a veterinarian for any illness, but the inspector noted there was no easily visible cause of death. The fact that a dog died on or around Christmas Day and wasn’t noticed until days later illustrates the cruelty of massive breeding operations like K-Bar Kennels, which had 122 dogs on the property at the time of the December inspection. During the same inspection, the inspector noted that dogs “appear to be receiving adequate and humane care,” even though, in addition to the dead dog, there was another dog who “was not bearing weight on [the] back right leg.” The lame dog apparently had not been taken to a veterinarian, and the inspector told the breeder to do so, but again, didn’t cite her for a specific violation. In addition to the dead dog and the lame dog, two others were noted as in need of a haircut, presumably due to matted fur.



A wounded puppy at J 2 Kennel had been injured by another dog; the puppy was treated by a veterinarian, yet was still in the kennel with a large dog (foreground) when the state inspected. *Photo by Georgia Department of Agriculture, 2021*

It appears that K-Bar Kennels had not been inspected in a long time; state inspectors who had tried to inspect the kennel earlier in the year, on June 18, 2021, were unable to view the kennel because no one came to let them in.

K-Bar Kennels has had many years of violations and has appeared in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. As we stated in our 2021 report, recurring issues go back more than a decade. The HSUS began receiving complaints about sick puppies sold by K-Bar Kennels in 2010. Issues noted in prior years by state inspectors are too numerous to list here but include violations in 2020 and/or 2019 for unsafe conditions, shoddy housing, foul odors, some dogs who didn’t have enough space, and some dogs who didn’t have adequate protection from the heat.

K-Bar Kennels first appeared in our 2013 Horrible Hundred report after the HSUS received numerous consumer complaints about conditions of the puppies sold by Barber, including complaints from three buyers whose puppies died shortly after purchase. Records obtained from the Georgia Department of Agriculture showed that K-Bar Kennels was placed under quarantine by the state due to an outbreak of parvovirus on at least two occasions, in 2008 and 2009. In December 2009, an HSUS investigator visited the kennel undercover. The report and records were sent to local law enforcement due to concerns about filthy conditions, ramshackle cages,

excessive feces and many dogs with excessively matted fur. The investigator said they saw about 250 dogs at the kennel at that time.

K-Bar Kennels has sold many of its puppies at Keller's Flea Market in Savannah, Georgia, and has also advertised puppies for sale using online classified ads and Facebook. GA #3684600. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Buddy and Serena Johnson/J 2 Kennel aka J 2 Pups, Quitman, Georgia: Severely injured puppy had a missing nose and was missing part of the upper jaw, exposing raw pink tissue, but was still being housed with a much larger dog; state cited breeder for keeping dogs in unsafe living conditions; breeder claims to be an AKC breeder.** In October 2021, state inspectors found a shocking sight at J 2 Kennel. Photos taken that day show a black puppy missing a large portion of the front of their snout. The inspector noted, "There were two dogs noticed at [the] time of inspection to have health related concerns. One black Shih tzu mix puppy was of particular concern since it appears that most of the top portion of its jaw and nose were missing. This appeared to be a wound that was several weeks old and had been caused by another animal attacking the puppy."

Apparently, the breeder called her veterinarian during the inspection, and the veterinarian told the inspector he had provided medical care to the puppy. But photographs taken that day by inspectors show the puppy was still being kept in a cage with a much larger dog. The much larger dog was a Labrador-type and had what appears to be a rope or a makeshift muzzle over his or her snout. The pairing appeared unsafe and could be distressing for both animals. The inspector did not mention details about the other dog in the injured puppy's enclosure on the inspection report and did not add details about the other dog they said was in need of care.

Some of the other issues noted by state inspectors in the second half of 2021 included enclosures that were not in safe repair (repeat), standing water due to a drainage problem, improper food storage and dogs kept tethered on the property instead of in enclosures. The state inspected at least once in August 2021 and twice in October 2021. A fourth attempted inspection in December 2021 resulted in no access.

J 2 Kennel has a website where it presents itself as a breeder of AKC Australian cattle dogs, Labrador retrievers and French bulldogs. Although it was listed online as "permanently closed," on April 8, 2022, an HSUS investigator called the kennel and was shown several different litters of puppies for sale via video call, some of which the breeder said were AKC registerable. The breeder's [website](#) was also still active and listed puppies for sale as of May 4, 2022. GA #36106047.

**Tonya Lewis/ Tonya's Tiny Companions LLC, East Dublin, Georgia: State inspectors found expired license, sale of underage puppies and unsafe animal housing at breeder previously accused of animal cruelty (repeat offender).** State inspectors found issues during three different visits to Tonya's Tiny Companions in late 2021. In November, inspectors noted the business was operating on a license that had expired in August. The breeder said she would renew that day. The inspector also noted an issue with underage puppy sales. When state inspectors attempted to visit again on Dec. 15, 2021, no one was available to let them in. When the inspectors arrived a third time, on Dec. 16, 2021, they found an issue with shoddy cages that had allowed at least one dog to escape. The inspector wrote, "A structure strength violation will be issued due to two large dog kennels located at the back of the property with patched holes in the chain link and a gate that is too small for the kennel frame. These issues allowed a dog to get out while we were on the property." There were 46 breeding dogs and six litters of puppies on the property at the time of the December visit.

Concerned citizens in Georgia have complained about Tonya's Tiny Companions, and many are disturbed that it remains licensed in 2022 despite past [animal cruelty charges](#) and repeated issues found by state inspectors.

Tonya's Tiny Companions has appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. As we noted in our 2021 report, in June 2020, state officials issued a repeat violation to Tonya Lewis for failing to correct drainage issues in her kennel. Even after Lewis had been warned the prior month to protect dogs from accessing the open drain, the inspector noted that dogs still had access to the drain and were "able to drink [their] urine from drain." The kennel had been cited for additional issues earlier in the year as well.

We listed Tonya Lewis in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report after authorities charged her with 20 counts of animal cruelty. Her case was still pending during the time of that report, but it appears that she was never convicted, despite many dogs allegedly found in very poor condition. The cruelty charges were filed in August 2016, but several diseased dogs and puppies were reportedly found at Lewis' property even after that date, according to Georgia Department of Agriculture records. Some of the issues noted in her state inspection reports included: dogs with hair loss and/or skin issues; dogs crowded into cages that were too small, rusty and in disrepair; and a female husky who had previously been diagnosed with demodectic mange in 2015, who had given birth that year to puppies who tested positive for mange.

Records also indicate that a USDA inspector visited with the Georgia Department of Agriculture inspector on at least one occasion (Sept. 29, 2016), and it was determined that the facility most likely required a federal license. As of May 4, 2022, it appears there is still no USDA license listed in the USDA's online database for Tonya Lewis or any other dog breeder in East Dublin, Georgia, although it is unknown if she is currently selling in a manner that would require a USDA license. Along with many other puppy mills that have appeared in our Horrible Hundred reports, Lewis has offered puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com (now called Puppies.com), a site that the HSUS has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. GA #3697454. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Stephen Wilson/Wilson Puppies, Wray, Georgia: State photos show mother dogs nursing puppies on feces-coated wire floors with no clean place to stand and no bedding; 187 dogs and puppies lived in a converted chicken house; AKC breeder claims kennel cough, mites and worms are not serious health problems and not covered under its warranty.** During a February 2022 state inspection, Wilson Puppies was found with very unsanitary conditions. The inspector wrote, "A violation will be issued for sanitation due to the kennels in the building having not been cleaned for several days." The inspector added, "There was feces build up on the metal bottoms of the kennels and in the plastic pull out trays in the kennels. We informed [the representative on site] that these needed to be cleaned and disinfected daily to prevent build up like what was observed during this inspection."

Photographs that were taken by state inspectors that day, which were viewed by HSUS researchers, show three nursing mother dogs and their puppies in small wire cages with a brown substance that appears to be feces mashed onto the floors. There was no sign of bedding or blankets for any of the nursing mothers or their puppies, and almost no clean spaces for the mother dogs and puppies to stand without stepping on the feces. In one photo, a mother dog is standing on the wire floor nursing puppies, and the puppies who are nursing from her are lying directly on the waste-encrusted wire floor, while the mother dog herself appears to have a feces-colored smear of brownish debris on her flank area, as if she had perhaps reclined on the feces due to the lack of any cleaner resting area. The wire floors appeared to have enough space between the bars of the wire to trap a puppy's toe or foot. The issues with wire floors, lack of bedding for puppies and nursing mothers, and the mother dog seemingly soiled with feces, were not specifically mentioned in the inspection report but can be seen in the state's photographs.

The inspector also noted that "187 of these dogs [are] housed in a chicken house that has been converted into dog kennels." There were a total of 209 animals on the property at the time of the inspection.

Wilson Puppies has a [website](#) where the kennel claims to sell puppies that can be registered with AKC or Continental Kennel Club registration. On the contract posted on its website, the kennel claims its [warranty will not cover](#) “mites, worms, allergies, kennel cough, coccidia” and giardia because they are “not serious health problems if treated.” Unfortunately, the AKC, which profits from businesses like Wilson Puppies’ registration fees, has actively lobbied against better laws and enforcement that would protect puppies. New GA #36106176, Former GA #36107829.

## INDIANA

**Mervin Ramer, Argos, Indiana: Long-expired vaccines kept for use on dogs at breeder with previous safety issue that killed four puppies in 2019; breeder said he had “noticed them crying” but thought it was because of his do-it-yourself tail docking.** During a December 2021 visit to Mervin Ramer’s kennel, a USDA inspector noted a violation for inappropriate veterinary care, due to some expired antibiotic pills and some distemper-adenovirus-coronavirus vaccines kept for use on the dogs that had expired more than a year ago (expired Nov. 30, 2020). Using such long-expired vaccines could expose the dogs to deadly diseases. The USDA inspector wrote, “Medications and vaccinations must be administered within date to provide the appropriate response and to protect the animals from contagious disease. The facility must ensure expired products are not used.”

The December 2021 visit was USDA’s first inspection of Ramer’s kennel in more than two years. In September 2019, USDA had found a far more horrific violation, which somehow was only documented as a noncritical “handling of animals” violation on the Sept. 19, 2019, USDA report. The inspector wrote: “The licensee had a litter of 9 corgi puppies. The licensee put a heat lamp on the puppies in an insulated dog house at day 1. On day 2 the licensee docked the puppy tails and noticed them crying in the afternoon. The licensee thought it was because of the tail docking. The puppies settled down at night when the sun went down. The next day about noon the licensee went out to check the puppies and they [were] gasping for air [due] to being overheated from the heat lamp. The licensee contacted the veterinarian but the 4 puppies died prior to any veterinary intervention. Handling of all animals shall be done as expeditiously and carefully as possible in a manner that does not cause trauma, overheating, physical harm, or unnecessary discomfort. Heat lamps shall be used with caution to ensure that dogs and puppies are not overheated and that the use of the lamp does not cause discomfort or death.” USDA #32-A-0742.

**Patty Talcott, Hardinsburg, Indiana: Received official warning from USDA in January 2022 after inspectors found an underweight puppy, four puppies with eye and nasal discharge with “raspy breathing,” and a pregnant bulldog with an oozing eye who was squinting.** In January 2022, USDA gave Talcott an official warning related to poor veterinary care. The warning was related to a direct violation the licensee received for several dogs and puppies found with health issues during an October 2021 USDA inspection. Quotes from the inspection include:

- A “pregnant female bulldog [...] has a cloudy left eye with a moderate amount of green discharge and brown crusty material around the rim of the eye lid. The eye was squinting and blinking more often than usual and appeared uncomfortable.”
- A “2.5 month old female Australian shepherd puppy and three male 10 week old bulldog puppies [had] some green and/or white discharge coming from the noses and eyes. During the inspection coughing and

a hacking type noise could be heard from several of them. A raspy breathing sound or the sound similar to mucus in the lungs could be heard when listening to their breathing standing next to the enclosure. A veterinarian has not been contacted about the puppies before the inspection.”

- “The Australian shepherd puppy appeared to be under weight with the abdomen area being indented more than what is normal, and the hip bones being more pronounced. This puppy had been taken to the vet a week before and the veterinarian did not prescribe any treatments advising the puppy seemed fine. However, the day after the vet visit the puppy started coughing and the facility decided to medicate and treat themselves instead of contacting the veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment after other symptoms appeared.”

During the same visit, the inspector noticed some housekeeping and sanitation issues as well. The dealer did pass two subsequent inspections, one later in October 2021, and one in January 2022. USDA #32-B-0241.

**Agne Tatro /Noah’s Puppies, Hammond, Indiana: Received official warning from USDA after inspector found puppies without water; licensee’s spouse reportedly shouted at inspectors and interfered with the inspection after being told to give water to the puppies; no records of vaccinations or deworming of puppies.** In December 2021, the USDA gave Agne Tatro an official warning for interference with inspectors and failing to provide water to dogs. The issues stemmed from a September 2021 inspection in which the licensee’s husband reportedly shouted at inspectors and at least one inspector said they felt threatened.

On a Sept. 15, 2021, inspection report, the USDA inspector noted:

“The inspectors found that 16 puppies in a holding room on the second floor did not have water. The inspectors explained to the licensee’s husband that puppies need water available continuously. The inspectors asked that water be made available to the puppies and the puppies drank continuously for 30-60 seconds. The inspector was explaining how lack of water is determined on inspection when the licensee started video taping the inspection and in a raised, angry voice asked the inspector if she was blind?, and calling the inspector a liar because he does not abuse or neglect his puppies. The inspector stated that abuse or neglect had never been said on inspection, and was just trying to explain the inspection process. The licensee’s husband then grabbed a Pomeranian out of an enclosure to show us stating his puppies [are] well cared for and healthy. I pointed out the water bowl in the corgi enclosure was almost empty after they had just filled it, and he pushed the door in, almost hitting the puppy, grabbed the bowl and dumped it out in front of our feet. The licensee’s husband asked the inspectors to leave, and asked to speak with the manager. The inspector informed the licensee’s husband what Refusing an inspection meant. The licensee’s husband continued calling the inspector a liar and stating he does not abuse or neglect his animals. The inspector stated to the licensee’s husband that if he didn’t calm down the inspectors would leave due to interference with the inspectors continuing the inspection. The licensee’s husband continued ranting, and interfering with the inspection. The inspectors felt they could not continue as they felt threatened, and could not ask questions related to inspection so the inspectors left.”

In addition to the lack of water for 16 puppies and behaving in a verbally abusive manner toward federal inspectors, other issues noted during the September 2021 USDA inspection included various issues related to a lack of adequate veterinary records, such as no health certificates for puppies coming into the facility and no record of vaccines or deworming for the puppies. Two puppies were also found exposed to a sharp wire that could injure them.

In October 2021, Tatro's USDA dealer license was canceled, but it appears that Agne Tatro may still be affiliated with a pet store at the same address called Noah's Puppies, which has been linked to numerous [online complaints](#). Former USDA #32-B-0260.

## IOWA

**Larry Albrecht/Coldwater Kennel, Greene, Iowa: Received official warning from the USDA in November 2021 for an inadequate program of veterinary care, yet continued to have more violations in March 2022; breeder had more than 240 dogs and sold to Petland and other pet stores.**

In November 2021, the USDA gave Larry Albrecht an official warning for failing to maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. The warning was related to a direct violation inspectors found in September 2021. The inspector noted that a Maltese named Micky Boy was "found to have dark brown tartar buildup covering the entire surface on both the left and right lower cheek teeth." The issue was so bad that "Several of the lower cheek teeth on both sides were loose and moved easily when touched by the inspector." The inspector added, "The gums under these teeth are receding and inflamed and bled during the examination." The licensee had no proof that the dog was receiving veterinary care for the issue. There were 233 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

Despite the warning, even more issues were found when USDA performed another inspection in March 2022. Inspectors found nursing dams and their puppies on dangerous wire flooring that could hurt the dogs: "Two enclosures housing nursing dams and their puppies had 1 inch by 1 inch plastic coated wire flooring. One enclosure housed a single chihuahua puppy and its mother, the other housed 4 poodle puppies and their mother. Inspectors observed the chihuahua puppy and 3 of the poodle puppy's feet passing through the flooring." Small puppies have been known to be injured or even die when their feet pass through holes in the floor and they are unable to reach warmth or food. In addition, the inspector found "two enclosures, one housing a male shih tzu and one housing a female chihuahua, that had caked and moldy food present," and one dog in a different area who had no water.

In 2017, Albrecht was also cited for a USDA violation for a dog who had signs of severe dental disease; the dog had "his tongue hanging out the left side of the mouth," some of the dog's teeth were loose, and the dog had excessive brownish tartar and reddened gums, according to the USDA report.

Albrecht has sold puppies to many pet stores, including several in New York. He also sold to at least one Petland store in Frisco, Texas, in 2021. Records show his veterinarian signed off on shipping a 2-month-old Pomeranian to the Petland store, stating that the puppy has been "acclimated to temperatures between 15 and 85" degrees. IA # 2691. USDA # 42-A-1212.

**Carolyn Anderson/Anderson's Yorkies, Mason City, Iowa: AKC breeder had 34 USDA violations in less than a year; recurring issues with giardia, sick dogs and filthy conditions; inspectors indicated puppies were likely sold with untreated diseases; USDA issued official warning (repeat offender).**

The year 2022 is at least the fourth year in a row that multiple significant violations were found at Anderson's Yorkies. Since May 2021, Anderson's Yorkies had a total of 34 violations found during five different USDA inspections in 2021 and early 2022, with so many issues that they are too numerous to fully document in this space.

The most recent violations available at the time of this report included USDA repeat violations in February 2022 for poor housing, poor record-keeping and dogs who did not have enough space. Prior to that, Anderson received a direct violation from USDA in January 2022 for poor sanitation, with the inspector noting that the

facility “has ongoing giardia and coccidia infections within the kennel.” Infections with these protozoic diseases can spread to other dogs as well as humans.

According to the January 2022 USDA inspection report:

“The licensee states they have had numerous cases of Giardia and Coccidiosis in several dogs spanning over about a one year time frame. The Licensee was not able to provide any medical records or documentation for any of the animals that have been currently or previously been diagnosed with Giardia or Coccidia. In addition, there was no written records to indicate that any animals were currently receiving treatment for any health issues, including Giardia or Coccidiosis at the facility. In communication with the Licensee, she was not able to verbally provide us with information on specific animals that were receiving treatment, had previously received treatment or what treatments were currently being provided to any individual dogs. The inspector was able to contact the licensed veterinarian and confirm that some fecal samples had recently been completed with positive test results. On January 19, 2022, ‘Johnna’s’ 2 puppies tested positive for giardia and coccidia. On December 20, 2021, ‘Caramel’ tested positive for giardia. On November 30, 2021, ‘Romi Belle’s’ puppies tested positive for giardia and coccidia. On November 30, 2021, ‘Paris’s’ puppies tested positive for giardia. The veterinarian prescribed Albon to be given once a day for 10 days, as prescribed by the label. However; the licensee was unable to provide any form of written document or verbal [confirmation] to indicate that the treatment plan is being followed. Several of the puppies have been sold and are no longer at the facility. There is no documentation to indicate that these puppies received proper treatment or were Giardia or Coccidiosis free prior to their sale.”

The inspection report also described an accumulation of “dust, dirt, hair, urine, excreta residue, food waste and other organic debris accumulated on all other hard surfaces of the animal housing area,” and many of the dogs had no clean place to eat. The inspector noted that they watched “a tan and white dog named Finn eating food from the floor. The floor in this area is covered with a heavy layer of brown to black matter. The walls and surrounding surfaces of this area is also covered with the heavy layer of yellow to brown matter. The insufficient cleaning of the animal housing area and designated food area to not allow the dogs to walk, lay or eat without directly walking [through] a moderate to excessive accumulation of dust, dirt, hair, urine, excreta residue, food waste and/or other organic debris.”

At least eight other violations were noted during the same January inspection, including violations for extreme clutter, some dogs who didn’t have enough space, inadequate veterinary records, and two dogs who had visible eye disorders that hadn’t been adequately treated by a veterinarian. In March 2022, the USDA gave Anderson an official letter of warning related to some of the issues.

During an October 2021 USDA inspection, inspectors found that some dogs had been given a diarrhea medication that expired in 2016, and some of the vaccinations kept for use on puppies were expired or were stored at the wrong temperature, which could lead to deadly diseases in the puppies. In addition, the puppy vaccinations and dewormers were not being given on the schedule that the facility’s veterinarian had prescribed.

Inspectors also found that many of the dogs had no records to prove where they came from. Dogs were housed in wire crates in a cluttered area, and at least one area that the dogs used was compacted with feces. One dog had an abnormal eye, but there were no records proving he had been treated by a veterinarian for the condition, among other issues. Issues found at the May 2021 inspection included five dogs who had no water, excessive clutter and some dogs and puppies kept in very cramped cages without enough space.

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

Anderson’s Yorkies promotes itself [online](#) as a breeder of AKC Yorkie and toy poodle puppies and displays the AKC’s seal on its website. IA #640. USDA #42-A-1471. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Brian Felton, Centerville, Iowa: Dogs found exposed to the bitter cold when temperatures in area had been as low as minus 6 degrees; some of the dogs and puppies had no water to drink, or only frozen water.** During a Jan. 26, 2022, USDA inspection, inspectors found some dogs at Brian Felton’s facility who had no water, or only frozen water, and at least two dogs were exposed to the freezing cold without adequate ways of keeping warm. The inspector noted: “Two adult Mastiffs are housed in an outdoor enclosure which contains a wooden shelter structure. The shelter has no wind and rain break at the entrance,” adding that the “interior of the shelter contains no bedding material.” Historical [weather data](#) shows temperatures in the area had been as low as minus 6 degrees the morning of the inspection, with a high of no greater than 25 degrees. The exposure to extreme temperatures, along with the lack of water, could be lethal for dogs. It is questionable why the USDA did not list the dangerous conditions as a “direct” violation, which would have triggered faster follow-up by the agency.

On the same day, inspectors found that, “Two enclosures, containing a total of 10 adult dogs and 2 puppies, have receptacles containing dog food that is heavily contaminated with wood shavings. The shavings are mixed into the food or have formed a layer across the top of the food. The large amount of shavings inside the receptacles makes it impossible for the dogs to consume the food without also ingesting shavings.” In addition, some of the dogs and more than a dozen puppies had no water or only frozen water: “Three enclosure[s], housing an approximate total of 2 adult dogs and 13 puppies, have no water in the water receptacles. The receptacles were completely dry and some had been flipped upside down. One outdoor enclosure, housing 2 adult Mastiffs, has water in the water receptacle but it has frozen into a solid block of ice. The Mastiffs have no additional source of potable water.” Approximately 50 dogs and puppies were on the property the day of the inspection. IA #11454. USDA #42-A-1627.

**Menno Gingerich/Skyline Puppies, Albia, Iowa: Received official warning from USDA after breeder performed a cruel do-it-yourself procedure on an injured puppy without veterinary advice or anesthesia; the HSUS requested an animal cruelty investigation.** USDA inspectors who visited Menno Gingerich for an inspection on Feb. 16, 2022, found a terribly injured puppy. The situation was made even more horrifying when the USDA inspector tried to find out what had happened to the puppy and was told the breeder had stitched up the injured puppy himself without any veterinary credentials and reportedly without anesthesia. The incident was described by the USDA inspector as follows:

“One English Bulldog puppy was observed walking with staggered steps and would also circle in a continuous motion. In addition, the puppy was observed carrying its head sideways. I asked the representative what happened to this puppy. They stated that shortly after this puppy was born (December 6, 2021) its dam bit it on the back of its neck. The neck area sustained an open gash. The representative did not know how big the gash was. I asked the representative what did they do for this puppy after it was initially observed? The response was that they stitched up the open wound. I then asked them if the puppy was taken to or if the attending veterinarian was contacted. They answered no the attending veterinarian was not called. I then asked the representative if anesthesia was used prior to stitching the puppy and the answer was no. Later on I was able to make phone contact with the licensee. I asked the licensee to tell me what happened to the puppy. They said that they noticed an open gash late Saturday evening December 11, 2021. They then decided to stitch the open wound instead of contacting the attending veterinarian. They did say they planned on calling the attending veterinarian on Monday December 13, 2021. The licensee did say that when they observed [the] puppy on Monday morning, it was nursing and acting normal. They then decided not to call the attending veterinarian. I asked them what did they use for string? They stated that they used sewing [string] and they only placed one stitch in the puppies neck.”

Menno Gingerich received an official warning notice from USDA in March 2022 for the incident. The horrifying, and most likely painful, do-it-yourself procedure was the most egregious issue found that day. But USDA also found other issues at the February inspection, including improper food storage and a lack of adequate veterinary records. Regarding the bulldog puppy with the neck injury, the inspector noted, “The representative stated that the puppy was never taken to the attending veterinarian for observation, diagnosis, or potential treatment. In addition, the representative stated that no medical records have been maintained on this puppy nor were there any records from the attending veterinarian at the time of inspection. The representative stated that this puppy and its littermates were recently taken to the attending veterinarian for a health check prior to [being] shipped. The puppy in question failed its health check and was returned home by the licensee. The representative stated that no medical records were done on the puppy in question during its examination by the attending veterinarian.” IA #11908. USDA #42-A-1668.

**Helene Hamrick/Wolf Point Kennel, Ackworth, Iowa: Received official warning from USDA for failure to provide proper veterinary care; breeder was also found keeping dogs in dangerous and decrepit conditions (repeat offender).** In June 2021, USDA gave Hamrick an official warning for failing to maintain programs of adequate veterinary care. The warning stemmed from a May 2021 inspection that found three dogs with signs of significant dental disease, with some teeth so damaged that they were encased in buildup, loose or exposed at the roots. Three dogs had inflamed gums, and one had gums so inflamed that they were bleeding. During the same inspection, USDA also noted many issues with poor housing, including multiple areas with sharp points that could injure the dogs, as well as an enclosure with a gap that could injure or entrap dogs. At least two empty enclosures were so decrepit that the flooring had collapsed, and many enclosures that had dogs in them were rusty and coming apart, which could result in collapse or injury to the dogs. The inspector also noted cleanliness concerns.

Hamrick appeared in four of our previous Horrible Hundred reports for a variety of issues. For example, during a July 16, 2018, inspection, a USDA inspector documented an issue with a Shetland sheepdog, stating that the dog “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.

Prior violations found at Wolf Point Kennel included food contaminated with live maggots and 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, 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.

Hamrick passed three USDA inspections between May 2021 and March 2022. However, concerns remain due to the years of recurring issues; the kennel does not appear to be able to stay in long-term compliance. IA #149. USDA #42-A-0124. REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.

**Bruce Hooyer/JKLM Farm aka Shaggy Hill Farm, Sioux Center, Iowa: State rated kennel “noncompliant” in November 2021; kennel has had recurring issues since 2017; inspectors advised operator in 2018 to downsize, but the kennel still had 135 dogs in November 2021 (repeat offender).** During a November 2021 inspection, state inspectors rated JKLM Farm “noncompliant” due to several issues. Several dogs “were noted to have excessively long nails,” which is a problem because it could lead to injury or impact their gait, and two whelping pens had heat lamps that were too close to the puppies, which could potentially result in discomfort, burns or other dangers. There were about 135 dogs and puppies in the kennel at the time of the November 2021 inspection, even though the breeder has been repeatedly told in the past to downsize to a more manageable number of animals, state records show.

A pattern of problems at the kennel stretches back to at least 2017-2018, when the kennel was found operating without a license. Shaggy Hill Farm has appeared in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports. As we noted in our 2020 report, state inspectors found in August 2019 that the kennel had unsafe and cluttered conditions in some of its buildings and too many dogs in cramped enclosures—a recurring problem. The inspection report read: “There are too many dogs for this facility. While the dogs have enough space to lay, stand, and turn around, there is not enough room for exercise. Some primary enclosures are make-shift and quite small. The number of dogs must be reduced for this facility. During [the] last visit, it was agreed that the number of dogs for this facility should not exceed 80. The barn kennel has been added and currently houses 28 adults and 22 puppies. Even with the extra kennel, there is too much crowding in every structure.” The inspector also found dirty conditions, stating, “The overall sanitation of the facility is poor and some dogs are dirty (Ingred, Isabelle, Hester, among others). Waste is [sitting] in buckets and thrown outside the building and disposal of waste is not proper.”

The inspector specifically instructed the licensee to “hand walk” 115 adult dogs in two of the buildings twice per day, “effective immediately,” because their cages were too small and didn’t give them room for exercise. However, the inspector also noted that only two people worked at the facility, which wouldn’t be enough staff to hand-walk so many dogs daily. The inspector noted that, given the condition of the facility, “it appears that 142 dogs and 59 puppies are too much for 2 people to maintain.”

Many other issues were found in 2019, including dogs without proof of vaccinations, a dog with “severe[ly] matted eyes,” a puppy with “an open sore on his side,” and another dog who was “severely matted and dirty,” and the inspector warned the breeder about other dogs needing nail trims and grooming. Many violations were found in September and November 2019 as well.

Issues noted by state inspectors in earlier years included several dogs and puppies who died at the operation in 2017-2018. During a June 2018 failed inspection, state inspectors listed the following dogs who had died: “Since 8/8/17 [...] 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.” In addition, “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 instruction was clearly not followed; by August 2019, the breeder had 142 adult dogs, and in November 2019, after being told to downsize again, the kennel still had 117 adult dogs, plus dozens of puppies. IA #11102. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Jake Kruse/K&E Kennels Inc., Salem, Iowa: Huge pet store seller with almost 300 dogs and puppies had dirty feeders with caked food residue and enclosures with sharp edges that could injure the dogs; at least one feeder had bird feces in it; breeder sold puppies to many pet stores, including at least four Petland stores.**

During a January 2022 inspection of K&E Kennels, USDA inspectors noted three violations related to a total of seven specific issues at K&E Kennels, a huge breeding facility that has supplied hundreds of puppies to pet stores across the country, including at least four Petland stores. The issues included four “housing facilities” violations for problems such as “sharp corner edges” and “broken metal” that could injure the dogs; frayed carpet edges near some of the puppies that could “result in entanglement and injury to the dogs”; and open trash containers, which the inspector noted could “create odors or attract pests such as mice and flies.” In addition, cleaning and sanitation issues were noted due to some self-feeders that had been chewed on or were not sanitary. The inspector noted that “worn sections of the feeders contains a buildup of brown debris,” some of the dogs had “metal bucket food bowls that contain a buildup of caked food and organic material on the interior of the feeder,” and one feeder had “a buildup of caked food and wild bird feces on the interior of the feeder.” Unclean food receptacles could be a disease hazard, the inspector noted. There were 218 dogs and 81 puppies on the property at the time of the January 2022 inspection.

Prior issues noted at the kennel included two “attempted” USDA inspections, one in December 2017 and one in August 2016; on both occasions, the licensee claimed to be out of town, yet did not make any other responsible adult available to accompany inspectors, which is a violation; licensed kennels are required to be available for unannounced inspections during regular and reasonable business hours.

In 2021, Jake Kruse sold dozens of puppies to Petland stores in Pensacola, Orlando East and Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and in 2020 he sold to the Petland store in Dallas, Texas. Kruse also sold to many notorious pet stores in Florida and New York with a history of issues, such as Shake a Paw stores in Hicksville and Lynbrook, New York, which [were sued](#) by the New York attorney general in 2021 for selling sick puppies, and the American Kennels store in New York City, which was shut down in 2021 after an HSUS investigation. IA #308. USDA #42-A-1523.

[Steve Kruse/Stonehenge Kennel, West Point, Iowa: Affiliate of revoked puppy mill dealer Daniel Gingerich has had repeated issues with ailing dogs; has been found with more than 55 injured or sick dogs since 2015 \(repeat offender\)](#). Even after appearing in four of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to severe and numerous humane care violations, Steve Kruse's Stonehenge Kennel still had a massive number of dogs (645) at a September 2021 USDA inspection. Kruse has also been found with additional sick and injured dogs since our last report was published.

During a May 17, 2021, inspection, USDA inspectors found four dogs in need of veterinary care at Kruse's facility. Two of them had signs of significant dental disease, and a third dog, a Shiba Inu, had an inflamed lower leg and was sometimes not bearing weight on it. A fourth dog, a female Aussie doodle, had "an abnormal appearance to her face." The inspector noted that the Aussie doodle had "complete hair loss [that] is located on the entire bridge of the nose and there is multi-focal hair loss located around both eyes. The skin appears dry, crusty, flaky and irritated. Inflammation of the skin is located around the entire left eye along with an excessive clear discharge from the inner corner of the eye. The right eye has a small area of hair loss and skin inflammation located along the inner area of the eye along with excessive discharge from the inner corner." At the time of that inspection, Kruse had 511 adult dogs and 54 puppies.

A new area of concern is Kruse's affiliation with Daniel Gingerich, another enormous puppy mill operator so problematic that inspectors repeatedly found dead and dying dogs on his properties, leading the USDA to revoke Gingerich's license in October 2021. Gingerich was also [forced to give up](#) more than 500 dogs and was fined and [criminally charged](#) for animal neglect. Court records from the Gingerich case show that Kruse was his close associate, and the two massive dealers were known to exchange large numbers of dogs. During an April 2021 visit to one of Gingerich's properties, a USDA inspector found hundreds of dogs, including a golden retriever who was extremely emaciated. According to court records, "Gingerich said the new dogs were from Steve Kruse. Disposition forms acquired from Kruse showed that Gingerich purchased 612 dogs from [Kruse] between April 1st and 30th, 2021 and that Gingerich leased Kruse's site in Cantril, Iowa (Site 006)."

Kruse's prior issues are too numerous to mention here, but include violations from March 11, 2021, when USDA cited Kruse with a direct, repeat violation for the poor condition of six dogs, including a female Boston terrier with "an emaciated body condition." Inspectors stated that: "Inspection of the dog revealed that the backbone, ribs, and hip bones were visibly prominent and easily felt with little fat and muscle covering them. Emaciated body condition could indicate a serious underlying health issue." Other issues included a bulldog who seemed to have a leg injury and wasn't putting weight on her leg, a Samoyed with an "abnormal condition of the right eye and poor dental health" and with "an excessive amount of yellow drainage [from her eye] spreading down the face." A husky had an eye that was "protruding outwardly," with the white of the eye reddened and "an approximately dime sized white, cloudy material covering the surface [of the eye]." Another dog, a wheaten terrier, was so badly matted that the matts on her chest were "thickened and tight" while "the legs are covered in layers of matted hair." A second wheaten terrier had a broken tooth and was excessively drooling, with signs of dental disease. In addition, a 4-month-old puppy was found housed with an older dog who was behaving "aggressively" toward the puppy when the puppy tried to approach the food bowl.

Kruse has been in four prior Horrible Hundred reports for egregious animal care issues, including dozens of ill or injured dogs. In our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, we revealed that USDA found him with at least 41 dogs in need of veterinary care between 2015 and 2017, including some with deep lacerations, oozing wounds and lameness. In our 2016 Horrible Hundred report, we reported that, in addition to some dogs with bloody wounds, some dogs had feces mixed in with their food, and at least one dog didn't even have enough space in their small kennel to wag their tail. In December 2015, Kruse received a 21-day USDA license suspension after throwing a bag containing two dead puppies at a USDA inspector.

Kruse seems to get away with his long history of animal care issues by occasionally passing inspections. He passed two recent inspections, one in July 2021 and one in September 2021. But the repeated issues with sick

and injured animals and his close association with Gingerich's hellish operation leave the HSUS with grave concerns about the welfare of every animal in Kruse's possession. IA #4576. USDA #42-B-0182. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Lavern Nolt/Twin Birch, Charles City, Iowa: USDA inspector found dog with a scab, exposed raw tissue and missing fur; another dog had a large red growth on her eye, and a third dog was missing most of his teeth.**

Nine different noncompliances were found at Lavern Nolt's Twin Birch kennel between September 2021 and February 2022, USDA inspection reports show. During the February 2022 USDA inspection, several dogs were found in obvious need of veterinary care, including a Maltese named Fifi who had an abnormal skin condition. According to the inspection report, "A large hairless area is located on the dog's lower back near the tail. The exposed skin is reddened and contains numerous small bumps. Several of these bumps have split open revealing raw tissue beneath. A section of dry, scab-like material is located on the surface of the skin." Reportedly, Fifi had had the condition for about four months and was not improving. Another dog in need of care was a female English bulldog named Maybelle who "has an abnormal condition of the right eye. A large red growth is located in the interior corner of the eye and is covering approximately a third of the surface of the eye." The dog had not been evaluated by a veterinarian for the condition, and no treatment had been provided as of the date of the inspection. An additional dog in need of care was a male Maltese named Billy, who appeared to have poor dental health. Billy had only about three remaining teeth, and two of those were covered with "a thick buildup of brown colored tartar."

Additional issues found in February 2022 included dogs who could stick their heads or limbs out of large holes in three different enclosures, and puppies whose enclosure had a big gap that could entrap their feet or legs. In addition, "The inspector observed 3 Bichon puppies' feet falling through the holes in the flooring of an elevated whelping enclosure at the time of inspection." Issues found at a September 2021 inspection included incomplete and/or missing information in the veterinary care plan, including no specific plans "for preventative care and treatment to ensure healthy and unmatted hair coats, properly trimmed nails, and clean and healthy eyes, ears, skin, and teeth," among other issues. In 2019, USDA cited Nolt for having sagging wire flooring that could injure the dogs, with gaps that were big enough to let the dogs' feet fall through, and unsanitary conditions. IA #242. USDA #42-A-1185.

**Henry Sommers/Happy Puppys [sic], Cincinnati, Iowa: Breeder who cruelly killed dogs by injecting them in the stomach failed multiple state and federal inspections; USDA issued a "critical" violation but has not revoked his license; horrific breeder has had recurring issues since 2014 (repeat offender).**

Even after appearing in five of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to issues such as injured dogs and unsanitary conditions, Henry Sommers was cited for more horrific issues in early 2022 and in late 2021, with direct and critical violations for veterinary care issues, including killing dogs in an apparently unapproved and inhumane manner.

Sommers' violations are too numerous to list here, but the most egregious was his admission that he killed dogs in a manner that his veterinarian did not approve of and that does not meet any standard humane euthanasia criteria. The issue was discovered during a September 2021 USDA inspection. The USDA inspector wrote, "The licensee is conducting the euthanasia of the dogs himself. The licensee stated that he is given a syringe containing a drug, which is thought to be Beuthanasia-D, from the attending veterinarian. He then injects the drug through the animal's abdominal wall and into the stomach. He then places the dog back into its enclosure and returns later to ensure it has died. The instructions for Beuthanasia-D are to administer it as an intravenous injection which will result in rapid and painless euthanasia." When the USDA inspector tried to determine whether the attending veterinarian had indeed approved of the cruel method, the veterinarian would not admit

to providing the drug nor approving of the method of killing: “A [USDA] Veterinary Medical Officer spoke to the Attending Veterinarian who stated that he did not give the drug to the licensee and did not authorize euthanasia with an intraabdominal injection.” The fact that Sommers was not, to our knowledge, immediately turned over to local law enforcement for potential animal cruelty charges is shocking and disappointing.

Even after Sommers was found to have killed dogs in a horrific manner, as of May 5, 2022, it appears he is still actively licensed by the USDA, making it legal for him to continue to sell dogs to pet stores, brokers (B dealers) and online. HSUS representatives reached out to USDA about the apparent animal cruelty and urged them to work with local law enforcement.

Sommers also failed at least four state inspections between January 2022 and March 2022. During the February 2022 state inspection, his operation was marked “non-compliant” for several issues, including a “strong odor of animal waste,” a drainage system under the kennels that “contains animal waste and stagnant water” and was not draining, and other issues. When inspectors arrived again in March 2022, most of the same issues remained, including the “strong odor of animal waste,” filthy conditions and excessive feces. Sommers admitted to the inspector that some of the feces could have been there “for weeks.” Similar issues were also documented by state inspectors in January 2022.

USDA also gave Sommers a direct and repeat violation in January 2022 for a repeated failure to provide adequate veterinary care to dogs. One dog had an untreated eye condition with hair loss and discharge around the eye and had not been treated. Other dogs had serious dental conditions; some of the dogs had such poor dental health that their teeth were loose, missing or they had holes at the gumline. Shockingly, USDA inspectors and the licensee’s veterinarian had allowed Sommers to attempt to scale the dogs’ teeth himself, which had only resulted in more pain and poorer outcomes for the dogs. In one case, the USDA inspector noted, “The Attending Veterinarian examined the dog but did not treat the animal, instead he approved the licensee to hand scale the dog’s teeth. The scaling of the dog’s teeth has not improved the animal’s dental health and the condition appears to have worsened as a tooth is now loose and holes have formed at the base of the teeth.” In another case pertaining to a different dog, “The scaling of the dog’s teeth has not improved the animal’s dental health and the condition appears to have worsened as blood is located in the mouth and holes have formed at the base of the teeth.”

Additional issues are too numerous to mention here but clearly show that Sommers, his veterinarian and oversight agencies are involved in allowing unnecessary suffering of dogs to continue.

As we noted in some of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, Sommers has been repeatedly cited for similar issues in prior years. For example, in September 2019, Sommers received a direct, repeat violation (one of the most severe violation categories) from a USDA inspector for a veterinary care issue related to a Maltese dog with “hairless areas along the left flank, left hind leg, in front of the base of the tail, and behind the left shoulder. These affected areas were slightly reddened and contained small areas of crusty, scab-like material.” The inspector noted that “this dog’s condition had not been noticed and she is not currently receiving any treatment.”

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

only one direct, repeat violation, even though multiple dogs were affected. USDA also cited the licensee for repeatedly failing to make the kennel available for inspection.

Sommers received an official warning from USDA in January 2016 for repeated veterinary care violations, but even after receiving that warning, he was found with sick and injured dogs again and again between late May and November of 2016. On May 23, 2016, a USDA inspector found a puppy who appeared “lifeless and unresponsive” with partially closed eyes and pale gums. The inspector also described her as “weak and limp while being held” and “cold to the touch.” Serious issues at the operation stretch back to at least 2014, when a USDA inspector found that a veterinarian hadn’t visited the facility since 2012, and a Boston terrier was limping. Photographs from USDA showed filthy cages and excessive feces. Former IA #9802. USDA #42-A-1329. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Ken and Rhonda Van Der Zwaag/Van Der Zwaag German Shepherds, Hull, Iowa: Multiple puppies died at AKC breeder’s facility of parvovirus and other issues; breeder also apparently may have acted as a dealer (reseller) without the appropriate license.** During two inspections in January and February 2022, state inspectors rated Van Der Zwaag German Shepherds “non compliant” due to a list of problems. Most concerning was an issue related to several puppies who apparently died, and there was no documentation to show they had received adequate veterinary care. According to the January 2022 state inspection report, “There was a litter lost in October (absorbed), another litter lost in December (4 premature, 4 remaining puppies aborted), and a successful litter born in January.” The inspector noted, “3 puppies died of parvo from the litter in question. 1 puppy recovered and was cleared by the veterinarian today.” The inspector added, “Please provide a written record of this. 1 puppy is in an animal hospital in SD for treatment. 1 puppy is healthy at it’s home. The kennel owner reports that this puppy was from a different litter than the other puppies, yet all were imported as a group. The passports show the same birth date and there was no other paperwork provided by the pet nanny which delivered the puppies.” During a follow-up inspection in February 2022, the facility was again rated non-compliant, and the inspector noted, “The puppy who had been treated for parvo passed away on 2/6/22 from dehydration from complications of her parvo battle.”

The fact that some of the puppies were apparently imported from another breeder or dealer is a significant cause for concern, because the breeder does not appear to be licensed by either USDA or the state to resell puppies bred by others. In addition, it appears that some puppies were imported without records proving they were healthy or vaccinated. The state inspector wrote, “This breeder performed Dealer activity by importing a litter of puppies for the purpose of resale.” The inspector added, “Dogs imported into the state of Iowa must have a certificate of veterinary inspection. These puppies did not arrive with one.”

Several housekeeping issues and issues with missing records were also noted during the same inspection. The operation has [a website](#) that shows AKC registration papers for some of its breeding dogs. Some of the other dogs appear to have registration records from foreign countries. IA #11828.

**Dennis and Donna Van Wyk/Prairie Lane Kennel, New Sharon, Iowa: Dodged at least two attempted inspections by both state and federal inspectors in two months; failed at least two state inspections for poor housing (repeat offender).** Prairie Lane Kennel has appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for various issues, including dodging inspections, an issue which seems to have continued in late 2021 and in 2022. In December 2021, the facility dodged both a USDA inspection and a state inspection, and on Jan. 27, 2022, the facility again dodged an attempted state and USDA inspection, leaving inspectors unable to check on the welfare of any of the breeders’ dogs. State inspectors did gain access on two recent dates, Dec. 30, 2021,

and Jan. 31, 2022. During both of those visits, inspectors found the housing in disrepair and rated the operation “non compliant.” At the December 2021 state inspection, inspectors noted wood flooring that was rotting or had holes in it, insulation that was “hanging down into [a] dog kennel” and damaged enclosures. There were more than 50 dogs and puppies on the property at the time.

The Van Wyks’ history of repeatedly failing to give inspectors access to their dogs and kennel causes serious concerns for the safety of the animals. Under the federal Animal Welfare Act, licensees are required to make their facilities available for unannounced inspections during their regular hours of business, but it seems that many operators simply don’t bother to do so, because they appear to have a perception that no significant penalties will be applied. As we noted in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, the kennel owner repeatedly dodged USDA inspectors, even when the licensee was at home. For example, during a June 2018 USDA visit, an inspector arrived during the hours that the licensee had stated were their optimal and normal business hours. 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 “pilot announced inspection” program. The announced inspection program was not useful for determining the day-to-day health and welfare of the animals because licensees were notified in advance of the USDA’s visit. Essentially, this noncompliant licensee was given an unfair advantage over compliant licensees by getting a prescheduled visit, effectively rewarding the operation for unacceptable behavior. USDA claims it has now ended the “pilot announced inspection” program.

The facility also appeared in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report for veterinary care issues and at least 33 dogs who were found in enclosures that had excessive feces. IA#10071. USDA #42-A-0331. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Charles Vogl/SCW Frenchies, Atlantic, Iowa: State inspector found pregnant dog in unheated shed with only frozen water; other adult dogs had only “frozen solid” water; dogs were licking the ice as if trying to drink; all dog runs were covered 50% to 80% in animal wastes \(repeat offender\).](#) Even after appearing in our 2021 Horrible Hundred report for excessive feces and for failing to protect dogs from the bitter cold, Charles Vogl was again found to have dogs in similarly poor conditions later that same year, state records show. In November 2021, state inspectors who were looking into a complaint found some dogs without adequate shelter in the winter cold, a pregnant dog housed outdoors who was about to whelp, a “strong odor of animal waste,” and a pregnant dog in an unheated shed that had no bedding or door. The inspector wrote, “The inside of the shed is not impervious to moisture. Currently her water is frozen solid.” The inspector also noted, “All indoor and outdoor runs are 50 to 80% cover[ed] in animal waste.” Many other issues were noted, including “Water is frozen solid in every animal enclosure except for puppies housed inside south shed (blue building)” and “Animals [were] observed licking ice in water buckets during inspection.” The owner was also unable to explain why four puppies who were noted in the records were missing from the property, but he “thought perhaps one had died.” At a reinspection later that month, inspectors found that some of the housing was still inadequate.

As we noted in our prior report, SCW Frenchies was found noncompliant during at least two state inspections in 2020, one in October and one in November. During the October inspection, inspectors noted excessive trash and clutter, and there was evidence of mice in the kennel buildings, as well as significant structural damage, such as holes in the walls and rotting wood. At least one dog had “excessive diarrhea,” and some of the dogs’

vaccinations were not up to date. Dogs were found “noticeably shivering” in a building that was only 43 degrees, and the state report noted that the cold building did have a heater, but apparently no one had bothered to turn it on. There were also “several days worth” of feces and urine in the outdoor dog runs. The inspector noted the facility had “not been cleaning or sanitizing” and “does not use detergent or sanitizer.” At a follow-up inspection in November, the facility was again found noncompliant. State inspection reports show that some issues had been fixed, but many still needed to be addressed, such as lifting the floor of a kennel building that was sinking, cleaning food bowls and fixing some of the wire parts of the kennels. In addition, the inspector noted that a “whelping kennel (currently housing 1 nursing mother and 10 puppies) in house has not been cleaned or sanitized in several days.” IA #11155. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Anita Wikstrom/Unforgettable Schnauzers, Ames, Iowa: State inspectors found excessive feces, clutter, trash and a strong odor; some dogs were closed in a garage and not viewable by inspector, leading to significant animal welfare concerns (repeat offender).** On Feb. 18, 2022, Unforgettable Schnauzers was rated “non-compliant” due to issues with clutter, trash, dirt and weeds. A month earlier, in January 2022, it was also rated “non-compliant” due to several issues, including: “facility is very cluttered with trash, feces, and debris inside and outside,” “outdoor yards have an accumulation of trash, weeds,” there was a “Strong odor of ammonia in facility at time of inspection” and an “Excessive build-up of feces, dust, hair, and mud in housing facilities.” But perhaps most concerning was that the inspectors said they could hear dogs in the garage, but they “could not inspect garage for compliance with rules.” This means an unknown number of animals were closed off and not checked for their basic well-being. Inspectors noted there were more than 50 dogs and puppies on the property during their visit, but it is unknown how many were in the garage and what conditions those additional, unseen dogs were living in.

The failure to allow inspectors to view all places where the dogs were kept is a recurring concern. In addition to the dogs hidden in the garage, there have been several times when the owner of Unforgettable Schnauzers did not make the kennel available for state inspections at all. The most recent “attempted” inspections included two failed visits in February 2022 and one in November 2021. The repeated failure to allow inspectors in to check on dogs raises concerns about the welfare of animals who could not be inspected to ensure even basic well-being. When inspectors did get into the property after making failed attempts, they found recurring problems.

Unforgettable Schnauzers has had multiple issues in the past. It has appeared in two of our prior reports. As we noted in our 2021 report, unsanitary conditions were found in 2020, and a state inspector recommended that Wikstrom “downsize [the] herd.” During an October 2020 inspection, state inspectors found five different issues at Unforgettable Schnauzers, noting that the “Facility was very dirty with a noticeable odor of feces/urine. Dirty bedding, dirt/dust, and feces throughout, floor very grimy. More frequent cleaning/sanitation is needed due to large volume of dogs. Discussed definitions of cleaning and sanitation, different cleaning/sanitation products and methods with owner. Owner stated she had just arrived to the property and had not started cleaning yet (I arrived at approximately 10:30am).” In addition to the unsanitary conditions, there was a large hole in the floor in one area and signs that dogs were chewing on the flooring. In addition, even though there were dozens of dogs on the premises, the owner admitted she did not live on site. According to the report: “Owner states she is living at the property part of the time and living at her sister’s part of the time. Even though staying at sister’s part of [the] time, [she claims she still visits the] property at least twice per day to clean, fill water bowls, feed, etc. Started spaying/neutering some adults and looking to downsize total number of dogs last year. I provided owner with the names of several nearby licensed shelters/rescues to contact to possibly surrender dogs [to] help downsize herd.” The inspector also noted: “Kennel rooms, outdoor runs, and exterior [of property] are cluttered with trash, debris, dirty bedding, etc. Observed flies on floors and walls of interior of kennel rooms.”

Additional issues were documented in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report. The HSUS has significant concerns about the owner’s ability to keep the property safe and clean, given her history of recurring issues and the repeated avoidance of inspections. IA #1475. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Woody Wiley, Cantril, Iowa: USDA found nursing mother dog with prominent ribs, spine and hip bones, dogs with missing fur and reddened, irritated skin, and a dog with an open wound at facility with almost 250 dogs; breeder had no records of medical treatment for ailing dogs.** During a February 2022 USDA inspection, inspectors found several dogs with visible veterinary issues at Woody Wiley’s massive breeding operation. One of the dogs was a female golden retriever who “was showing hair loss on an estimated 50 percent of its body. A reddened color to the skin (which was dry in appearance) was observed on both sides and on top of its back.” In addition, inspectors found a bichon frise who “was showing hair loss on 25 percent of its body. A reddened color to the skin (which was dry in appearance) was observed on top of the rear end hips and along the right side.” When questioned about the condition of one of the dogs, “The licensee stated that the hair loss was from the male in the enclosure with this female was pulling the hair [out] during mating.” The license had “no records available at the time of this inspection describing the extent of the hair loss and the veterinary care provided.” In addition, the inspectors found another dog who had an “open wound” with a scab over the shoulders, and another dog who appeared very underweight. The inspector noted, “A Samoyed Husky Female (Microchip # 7E10334908) is thin in appearance. When viewed from the back and side, the ribs, backbone and hip bones were visible from a lack of fat cover. In addition, an abdominal tuck and prominent waist were observed. The licensee stated that the thin condition was from this female nursing puppies that had been weaned. At the time of inspection, the attending veterinarian had not been consulted.”

The licensee admitted to the inspector that no medical records had been maintained on the dogs mentioned above, nor on another dog who was blind, according to the inspection report. The USDA inspector also found no “dog on hand” or disposition records available for the massive facility, which had 248 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection, and the facility had no written exercise plan for the adult dogs. The inspector wrote, “Minimal floor space for exercise is necessary for the physical health and well-being of all dogs housed at the facility.”

In March 2022, Wiley received an official warning from USDA for the egregious veterinary care issues found in February. USDA #42-A-1676.

**Lloyd Yoder/Valleyview Premium Puppies, Riverside, Iowa: USDA found emaciated dogs with protruding spine, ribs and other bones, one of whom was nursing puppies; a dog with a large laceration; dogs with moldy food; and many other violations. Shotgun shells and rodent poison scattered inside some enclosures within reach of the dogs led to grave concerns about safety of the dogs.** USDA inspectors who visited Valleyview Premium Puppies in February 2022 and March 2022 found more than a dozen egregious violations, including two dogs, one of whom was a nursing mother, who appeared emaciated, as well as an injured dog and filthy and unsafe conditions. The issues documented are too numerous to list here, but some quotations from those reports are:

- “Female Old English Sheepdog (microchip # 990\_000003112325) is severely emaciated. The dog’s spine, ribs, shoulder blades and hip bones were protruding and easily felt beneath the hair coat with little to no fat or muscle covering the dog’s frame. Loose stool is also coating the hair beneath the dog’s tail. The dog has not been evaluated by a veterinarian and is not under treatment for the poor body condition or loose stool.”
- “Female Old English Sheepdog (no microchip) is emaciated. The dog’s spine was visibly prominent, and the ribs, hip bones, shoulder blades and spine were easily felt with little fat and muscle covering the dog’s frame. The dog is nursing 9 puppies at the time of the inspection. The dog has not been evaluated by a veterinarian and is not under treatment for the poor body condition or loose stool.”

- “Male standard Poodle (microchip # 990\_000001972404) has a large laceration located on the right hind leg. The laceration is located on the upper portion of the interior of the leg. The skin around the wound is moderately reddened and a yellowish discharge is coating the surrounding hair. The licensee has not noticed the wound and the dog has not been evaluated by a veterinarian and no treatment has been provided.”
- “Female Old English Sheepdog (microchip # 990\_000002978192) has a heavily matted hair coat. The hair is matted into thick clumps and sections and is located along the length of the dog’s back, the underside of the neck, across the hips, along the backside of both forelegs, around the base of the tail and down both hind legs.”
- “One adult female Bernadoodle (microchip # 990\_000002980201) has a heavily matted hair coat. Approximately 90% of the dog’s body surface is covered in thick clumps of matted fur that contained a mixture of dirt and other organic material.”
- “In one outdoor enclosure a loose piece of wire has become wrapped around the extremities of a dog. The dog was observed running throughout the enclosure with the wire around the right hind leg and around the right foreleg.”
- “The licensee is not removing the dog feces from the enclosures on a daily basis. [...]. In several enclosures, the inspectors could not walk without stepping in feces.”
- “In many enclosures, rodents have dug holes beneath the shelters and up through the plywood floors indicating that the plywood floor has most likely rotted away.”
- “Another enclosure, containing 2 adult dogs, has numerous shotgun shells scattered across the ground. The dogs have direct access to the shotgun shells. Shotgun shells could have a negative impact on the health of the dogs should they chew on or consume them.”

The presence of shotgun shells “scattered across” a dog enclosure is deeply troubling, because, as of approximately 2018, USDA weakened its humane guidelines for inspectors. The guidelines now permit dog breeders to shoot dogs they no longer want, as long as the breeder’s veterinarian has signed off on the “euthanasia” method on the kennel’s official veterinary plan. It is unknown if that is what happened at Valleyview Premium Puppies, but it leads the HSUS to harbor grave concern for the welfare of dogs in the Valleyview facility and also for any dogs at USDA-licensed operations. Not surprisingly, the American Veterinary Medical Association [does not recommend](#) gunshot as a routine method of euthanasia for canines.

At the same inspection, some of the dogs were found with spoiled, contaminated, caked and/or moldy food. Some of the dogs’ food had bird droppings directly on it, and some had rodent feces mixed into the food. Lloyd Yoder received a direct violation for the emaciated dogs, with the inspector noting that their conditions, if left untreated, “could result in the death of the animal.”

When inspectors visited in March 2022 to follow up on the many issues identified in February, they issued three different repeat violations. The first was for failing to get two ailing dogs evaluated by a veterinarian; the dogs were in enclosures that had “rodent poison pellets” in them, which could explain why the dogs were sick, yet they had not been treated by a veterinarian. The second repeat violation was for having rodent poison pellets inside some of the dogs’ shelters; the inspector said they saw a dog “carrying around a dead mouse in its mouth,” most likely exposing that dog to poison. The third repeat violation was for a continued issue with grimy conditions. The exposure of dogs to poison is another cause for extremely grave concerns for the dogs’ safety.

Lloyd Yoder shares the same address as another breeder in this report, Loren Yoder. It appears they may operate in different buildings on the same property. USDA # 42-B-0319.

**[Loren Yoder, Riverside, Iowa: USDA found rodent burrows in a dog enclosure, missing medical records and piles of feces \(repeat offender\)](#)**. During a February 2022 USDA inspection, Loren Yoder received six violations

for issues related to housing, veterinary care and cleanliness. The inspector noted that one enclosure with five dogs in it had a plywood floor that was “buried beneath a thick layer of dirt and gravel,” and “In the enclosure, rodents have dug holes beneath the shelter and up through the plywood floor indicating that the plywood floor has most likely rotted away.” In addition, the inspector noted: “The facility is not removing the dog feces from the enclosures on a daily basis. There is 1 outdoor enclosure, housing 5 adult dogs, that has a heavy buildup of old and new feces. Piles of feces are scattered across the ground in the enclosure and they consist of a mix of fresh and old feces which appear dry and white in color. The facility representative stated that the enclosures are not cleaned daily and during the warm months the rain is expected to wash away or breakdown the feces.”

The inspector also noted there were missing veterinary records and inadequate veterinary guidance on some issues, as well as a lack of “preventative care and treatment plans to maintain healthy and un-matted hair coats, properly trimmed toe nails, and clean and healthy skin.”

Loren Yoder also appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, a USDA inspection in 2018 found that the facility was very dirty, with excessive dirt and grime, as well as spiders, flies and evidence of mice in the whelping area. Many of the dogs also had very dirty, grimy water buckets with sawdust in the water. At another inspection, in November 2018, the inspector documented many new violations, including a Newfoundland dog with areas of skin that appeared “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.” There was also “moist greenish-colored discharge and dry crusty matter present around the dog’s left eye,” and some of the puppies were in a dirty whelping enclosure that “contains a mixture of fresh and old feces.” The inspector added, “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.”

State inspectors in November 2018 found violations similar 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. IA #10700. USDA #42-A-1541. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## KANSAS

[Joyce Cairns aka Joyce Roperson-Cairns, formerly Unicorn Kennel, Glasco, Kansas: Chronic offender with more than 100 dogs; was found with two emaciated dogs who had “no appreciable body fat”; some dogs were exposed to the bitter cold with only frozen water; the breeder dropped her USDA license in 2022 but is still licensed by the state \(repeat offender\).](#) USDA inspectors found many repeat and direct violations at Unicorn Kennel in 2021 and early 2022, continuing a pattern of sick and injured animals found at the facility over many years. In July 2021, USDA gave Joyce Cairns an official warning for failing to provide proper veterinary care to dogs. But even months after that warning, Cairns was found again to have several dogs in very poor condition.

When USDA inspectors visited on Jan. 5, 2022, they found egregious issues, including four direct violations. One of the direct violations for a male Akita with limited movement and “a very stiff, choppy gait.” The inspector noted that a veterinarian had recommended medicine for the dog, but it was not being given, and the “altered gait” seemed to indicate the dog was in pain. In addition, two dogs were found to be emaciated. One of the dogs, a female Akita named Arrow, had “no appreciable body fat and therefore, the tops of the vertebrae, hips, femurs,

ribs, and the spines of the scapulae are visible. The facility representative states that she has been eating very little food [and] is having loose stool.” In addition, a female Maltese named Dinky was also emaciated. The inspector wrote, “There is no appreciable body fat and therefore, the tops of the vertebrae, hips, femurs, ribs, and the spines of the scapulae are visible. This dog also had generalized fur loss on her body and tail. There is some wetness and staining around the vulva and some urine was seen coming from the vulva when the [dog] was picked up. The licensee states this dog has not been evaluated by a veterinarian for this problem and there is no documentation of this problem on the licensee’s medical record for this dog.”

In addition to the Jan. 5, 2022, violation for poor veterinary care, many other issues were discovered. Another direct violation was documented for dogs exposed to the cold when “the low temperature reported in the previous 24 hours was 11 degrees F.” In addition, 45 dogs had frozen water, and “the facility representative acknowledged that the water is freezing over night when they are not out to attend to it and that all of the water in these receptacles froze solid last night. The temperature at the start of the inspection was 24.8 degrees F.” There was also a direct violation for failing to properly clean and sanitize the facility related to an enclosure with “loose fecal waste on much of the floor.” There were 115 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the Jan. 5, 2022, inspection.

Shockingly, when USDA returned on Jan. 12 for a “focused” inspection to make sure the dogs were being given potable water, there was still “nothing being done to protect the drinking water from freezing.” The temperatures in the area had been in the 20s, leading to significant concern for the dogs’ basic welfare.

USDA gave Cairns a repeat, direct violation for once again failing to provide drinkable water to her dogs. Shortly after that, it appears Cairns dropped her USDA license rather than fixing the very severe issues inspectors found. Although she is no longer licensed to sell to brokers and pet stores, she is still licensed in Kansas as a retail breeder as of April 6, 2022, which means the kennel can continue to sell directly to the public.

This is Cairns’ fourth appearance in our Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in the 2020 Horrible Hundred report, similar issues were found in the past, including issues in January 2020 with soiled and matted dogs, unsafe and dirty conditions, and excessive feces. Issues have been recurring for at least five years; in 2018 and 2017, Unicorn Kennel was cited for many issues related to sick dogs, underweight dogs and filthy conditions. KS #CB0009EC. Former USDA #48-A-1027. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Merry Lou and Amy Gumm/Nightshades and Firestorm Border Collies, Douglass, Kansas: State inspectors found a very thin, ailing dog; filthy conditions; and dogs with frozen water at AKC breeder’s facility.**

State inspectors visited Nightshades and Firestorm Border Collies in January 2022 to follow up on a complaint. According to state records, the complainant had stated there were “sick and skinny dogs at the property, dogs are living in feces, have frozen water, no food, and overcrowding in pens.” After performing an inspection, the complaint was deemed “founded,” and the facility was rated “unsatisfactory.” State inspectors found a very thin dog named Molly who had “green matter in both eyes and was coughing.” Inspectors instructed the licensee to have the dog evaluated by a veterinarian by the end of the following day. Inspectors also found that most of the dogs had frozen water. Historical [weather data](#) shows the temperature in nearby Wichita, Kansas, on the date of the inspection was as low as 18 degrees. Inspectors also rated the kennel unsatisfactory due to excessive piles of feces, “a build up of cob webs, dust and dirt,” an expired veterinary care form, and some areas of disrepair. The kennel was charged a \$200 reinspection fee and was warned that additional civil penalties or remedies may be sought. There were 126 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

State records show that the January 2022 complaint was not the only one they received on the kennel. In 2018 the state investigated a complaint regarding a sick puppy sold by the facility. At that time, the state inspectors could not find any sick or underweight puppies on the property, but they did note a housekeeping issue. However, there have been several complaints online about sick puppies sold by the kennel; a [Facebook group](#) has been created by some of the buyers, [who claimed](#) they received sick puppies. Buyer complaints go back to at least 2009, when one buyer created [a website](#) to share her story about issues with a puppy she allegedly purchased from Nightshade Border Collies.

The breeders have [a website](#) where they advertise AKC registerable puppies for sale. They also seem to have advertised via PuppyFind (now called Puppies.com), a website the HSUS has linked repeatedly to problem puppy mills. Another website associated with the same property is [Firestorm Border Collies](#). KS #CB001CZN.

**[Beth Johnson, Baxter Springs, Kansas: Excessive feces and grime found at breeding operation with more than 200 dogs on site; dogs were found living in dark conditions without adequate light.](#)** During a May 26, 2021, state inspection, inspectors found five different areas of concern at Beth Johnson’s large-scale breeding operation, which had more than 200 dogs and puppies on site. The issues included rust on both the inside and/or outside areas of the dog kennels; “Inadequate lighting to the indoor kennels in the ‘Whelping’ building”; food that was left open, which could spoil or contaminate it; an “Accumulation of feces and grime” in two buildings; and lack of a contingency plan for emergencies. Leaving dogs living in darkness and in filthy conditions is a significant cause for concern; dark buildings leave dogs with no visual enrichment and can make it hard for puppies to develop normally. Dark conditions also make it difficult for caretakers to check on the dogs or keep their housing clean. A lack of adequate cleaning and sanitation leads to the spread of disease. Records show that when the state went to check on the kennel again in January 2022 and in March 2022, the “premises was not made available” for an inspection, which is a violation; the facility was charged \$400 for two “no contact” fees.

Prior issues noted at the kennel included 2019 violations for eight matted dogs and very rusty housing. In 2018, state inspectors noted cleanliness issues and an expired program of veterinary care. KS #CB00142D.

**[Krista Kirkwood/Kristas Poodles aka Krista’s Quality AKC Toy Poodles and Miniature Poodles, Bluff City, Kansas: Matted dogs, dogs in cramped cages and dogs in stacked crates with no barriers between top and bottom cages found at AKC breeder.](#)** State inspectors who visited Krista’s Poodles at least twice in September 2021 found troubling conditions at the facility of the self-described American Kennel Club breeder. According to [the AKC breeder’s website](#), Kirkwood claims that “none of my poodles live in cages, boxes or outside buildings,” yet the conditions described in state inspection reports suggest otherwise—with dogs apparently kept in wire crates that were stacked on top of one another. Quotes from the Sept. 21 inspection include the following:

- “The floor in the ‘Girls Room’ is buckled and weak because of a water leak.”
- “There [are] some holes in the drywall behind crates in the girls room that need to be patched. Dogs [do not] have complete access to these except when being let out of crates.”
- “There needs to be a divider between top and bottom crates if going to stack them.”
- “There is a build up of grime on the food bowls and crates. All crates and rooms where dogs are kept need to be cleaned and sanitized at least every 2 weeks.”
- “The dogs need to have 6 inches [of cage space] above heads in normal standing positions.”
- “Timmy and Roie need to be in a bigger kennel as they each require 1 SQ Ft of floor space and they are in a 18X20 crate.”

In addition, numerous sanitation and housekeeping issues were found. Some of them included:

- “The bedding inside the crates are full of dirt and need to be cleaned/changed on more of a regular basis.”
- “The floor in the kitchen has feces and dried and wet urine spots.”
- “The dining room area has feces on the floor and has plastic over it. The dogs from the girls room is planning to get moved here. The feces needs to be cleaned up before moving dogs.”
- “The[re] is a build up of grime, dirt, and hair along the baseboards, edges and corners of rooms, and between crates in all rooms and hallways.”
- “There is a large amount of build up of dust/dirt on the walls, baseboards, window seals[,] floors, and crates in all the rooms.”

In addition, several dogs were found to be very matted on their ears, bellies and feet. The inspector seemed concerned that there were not enough employees to take care of all the dogs, indicating that when the owner is sick, there is no one else to take care of the dogs. There were 60 dogs on the property at the time of the Sept. 21, 2021, visit.

Later that same month, the same inspector arrived for a recheck. The inspector wrote that several of the issues had been fixed and that the dogs who had been matted had been shaved and groomed. However, when an inspector arrived again to perform a “status check” in January 2022, he noted that the breeder claimed to be sick and refused to allow him to inspect the kennel, and also declined to provide another person who could accompany the inspector through the kennel, according to state records. The inspector then asked for an update on the number of dogs, and the breeder said there were now 57 dogs because three had died.

Inspectors tried again in March 2022 to access the kennel and were also unable to do so, leading the HSUS to have grave concerns about the welfare of the dogs. KS #CB001N27.

**Mary Moore/D and M Kennel, Uniontown, Kansas: Investigated for “major roach infestation and mice issue, strong feces and urine smell and dead puppies”; state inspector claimed the complaint was unfounded even though they witnessed a dog carrying a dead puppy during their visit, and the breeder admitted to tossing dead puppies into a field.** During an October 2021 inspection of a complaint, state inspectors rated the complaint “unfounded,” even though they witnessed a dead puppy on the property, and the breeder admitted to having multiple puppies die of various causes. According to the state report, inspectors saw a dead puppy being carried by an adult dog on the property, and the breeder admitted to tossing dead puppies into a field that morning because she was “in a hurry.” Shockingly, state inspectors failed to cite the kennel for a single violation that day.

According to the Oct. 7, 2021, state inspection report, “Inspector Lancaster responded to Kansas and USDA licensed facility D and M Kennels on 10-7-21 to investigate complaint # 14G1118N-0KD regarding a major roach infestation and mice issue, strong feces and urine smell and dead puppies, some flesh and blood within some cages.”

According to the state’s inspection report, which was marked “Satisfactory”:

“I arrived along with two deputies from the Bourbon County Sheriff’s office. I contacted the owner, Mary Moore, explained the complaint and she agreed to show us the property. She stated that approximately 6 weeks to 2 months ago, she had an issue with some puppies dying from different litters after they got sick at about 5-6 weeks old. She worked with her veterinarian, Dr. Gorman in Ft. Scott, autopsy was completed and it was determined it was a disease issue of Parvo that killed the puppies. She stated that she worked with her vet, completed numerous deep cleaning of the two affected pens and a period of time not using the pens and had not had any issues since. She stated that she is working with a Pest Control company that has been to the property three times over the past couple weeks to help with any issue of roaches and will

continue to work with them for the next three months to ensure any potential issues are remedied. She stated that she previously had an issue with mice, but was able to use traps and has not had any issues for about one month.”

“While walking toward her buildings housing the dogs, I observed one of her personal pets holding what appeared to be a deceased newborn puppy, brown and black in color, in its mouth. I could not get the canine to stop before it ran into a large field with tall grass. One of the sheriff’s deputies tried to relocate the puppy, but he was not able to find it. I asked Mary about the deceased puppy and she said that one of her breeding Yorkie’s just had a litter this morning that she saw when she went out to the building. She said that she found two deceased puppies in the pen that had been killed by the mother dog. She said that she typically buries any deceased animals, but was in a hurry and just tossed them into the field. I went into building #4, where the mother dog was housed and observed one puppy still inside the pen that was still alive along with the mother dog. The mother dog, later identified as ‘Jennie Lowe’ a brown and black female Yorkie with microchip numbers ending in 17648930 had arrived to the facility in 2015, had three litters with the most recent previously in 2020 and had not had any issues with her. Mary stated that she will be working with local shelters on rehoming the dog and not using it for breeding any more.”

“While at the facility, I did not observe any blood, feces accumulation, cleaning issues or any areas of vermin or insect infestation. She said that she had recently replaced all of the dehumidifiers in the buildings and I did not observe a strong odor of feces or urine. All of the other adult dogs and puppies did not show any obvious signs of injury or illness.”

The inspector marked the complaint “unfounded” despite the breeder admitting to having dead puppies on the property and not properly disposing of them—nor had she apparently contacted her veterinarian about looking into the cause of their deaths. There were 189 adult dogs and 49 puppies on the property at the time.

USDA is also charged with inspecting the kennel, but when inspectors visited D and M Kennel in November 2021, they documented several violations as “teachable moments” rather than putting them on the public inspection report, a practice the HSUS believes is highly misleading, if not deceptive. At press time, USDA stated it was planning to stop using “teachable moments,” but had not provided a specific timeline for ending them.

According to USDA’s November 2021 “teachable moment” report, the inspector found issues with record-keeping, housing and cleaning that they did not document on the inspection report. USDA’s failure to record three violations on the inspection report means that pet stores and other buyers who do business with this breeder may not have a fully transparent record of what was found. KS #CB00098Q. USDA #48-A-1153.

**Samuel and Summer Roman/Tree of Life Kennels, aka Arise Up, LLC, (formerly Doggy Tyme Kennel), Conway Springs, Kansas: Puppies found “walking on urine and feces”; puppy housing in poor repair; dogs potentially exposed to septic wastes; issues have been recurring since 2015 (repeat offender).** During an August 2021 state inspection, several problems were found at Tree of Life Kennels, and most of them were issues that have been a problem in past years as well. The inspection report noted, “The pens in the sheltered building need [to be] cleaned more often than every other day to prevent adult dogs and puppies from walking on urine and feces.” The inspection report also indicated that puppy housing was in poor repair, with areas that were not sealed to protect the puppies from moisture. In addition, “The water drains into a septic tank that is full and needs [to be] pumped to allow proper drainage of waste material from the sheltered building.” Based on that statement, it appears that septic wastes may have been overflowing and mixing with standing water in the dogs’ pens. The inspection report noted, “There are pens in the dirt runs that need [to be] filled and leveled to prevent water from accumulating in the pen and to allow adequate drainage.”

Photos taken by an HSUS investigator in March 2022 show some outdoor dog enclosures that appeared to be in very poor condition. Some appeared to be constructed from random debris such as pieces of siding.

The issues were of high concern because the facility has had similar issues in the past. Tree of Life Kennels appeared in our 2021 report as well, after the state repeatedly threatened it with legal action for operating on lapsed licenses, as well as for repeated sanitary and housing issues.

Issues we noted in our prior report included a December 2020 inspection in which inspectors found some dogs in “surfaces and pens that are not satisfactory for use,” as well as issues with dogs exposed to cold and wet conditions without adequate shelter, and concerns about a lack of cleanliness. Some dogs were found in a dirt run pen with only one dog igloo that wasn’t large enough to fit both of the dogs for shelter. Some of the other dogs were in pens without adequate drainage or bedding to protect them from wet or cold temperatures. Historical weather data shows that temperatures in that part of the state that December were often in the 30s and sometimes below freezing.

Local residents have reported concerns about Samuel and Summer Roman’s operation for many years. It was previously licensed as Doggy Tyme Kennel and had dropped its license more than once, only to be found selling puppies again with the same poor conditions. In early 2020, the breeder was again required to obtain a new license after a new complaint was filed. At that time, the operation had about 80 dogs and had clearly been doing business for some time without the required license and oversight. The breeder told the inspector that they had “not been able to get a vet out [to the property] that will work with them.” The Romans were told at that time they had until a specific date to “have [a] license and fees turned into [the] office to prevent any other legal actions at this point.”

Similar violations have repeated off and on at the kennel, which has changed its name and location, since at least 2015. In 2017, local residents complained after dogs were seen in standing water. A state inspector who visited on April 6, 2017, noted that approximately 30% of the pens had holes in them with standing water, and there were gaps in the pens that were large enough for some of the dogs to stick their entire heads through. And in January 2016, a state inspector found the couple was operating without a current license. The inspection found many similar problems at the kennel: a Boston terrier was found with a prolapse that had not been treated by a veterinarian; dogs were outside in the cold with no statement from a veterinarian indicating that they were acclimated to the harsh weather; and the outside dog runs were found to have a buildup of feces covering at least 70% of the area, “making it difficult for dogs to walk around without stepping in feces”; among other problems. In addition, some dogs were kept on chains and others were outside without adequate shelter. Issues with waste disposal and unsafe and dirty conditions were also noted repeatedly over the years and are too numerous to list here. **KS #CB001ZCB. REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Dorothy Stewart/Stewart Ranch, Chapman, Kansas and Dorothy’s Petshop, Junction City, Kansas: Bad odors and unsanitary conditions found at pet store owned by problem breeder who was previously found with underweight dogs and puppies (repeat offender).** In August and September of 2021, state inspectors found poor conditions at a pet store operated by Dorothy Stewart, who also appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for problems found at her breeding operation. On Sept. 17, 2021, the state performed a reinspection after issues had been found the previous month. Issues found at one or both inspections included puppies in pens that needed repair, poor ventilation and dirty conditions. The inspector wrote: “The air movement is not adequate and the odor in the building needs more air movements to prevent unpleasant odors in the building. Corrected on reinspection with more fans and air movement and more air fresheners.” It seems insufficient for a facility to correct a ventilation problem by covering up odors with air fresheners, but the inspector seemed to think the solution was adequate. The inspector also found dirty conditions and noted,

“Deep cleaning of the entire inside building needs to take place to eliminate odors and clean all walls and surfaces and disinfect to have non negative odors in the facility.”

An inspector returned again in November 2021, after receiving a complaint about some of the puppies being in cages that were too small. The inspector claimed that complaint was unfounded after the store owner said that the puppies were not kept in the small cages all the time. The inspector wrote, “The complaint was for overcrowding of three dogs in the facility on October 22, 2021. Inspector Olson measured the kennels the dogs are put into while cleaning the primary floor space housing the dogs. The wire kennels are adequate to put the dogs into while the primary floor space is being cleaned twice a day but the wire kennels are too small to keep the dogs in as [their] primary housing.”

The issues at the Junction City pet store were concerning because Stewart has a history of other violations at her breeding operation in nearby Chapman, Kansas, and the puppies in the pet store likely came from her own breeding operation. As we noted in a prior report, state inspectors repeatedly found underweight dogs and dirty conditions at Stewart’s breeding facility. Serious animal care violations were found at Stewart Ranch for several years in a row. For example, five state inspections between June 2018 and February 2019 uncovered 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). There were at least three other violations for underweight or ill puppies in 2017. The facility failed an August 2017 inspection for a long list of problems, including two Great Dane puppies who had “ribs [and] tailbones prominent [with] big bellies,” which could be a symptom of malnutrition or parasites. Underweight and injured animals were also found during at least two state inspections in 2016.

KS #CB000J04 (commercial breeder license); CB000J6R (pet store license). **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## MICHIGAN

**Lori Shavalier/Up North Trading Co, Fremont, Michigan: Inspectors found unsanitary conditions and odors; 41 puppies were outside without adequate shelter from the elements.** During a July 2021 USDA Inspection, several problems were found at Lori Shavalier’s breeding facility that could impact the health and comfort of the animals. The inspection report noted, “There are a total of 41 puppies that range from 12-16 weeks of age that do not have appropriate shelter in their outside enclosures. 3 enclosures housing 5 Goldendoodles in each, 6 pomsky’s housed with a single poodle, 5 bernese mountain dogs housed with 1 Australian shepherd and 1 [Alaskan] aleekai, 5 Golden doodles housed with 2 poodles and 1 golden retriever, 4 aussie doodles housed with 1 pomsky. There are not enough, or the shelters provided are too small to house the number of puppies contained in the enclosure. [...] There are 7 outside enclosures with doghouses that do not have a wind and rain break at the entrance.” In addition, some enclosures were in disrepair, and there were some sanitation issues: “3 Maltipoo puppies were weaned [and] put in an enclosure with trays below to catch excreta and food waste. These trays have not been cleaned out since the last litter of puppies were placed in the enclosure. The trays are full, wet, growing mold, and are odorous.”

There were 31 adult dogs and 138 puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. USDA #34-B-0238.

## MISSISSIPPI

**Annette Eccles/Down Home Dachshunds, McNeill and Carriere, Mississippi: Received official warning from USDA for a nursing mother dog who had no water; “severely rusted and broken” parts of enclosures were a danger to dogs; unsafe conditions and signs of rodent infestation.** During a July 2021 USDA inspection, inspectors found several significant issues at Annette Eccles’s breeding operation, leading USDA to issue an official warning notice for one of the issues. The issue that prompted USDA’s official warning was described as follows: “An adult female white and tan dachshund named Chloe (#983000320260225) was in an enclosure with her nursing puppies. The enclosure contained a water bowl that was empty. When Chloe was placed outside in an exercise pen and provided with water, she drank eagerly for 30 seconds, returning to the bowl later to drink more later on.” Failing to provide adequate water to nursing mother dogs can be a significant danger to the health of both the mother dog and her puppies. The facility had more than 85 dogs and puppies at the time of the July inspection.

Other violations noted at the July visit included housing deficiencies, with “rust, sharp points, and unsealed wood in some of the enclosures.” There were crates and other structures that were rusty and flaking, and some portions of the enclosures “were severely rusted and broken, exposing sharp edges that could injure the dogs.” Some areas were constructed of unpainted wood that had apparently become damp and had been “discolored with green moss.” At least one puppy was found in an enclosure “with a partially uncovered wire floor,” and the puppy’s feet were “observed repeatedly passing through the openings in the wire floor of the cage.” In addition, there were signs of rodents and rodent feces in the area where dog food was stored, and “one live rodent was observed in an animal housing area.”

USDA inspectors returned to the facility again in December 2021, federal records show. At that time, some of the issues were no longer present, but inspectors still found issues with rusty, unsealed and broken parts of the housing facilities. USDA #65-A-0535.

## MISSOURI

**Duane Barnett/Barnett’s Incredible Puppies, Rocky Comfort, Missouri: Questions about seven dogs who died or were euthanized, most of them without a full explanation; breeder received a fine and two official letters of warning from the state for repeat violations.** Between May 2021 and February 2022, state inspectors had questions about at least seven different dogs at Barnett’s Incredible Puppies who died, with six noted to be under unexplained circumstances. In May 2021, state inspectors noted that “since the previous inspection at least five dogs have died or were euthanized” and the licensee was unable to provide full information on when the dogs died for at least four of the animals. The inspector also noted that there were “twelve unidentified weaned puppies being housed in outdoor and sheltered enclosures,” and there was another violation for poor recordkeeping on dogs, according to state records.

On Oct. 14, 2021, Barnett received an official letter of warning from the Missouri Department of Agriculture for repeated violations of the state’s Animal Care Facilities Act. The repeated violations were for avoiding seven inspections, this time between July 2021 and October 2021, and a failure to properly identify puppies (which could make it impossible to match them with veterinary records and other important documents). The October 2021 inspection also revealed that Barnett had no proof of veterinary examinations for dogs.

Even after being warned about the issues in 2021, Barnett accumulated more violations in 2022. He was cited for six attempted inspections in a row; the last attempted inspection the HSUS was made aware of before this report was published was on Feb. 10, 2022. When state inspectors did gain access on Feb. 18, 2022, they noted four more violations for issues such as a missing program of veterinary care, and they found that two more dogs had died: “since the previous inspection, two dogs have died at the facility and the [licensee] was not able to provide the date of death.”

On Feb. 18, 2022, the state gave Barnett another official letter of warning for a repeated violation, and on March 1, 2022, the Missouri Department of Agriculture notified Barnett he was being charged \$100 for failing two consecutive reinspections. MO #AC000EML.

**[Kevin Beauchamp/Beauchamp’s Puppy World, Lebanon, Missouri: Six dogs were found with eye disorders; kennel has had recurring veterinary issues for many years and has been suspended and fined by USDA in the past; owner is the president of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association \(repeat offender\)](#)**. Kevin Beauchamp’s Puppy World has had recurring issues with poor veterinary care of animals going back to at least 2014, and state inspectors continued to find veterinary concerns at the property as recently as late 2021, records show.

During an October 2021 visit, state inspectors noted concerns about six dogs who had had eye issues. The report stated, “the attending veterinarian conducted the annual hands on examinations for the adult dogs at the kennel on September 6, 2021. She made notes for eye abnormalities that were present for six of the dogs. During today’s inspection Dr. Cook noted corneal cloudiness, corneal pigmentation, mucopurulent ocular discharge, and/or prolapse of the third eyelid gland in several dogs.” The report added, “Dr. Cook observed [a] Lhasa Apso [to] have greenish mucopurulent eye discharge in her right eye in addition to the “cherry eye” noted on her annual exam. Dr. Cook observed [an] English Bulldog [to] have a dull dry appearance to her left cornea with pigmentation and mucopurulent discharge.” Prior to the October 2021 inspection, inspectors had tried to visit in September 2021, but no one had given them access to the kennel. The “no access” issue has been a recurring problem at the facility, and one for which Beauchamp has been cited and fined in the past by USDA.

Beauchamp’s Puppy World has been listed in four of our previous Horrible Hundred reports for almost identical recurring issues. Problems we noted in our prior reports included a state inspection from October 2020, when inspectors found a white male poodle who “was observed limping and holding up its foreleg.” According to the inspector, “Upon closer observation the middle toe appeared to be missing a toenail and had red and irritated skin where the toenail had been.” In addition, some parts of the facility were found to be in poor repair.

The issues are especially significant because the owner of the operation, Kevin Beauchamp, has presided for many years as president of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association, an organization that lobbies for weaker oversight of pet breeders. MPBA hosts seminars for breeders across the state, and it also [has a representative](#) at the state capital who regularly presses lawmakers to weaken the state’s animal protection laws.

Some of the prior issues found at Beauchamp’s Puppy World included 2019 state violations for two dogs with obvious eye issues, and “an accumulation of debris and a build-up of grime.” In April 2017, the [USDA fined Beauchamp \\$6,000](#) for a long list of violations at his kennel, and for repeatedly failing to let inspectors in; USDA suspended his license for seven days. The penalties were clearly not a strong enough deterrent.

In February 2016, the USDA filed an official complaint (Docket #16-0062) against Beauchamp for a variety of issues, including repeatedly failing to provide proper care for sick or injured dogs, and repeatedly failing to give inspectors access to the kennel, among many other issues. Yet even after the complaint was filed, Beauchamp continued to violate humane care rules. In May 2016, USDA found multiple dogs in need of veterinary care at Beauchamp’s kennel. The ailing dogs included two boxers who were very thin with their ribs easily visible, a bulldog with a reddened eye that had a “mass-like lesion” beside it, and a Lhasa apso who seemed lethargic and

who appeared to have such severe dental disease that it might be affecting her ability to eat normally. In addition to the USDA violations, Beauchamp also had state violations in 2017.

After the fine in 2017, Beauchamp's Class B license was cancelled, apparently voluntarily, but individuals on the same property with the same last name (Jerry and Linda Beauchamp) continue to operate a Class A license with USDA, which is still active in 2022. A review of the USDA's online inspection reports on May 2, 2022, indicated USDA has not cited the Beauchamps for any violations in recent years, despite repeated issues found by the state at the same address.

Transport records from 2021 show that the Beauchamp facility, under the name Linda Beauchamp at the same address, sold puppies to at least one Petland store in Kansas in 2021, and the operation is actively licensed to sell through pet stores and websites across the country. The current USDA license is at the same property under the names Linda and Jerry Beauchamp with the same business name, Beauchamp's Puppy World. MO #AC000EXZ. Former USDA #43-B-3707; current USDA #43-A-1181. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**John and Lizzie Bontrager, Clark, Missouri: Repeated issue with limping dogs who had not been seen by a veterinarian for their conditions; dangerous housing; some dogs did not have water or protection from the weather.** During a September 2021 USDA inspection, inspectors found a dog at John and Lizzie Bontrager's facility who was in need of veterinary attention. According to the inspection report, the dog, a golden retriever, "occasionally was limping on her right front leg. When questioned, the licensee stated the dog was born with missing toes. When asked for documentation the licensee stated he didn't have any, but dog was that way when the attending vet did their hands on exam back in April. When looking at the dog more closely, she was walking on her wrist versus on her pads. [...] When the dog used her right front leg the pads of the foot and the dewclaw pad were in contact with the ground." In addition, inspectors noted that the dog did not have any ID on her, making it difficult to match her to any records. They also found that some of the dogs at the facility did not have adequate protection from the weather, and there were sharp wires protruding near some of the animals that could injure them.

The situation had not improved during a January 2022 USDA inspection, when USDA found several very similar violations. A female golden retriever was limping, and another dog was heavily matted, an indication of poor care and grooming. The inspector wrote, "A female Golden Retriever ID 110 was limping on her left front foot. The limping front leg could be the result of an injury or other medical condition. The licensee must consult a veterinarian and keep medical records about this dogs' condition. Golden Retriever ID 103 was heavily matted on her rear end. Hair mats can cause discomfort and skin irritation for the dogs." For some reason, the issue with the matted dog was not listed as a repeat violation. In addition, the inspector noted the same issue with sharp wire points that could injure the dogs. The inspector also found that some of the dogs had no water available. MO #AC002WCU. Former USDA #43-A-6483.

**Daniel R. Borntreger/Monroe County Puppies, Madison, Missouri: Puppies from breeder who sold to four Petland stores and many other pet stores were found in an area "completely covered with fecal matter"; facility had excessive wastes and flies; one dog had a noticeable head wound that had not been properly treated for about a week.** Daniel Borntreger was found with violations at both a state and a USDA inspection in 2021. A USDA inspector visited the facility on July 6, 2021, and found a dog with an obvious head wound who had not received proper care. The inspector wrote: "A Golden Retriever #58, has an area of hair loss on the top of her head. The area of hair loss was most of the top part of the head. The middle of the hair loss region, the skin was pink and red, appeared slightly swollen and cracked with a yellow substance in the cracks. The edges of the hair loss had a brownish/black dried matter. The licensee stated they thought this dog may have got a cut on the

top of her head from another dog in next enclosure thru the chain link fence about a week ago, but had not treated the dog.”

During the same July 6 inspection, the inspector noted that, “Inside the facility and the outdoor area has an abundance of flies. There were not methods of pest control in place at the time of the inspection.” On the same visit, USDA found additional issues that it did not add to the inspection report. USDA put these issues in a “teachable moment” document, which is kept separate from the official inspection report, even though they were clearly violations. These issues included some dogs who had no identification on them, which could make it very hard to match correct medical or registration records to the dogs, and some dogs who had been added to the kennel without adequate records to show where they came from. There were 91 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the July inspection.

Another issue was noted earlier in the year by state inspectors. During a May 2021 state inspection, state officials found puppies in an unsanitary enclosure. The report stated: “The outdoor portion of the sheltered enclosure that housed nine golden retriever mix puppies, contained a fecal accumulation. The gravel was completely covered with fecal matter.” HSUS researchers reviewed shipping documents proving that Borntreger sold puppies to at least four different Petland stores in 2021 (Shavano Park, Texas; Katy, Texas; Frisco, Texas; Orlando, Florida), as well as pet stores in New York, Nevada, Utah and other states. MO #AC0031YU. USDA #43-A-6543.

**[Dawn Boyles/ATBAY Kennels, Chula, Missouri: State inspectors found about 22 violations at unlicensed breeder who sold to massive pet store broker, Choice Puppies; issues included puppies who had bloody stool, nasal discharge or coughs, dogs with filthy water or no water, and some dogs without enough space.](#)** Missouri state inspectors found dozens of violations at a crowded and dirty puppy breeding operation called ATBAY Kennels in 2021. What’s more, the facility was not even licensed, but the owner admitted it had sold puppies to at least one massive pet store broker, Choice Puppies, apparently in violation of both state and federal rules.

Issues documented at a prelicense inspection in September 2021, which the breeder failed, included 10 puppies housed near a “pile of fresh bloody stool,” a coughing puppy, a puppy with “significant green nasal discharge,” and at least three enclosures with “an excessive accumulation of feces.” Many other violations were found that are too numerous to list here, but included dogs who didn’t have adequate shelter, dogs without adequate protection from the weather, unsafe and unsanitary conditions, a lack of adequate veterinary records, and the sale of at least four puppies to a pet store broker. According to the inspection report: “Ms. Boyles stated that she sold four Labradoodle puppies to Choice [Puppies] February 27, 2021.” It’s very likely that she sold many other puppies to brokers, since the licensee was unable to provide adequate records of sales.

When state inspectors returned again in November 2021, the breeder failed the inspection again. The report from that inspection notes that “multiple shelter structures in the facility were still not large enough to house all occupants of the enclosure. The shelter structures do not allow each animal in the shelter structure to sit, stand and lie in a normal manner, and to turn about freely (repeat).” In addition, “multiple water receptacles in the facility contained straw, dirt, and other contaminants (repeat)” and “multiple enclosure[s] were observed to have an accumulation of excessive feces. (repeat).” Also, “at least five enclosures of dogs and puppies were lacking water.”

The facility was inspected yet again on Dec. 7, 2021, and this time it passed its state inspection and obtained a state license. The HSUS has serious concerns about the facility based on the many issues found and the fact that it was apparently already selling puppies to pet store brokers while unlicensed and while failing to meet even basic standards. MO #AC0037HY. USDA #43-T-0253.

[Maureen Butler/PugPekinPoo-Tzu, West Plains, Missouri: Breeder admitted at least three dogs died “due to fighting”; other dogs appeared sick, had patches of hair loss or wounds; state inspectors found dozens of violations for poor animal care and dirty and cramped conditions \(repeat offender\).](#) State inspectors found dozens of violations at PugPekinPoo-Tzu kennel during four different visits in 2021, including inspections in May, August and November 2021. The violations are far too numerous to list here. The most problematic inspection was the one in August 2021, during which 19 different violations were found. Some of the issues included “at least one dog,” named Olive, who “was noted to have recent wounds,” and the breeder admitted that “at least three other dogs had died due to fighting.” Inspectors also noted dirty, cluttered, decrepit, dangerous and cramped conditions, with many dogs in cages that were too small.

In addition, the inspector found “an unidentified female cat was housed in a primary enclosure also housing five puppies. The cat was noted to bite at least one puppy when it was harassed.” Some of the other violations found at the August 2021 inspection included a miniature poodle with “patches of hair loss on his head, chest, belly, and legs; additionally, crusty black matter was observed in and around his ears.” The inspector also found “a female Shiba Inu [was] noted to have patches of hair loss on her chest and throat”; “a black and white Shih Tzu [was] noted to have hair loss along his back and flanks, mucopurulent eye discharge, and crusty black matter in and around his ears”; “a male [miniature] Poodle [was] observed with mucopurulent discharge in his eyes”; “a Yorkie-poo puppy was noted to have bilateral eye discharge” and a poor body condition; and the aforementioned dog named Olive “was noted to have large areas of hair loss and several wounds on her back and flanks.” The inspector noted, “At least one wound was noted to be infected.”

When state inspectors returned in October 2021, no one appeared to let them in, which is a violation because inspectors have a duty to return and check on violations for the welfare of the animals. State inspectors returned in November 2021 and found decrepit conditions and a repeated issue with dogs who didn’t have enough space. In December 2021, the breeder was fined a mere \$100 by the Missouri Department of Agriculture for failing two consecutive inspections.

Maureen Butler also has a USDA license, but shockingly, USDA inspectors have apparently failed to notice or document many issues, and as of May 2, 2022, it appears USDA has not visited the kennel at all since May 2021. In April 2021, USDA gave the facility a violation for failing to make the property available for inspection, a recurring issue at the kennel.

Butler has appeared two other times in past Horrible Hundred reports. As we noted in our 2017 report, Butler failed to give access to federal (USDA) inspectors on at least five different dates, a significant waste of federal time and resources. For several of the attempted inspections, a “family member” was reported to be home but stated that the licensee was “away” or “out of town.”

Additional issues found in earlier years included missing or outdated veterinary records in 2016, and in February 2015, an inspector found 7- and 8-week-old puppies “huddled together and shivering” without adequate protection from the winter cold, and not enough bedding provided in outdoor enclosures when the temperature was about 20 degrees and had recently been even lower. In September 2014, a USDA inspector found an underweight Chihuahua whose “backbone and hips were very prominent” at the kennel; in March 2014, an inspector found another Chihuahua who was unable to bear weight on one of her back legs. A March 2014 inspection found two other dogs with abdominal masses that had not been fully treated by a veterinarian. In 2013, Missouri state inspectors found numerous issues at the facility, including dogs in below-freezing temperatures with water that was “frozen solid” and without adequate protection from the weather, and short-haired Chihuahuas were “observed to be shivering” in the 28-degree weather, according to the inspector (Dec. 9, 2013). During the same state inspection, “a majority of the animals were observed to have feces on their feet and legs because they were unable to get away” from the accumulated feces in their enclosures. MO #AC0002EG. USDA #43-A-5702. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Rachel, Virgel and Vickie Davis/Davis Kennel, Seymour, Missouri: Received official warning notices from both state and USDA; repeated issues with matted dogs; puppies in cramped cages; one dog had no water and drank excessively when given water \(repeat offender\).](#) In February 2022, USDA gave Davis an official letter of warning for failing to provide water to a dog. The issue stemmed from a December 2021 USDA inspection that found a “male Standard Poodle had two empty water receptacles in his enclosure. When asked by the inspector, the licensee provided the dog with water. The dog was observed immediately accessing the water from the filled receptacle and excessively drinking for approximately 1 min and 29 seconds.” In addition to the extremely thirsty poodle, USDA inspectors also found a female Pomeranian with signs of advanced dental disease, and they noticed that a number of dogs and puppies were kept in small cages that, in some cases, gave them little more than half of the minimum required space. There were more than 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the December inspection.

State inspectors also gave Davis Kennel an official warning letter in 2021 for a repeat violation for matted dogs. The licensee was also unable to provide state inspectors with required veterinary documents, records show.

Davis Kennel also appeared in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report after Missouri state inspectors found violations during at least nine inspections between March 2013 and July 2014. Some of the most egregious violations occurred in January 2014, when a state inspector found a Maltese dead in an outside doghouse and noted that the body was frozen. The inspection report noted that “the houses in the pen did not contain enough bedding to allow the inhabitants to nestle in” on a day when the temperature was about 33 degrees (and had probably been much lower overnight). The report also noted that the Maltese’s water had frozen and “there was consistently frozen water or no water provided at all” throughout the outside runs at the facility, and “the ice in the water receptacles frequently had numerous deep indentations in them consistent with the dogs licking in repeated attempts to consume water.” During the same inspection, two puppies were found shivering in a cold barn without adequate bedding to protect them from the cold. It was also noted that the breeder had been directed to seek veterinary care for a Norwich terrier with a swollen mammary gland in August 2013, but as of January 2014, she had not done so. The dog was eventually “disposed of” by July 22, 2014, with no indication in state records whether the dog was ever treated for the disorder or if she survived.

Missouri state inspectors also found in about 2014 that the kennel was operating as a dealer without the required dealer’s license, and it was found to be obtaining animals from questionable and/or undocumented sources on several occasions. The kennel had been previously licensed by USDA in 2013 as a dealer, before temporarily dropping its USDA license in October 2013 and then renewing it in November 2013, so clearly the operators were aware of the rules. But Missouri state inspectors once again found the kennel selling puppies from undocumented sources in July 2014. The July 2014 inspection also noted a Pomeranian in need of medical care, and an incomplete program of veterinary care. MO# AC00010D. USDA #43-B-3732. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Kandy Hale/Kandy’s Puppies, Milan, Missouri: State found dogs in cages that were too small and issued an official warning for poor veterinary care and dogs escaping cages at massive facility with more than 700 dogs.](#) Between November 2021 and March 2022, state inspectors visited Kandy’s Puppies at least three times. At every visit, they found multiple violations and a massive number of dogs. During a March 2022 inspection, there were 776 dogs and puppies on the property, according to a state inspection report.

Six issues were found during a November 2021 state inspection alone, including “several enclosures” that did not have enough space inside for the dogs to “sit, stand and lie in a normal manner.” Inspectors also found a dog who had jumped into another enclosure, and some dogs who didn’t have the required minimum space. Also, the licensee acquired some dogs from undocumented sources, and some of the dogs did not have rabies

vaccinations. The licensee was also found to have at least two male dogs whom their veterinarian had told them were unsound for breeding, presumably due to medical issues, yet the dogs were found in enclosures with intact females, indicating the owner was still using them for breeding. Using dogs who are in poor health for breeding can lead to inherited conditions in the puppies and/or can weaken the health of the sire or dam.

State inspectors returned in February 2022 and noted four more violations; the licensee was then given an official letter of warning for the violations that were repeats. When the state inspectors returned in March 2022, they found the breeder was still not in full compliance; some dogs did not have enough space, and “multiple buildings” did not have functioning smoke detectors. The latter is a significant concern on such a large property; deadly kennel fires are not uncommon. The report listed six different buildings that had no working smoke detectors, indicating a massive number of animals not being properly monitored for their safety.

According to news reports, Kandy [Hale may have been linked](#) to a problem breeder/pet store owner named Vincent LoSacco, who had 267 animal cruelty charges filed against him in 2016. LoSacco had a breeding facility in Missouri that supplied puppies for his own pet stores in New Jersey. He settled with the state of New Jersey in 2017 after selling sick and dying puppies, and agreed to shut down his pet stores and pay [\\$327,000 in penalties and restitution](#). Kandy Hale was reportedly the registered agent for the Missouri operation, according to [news sources](#).

Records show the operation sold a puppy to at least one pet store in Las Vegas in 2021. The facility has also sold at a flea market known as Canton Trade Days in Texas. The business is also licensed with USDA as Kandy’s Puppies LLC. Unlike the state, USDA has not cited the property for any recent violations. MO #AC002CNA. USDA # 43-A-6227.

**[Beverly Hargis/Hargis’ Sunshine Kennel, Hallsville, Missouri: USDA found unsanitary conditions and jagged edges that could injure the animals at facility where violations have recurred for more than a decade \(repeat offender\)](#)**. During a December 2021 USDA inspection, multiple issues were found at Hargis’ Sunshine Kennel, including very dirty and unsanitary conditions. According to the USDA report, “There were multiple surfaces at the facility with a build-up of dirt, hair and/or grime.” For example, there was “a large accumulation of hair located directly in front of at least four enclosures with adult dogs. Some of the hair appeared to be entwined within the coated wire of enclosure walls and the horizontal wooden support structure connected at the front of the enclosures.” In addition, an adult female dachshund was found with poor dental health, including receding gums and “a heavy amount of brown/tan sponge-like material” covering the lower back teeth. The licensee also had dogs missing from or added to the kennel with no record of where they came from or went, and there were dangerous surfaces in the kennel, “which had jagged edges and/or sharp points” that could injure dogs and puppies.

The issues are a concern because of a history of prior violations at the kennel. Hargis’ Sunshine Kennel has appeared in three prior Horrible Hundred reports. Some of the issues noted in our 2016 report included a January 2016 inspection during which USDA inspectors found most of the outside enclosures so filled with feces that it “made it difficult for the animals to avoid walking in it.” The inspectors also found two dogs with such advanced dental disease that one of them had teeth missing and his gums were receded, red and inflamed; the other had his tongue hanging outside of his mouth, which is common in dogs who are missing numerous teeth. The inspector wrote, “These conditions could negatively impact these dogs’ ability to eat normally and their overall well-being.” Hargis’ Sunshine Kennel has been cited for multiple USDA violations in previous years, including numerous dogs who were matted and dirty and in need of medical care, dogs who were limping due to untreated injuries, dogs without adequate protection from the cold, a “strong ammonia odor” and housing and

sanitation problems. In January 2012, Hargis' Sunshine Kennel received an official warning for violation of federal regulations from USDA. Nevertheless, serious issues continued.

In addition to being licensed to sell to pet stores, the kennel has also sold puppies online via PuppyFind.com (which is now Puppies.com), an online seller that the HSUS has frequently linked to puppy mills. MO# AC000Q2J. USDA # 43-A-0209. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Kevin Harrison/Kevin's Hilltop Kennels, Marceline, Missouri: Received official USDA warning for lack of adequate veterinary care after inspectors found a "very thin" Yorkie with palpable ribs who had difficulty breathing, and a Yorkie with a lesion on her eye and a mass on her head; breeder also had 18 state violations in 2022 alone.** Missouri state inspectors found 18 violations at Kevin's Hilltop Kennels between January and April 2022. The violations included two injured dogs, excessive feces and odors, dogs who were locked in cages that were too small and/or that did not have access to the outdoors, dangerous housing, insufficient veterinary records and more. Disturbingly, during a January state inspection, inspectors noticed dogs were kept in darkness in the whelping room, with the lights off and window covered.

Federal inspectors also found a number of problems at the facility. Issues found during a September 2021 USDA inspection included a Yorkshire terrier who "was observed in her enclosure with an unkept haircoat. Upon closer observation it is noted that she has crusty flaky particles on her head and upper back and side area. In addition to the skin issue it was also noted that she was very thin. Her ribs and vertebrae were easily palpable. She was having a difficult time breathing and was observed to be having abdominal type breathing." At another inspection that same month, inspectors found another female Yorkshire terrier with a medical issue. The dog "was observed with her entire right eye covered with a heavily encrusted mat. The eye itself was not visible. The licensee removed the matted hair [from] around the eye. After removing the matted hair the eye appeared cloudy and had a small pinpoint divot-like lesion near the center of the eye. There was also a small acorn-sized raised mass on the side of her head near the left ear. Upon closer observation it was also noted that this dog had very heavy accumulation of a dark brown plaque and tartar build up on her upper back molars. It was hard to distinguish individual teeth on the left or right side. The gums surrounding the affected teeth were reddened and inflamed. The licensee was not aware of this dog's condition nor had he contacted a veterinarian." There were more than 120 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the September inspections.

The operation received an official warning from USDA for the lack of appropriate veterinary care in November 2021. Kevin Harrison also received an official warning from the state in 2020 for a repeat violation. In 2020, some of his state violations included keeping dogs on elevated flooring with no solid resting area, some dogs who didn't have enough space, rusted feeders, and some dogs who were noticeably matted, among other issues. In 2019 he was cited for operating with an expired state license.

Records show Harrison sold many shipments of puppies to The Puppy Boutique in New York in 2021 and early 2022. MO # AC000Q86. USDA #43-A-2530.

**Sandra Kozlowski/Sho-Me Labradors, St. James, Missouri: Breeder was sued by the state and surrendered 83 dogs due to egregious conditions between 2019 and 2020; continued to be found with poor conditions in 2021 and remains licensed in 2022; some large-breed dogs were kept in tiny crates with less than one-quarter the amount of required space (repeat offender).** State inspectors continued to find problematic conditions at Sho-Me Labradors in 2021, despite the breeder's prior agreement in court to refrain from violating the state's Animal Care Facilities Act.

During an August 2021 inspection, state inspectors found large-breed dogs living in tiny crates—an issue the breeder had been warned about in the past. Some of the dogs had less than a quarter of the minimum cage space required by state law. The inspector stated that “at least eight adult intact dogs were provided with interior crates as primary enclosures. The crates provided either 10 sq ft of space or 7.8 sq ft of space, with the intact dogs ranging in size from 25” to 30” in length. Adult intact dogs of those sizes would require between 40 and 54 sq ft respectively.” In addition, the dogs had no unfettered access to the outdoors, which is also required by Missouri’s kennel law, and the exercise yard had weeds more than 3 feet high, indicating that the yard might not be getting frequent use.

Sandra Kozlowski had already been warned about cramped conditions at a previous inspection in April 2021, when state inspectors found seven puppies housed in crates, some of which were too small. The inspector also found at least two puppies missing from the kennel with no proof of what happened to them, and an issue with the licensee not having adequate proof of treatment for recent medical issues for some dogs and puppies. One of these was a dog named Max, who “was observed with a red tissue growth protruding from his right cheek and also a red tissue growth from his left eye.”

Many other issues have been documented at Sho-Me Labradors in prior years. As we noted in our 2021 report, Kozlowski was taken to court by the state’s attorney general in 2019 and had to give up most of her dogs due to egregious conditions, including some injured and emaciated dogs. But Kozlowski was still allowed to keep some dogs and was permitted to obtain a new kennel license in May 2020. As part of a May 2020 consent judgement, a \$5,000 fine was suspended, as long as Kozlowski agreed not to violate regulations for three more years. However, even after obtaining the new license, Kozlowski continued to be found with serious animal care violations throughout 2021. No inspection records from 2022 were available at the time of this report, but Kozlowski was still on the state’s license list as of April 2022.

Kozlowski appeared in three of our prior Horrible Hundred reports due to issues with repeated failure to pass inspections, poor animal care, thin dogs and cramped conditions. We hoped that the kennel was finally shutting down after the state sued the owner for repeatedly failing inspections, but the breeder continued to fail even more inspections.

Issues found at the February 2021 inspection included some dogs who did not have adequate space and a Labrador named Max (the same one referenced again in later inspections) who “was observed to have a red ‘tumor type’ growth on the right side of his face.” According to the inspection report, “The growth appeared to have fresh blood around the edges,” and the breeder also indicated that the dog “had the tumor for quite some time and it had recently gotten worse.” In addition, there were 28 puppies found in the garage, where the licensee had agreed she would no longer house animals, according to the legal consent judgment.

At a September 2020 inspection, some dogs were found living in darkness due to broken lights, part of an enclosure was rusted and not structurally sound, and there was no program of veterinary care available for inspection, among other issues. Issues found at a December 2019 inspection included several dogs in need of veterinary care, housing issues, rusty kennels and enclosures, dirty conditions and much more.

Sho-Me Labradors has been failing inspections since at least 2018. It failed three state prelicense 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. Issues found at a failed inspection in May 2018 included damp and dirty dogs, inadequate space and more. The licensee also repeatedly dodged inspections.

On Oct. 15, 2018, state inspectors who arrived to investigate a complaint found a number of violations, including numerous large dogs who were confined to cramped airline crates in the office, in the basement and even in the garage. They also found two Labrador retrievers who “appeared thin with three to four ribs on each side visible through their hair coats.” MO #AC000GKG. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Wendy Laymon aka Wendy Faith Steffensmeier/Frenchie’s Puppies (formerly A French Bulldog aka Shadow Mountain Kennel), Rogersville, Missouri: [Breeder was given two official warnings for repeated violations in 2021 and 2022; has a 20-plus-year history of recurring problems with poor veterinary care, inadequate housing, sick puppy sales and legal issues \(repeat offender\)](#).** Wendy Laymon received an official letter of warning from the state in 2021, and another in February 2022, for repeatedly failing to provide inspectors with veterinary records on dogs (2021) and for a repeated cleaning violation (2022).

State violations found in early 2022 included operating on an expired license, a very outdated program of veterinary care that had expired in October 2020, and poor conditions. Issues found in October 2021 included having no current hands-on examination records for the dogs—the most recent records were dated more than two years prior (April 2019). This was a repeat violation at a facility where countless veterinary issues have been found in the past. Other issues found by state inspectors in October 2021 included cleaning and records violations, and a “French Bulldog that had long toe nails that were beginning to curve under.”

Laymon has a notorious history stretching back at least two decades. Laymon’s kennel appeared in four prior HSUS reports for a long list of problems related to selling sick puppies, keeping dogs in poor conditions and other issues. As we mentioned in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report, as far back as the late 1990s, Laymon, who sometimes used 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, USDA also levied action against 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, and also held a bogus “rescue” license with the state.

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 meant she was supposed to have only a few 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 prelicense 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 prelicense inspection, the dealer went on to refuse two more attempted inspections, one in August 2018 and one in September 2018. She finally passed a prelicense 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 May 2, 2022, the HSUS could find no indication that anyone by the name of Wendy Laymon or Wendy Layman (an alternate spelling of her name) holds a current USDA license. She also provided an email address that seems to indicate that she may be using the alias “Wendy Faith Steffens” or “Wendy Steffensmeier.” There is a USDA-licensed dealer in Iowa who is licensed under the same last name, but none in Missouri.

Laymon's kennel was cited by Missouri Department of Agriculture officials for numerous violations for a variety of issues going back to at least 2008. Laymon appeared previously in two Horrible Hundred reports and in our 2010 and 2011 reports on Missouri's Dirty Dozen. MO #AC001PHH. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN AN HSUS REPORT.**

**Brian Letsinger/Arrowhead Springs Kennel, Ava, Missouri: USDA found violations for a very thin mother dog whose ribs were prominent and who had not been evaluated or treated by a veterinarian; some dogs did not have adequate shelter from the cold.** During a November 2021 USDA new site inspection of Brian Letsinger's kennel, inspectors found a very thin mother dog named Fancy trying to care for a litter of puppies. According to the inspection report, "a red & white Australian Shepherd female with 7 puppies (approximately 1 week old), is very thin. There was an abdominal tuck and the spine and ribs were easily felt by the inspector." The owner claimed they were feeding the dog, but "there was no consultation with a veterinarian to establish a diagnosis or treatment for this dog." The inspector noted, "Poor body condition can be the result of parasites, inadequate nutrition, or an underlying medical condition. When nursing puppies, a thin female may not be able to produce the needed quality of milk." Inspectors also found several other problems, including some dogs in an outdoor housing area with a shelter that was not big enough to keep all the dogs safe from the elements. In addition, the program of veterinary care was incomplete, without adequate plans for preventing parasites. There were more than 50 dogs and puppies present at the time of the inspection.

On Jan. 20, 2022, USDA gave Letsinger an official warning for the lack of adequate veterinary care. MO #AC0036Y8. USDA #43-A-6339.

**Magdalena McGowan/Orchard Kennel, Cabool, Missouri: State inspectors found dozens of violations and gave breeder two official letters of warning for repeat issues; dogs were found without water and in decrepit cages and with only wet and contaminated bedding in cold weather.** Magdalena McGowan received an official letter of warning from the Missouri Department of Agriculture in February 2022 for a repeat violation. It was her second letter of warning in less than three months. The 2022 warning stemmed from a February inspection in which she was again found keeping puppies in an enclosure that was too small.

State inspectors also gave McGowan a warning in December 2021 after they found two dozen serious issues at Orchard Kennel over the course of multiple visits. The issues mentioned in the December warning included six different repeat violations found in December 2021 alone. They included dogs who had no water or only contaminated water; some dogs who did not have enough space; many dogs and puppies who had only contaminated and wet bedding during cold weather; and one dog who was missing from the facility after the inspector had instructed the breeder to get medical advice for the dog's condition at a prior inspection. It is unknown what happened to that dog or whether he or she survived. Photographs taken that day by state inspectors show puppies stacked in cramped, somewhat dimly lit wire cages that have what appears to be urine-soaked shredded newspaper on the bottom.

Issues noted during a November 2021 state inspection were very similar. Inspectors found a corgi named Quincy who was limping and holding up one leg. They also found dangerous conditions, with stacked cages that were leaning at an angle and "swaying with the animals' motions." In addition, some of the other cages were in dangerous disrepair. English bulldogs were in an enclosure so decrepit that a side wall was "sagging and no longer attached"; other dogs were in enclosures that were inadequate or had broken areas or were badly rusted. There was no clean, dry bedding for the dogs in the cold weather; dogs only had shredded paper that was "wet and contaminated with urine and feces." Several dogs also had no water, and some had only dirty water, and many dogs did not have enough space, according to the state's records. The licensee also failed to make the

facility available to inspectors during at least four state inspection attempts in 2021. There were 126 dogs and puppies on the property at the February 2022 inspection. MO #AC000V1Z.

**Jonas Miller/Country Lane Kennel, Clark, Missouri: USDA inspectors found a beagle with a “baseball size lump,” excessive feces and an inadequate program of veterinary care at breeder who sold to a Petland store and other pet stores.** During a March 2022 USDA inspection, inspectors found a beagle with a large lump at Jonas Miller’s breeding facility and had questions about whether the dog was receiving adequate veterinary care. The inspector wrote, “A female Beagle (#4339) has a baseball size lump on its belly. The attending veterinarian recently examined this dog but the applicant didn’t have any current documentation. There was documentation that was from fall of 2020, that stated this dog has a hernia and no treatment needed. The applicant stated the hernia has got a little bigger since fall 2020.”

In addition, the inspectors noted deficiencies in veterinary care: “The facilities written program of veterinary care was different from the actual practice. The vaccination schedule and the parasite control program were different than what was on the program of veterinary care.” The inspector also noted that “Three outdoor enclosures had excessive feces in them.” There were almost 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the March 2022 inspection.

During a prior inspection, the USDA only gave Miller a “teachable moment,” which is a violation documented on a different part of the USDA’s website and not on the official inspection report, for an issue with inadequate records on the dogs in the kennel. USDA also gave Miller a “no access” violation in November 2018 for not making his kennel available for inspection on two consecutive occasions, and another “teachable moment” in 2017 for an unspecified issue.

Shipping documents reviewed by HSUS researchers found that Jonas Miller of Clark, Missouri sold to many pet stores in 2021, including a Petland store in Katy, Texas, and many pet stores in New York and other states. MO# AC00225J. USDA #43-A-6042.

**Noah Miller, Keytesville, Missouri: USDA issued no violations, but state inspectors found multiple violations at least three years in a row; some dogs were exposed to the bitter cold; some had no water; facility has sold puppies to multiple pet stores in New York.** State inspectors found multiple violations at Noah Miller’s kennel for at least the last three years in a row. The most recent violations were noted in January 2022, when state inspectors found that some of the dogs were outside with only a thin layer of straw in their shelter when the outside daytime temperature was 14 degrees Fahrenheit. In addition, some dogs had no water, one dog had clumps of stool matted into the fur, and a mother dog with puppies was roaming the property without a secure enclosure.

It was not the first time the kennel was found exposing dogs to the bitter cold. State inspectors found issues in January 2021 with puppies who were housed outdoors when it had been 17 degrees overnight and below 35 degrees during the day; the licensee had no proof that their veterinarian indicated the puppies were acclimated to the extreme temperatures. There were also dogs with “excessively long hair and dogs with matted hair coats,” and there was a repeat violation for having dogs in the kennel who were not on the inventory. The latter is a concern because it could indicate a breeder is obtaining dogs from other, unlicensed sources, which would defeat the purpose of the licensing and inspection program.

State-level violations found in 2020 included two repeat violations, one for dogs who were not added to the inventory list, and one for incomplete vaccination records.

Miller also holds a license with USDA. USDA’s online database indicates Miller was inspected at a prelicense inspection in September 2020 and again in April 2021, but USDA documented no violations at those visits.

Almost all of the violations found by state inspectors would also be violations of USDA's requirements. MO #AC002YRT. USDA #43-A-6520.

**Cory Mincey/Puppy Love Kennel aka Cory's Cuties, Elkland, Missouri: Severe, recurring animal care issues at AKC breeder previously sued by Missouri's attorney general for emaciated and dying dogs; inspectors found another underweight dog and dogs standing in their own feces; breeder was fined \$4,500 but continues to operate (repeat offender).** Despite Cory Mincey's history of very severe violations for issues such as emaciated dogs, dying dogs and filthy conditions, the HSUS did not include Cory Mincey in our 2021 Horrible Hundred report because she had been sued by the state's attorney general, and was believed to be possibly closing down. But in 2021 and 2022, Mincey continued to operate, and was again found with a thin dog, dogs and puppies who had no water, dogs and puppies forced to stand in their own feces, and many other significant issues impacting the basic health and well-being of her dogs.

On March 14, 2022, a Missouri court ordered Mincey to pay a \$4,500 penalty for continuing to violate the state's Animal Care Facilities Act. The penalty had been assessed but suspended under a March 2020 consent judgment, which stemmed from a 2019 [lawsuit against Mincey](#) for repeated failure to provide basic humane care to her dogs. Despite this egregious history, she remains state licensed as of April 2022.

The many recent problems found by state inspectors are too numerous to list here, but some examples include:

- Inspectors went to the kennel in July 2021 to follow up on a complaint about poor conditions. They were shown through the operation by the licensee's husband, Dewey Mincey. Inspectors found many issues on that day, including one building in which dogs and puppies seemed parched and desperate for water. The inspector noted that "all of the water bottles on the elevated enclosures were completely empty, and two of those bottles had been knocked off of the enclosures. The nursing Miniature Pinschers, two weaned Pomeranian puppies, and one weaned Miniature Pinscher puppy were being housed in these stacked enclosures.[...] Once the water bottles were filled and available to the dogs, the dogs began to drink continuously. The Miniature Pinscher nursing two females laid down under the water bottle and drank continuously for several minutes while we finished the inspection of the building. One of the weaned Pomeranian puppies also began to drink, and I observed the dog to drink continuously for the remaining time we were in the building."
- Also in July 2021, the inspector found puppies who were standing in their own wastes: "I observed an enclosure housing five weaned Pomeranian puppies that contained an excessive amount of feces in the indoor and outdoor portions of their enclosure. These puppies were unable to avoid contact with the feces in the enclosure. The elevated enclosures housing both of the nursing Miniature Pinschers also had an excessive amount of feces of which the dogs could not avoid contact."
- Also in July 2021, the inspector found a female miniature pinscher who was "observed with a body condition score of 3/9 on the Nestle Purina Body Condition Scoring Chart, and there was no record of observation or treatment." When asked about the dog, Mrs. Mincey "stated that she had noticed her, however she had not consulted with or taken this dog to the attending veterinarian." A score of 3 out of 9 is considered too thin, per the Purina Body Scoring system.

Shockingly, even after that incident, the breeder once again failed to provide drinkable water to dogs during a Jan. 21, 2022, inspection, when inspectors found that "the water in all of the outdoor enclosures was frozen." Filthy conditions were also noted, and some dogs had insufficient protection from the bitter cold, according to state records.

The licensee also dodged inspections repeatedly. In a December 2021 affidavit, an inspector noted there were attempted (i.e., failed access) inspections on six different dates from Sept. 1, 2021 to Dec. 22, 2021, stating, "Ms. Mincey pre-emptively canceled inspections and avoided inspections during correspondence sent on September

7, 13, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 27 of 2021; October 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 18, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, and 29 of 2021; November 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 12, 15, and 16 of 2021; and December 27 and 29 of 2021.”

After a failed attempt to inspect the facility in November 2021, an inspector noted: “The last full inspection was conducted by ACFA [Animal Care Facilities Act] staff on July 7, 2021. ACFA staff has attempted to re-inspect the facility on September 1 and October 12, 2021. Since the first attempted inspection on September 1, 2021, the licensee has emailed [the humane officer] 29 times giving various reasons as to why she is not available for inspection.”

As we noted in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report, Mincey had already dodged 35 inspections by October 2019, meaning she has dodged, canceled or otherwise avoided more than 40 inspections over the past several years. Prior issues at the facility include: numerous severely emaciated dogs with their skeletal structures showing; dogs who “died suddenly” with no explanation for what happened to them; injured and severely matted dogs; dogs forced to stand in mud and/or feces with no clean place to walk; and dogs with loose or bloody stools.

Mincey has sold mixed-breed as well as American Kennel Club registered puppies online on Facebook and on her own website, [Coryscuties.com](http://Coryscuties.com), where shockingly, as of May 2, 2022, she was still offering to [sell puppies](#) and ship them [by airline](#) in cargo to unseen buyers, even though it appears she has not been licensed by USDA since 2020, which would make such sales unlawful. The HSUS reported concerns about Mincey to USDA many times, most recently in March 2022, and requested an investigation. Mincey has also offered puppies on third-party websites such as PuppyFind (now called Puppies.com) and NextDayPets, websites the HSUS has linked repeatedly to problem puppy mills.

Mincey’s association with the AKC is significant because the AKC regularly lobbies against breeder inspection and humane care laws such as the ones Mincey has failed to comply with. The AKC’s association with breeders like Mincey shows it is an organization that supports puppy mills. MO #AC000ATS. Former USDA #43-A-5947.

**REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Carol and Gary Prothe/Carol’s Kennel, Urbana, Missouri: USDA found dog with a “bright red” eye completely covered in crusted, matted hair; state inspectors found excessive accumulations of feces; poor conditions at facility stretch back to at least 2012 \(repeat offender\)](#)**. During a March 2022 USDA inspection, inspectors found a male poodle mix at Carol’s Kennel who had an obvious eye issue that appeared to have been ignored for some time. According to the USDA report, “the inspector saw his left eye completely covered with matted hair. [...] The mat had brown crusty material in it with some crusty material on the inner corner of the eye as well. There was also a small amount of greenish discharge seen on the surface and the corner of the eye. The eye itself looked bright red.” The inspector noted that the condition could lead to pain and discomfort, adding that “the licensee must ensure that adequate daily observations are performed to assess the health and well-being of all animals.”

State inspectors also found recent violations at Carol’s Kennel. During a November 2021 state kennel inspection, Missouri inspectors noted that “an excessive accumulation of feces was observed in the enclosures.” They also noted that “at least three dogs in the facility were observed to have excessively long toenails,” and a smoke detector was not functional.

As we noted in our prior report, many other issues have been found at prior state inspections of Carol’s Kennel. During at least two different visits in the summer of 2020, one in June and one in August, state inspectors found multiple violations. Violations noted in June 2020 were mostly repeat violations for poor upkeep. Violations noted on Aug. 4, 2020, ranged from some dogs who had moldy food to others who did not have any water, and some dogs who did not have an adequate amount of space. In addition, state inspectors noted, “There was an accumulation of moldy feces under the ramp in the outdoor portion of the first sheltered building. There were several outdoor pens that had an accumulation of feces as well.” Inspectors also wrote, “There were three female Shih Tzus housed in stacked cages that were not provided with solid resting surfaces.” Also, “Licensee

had three females in stacked cages in the second kennel building without unfettered access to the outdoors.” A violation for three dogs who had no water in the August heat was listed as a direct violation, meaning there was a clear and present risk to animals.

Until the March 2022 USDA violation, Carol Prothe had not been cited for any violations under her USDA license for about seven years, even though Missouri state inspectors found serious issues again and again. Prothe was previously USDA licensed under a different number (#43-A-4562) until 2015, and had a history of violations under that license, including repeated issues for many of the same problems that were noted in state reports and many veterinary care violations. As far back as 2012, Prothe had violations for issues such as lack of adequate veterinary care, filthy conditions and some dogs who had no water. When provided with water at one July 2012 inspection, the thirsty dogs “drank for one to three minutes straight,” according to the USDA report.

Prothe was issued a “Citation and Notification of Penalty” from USDA in 2014 for numerous violations and was fined \$2,857. MO #AC000ADK. Former USDA #43-A-4562; current USDA #43-A-6011. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Ellen Roberts/Rocky Top K9s, West Plains, Missouri: AKC breeder is appearing in this report for the seventh time; USDA found thin nursing mother dogs and a limping dog with an open sore and dogs exposed to the cold; state inspectors found decrepit cages, a matted dog and bloody diarrhea; operation has nearly 200 dogs and puppies (repeat offender).** Both federal and state inspectors found a list of troubling animal welfare concerns at visits to Rocky Top K9s in recent months. In January 2022, the USDA required Ellen Roberts to obtain a veterinary evaluation for three dogs with obvious issues: a boxer who was limping and had an open sore on his foot; and two mother dogs who were nursing litters of puppies and who appeared to be too thin. One of them was so thin that her vertebrae and ribs could be “easily seen and there was an abdominal tuck,” according to the USDA report. During the same inspection, USDA also found some dogs without adequate weather protection when temperatures had been below freezing overnight. There were almost 200 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the USDA’s January visit.

Missouri state inspectors also found multiple issues during at least four different visits to Rocky Top K9s in 2021 and early 2022. In February 2022, the state issued an official letter of warning for a repeat violation due to dogs repeatedly found without enough space. In September 2021, there were so many issues noted on the state inspection report that they are too numerous to list here, but they included decrepit and dangerous housing for some of the dogs, some dogs who didn’t have enough space, and a repeated issue with accumulations of trash and clutter.

Inspectors also indicated they were following up on a complaint about a sick puppy. According to a state investigation report dated September 2021, the breeder was accused of selling a puppy who was “underage, underweight, and later diagnosed with Giardia.” Upon inspection, “The health record indicated that the puppy and its littermates received secnidazole for the prevention of giardia at four and seven weeks of age. Secnidazole is not labeled for use in dogs.”

At a state inspection in April 2021, the inspector stated a veterinarian had “noted bloody diarrhea in an enclosure containing multiple dogs,” and noticed that at least one dog was significantly matted, an issue that the licensee had already been warned about on at least three prior visits since 2020. There was also a repeat issue with accumulations of trash and clutter.

Roberts has appeared in six of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, with violations that stretch back to 2013. Some of the issues we mentioned in prior reports included 2019 state violations for dogs without adequate shelter from the elements, dogs who had dirty water or no water at all, and several dogs who had “mucopurulent ocular and/or nasal discharge,” including a boxer named Shelby who had mucus-like discharge from her eye and

nose, and an olde English bulldog who had greenish nasal discharge. The 2019 violations were similar to issues found in earlier years. For example, in September 2018, a state officer investigating a complaint found numerous problems, including five dogs with missing patches of fur and some who were scratching as if itchy, one dog who had thickened and pigmented skin and was crawling with live fleas, and evidence of diarrhea in four of the enclosures.

As we documented in our 2017 report, violations were found at the facility in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013 as well. USDA inspectors found five different repeat violations at a July 2016 visit, including a male boxer with a “bleeding, open wound” and a female boxer who was so thin that her ribs and hip bones could be easily seen. In addition, the temperature inside one of the buildings was too high (94 degrees), and inspectors noted several repeat violations for unsafe housing conditions. In July 2016, a Missouri state inspector noted a number of problems, including a high concentration of flies and several dogs and puppies in need of veterinary care; the licensee claimed to be treating the dogs but had no documentation of any treatments. In December 2016, a state inspector found a bulldog with loose stool, whom the licensee also had no record of being treated. Violations noted in our May 2016 report included another underweight boxer with ribs and backbone visible (March 2016); a boxer with numerous ticks on her chest, neck and back (March 2016); two Boston terriers with eye injuries (November 2015); and a bulldog who was squinting and had “dark red” swollen tissue around her eyes and ears (November 2015). Similar violations, including several sick and underweight dogs and puppies, were found by inspectors between 2014 and 2013 as well.

Rocky Top K9s promotes itself as an “AKC inspected licensed kennel” on [its website](#). Roberts’ association with the AKC is significant because the AKC regularly lobbies against breeder inspection and humane care laws, claiming that its own voluntary, nonpublic inspections are sufficient. The AKC’s association with breeders like Roberts shows it is an organization that supports puppy mills over and above canine welfare.

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

#### **Jered and Summer Smith/Premier Puppies, West Plains, Missouri: USDA inspector found a thin dog, and state inspectors found limping dogs and harmful wire flooring at massive facility with more than 225 dogs.**

During a Jan. 18, 2022, USDA inspection, inspectors noted a thin mother dog at Premier Puppies. According to the inspection report, the dog was a beagle with one puppy, who “was observed to have a dull, coarse hair coat and on closer observation, she was somewhat thin, with an abdominal tuck. Her mucous membranes were slightly pale.” The inspector noted, “These signs can be the result of parasites, inadequate nutrition, or an underlying medical condition. This dog must be evaluated by a veterinarian within 3 days.” During the same inspection, housing facilities were in disrepair, with 12 shelters having “excessively chewed walls around the door and the shared walls of the shelters. Dogs from 1 enclosure were able to easily get into the next enclosure.” There were more than 225 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the USDA inspection.

State inspectors also found concerns at the Smith facility. In October 2020, a state inspector found two dogs limping, and both dogs had “swollen digits on their right front paws.” One of the licensee’s buildings also had wire flooring, which can hurt paws and is not allowed under state kennel laws. When inspectors returned in February 2021, they found the licensee was still using the wire flooring that they had been told not to use, and that might have contributed to dogs’ foot injuries. According to the February 2021 state inspection, “two buildings with elevated flooring were found to lack solid resting surfaces for the majority [of] animals housed within” and “the building referred to as Puppy House 2 was still in use. The wire flooring had not been replaced, modified, or covered. (repeat).” Wire flooring can lead to foot injuries and can pose an entrapment risk. When

asked for an update on the two dogs found previously who were limping, the “licensee stated that she had consulted with a veterinarian regarding the two aforementioned dogs. Licensee did not maintain documentation of the veterinary consultation or treatment. One of the dogs was no longer at the facility and the other was asymptomatic.”

The facility also had an October 2021 state violation for incomplete records on puppy sales. MO #AC0013Z0. USDA # 43-B-3809.

**Mary Ann Smith/Smith’s Kennel, Salem, Missouri: Underweight dog, moldy food, mouse feces and a dog with eye discharge found at facility of breeder who sold puppies to Petland and other pet stores (repeat offender)**. State inspectors found problems at Smith’s Kennel during at least three recent inspections, in May, August and December of 2021. At the inspection in May 2021, state inspectors documented concerns about a thin dog and a dog with an eye issue. According to the inspection report: “A male Basset Hound (microchip #956000013612951) was noted to be thin with prominent ribs and backbone. A prominent abdominal tuck was also noted.” A male English Bulldog was also found to have “slight mucoid eye discharge,” and the licensee did not have documentation of regular administration of treatments. During the same visit, inspectors noted that some of the dogs and puppies were in cages that were too small, and at least one feeder for the dogs contained “caked and moldy food.” In addition, “multiple buildings contained mouse feces and debris from rodent burrowing.” There were 180 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the May 2021 inspection.

When state inspectors arrived again in August 2021, more issues were found. The dog who had been found in May to be underweight was still thin, and the dog had also developed a limp, according to state records. As stated in the report: “During today’s inspection, although his body condition has improved, male Basset Hound #956000013612951 was noted to still be thin, with visible ribs and abdominal tuck. Additionally, this dog was noted to have a prominent limp on its right hind leg.” Housing and cleaning issues were also noted at the August inspection. Inspectors found that “several primary enclosures housing animals were noted to be in disrepair,” with some portions that were broken or sagging. In addition, “During today’s inspection, an excessive buildup of grime, grease, algae and spilled food was noted on the interiors and exteriors of primary enclosures, predominantly in the large sheltered building.”

Photographs taken during the August 2021 visit by state inspectors confirm their descriptions. The interior part of the kennel is shown with brownish grime adhered to the sides of many of the dogs’ enclosures, and fly strips hang above each enclosure and appear to be plastered with dead flies. The thin basset hound can be seen with visible rib outlines. State inspectors also found during the August visit that, for the second inspection in a row, several dogs were not in enclosures that gave them the required amount of floor space. There were 183 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the August inspection.

State inspectors arrived for a third inspection in December 2021. At that time, they noted “an English Bulldog named Merlin, microchip #990000002272411, to have a significant amount of greenish mucopurulent ocular discharge in each eye. The kennel manager stated that the dog had chronic eye issues and eyes were cleaned or treated on a daily basis. The last documented treatment for Merlin was an eye ointment administered the last week of October 2021.”

Shockingly, despite the many violations found by state inspectors, USDA has not cited Mary Ann Smith for any recent violations. As of May 2, 2022, it appears USDA had not visited Smith’s kennel at all since April 2021. Pet stores continue to buy from Smith even after the years of state violations and news [coverage](#). For example, the Petland pet store in Topeka, Kansas, purchased a puppy from Smith in October 2021, and Petland has purchased from Smith in prior years as well.

Issues at Smith's kennel have been documented on and off for more than two decades. In 2010, the HSUS listed Smith's Kennel in a report called [Missouri's Dirty Dozen](#). In that report, we noted that the kennel had "a history of repeat USDA violations stretching back more than a decade, including citations for unsanitary conditions; dogs exposed to below-freezing temperatures or excessive heat without adequate shelter from the weather; dogs without enough cage space to turn and move around freely; pest and rodent infestations; injured and bleeding dogs; dogs with loose, bloody stools who had not been treated by a vet, and much more."

In 2011, the HSUS published another report, *Update Report: Missouri's Dirty Dozen*. In that report, we noted additional issues, including a complaint about a puppy purchased from a Petland store in 2008 who had been supplied by Smith and had had ongoing health issues for years. Former MO #3258; current MO #AC0003Z7. USDA #43-A-2296. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN AN HSUS REPORT.**

**Donna Taber/Jet Kennels, Wasola, Missouri: State inspectors found multiple violations at two different visits in a six-month period, including matted dogs and a lethargic puppy; breeder did not have proof of adequate veterinary care for the ailing puppy (repeat offender).** Missouri state inspectors found violations at two different inspections of Jet Kennels, in June and September 2021. During a June 17, 2021, inspection, a dachshund puppy "was observed to be lethargic and was being treated with supplemental food and antibiotic ointment. However, records of treatment were not being kept." In addition, "multiple dogs throughout the facility were noted to have matted hair," and some dogs were apparently sold without proof of rabies vaccinations. There was also a repeat violation for an issue with outdoor dogs kept on bare dirt. There were 144 dogs and puppies on the property during the June visit.

When inspectors returned on Sept. 13, 2021, they found several additional issues. There was a violation for dirty conditions, with the inspector noting that "during today's inspection, the two sheltered buildings were noted to have accumulations of cobwebs, debris, excreta, and grime." The inspector also found a shih tzu with eye discharge. The inspector noted that both the shih tzu and the puppy from the previous inspection had allegedly been treated by the owner, but there was no record of the treatments, meaning that there was no proof the animals were really being treated. A Yorkshire terrier was also found without enough cage space.

Donna Taber received an official letter of warning from the Missouri Department of Agriculture for the repeated issue related to the dogs needing proof of treatment.

Taber also appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report for additional dogs with an eye disorder and/or other veterinary concerns. As we mentioned in that report, both state and federal inspectors identified a number of animals in need of veterinary care or grooming at Jet Kennels in 2014 and 2015. Problems found by a Missouri state inspector in August 2015 included: an underweight bichon with "easily palpable ribs" who also appeared to be suffering from "severe periodontal disease" and had greenish eye discharge; a shih tzu with a suspicious growth and a matted coat; several other dogs who had matted hair even though the licensee had been warned about the problem on at least two prior occasions; and dirty conditions. Issues found by state inspectors in 2014 included a Maltese with "excessive hair loss on her tail and open sores," which had not been given the recommended treatment by a vet; dogs with inadequate space; and dogs with matted hair and overgrown nails.

Taber is also licensed by USDA, but USDA has not documented any violations at Jet Kennels since 2019. USDA inspectors did issue a repeat violation in 2019 for a missed "no access" inspection; Taber also dodged three different USDA inspections in 2018 and another in 2017. On some occasions, the licensee answered the phone but told USDA she was not available to let inspectors in; USDA licensees are required to allow unannounced inspections of their kennels during any normal business hours.

USDA inspectors documented violations at the kennel in 2016, 2015 and 2014. In January 2016, a USDA inspector found that dogs did not have adequate protection from the cold when overnight temperatures had

been in the 30s. In August 2015, USDA inspectors found two dogs in need of veterinary care: one with a paw injury, and another with signs of painful dental disease. In April 2015, a USDA inspector found a Yorkie with an injured foot who was repeatedly holding up his paw.

An inspection in October 2021 was compliant. MO #AC0015LH. USDA #43-A-5497. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Elmer and Edna Troyer/Timber View Kennel, Clark, Missouri: Packed, smeared feces covered most of the flooring in some parts of a kennel where almost 200 dogs were kept; some dogs were outdoors in February weather without adequate shelter or water; breeder sold to many pet stores, including several Petland stores (repeat offender).** During a February 2022 USDA inspection, inspectors found many significant issues at Timber View Kennel. The inspector wrote, “The Sheltered kennel building had excessive feces in 12 enclosures. Three of these enclosures had 23 puppies and the flooring was at least 50% covered in smeared feces and the solid resting surfaces were mostly covered. Eight adult dog enclosures with 34 dogs had packed, smeared feces covering 60-80% of the outside flooring. Some of those enclosures had brown matter on the doorways, walls and the inside flooring. These enclosures made it difficult for the animals to move around without getting into feces. An outdoor enclosure with 5 dogs had many piles of feces, the licensee stated his tool used to clean had broken.” In addition, the inspector found that some of the dogs in outdoor housing facilities did not have adequate protection from the weather in the deep of winter, and some of the dogs had no water. There were also some housing issues and an inadequate program of veterinary care. There were almost 200 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the February 2022 USDA inspection.

State inspectors also found similar issues at Timber View Kennel in February 2022, noting seven different violations for filthy and unsafe conditions, as well as some dogs who did not have enough protection from the weather, and 10 dogs who were missing from the facility with no explanation for what happened to them.

The kennel also appeared in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, during a state inspection at Timber View Kennel in September 2019, inspectors found a number of problems. There are too many to list here, but there were violations for excessive feces, some dogs who had “no solid resting surface or the solid resting surface was not large enough” for all the dogs, leaving some of the animals stuck standing on gridded flooring; a water bowl used by multiple dogs that had “a build up of green algae,” and several dogs had “dirty, long, and matted hair coats.”

Within the last few years, the Troyers sold puppies to at least six Petland stores, one in Texas and five in Florida. The Petland stores they sold to included stores in Kendall, Largo, Orlando South, Pembroke Pines, and Plantation, Florida, and Frisco, Texas. Petland is the only national chain of pet stores in the U.S. that still sells puppies. MO #AC001VYZ. USDA #43-A-5917. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Leon and Esther Troyer/Pleasant Hill Kennels, Jamesport, Missouri: State inspectors found a puppy and an adult dog with eye disorders, dogs with dirty water, and an expired program of veterinary care at facility with more than 125 dogs and puppies.** State inspectors found several issues during two different state inspections at Pleasant Hill Kennels in 2021. The first issues were noted in June 2021, when an inspector found that “the left eye of a Wheaton puppy was cloudy and had clear drainage.” When asked about the puppy, “The licensee stated the veterinarian had seen the puppy in the last week or two but she did not have any documentation of the exam.” During the same inspection, inspectors gave the breeder a violation for a “health and husbandry” issue due to dirty water, stating that “The dogs housed in the outdoor enclosures had water with algae growing in it.” They also noted that the required program of veterinary care for the facility had expired in March 2021.

When inspectors returned in August 2021, they found additional issues. Another dog, this time an adult Wheaton, had an eye disorder with green discharge. A photo taken that day by the inspector shows obvious, crusty-looking discharge that appears to have dried all around the eye. In addition, the licensee had not fully recorded treatments on the puppy who had the eye disorder in June, so it was unclear if the puppy had been properly treated. There was also a concern about the scant weather protection available: Some dogs had only a sheet of plastic used as a source of shade above their outdoor enclosures, and it was “torn and chewed.” The inspector stated, “An adult Wheaton is able to jump and rip and chew the plastic.” An inspection in September 2021 was compliant; there were more than 125 dogs on the property at the time. MO #AC002NJB.

**James Whatley/Candy Coated Doxie, Mooresville, Missouri: Breeder who has sold to Petland stores and online accused of selling sick puppies; received official warning from USDA for selling puppies from unknown breeders without the appropriate license; had prior issues with sick or injured dogs, excessive feces and contaminated food.** In June 2021, Whatley’s Candy Coated Doxie received a “critical” violation, one of the most serious violations USDA can apply, for acting as a dealer without the appropriate license. The citation was followed by an official warning notice from USDA. The USDA inspection report noted, “The licensee holds an A licensee which only allows sales of puppies born and bred on the licensed premises. Currently, the licensee has six puppies (three different breeds) listed for sale on a website [...]. There were no breeding dogs on the premises this Spring, so there should be no puppies available for sale during this time period.” The reason the issue is of such high concern is that selling puppies bred by unknown other breeders under a USDA license could mean the breeder is essentially “laundering” puppies from unlicensed puppy mills; the purpose of having a USDA license is to ensure that puppies sold under that license were raised in certain regulated conditions.

Prior issues at the same facility included a July 2020 state violation for “a feeder that contained fecal material and a feeder that contained caked feed,” with state inspectors noting, “Caked and contaminated feed are not wholesome for dogs to eat.” In November 2019, state inspectors found a Boston terrier on the property who “had thin fur exposing the skin around its face, neck, and front paws,” and a female German shepherd who “was not bearing weight on its rear left leg [direct].” There were also issues with excessive feces, acting as a dealer (reseller) without the required license type, and a continued issue with inadequate housing. The licensee was issued a warning for the November repeat violation.

On Nov. 21, 2019, during a focused inspection to check on the two dogs needing veterinary care, the licensee was issued yet another warning. And during a previous (September 2019) state inspection, the owner, James Whatley, was cited for poorly constructed housing.

The operation is linked to a number of online consumer complaints. One consumer review website [lists complaints](#) about the operation going back to 2014, with buyers claiming they were sold very sick dogs. [Another site](#) had more than 20 complaints about the breeder related to issues such as sick puppies, a refusal to issue refunds for sick dogs, misrepresenting the size or breed of the puppies, and alleged refusal to return funds. Shipping documents viewed by the HSUS show Candy Coated Doxie has sold to many pet stores, including at least two Petland stores. MO #AC0018GD. USDA #43-A-6055.

**Mervin and Lizzie Yoder, Clark, Missouri: Cocker spaniel who had badly matted fur, discharge coming from her ears, and a scabbed area on her skin the size of a baseball that was oozing and cracked had not been treated by a veterinarian; inspectors also found repeated issues with excessive feces, poor veterinary records and unsafe conditions.** Both state and federal inspectors found many violations at Mervin and Lizzie Yoder’s breeding kennel in recent months. One of the most concerning violations was found during an October 2021 USDA inspection, when the inspector found a female cocker spaniel with several health problems, and it appears that the breeder lied about whether they had obtained veterinary advice for the dog. According to the inspection report, the dog “appeared to have matting and caked matter on the rear end area. Upon closer

observation there was an odor and discharge coming from both ears. The hair along the bottom of the ears was matted and dirty, from the ear drainage. When you lift the ear flap, the ear canal and hair around the ear was wet. There was a scabbed area behind the right shoulder about the size of a baseball. The scabbed area had a crack in the middle with yellow and red discharge.” The licensee reportedly told the inspector that he had spoken to his veterinarian about the dog, but when the inspector called the veterinarian, “he stated he didn’t know anything about this dog and he was there the day before doing puppy checks.” Other issues found at the October inspection included expired medicines, a lack of ID for dogs and puppies, excessive feces in some of the enclosures, and unsafe conditions. The inspector noted that one dog was chained: “The licensee had a Dachshund chained up inside an enclosure because it was fighting with other dogs in that enclosure.”

State inspectors also found issues during several visits in 2021. In September 2021 alone, a state inspector found 13 different violations at the kennel, including a repeat violation for a rodent infestation, and violations for excessive feces, unsafe and dirty conditions, a complete lack of available records, including “no documentation of administering vaccinations or anthelmintics to the puppies” and “no Program of Veterinary Care form available.”

The most recent inspection available at the time of this report was a USDA inspection report dated Jan. 26, 2022. During that visit, inspectors found extreme filth in at least one enclosure. The report noted, “The flooring was completely covered with feces in an enclosure with one adult dog and four puppies. The slatted floor was completely covered in fecal material and the animals couldn’t sit or walk without getting on fecal material.” In addition, there was still not a complete program of veterinary care available. MO #AC002M58. USDA #43-A-6336.

## NEBRASKA

**Douglas and Mary Jane Brosh/Brosh’s Kennels, Pender, Nebraska: State required a reinspection in 2021 for kennel with over 70 dogs (repeat offender).** During two different inspections over a six-month period, Brosh’s Kennels was rated “conditionally acceptable” by state inspectors. The first inspection was in June 2021, when four dogs were found in need of grooming. The second was in November 2021, when cleaning issues were noted, with the inspector indicating that an area under the beagle pens (presumably where feces pile up) needed to be cleaned. Nebraska requires a \$150 reinspection fee of kennels that have violations and require a reinspection. Although the two conditional inspections did not contain long lists of violations, the issues were a concern because cleaning and animal care issues have been documented several times in past years as well. In fact, the issue with waste materials piling up near the beagle enclosures was specifically mentioned at a prior inspection. Piles of waste materials or feces are breeding grounds for flies and odors.

The kennel appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports as well. As we noted in our prior report, during a December 2020 inspection, the state rated Brosh’s Kennels only “conditionally acceptable” due to a dog who was “very thin.” The inspector noted that the dog needed “to go to vet either today or tomorrow” and requested a follow-up report. The inspector also noted, “Under [the] dog pens needs [to be] cleaned. Pens need [to be] cleaned especially the beagles, dog doors need [to be] cleaned. Adult dog buildings also need [to be] cleaned.” There were more than 80 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. Brosh’s Kennels appeared in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report after it received an official warning from the state that year for dogs who had no water, and apparently had not had any water since the previous afternoon, as well as a dog with a bulging eye who had not been seen by a veterinarian. Other issues noted in that report included excessive feces and USDA violations that had recurred for several years. Brosh’s Kennels was still licensed as a B dealer with USDA as of May 2, 2022. USDA has not cited it for any issues since September 2019, online records

show. At that time, USDA issued two “teachable moments,” according to its inspection report data, but there was no information on those details available in USDA’s “teachable moments” database.

There were 74 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the November 2021 inspection. NE #KN65. USDA #47-B-0091. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Clem Disterhaupt Jr./Ponca Creek Kennels, Spencer, Nebraska: State inspectors found massive breeder with more than 225 dogs “routinely noncompliant,” with poor conditions, cramped cages, matted dogs and no health records for dogs; issues have been recurring since at least 2014 (repeat offender).** State inspectors found problems again and again at Ponca Creek Kennels, a repeat offender, since it appeared in our last report. The facility dodged at least three attempted state inspections in 2021 (June, September and December), and when inspectors did get into the kennel, they found extremely poor conditions.

During a June 2021 state inspection, most of the long-haired dogs were found with “excessive matting on bellies and anal areas,” the ventilation was poor, and there were “No vaccinations or treatment records on any dog other than wellness check[s].” When inspectors arrived again in September, they were not given access to the kennel, which is a violation. When they arrived in October 2021, even more very troubling issues were found. Dogs were once again found to be matted, and the dogs did not have enough space to exercise. The inspector also seemed to indicate that there were not enough employees to provide adequate care for the dogs. According to the inspection report, the kennel was marked “out of compliance” in the following category: “Facility routinely noncompliant in general husbandry because of inadequate cleanliness due to accumulations of litter, food waste, feces, trash, junk, or weeds; or high incidence of injury to the dogs; or multiple substantiated complaints against facility by the general public.” In addition, “Pens [were] over crowded, not enough head space. Pen floors sag under weight of dogs.” Once again, there were dirty conditions, poor ventilation and “no shot records for dogs or health records.” Perhaps most troubling of all, the puppies were living in darkness: “Whelping building was dark upon entry at 1330pm.” When state inspectors returned on Dec. 8, 2021, no one was “available” to give them access, leaving concerns about the well-being of all the dogs and puppies at Clem Disterhaupt Jr.’s facility. The state inspected again in January 2022 and noted violations for matted dogs and inadequate space. There were more than 220 dogs and puppies in the kennel at the time.

Disterhaupt appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for similar violations. As we noted in our 2021 report, during a Jan. 13, 2021, state inspection, his kennel was again rated “unacceptable” due to eight different issues. The problems were related to dogs with excessive matting, lack of a veterinary care plan, lack of proof of wellness examinations for dogs (no health records were available at all), some dogs who did not have enough space, and dirty conditions. The inspectors noted that they discussed the fact that the breeder “possibly needed to downsize or build another building to help with space.” State inspectors returned on Jan. 28, 2021, and again rated the kennel “unacceptable” for approximately seven different issues, including four direct violations. The issues included many dogs — including some mothers with puppies — who were in cages that were too small; dirty conditions; a matted dog who needed to be groomed; health records that were out of date; and many dogs who were in the kennel with no explanation of where they came from. When inspectors returned a third time on Feb. 8, 2021, they rated the kennel “conditionally acceptable” because some problems still remained: acquisition records and health records on the dogs were still incomplete, and two dogs had visible health issues, one with a wound on the neck and another with a “sore on back,” among other issues. Ponca Creek Kennels was once licensed with USDA, but is no longer federally licensed, which means it cannot legally sell to brokers or pet stores, which leads to concerns about where it may be selling such a large number of dogs.

Disterhaupt also appeared in our Horrible Hundred report in 2015, after he received two official warnings from the state, in October 2014 and February 2015, for a refusal to allow a kennel inspection and unsanitary

conditions, respectively. Inspectors also noted issues such as a sickly and lethargic French bulldog who needed to be seen by a vet (January 2014), mouse feces and foul odors.

Another breeder named Clem L. Disterhaupt is currently licensed with the USDA, but has an address in Stuart, Nebraska, according to USDA records. It is unclear if the two are related. NE #KN211. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Megan Mahlin/Flying High Aussies, Madison, Nebraska: Breeder found with problems at seven inspections within less than 12 months; rated “unacceptable” by state inspectors as recently as March 2022 for issues such as dirty water, poor conditions and lack of a veterinary care plan; state agency requested administrative hearing.** Problems were found at seven state inspections or attempted inspections of Flying High Aussies between mid-2021 and March 2022, state records show. In June 2021, the kennel was rated only “conditionally acceptable” after issues were found with missing health records. There were no health records available at all for the inspector to view, and the breeder claimed her computer was not working. There was also an issue of incompatible dogs kept near each other, a need for more dog pens, and more. After the June inspection, inspectors tried to visit the kennel three more times between October and November—three times in a row the inspections were rated as “attempted” because no one was available to show inspectors around the kennel, leading to concerns about the dogs and their welfare.

Inspectors finally gained access on Dec. 1, 2021, but rated the kennel “unacceptable” for seven different noncompliances. Among the issues: dogs were in cages that were too small; there were still no individual health records on the dogs; and the water provided to dogs was dirty, with the inspector noting that the dishes themselves were dirty and there were leaves and algae in them. In addition, there was an issue with waste disposal: “All trash and debris needs [to be] cleaned up in yard and in pens. Dead weeds need [to be] cut in at inside of outside run.” The outdoor housing for dogs was also insufficient to protect them from the weather. When state inspectors returned later in December, some things were fixed and some were not; the kennel was rated “conditionally acceptable,” but there were still issues with weeds, and there were still no individual health records on each dog. When inspectors returned again in March 2022, issues remained with veterinary records and Mahlin was also cited for dirty conditions, inadequate staffing and lack of clean water for dogs. The state rated the kennel “unacceptable” again, with a total of 9 violations. Notes on the state’s inspection report dated March 14, 2022, show the inspectors requested an administrative hearing. NE #KN1639.

**Wanda M. Reed/Wanda’s Little Pets, Wilcox, Nebraska: Facility rated “conditionally acceptable” five times in a row by state inspectors; operator previously had her USDA license revoked in 2008 (repeat offender).** In August 2021, state inspectors rated Wanda’s Little Pets “conditionally acceptable” due to a veterinary care violation under “Nails [that] are impairing the comfort or health of the dog.” It was the fifth inspection in a row between 2018 and 2021 that state inspectors rated the operation “conditionally acceptable” instead of finding it fully compliant. There were 67 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. The 2021 violation alone would not be alarming except that it was part of an apparent pattern at a breeder who had so many USDA violations at one time that USDA revoked her license, which is rare.

Wanda M. Reed was in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report due to prior state violations for excessive feces, clutter and trash. Wanda’s Little Pets had a license with USDA until 2008, when the license was revoked after numerous Animal Welfare Act violations remained uncorrected. State violations show some issues have continued. In July 2019, a state inspector rated the kennel “conditionally acceptable,” noting that high weeds and vegetation on the property could “harbor insects and parasites.” The inspection also noted: “Licensee needs to complete grooming of dogs, specifically King Charles [spaniels] beginning to hair mat on ears and chest. Licensee also

needs to organize kennel area of clutter and trash.” At the time of the July 2019 inspection, there were 78 dogs and 33 puppies on the property. On Aug. 22, 2019, state inspectors once again rated the operation “conditionally acceptable,” noting “Feces and excess food for more than one day needs to be removed.” The August inspection took place because a complaint had been received on Aug. 20, 2019, from someone who had concerns about the dogs’ health and welfare.

Wanda’s Little Pets has offered puppies for sale on PuppyFind (now called Puppies.com), a website the HSUS has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. NE #KN129. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## NEW MEXICO

**Frances Reed Higgins/Pampered Pet Care, Silver City, New Mexico: Eight dogs were found in need of veterinary care during a single inspection, including a “very thin” Chihuahua with cloudy eyes who was squinting; some dogs were outside in cold weather with unacceptable housing; dealer received an official warning from USDA in March 2022.** In November 2021, USDA inspectors found a long list of violations at Frances Reed Higgins’ pet breeding facility. The violations included eight dogs in need of veterinary care, including a “very thin” Chihuahua with “vertebrae and ribs easily seen and felt” and “no appreciable body fat.” The dog also had cloudy eyes, with one eye squinting intermittently, “suggesting it could be painful.” The ailing dog also showed signs of advanced dental disease and was being kept outside in the winter cold even though she was “in poor body condition.” In addition to the Chihuahua, a female Doberman pinscher was found with a “red, swollen piece of tissue” protruding from the corner of her eye and a “thick white-yellow discharge” draining from the eye. Six other dogs had signs of dental disease so advanced that they had issues such as red and swollen gums, a foul odor coming from their mouths or whitish discharge around the gumline.

In addition to the eight dogs in need of treatment, the USDA inspector issued a direct violation for some dogs kept in the cold without adequate protection, including some animals who were sickly or infirm. The inspector also found that animal housing was decrepit and in need of repair, dangerous cleaning chemicals were stored too close to the animals’ food, and some areas were cluttered. The inspector noted a critical violation for issues such as three Dobermans with unacceptable outdoor shelter. The shelter consisted of “one wooden box structure in disrepair without an attached, stable roof.” The shelter was too small to accommodate all the dogs and only had a dirt floor. Some of the Yorkies also had inadequate shelter in the November cold; only a cracked, plastic kennel was placed in their enclosure to protect them from the weather. Many other issues were noted related to the poor conditions.

When USDA returned in March 2022 for a relicensing inspection, it found three more violations. Two of them were related to other species on the property (hamsters and guinea pigs) who did not have adequate housing. A third violation was related to a Doberman pinscher exposed to broken wires that could injure her. Higgins did pass some inspections, but concerns remain due to the severity of issues found. USDA gave Higgins an official letter of warning in March 2022 for six of the violations. USDA #85-B-0093.

## NEW YORK

**Samuel Z. Brubacker, Dundee, New York: USDA found repeat violations for dirty conditions and housing in poor repair; two dogs had abnormal conditions that had not been treated.** USDA inspectors found many violations at Samuel Brubacker’s kennel in both 2021 and 2022. During an October 2021 visit, USDA inspectors cited Brubacker with veterinary care deficiencies for two dogs with abnormalities that the licensee had not addressed. The first dog was a female bichon who “was circling in the outside portion of her enclosure for an extended period of time.” When asked what was wrong with the dog, “The licensee stated that he had noticed she started this behavior but did not recognize it as an abnormal behavior and had not communicated it to the veterinarian.” The inspector noted there was reason for concern because, “This is a young dog housed alone in an enclosure which could contribute to the abnormal behavior pattern, or this could be an indicator of an underlying health issue. The licensee needs to communicate this behavior with the vet and have this dog assessed for her health and well being.” The other dog with an abnormality was a Cavalier King Charles spaniel who “has a small round mass on the left hip just under the skin.” The licensee claimed he had not noticed the issue, nor had it been evaluated by a veterinarian.

In addition, the USDA found five different issues with the dogs’ primary enclosures during the October 2021 visit, such as enclosures that were damaged or in disrepair, including gaps or sharp points that could entrap or injure the dogs. Inspectors also found cleaning issues. For example, “The shelter boxes in the main kennel have an excessive amount of old food around the box and there is evidence of mold growing on some of the food,” and there were areas with grime, dust and debris.

USDA inspectors arrived for another inspection in January 2022 and found three more issues, two of which were repeat violations. The first repeat violation was related to some primary enclosures that were still worn or in disrepair. USDA also cited Brubacker with a repeat violation for cleaning issues. Inspectors also noted that some of the dogs’ shelters were not providing adequate protection from the cold. USDA #21-A-0083.

**Helen Camlakides/Sportsman’s Kennels, Manorville, New York: Strong odors, contaminated water and decrepit conditions found at massive breeder/pet store with almost 300 dogs and puppies (repeat offender).** State inspectors who visited Sportsman’s Kennels in December 2021 found 15 different violations at the massive operation with almost 300 dogs and puppies. Some of the most concerning issues in the state inspection report included strong odors; a backed-up drain and sewage system that was leading to contamination of the enclosures, such that animals could not get away from wastes or standing water; at least one mother dog who didn’t have enough floor space to lie down outside her whelping box; rusty water buckets that led to the dogs’ water being contaminated; and insufficient veterinary treatment plans and records.

Sportsman’s Kennels also appeared in our 2021 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, during three different state inspections between December 2019 and November 2020, state inspectors rated the kennel “non-compliant critical” for issues related to dogs in need of veterinary care. In November 2020, state inspectors found a number of problems, including a female Labrador with prominent hair loss who had also been found in a similar condition the prior month, and a variety of issues related to unsafe housing for the animals (such as rusty cages, holes in the walls, and sharp edges on surfaces that could injure the dogs). Inspectors also noted that there was no written veterinary plan approved by a veterinarian. Similar issues had been noted during a visit the prior month, including the same issue with the dog who had missing fur, and the issues with cages in need of repairs, with rust and holes in the cages “large enough for an animal’s head or extremities to pass through.”

There was also a “Back up of urine and feces throughout drains, debris in drains that run along cage runs,” and no written veterinary plan, exercise or medical treatment plan available. Issues found in prior years included December 2019 violations for four dogs in need of veterinary attention, and excessive wastes and feces.

Numerous puppy buyers and concerned citizens have complained about poor conditions and sick puppies sold by Sportsman’s Kennels, both in online [forums](#) and directly to the HSUS. NY #30. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Classy Creations, Lyons, New York: Recurring issues with poor veterinary care, including dogs with sore feet, matted fur and excessive feces; facility has been cited for more than 35 violations since 2015 \(repeat offender\)](#)**. Classy Creations has a history of violations, with more than 35 violations found at various inspections since 2015. Some of the most recent issues were found during a March 2022 USDA inspection, when inspectors found “toxic substances” kept near the dogs’ food, excessive feces in multiple enclosures, and a dog with such long nails that “his toes were observed splaying outward,” which the inspector noted could lead to “lameness and discomfort.” There were 269 dogs and puppies on the property at the time.

During an October 2021 USDA visit, inspectors found more dogs in need of care. One of the dogs was a Yorkshire terrier named Luxie, who had an injured foot that appeared to be made worse by trying to stand on wire floors. According to the inspection report, the dog “was observed to be licking her right rear foot, and had a red raw ulcerated area observed between the toes. The dog held the leg in the air at times and was reluctant to bear weight when on the wire section of the enclosure. However, the dog did bear weight on the foot when in the solid surface portion of the enclosure. This condition was not previously identified by the licensee.” In addition, another Yorkshire terrier “was observed with matted hair around the mouth and on the front legs. The dog also had long nails which need to be trimmed and severe tartar build up on the teeth and along the gum line.” The inspector noted: “Matted fur pulls away from the skin and can be painful and cause skin irritations. Long nails can begin to splay outward or could curl under into the pad of the foot.” A third dog, a poodle named Cookie, was observed with dental issues.

In addition to the veterinary care issues, the inspector found filthy conditions, noting, “There was a buildup of feces observed in multiple enclosures throughout all areas of the kennel. Some of the feces was moldy.” The mold seemed to indicate the feces had been left there for a long time instead of being cleaned promptly. The inspector also noted, “There was also an excess buildup of feces under many of the enclosures. Excess waste can harbor disease and affect the health of the dogs.”

Classy Creations also appeared in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, similar issues with dirty conditions, matted dogs and dogs with sore feet were found at prior inspections. For example, violations found in 2017 are too numerous to list here, but a few included:

- Three dogs were found “shaking their heads repeatedly,” and one had a wound behind her ear, likely linked to scratching the ears due to ear infections. (November 2017)
- At least one of the dog feeders was found repeatedly “filled with feces,” and during the June 2017 inspection, one of them was so “filled with feces [that] the food was not able to get into the main trough area due to the accumulation.” (June 2017, August 2017)
- Dogs were housed in a building that “has not been cleaned in multiple months,” and buckets of water were filled with “bugs, fecal material and debris.” (August 2017)
- An inspector noted the facility “does not have enough trained employees to carry out an acceptable level of husbandry practices and care required for [the] dogs.” (August 2017)
- A male Pomeranian “caught the inspector’s eye due to an abnormal walking movement and appearance of being matted.” (June 2017)

- A male Pomeranian was “wet with overly matted fur and dirty ears with black tar like debris which made it impossible to visualize the ear canal. This dog was shaking its head from side to side which indicated irritation.” (June 2017)
- “A Cavalier # C08 had inter digital cysts that were red, oozing and irritated on the front right paw and left rear paw.” (June 2017)

USDA #21-A-0160. REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.

**Crestwood Acres, Lyons, New York: USDA inspector found visibly thin nursing mother dog, whose ribs could be easily felt, with young puppies; USDA did not cite the issue as a direct violation, did not require the breeder to take the dog to a veterinarian and did not reinspect.** At a June 2021 USDA inspection, inspectors found a noticeably underweight nursing mother dog who did not appear to be receiving proper care. According to the inspection report, “A female shitzu id # 900118000315853 is nursing 4, two week old puppies. She is visibly thin with ribs easily palpated, prominent hips, and her lumbar vertebrae is visible. She is on a puppy diet but is not receiving any additional supplementation to enable her to maintain good body condition while nursing growing puppies. The diet needs to be addressed to ensure she is receiving adequate nutrition during this time for her health and well being.” The issue was cited only as an “indirect” violation, with no follow-up prescribed.

Poor body weight in a dog can be a symptom of many issues, including an infection or parasites, but the USDA inspector apparently did not require the licensee to have the mother dog seen by a veterinarian, and only cited the violation as a “feeding” issue. The inspector also did not cite the breeder for a “direct” violation, which is normally required when an animal is found to be in obviously poor health, and which could have triggered a follow-up visit. As of May 2, 2022, a review of the USDA’s website shows no indication that an inspector ever performed a focused inspection to check on the health of the mother dog or her puppies. The facility did pass a pre-scheduled relicensing inspection in March 2022; that would have been far too late to ensure the safety of the underweight dog or her puppies. The operation had 108 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the March 2022 inspection. USDA #21-A-0158.

**Dorene and Marie Duffy/Lotta Spots Ranch, Livonia, New York: State issued critical violations at five different inspections in 2020-2021; kennel had issues with lack of veterinary care records, a lack of fresh water for dogs, unsanitary conditions and areas in disrepair.** State inspectors found critical violations during at least three different inspections of Lotta Spots Ranch in late 2021 and at least two inspections in 2020, records show, including a repeated failure to have a basic health care plan for dogs signed by a veterinarian.

In September 2021, state inspectors found critical violations for a failure to separate healthy animals from sick animals, which could put the healthy dogs at risk; at least six pens that were lacking fresh water; some dogs who had no recent health examinations; and areas that were in poor repair. In addition, inspectors found unsanitary conditions and odors, among other issues. There were about 60 dogs and puppies in the facility at the time of the inspection. When inspectors returned in October 2021, they found three additional critical violations related to poor housing and lack of a current, signed veterinary plan. In November 2021, inspectors returned and found even more critical violations. The facility’s veterinary care plan again had not been signed by a veterinarian within the past year, despite the licensee being notified at prior inspections about the issue. In addition, the inspectors again found no proof of health examinations performed on dogs within the past year, among other issues.

State inspectors found similar issues in 2020, including an incomplete or no veterinary care program, some dogs who were missing vaccinations, and areas that were not well constructed. NY #1149.

**Bridget Hewson/ADK Puppy Patch, Childwold, New York: Parts of kennel had caked fecal matter, dirt, hair and/or urine; some areas were in dangerous disrepair (repeat offender)**. Even after ADK Puppy Patch appeared in our 2021 Horrible Hundred report, new violations were found at state inspections of the facility in 2021 and 2022. Inspectors marked ADK Puppy Patch “non-compliant” at a Feb. 16, 2022, state inspection for unclean conditions, noting that “caked fecal material” was found in multiple areas. The report continued: “The floor in the utility room was not adequately cleaned. Fecal material, dirt, hair, and urine was observed in multiple areas.” When state inspectors returned again on April 11, 2022, the kennel was not made available for inspection, leaving HSUS with concerns about the welfare of all the dogs on the premises. It finally passed a follow-up inspection on April 25, 2022.

The facility also passed one inspection in June 2021, but only after inspectors had visited on May 20, 2021, and marked the facility “non-compliant” for many issues, including a critical noncompliance for an issue that could injure the dogs: “The wire gates of two adjoining outdoor exercise pens have sections that [have] been damaged by the dogs pulling the wires away from the frame so that there are areas where a dog could get caught, cut, or otherwise injured by the sharp ends of the wires sticking out.” In addition, there were issues with surfaces in disrepair, such as flaking paint and other damage, and some dogs had not had recent health examinations.

ADK Puppy Patch also appeared in our 2021 report for similar issues. During a state inspection in July 2020, ADK Puppy Patch was cited for several issues, including a “critical” violation for a dog who did not have a rabies vaccination, and a violation for a dog who “had a quantity of soft stool adhering to the underside of her tail” and rear end at the time of inspection and who apparently had not been taken to a veterinarian. Other issues included surfaces that were rusty or dirty, ventilation in an isolation room that “was inadequate at the time of inspection with a strong odor of urine/ammonia,” a veterinary care plan that had not been signed off on by a veterinarian, a substance being put in the dogs’ water that had not been approved by a veterinarian, and no evidence of an exercise plan for the dogs.

While the kennel passed some of its inspections in recent years, other issues have been documented off and on. In May 2018, the kennel was cited for a number of problems, including “inadequate cleanliness” in a garage whelping building with an accumulation of grime, dirt and particles of food and feces on the bars of wire crates, excessive feces in some of the exercise areas, dirty water bowls and a contract that violated consumer puppy “lemon laws” at the time. Issues go back approximately seven years; in 2016, the operation was also cited for an inappropriate veterinary care plan. NY #889. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**James Leach/Leach Sheep & Goat Station, Martville, New York: State inspectors found critical violations, including dogs without clean water, unkempt dogs and underage puppy sales, at breeder with 120 dogs (repeat offender)**. During a June 2021 state inspection, Leach Sheep & Goat Station was rated “non-compliant critical” due to several significant violations, including all of the dogs in the “second room,” who were “not supplied clean water at least every 12 hours”; the sale of underage puppies; some dogs who did not have rabies vaccinations; and at least 12 dogs who had overgrown nails. Two dogs were also matted, and the facility had not renewed its license in a timely manner. The facility had 120 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

Leach Sheep & Goat Station appeared in a previous Horrible Hundred report for similar issues, and the problem of failing to give adequate water to dogs has been noted repeatedly. For example, during a June 2020 state inspection, the inspector found that “approximately 80% of water buckets in [the] adult dog barn were empty or had minimal water with debris in addition to approximately 25% of the water bucket[s]” that needed to be cleaned. The inspector also found that, “A new vet plan with new vet has not been completed,” a dog had been

sold without a valid rabies vaccine, and “5 dogs had mild to moderate matting and 16 dogs had long nails that need to be trimmed.” In addition, 35 adult dogs had no documentation of receiving the yearly health exams that are required by state law, and 13 dogs were missing a valid license, among other issues. At the time, the inspector counted 92 adult dogs and 25 puppies on the property. The operation did pass an inspection in July 2020 as well as one 2019 inspection, but in May 2019, similar issues were found. During the May 2019 inspection, some of the puppies were found with no water; there was a “noxious smell” in the adult dog room, “indicating poor ventilation”; one dog was found with “red, oozing ears” that had not been evaluated by a veterinarian; another had a “reoccurring lameness” that also had not been checked recently; and there were numerous issues with cleaning and sanitation. Similar issues were also found in 2018, including a male basset hound who did not have his nails trimmed after the inspector had previously recommended it; the dog was “now limping.” Other issues found in 2018 included a “critical” violation for a German shepherd dam with “significant diarrhea” and a Labrador with “ocular redness/conjunctivitis” who had not been evaluated by a veterinarian, among other issues.

The facility has passed some inspections, including one in July 2021. NY #1021. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Curtis and Joleen (Jolene) Martin/Summerset Farms, Seneca Falls, New York: Three dogs were lame and had not received adequate veterinary care; others had insufficient housing; state inspectors found recurring issues at massive facility with almost 300 dogs; USDA did not document any violations (repeat offender).** State inspectors rated Summerset Farms “non-compliant critical” at two different inspections in June 2021. During an inspection on June 7 and another on June 22, veterinary care was inadequate. On June 22, 2021, inspectors found three dogs who were lame and “had not yet received veterinary examination and care,” and at least 12 dogs who had long nails that needed to be cut. On June 7, inspectors had found 10 dogs with overgrown nails, at least one puppy who was sold underage, and a Labrador who had not been fed frequently enough. In addition, there were issues with a puppy who was kept in a cage with wire floors that could injure them, a mother dog and puppies who did not have a whelping box big enough for the mother and puppies to lay down in together, and other issues. There were 218 adult dogs and 81 puppies on the property at the time of the June 22, 2021, state inspection.

Jolene Martin also appeared in our 2016 Horrible Hundred report. At that time, she was licensed with USDA under a different license (she held a breeder license and now holds a dealer license). As we noted in the 2016 report, USDA inspectors found several dogs in need of veterinary care at Jolene Martin’s March 2016 USDA inspection, including several excessively matted dogs. One of the matted dogs had feces trapped in the matted fur, and another had no teeth. Another dog was found to have “pressure sores developing on the back legs,” and several others had signs of dental disease, such as receding gums and missing teeth. In addition, at least 20 enclosures were found to have feces in the dogs’ food receptacles. When questioned about this, the licensee blamed the dogs. According to the inspection report, “The facility [representative] states that the dogs defecate and then carry the feces to the feeders. This is not a normal behavior for dogs and could be indicative of stress or other health or behavioral issues.” The inspector added that “one dog was retching in the enclosure” during the visit; the inspector noted several other issues with sanitation and housing. The inspector also noted that the facility did not have enough employees to take care of the dogs: “The facility has several hundred adult dogs and only two adults working at the facility. Based on the number of non-compliant items in this report there is evidence to support that the facility does not have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required for this many animals. This needs to be addressed for the welfare of the dogs.” Multiple violations were found at the kennel in 2015 and 2014 as well.

Despite the many recent issues found by state inspectors, the USDA has not cited the kennel for any recent violations. NY #1141. Current USDA #21-B-0147. Former USDA #21-A-0147. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Fronnie McClendon/Your Dream Puppy Acres, Rochester, New York: Online seller stored puppies in a smelly garage; state found 15 different violations, including a “critical” violation for lack of health examinations on puppies sold.** State inspectors who visited Your Dream Puppy Acres encountered issues at four different inspections or attempted inspections in 2021. Three of the inspections resulted in no access for the inspectors, meaning inspectors were not given the opportunity to check on the puppies at all, which is significant cause for concern and a waste of state resources. There were two such attempted inspections in June 2021 and one in December 2021. Inspectors did gain access to the operation in November 2021 and found 15 different violations. Inspectors found insufficient housing, with odors “present in [the] garage where puppies are housed.” They also found issues with sanitation: “Transport cages had evidence of excess waste on wire doors. Housing area and primary enclosures must be disinfected with a parvocidal cleaner at a minimum of every two weeks,” and trash was not properly stored. The inspectors issued a critical violation for a lack of health examinations, noting that there was “No proof of health exams for any of the puppies sold.” Inspectors also found that there was no written veterinary plan available at the time of inspection, stating there was “No proof of [a] vet visit conducted within the past year.” There was also no proof of an exercise plan nor documentation of the puppies getting exercise. In addition, many records were missing or incomplete, including records of the sources of puppies and their descriptions, and sales records were incomplete, among other issues. Your Dream Puppy Acres advertises puppies on its website, YourDreamPuppy.com, and has a presence on [Facebook](#). NY #1134.

**Rainbow Creek, South Butler, New York: Unsanitary conditions and questions about missing dogs at facility with over 325 dogs; 14 dogs were “euthanized” for unknown reasons (repeat offender).** During a June 2021 visit, USDA inspectors found unsanitary conditions at Rainbow Creek, a massive facility with more than 325 dogs and puppies. According to the USDA inspection report, “The floor pens are not being sanitized every two weeks and there is a build up of shavings with debris caked into the floor.” The report continues: “In the puppy room there are shavings and fecal debris trapped between the wood board and the grooves in the vinyl siding on the floor underneath the enclosures.” In addition to documenting the sanitation issues, USDA also gave the kennel a “teachable moment” on the same date for questions relating to more than two dozen dogs who were no longer at the kennel: “There were no dates listed for 12 adult dogs sold or 14 dogs euthanized on form 7005.” No records were documented by USDA regarding why or how 14 dogs were “euthanized,” but the issue is a concern due to a history of animal care problems at the kennel. USDA has also stopped citing breeders for undesirable “euthanasia” methods such as shooting unwanted dogs, as long as their veterinarians have signed off on the method. However, it is unknown if that is what happened to the 14 euthanized dogs at Rainbow Creek.

Rainbow Creek appeared in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, and its size has only increased since then. As we noted in our 2020 report, serious animal care issues were found in 2019 and earlier. For example, on July 10, 2019, the USDA found a number of animals in poor condition at Rainbow Creek. These animals included: A Pomeranian who “had matted fur around the feet, and anal region. There was fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus.” A mother Pekingese with “fecal debris trapped in fur around the tail and along the hind legs. Additionally, the dog gave birth several weeks ago but still appears to have some irritation and drainage coming from the vulva that should also be assessed by the veterinarian.” A Pomeranian “had matted fur around the feet, and anal region. There was fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus. Matted fur pulls and [separates] from the skin and can cause painful skin irritations.” The inspection report noted that, “At the time of the inspection approximately 2:30 pm, the ambient temperature outdoors was 91 deg F and the temperature in the kennel according to the facility’s thermometer was 88 deg F read at approximately 3:00 pm. [...] A majority of dogs were panting in the kennel area and the inspectors felt overheated.”

As we documented in our 2018 Horrible Hundred report, in August 2017, a USDA inspector found several dogs in need of care at Rainbow Creek, including a cocker spaniel with apparent dental disease, a bichon who “had

matted fur around the feet, ears and anal region” and “fecal debris caught in the fur around the anus.” In addition, the inspector found a Pekingese who “was wearing a chain collar that was rusted. There was a considerable amount of hair loss around the neck where the chain was.” The dog also had “large areas of matted fur,” among other issues. USDA #21-A-0179. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**John David Shirk, Penn Yan, New York: State inspector found three “critical” violations for improper veterinary care issues (repeat offender).** During a July 2021 state inspection, John David Shirk’s kennel was rated “non-compliant critical” for eight different issues, three of which were marked “critical.” The critical issues included the lack of a sufficient and signed veterinary care plan, a dog with an eye disorder whom the licensee could not prove had been taken to a veterinarian to be evaluated, and at least two dogs who were sold without veterinary examination forms. Additional issues found at the same inspection that were marked “general” included dogs with nails that were too long and other issues with inadequate records. When inspectors arrived in August 2021 to inspect again, no one was available to let them in, state records show, and the visit was marked as “attempted.”

Shirk also appeared in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report due to violations found in 2019 and 2018. As we noted in that report, during a USDA inspection in June 2019, the inspector found a bulldog puppy who was “very small and is not thriving.” The inspection report noted, “The licensee was tube feeding the puppy for an extended period of time during the day but stopped several days ago. The puppy appears to be declining and its condition should be communicated to the attending veterinarian in a timely manner.” While this was the only violation listed for 2019, it is very troubling that the licensee apparently knew the puppy was ailing, yet despite providing extra care to the animal “for an extended period of time,” Shirk still did not obtain professional veterinary care or advice when the puppy failed to recover.

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

An inspection in September 2021 was compliant. NY #953. Former USDA #21-A-0182. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Twilight Valley Toys (T.V. Toys), Lyons, New York: USDA found two mother dogs who were so thin that their ribs, vertebrae and pelvic bones were easily visible; USDA failed to direct the breeder to have them examined by a veterinarian.** During a March 2022 USDA inspection, inspectors found two mother dogs who were noticeably underweight. One was nursing puppies, and the other was due to give birth soon. The first dog was a shih tzu named Jada who, according to the inspection report, “was in the whelping box nursing puppies. She was thin and her ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones were easily visible, with no palpable fat.” The other dog was a shih tzu named Glorianna, “who is pregnant and due to whelp soon was also thin and her ribs, lumbar vertebrae and pelvic bones were easily visible, with no palpable fat.”

The inspector indicated that the dogs needed to be supplemented with more food but did not require that the licensee have the dogs examined by a veterinarian and listed the issue as a “feeding” violation. Underweight animals could be emaciated for a number of different reasons, including a lack of adequate nutrition, parasites or underlying infections, but USDA rarely requires licensees to have ailing animals inspected by a veterinarian, an issue that some animal welfare organizations are urging USDA to address. USDA also found a sanitation violation

at the same inspection, with “a large accumulation of feces that has not been removed from the outdoor run for the three large breed dogs.”

The March 2022 inspection was the second USDA inspection in a row that found Twilight Valley Toys with veterinary and sanitation issues. In February 2021, the facility was cited for excessive feces, and a poodle named Ranger was found to be “visibly matted.” In May 2017, the USDA found violations for housing issues, with rusty areas in the kennel, including rusty lixit tips, which are the part of the automatic waterers that dogs drink from. USDA also found filthy conditions with “an accumulation of feces and urine soaked shavings” in several pens and an accumulation of clutter, trash, debris and dust. Disturbingly, the USDA inspector described medical items that were exposed to the dirty conditions, such as dental equipment and used syringes that “were not being cleaned between use.” Do-it-yourself veterinary care is a significant issue at puppy mills.

There were more than 110 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the March 2022 inspection. USDA #21-A-0154.

## NORTH CAROLINA

[Lois Baker, Andrews, North Carolina: Received official warning from USDA for a failure to provide adequate veterinary care for dogs; USDA inspectors also found excessive feces in some areas and found that the breeder obtained some puppies from an unlicensed breeder.](#) During a July 2021 inspection, several issues were found at Lois Baker’s property. Two of the most concerning issues were related to sanitation and veterinary care. The inspector wrote, “There are three dachshunds housed in each of the [two] enclosures. There is an accumulation of excreta on the floors that is getting smeared around while the dogs run through the enclosure.” In addition, “The male chocolate/tan piebald dachshund microchip #003796602 has severe tartar on his upper canines. Female red dachshund chip #021218093 has extensive tartar build up on her canines and premolars. Her gums are inflamed and receding. The dachshund also has overgrown toenails which are causing her toes to deviate which if allowed to continue may result in lameness.” There were about 60 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

The USDA gave Baker an official warning for the veterinary care issues found in July. But when an inspector visited again in December 2021, there was another issue. The inspector found that the facility “received 5 puppies from an unlicensed breeder.” Since Baker holds an A license, she is prohibited from selling puppies from other breeders. The sale of puppies provided by unlicensed breeders could indicate the dealer was circumventing USDA rules by selling dogs from other breeders who are not held to the standards of licensed breeders, thus violating the entire intent and purpose of breeder regulation. Shockingly, USDA only gave Baker a “teachable moment” for the violation, which means it was not documented on the facility’s official inspection report but was listed on another document instead.

Prior issues at Baker’s facility included a March 2020 issue with whelping enclosures that had newspapers in them that were soaked and soiled, leaving the dogs and puppies wet. Baker also failed at least three times since 2015 to make the kennel available for inspection. The facility passes some inspections; an inspection in March 2022 was compliant. USDA #55-A-0165.

## OHIO

**NOTE:** Despite multiple attempts by the HSUS to receive documents under the state’s public right-to-know law starting in February 2022, as of May 4, 2022, the Ohio Department of Agriculture had not supplied kennel inspection records in response to our request. Thus, only USDA records were available to researchers, making this section of the report incomplete and leaving grave questions about the enforcement of the state’s kennel inspection law.

**[Andy Nisley/Nunda Valley Kennels, Howard, Ohio: Received official warning from USDA in January 2022 after inspectors found wet and/or muddy dogs outside in cold weather; USDA also found poorly maintained housing with rusted wires.](#)** In January 2022, the USDA gave Andy Nisley an official warning for failing to keep some dogs clean, dry and protected from the weather. The issues were related to some dogs found in cold, wet, and muddy conditions in November 2021.

The USDA inspector noted on Nov. 18, 2021, that many parts of the kennel were rusted, and there were “several areas that have been bent or chewed [...] causing jagged or sharp edges and points.” In addition, some dogs who were kept in outside enclosures had no wind or rain breaks at the entrance of their shelters. The inspector added, “There are two outside enclosures, containing 5 dogs, with shelter structures that do not have any form of bedding to assist the dogs in keeping warm. In addition, the dogs were all wet due to their enclosure being wet and muddy. At the time of inspection the temperature was 41.6 °F. (Direct).” The inspection reported added that, “Rain and wet weather for the area has left all dirt surfaces within their enclosure wet and/or muddy. In addition, their shelter structures do not have clean dry bedding or provide them with any clean dry area within their enclosure. All dogs are wet and 2 out of 5 dogs have wet mud all the way up their feet to their mid section. (Direct).” There were 70 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the November inspection.

In September 2021 and again in March 2022, USDA attempted two inspections, but Nisley did not make anyone available to show the dogs and kennel to inspectors, which is a violation. Licensees are required to allow unannounced inspections during normal business hours. During the September attempt, the licensee reportedly told inspectors directly that no one was available to show them the property; at the March 2022 attempt, the licensee failed to answer the door, come to the phone or reply to a voice mail message within 30 minutes. Failing to allow inspectors to view the kennel leaves questions about the safety and welfare of all the dogs.

**NOTE:** The kennel listed here is not the same as the one owned by another Andy Nisley in Baltic, Ohio. The warning and violations noted above were for Andy Nisley of Howard, Ohio. OH #CB000PEN. USDA # 31-A-0436.

**[Reuben M. Schlabach/Sharp Run Kennels aka A 1 Bundles of Joy, Millersburg, Ohio: Facility with more than 100 dogs and puppies had unsanitary conditions; some dogs had almost no protection from the weather.](#)**

During an Oct. 5, 2021, visit, USDA inspectors found at least eight dogs who were outside with inadequate weather protection at Reuben Schlabach’s kennel. The eight large-breed dogs were in two separate outdoor pens with four dogs in each. Each pen had only one small, igloo-type shelter that wasn’t large enough to fit all of the dogs in case of poor weather: “Each pen was observed having one small, circular, igloo-like shelter within them that measured approximately 3 feet by 3 feet. The licensee stated these dogs are housed in these pens all the time. There are no other shade structures located within the pens.” In addition, the inspector found unsanitary conditions, noting that, “Most of the primary enclosures housing adult dogs had brown, waxy debris mixed with hair built up and caked along the bottom seams of the enclosures. Brown, waxy material was also observed caked on the doggy doors that lead to the outside runs.” Inspectors also found dirty food receptacles: “Brown, waxy debris was observed caked onto the bottom of most of the food receptacles within the primary

enclosures housing dogs.” Dirty housing and dirty feeding areas could lead to health problems in the dogs and are indicators of poor oversight. The facility had 76 adult dogs and 42 puppies at the time of the inspection. OH #CB000WNB. USDA # 31-A-0122.

## OKLAHOMA

**NOTE: Despite multiple attempts by the HSUS to receive documents under the state’s public right-to-know law starting in February 2022, as of May 4, 2022, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture had not provided kennel inspection records in a reasonable or timely manner; thus this section of our report is incomplete. Due to a lack of information from the state, the HSUS has grave concerns about the state’s enforcement of its kennel inspection law.**

**Cynthia Paula Jack/Coal Creek Kennel, Stringtown, Oklahoma: Direct violations for three dogs in need of care; one dog was so severely matted that “it was difficult to find his ears”; kennels were infested with roaches and had excessive feces.** During a February 2022 USDA inspection, inspectors found six violations, including three different direct violations, at Coal Creek Kennel. Direct violations are some of the most significant violations that USDA can identify because they indicate a clear and present risk to animals. One of the direct violations was for inadequate veterinary care related to three specific dogs: a pug with signs of dental disease with a “severe accumulation of dental tartar and exposed tooth roots on her right upper cheek teeth”; a poodle with dental issues and “matted fur on his face, legs, back, backend, hips, and belly area”; and another poodle with “severe hair matting over the majority of his body.” According to the inspection report, “The mats were very tight to his body on his back, legs, hips, backend, and on his face to the point where it was difficult to find his ears.”

There was also a direct violation for lacking a current program of veterinary care for the 80 dogs and puppies in the kennel. USDA noted a third direct violation for a lack of adequate cleaning and sanitation, noting there was an excessive amount of feces, with conditions so unsanitary that, “In most of these enclosures the dogs were not able to avoid contact with the fecal matter when using the outdoor runs.” Also, “The washdowns under the enclosures had excessive accumulation of fecal material. At least one washdown appeared to have a clogged drain, resulting in several inches of standing fecal contaminated water.” There was also a roach infestation in all three kennel buildings: “Roaches were seen on the walls and within the cages of the dogs and newborn puppies.”

In addition, housing for the animals was dangerously unsafe. The inspection report noted that there were multiple sharp points that could injure the dogs. In one case, “One enclosure has a large hole in the back wall above the access door. A suspended kennel housing two miniature pinschers has a large hole in the wire outer wall, with an exposed sharp point. This hole is easily large enough to allow a dog’s head to pass through. Multiple enclosures have sagging and/or leaning walls which need to be tightened, repaired, or replaced.”

In March 2022, Jack received an official warning from the USDA for some of the violations. USDA #73-A-1661.

## PENNSYLVANIA

**Margaret (Molly) Graf/Eichenluft Working German Shepherds, Newville, Pennsylvania: State inspectors had questions about a deceased puppy; AKC breeder repeatedly operated without the proper license and with**

too many dogs, and was charged and suspended in the past; kennel was listed in four prior Horrible Hundred reports (repeat offender). Even after many years of violations and citations, and even after the kennel appeared in four prior Horrible Hundred reports, dog wardens found new issues at Eichenluft Working German Shepherds during two different visits in the second half of 2021. In June, state inspectors issued a citation for a missing health certificate on a dog, an issue that has been found in the past. In October 2021, state inspectors noted that the kennel had been once again operating outside of its kennel class with too many dogs, an issue that it has been cited for again and again over the years. The state inspection report also noted, “There was a puppy which had deceased after a week which was not dated on records and an additional dog [brought] into the kennel which had not been recorded. On or about September 25, 2021, the kennel exceeded the number of dogs on premises allowed by the kennel class II (51-100 dogs of any age during a calendar year) held and did not apply for an upgraded kennel license to a kennel class III, which the kennel is now operating.”

In addition, Margaret Graf still did not have complete records on dogs. The warden noted, “At the time of inspection, two dogs had left the kennel and new owner information was not filled in, wardens requested the records be filled in during the inspection. After the kennel inspection it was discovered that an additional dog named Aura had entered the kennel without being recorded on the kennels records. A puppy had been crossed off the records as deceased without a date to indicate how long the dog survived.” There were almost 60 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the inspection.

Questions about dogs added to or leaving the kennel without proper documentation might seem like a minor issue, but it is not. It could be an indication of a licensed kennel “laundering” dogs from other, unlicensed kennels, which would defeat the entire purpose of the state’s licensing and inspection program, or it could indicate that dogs passed away for unknown reasons.

Graf last appeared in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report after her license had been suspended following years of repeated issues. Although the kennel was listed as under suspension on April 13, 2020, ultimately its license was not revoked, and problems continued.

Graf 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.

Violations found at the kennel over the last 12 years are too numerous to include here but include violations for dogs who didn’t have adequate shelter from the cold, with “several dogs shivering and appearing to be uncomfortable” (December 2016), strong odors, excessive feces, poor ventilation, inadequate shelter to keep the dogs clean and dry, dogs without adequate space and unpotable water, along with repeated issues for inadequate programs of veterinary care for the kennel. Issues go back to at least 2010, when the kennel received a verbal warning for multiple noncompliances.

The kennel’s “AKC registered” German shepherd puppies have been offered for sale via a website called workinggermanshepherd.com. An additional website advertising AKC Chihuahuas, Pooh Corner Chihuahuas, also seems to be linked to the operation as they share a phone number and email address. The affiliation with the American Kennel Club is problematic because it shows that the AKC is not taking action to protect dogs; in fact, the AKC routinely lobbies against humane laws, including kennel inspection laws, despite known, documented issues with many breeders who claim to be affiliated with AKC.

The facility does pass some inspections, most recently in January 2022. PA #06585. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**John King/Sunrise Kennel, Narvon, Pennsylvania: Veterinary checks were ordered on dogs five times in less than three years (repeat offender).** State inspectors who visited Sunrise Kennel in September 2021 and again in April 2022 noted that they ordered a “72 hour vet check” on an unspecified number of dogs at both visits. The April 2022 inspection was the fifth time in less than three years that state inspectors ordered the licensee to have an unspecified number of dogs checked by a veterinarian. Veterinary checks were also ordered in July 2020, December 2020 and April 2021.

King’s Sunrise Kennel also appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report. As we noted in that report, the 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 windowless, unventilated building. According to the report, the building had “no windows, dog doors open, or mechanical ventilation” to provide adequate circulation. The February 2018 citation was related to numerous deficiencies, including dirty food and water receptacles, accumulations of dirt, hair and grime, and other issues.

Questions about the kennel go back to 2011, when *The Philadelphia Inquirer* revealed that John King had been operating a dog breeding kennel on the property of an Amish schoolhouse without proper zoning since 2008, and he was not approved for the use until 2011. The reporter also noted that King had only obtained his license from the state in 2008 after “he was caught illegally operating a kennel,” and that he had pleaded guilty to a citation from the state in 2009 for sanitation and maintenance issues for “failing to clean feces and dirt from puppy and whelping pens.” King was also found in 2010 to have “undersized cages and no program of veterinary care,” according to the *Inquirer*. PA #05126. **REPEAT OFFENDER: SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Steve and Kendra Musser/Treehouse Family Puppies, Jonestown, Pennsylvania: Warning and citation for excessive feces and poor sanitation issued to breeder who markets dogs on Facebook.** During two recent state inspections, one in July 2021 and one in January 2022, state inspectors found excessive feces and poor sanitation at Treehouse Family Puppies, a breeder that [has advertised](#) on PuppyFind.com (now Puppies.com) and on Facebook. During the July inspection, the dog warden gave the facility a verbal and written warning and noted, “Warden observed outside run area in the primary enclosure with an excess of old feces which was piled up near the ends of the runs and was smeared along the walking area of the enclosure.” The warden also observed “primary enclosures which were not being sanitized daily, as evidenced by statements made from the kennel owner, as well as the condition of the dog boxes having dirt built up inside them as well as a build up of feces in the run areas of the enclosure.” When an inspector returned again in January 2022, it seems the conditions were not any better. The warden issued a citation for issues related to excreta and sanitation. According to the inspection report, the warden “observed an outside run area in the primary enclosure with an excess of old feces piled in multiple places in the run area. Warden also observed old feces in the barn area that was white.” The white color would indicate the feces had been there a long time without being picked up. The warden also observed “primary enclosures which were not being sanitized daily, as evidenced by piles of old feces located in the outside areas of the primary enclosure as well as old feces being located in the barn kennel area. There was a build up of dirt and old spider webs in the barn area.” The breeder markets doodle mix puppies on a [Facebook page](#). PA #17631.

**Blanche S. Plute, McDonald, Pennsylvania: Received verbal and written warning from state inspectors for rusted and broken enclosures; some dogs did not have adequate space (repeat offender).** In August 2021, state inspectors gave Blanche Plute a written and verbal warning due to rusted and broken parts of the dogs’ enclosures and exercise area, and four dogs who were in crates who did not have enough space. The inspector

noted that the dogs “were too large for the cages in which they were housed.” It was at least the third time in about four years that the kennel received similar warnings from the state.

The facility appeared in our 2019 Horrible Hundred report after receiving similar warnings. As we stated in that report, the kennel was given a verbal and written warning on Feb. 21, 2019, and also in December 2018. Some selected quotes from the December 2018 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”; and “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.

Some intermittent inspections have been marked compliant. PA #03271. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Bobbie Yoder/Little Mountain Doodles, Myerstown, Pennsylvania: Found buying/selling puppies from undocumented/questionable sources for several years in a row; unlawfully interfered with enforcement of the dog law by providing “incorrect/fraudulent” information to state dog wardens \(repeat offender\).](#)** State records show that Little Mountain Doodles has been found again and again to have obtained puppies from questionable or undocumented sources, which could mean the kennel was “laundering” puppies from unlicensed and unregulated puppy mills, among other concerns. In addition, during several state inspections in the summer and fall of 2021, local dog wardens noted that Bobbie Yoder had “transferred” (sold) more dogs than allowed per year but was only licensed to deal 101 to 150 dogs per year. The dog warden also accused the breeder of lying and providing incorrect information to inspectors.

The report from a September 2021 inspection notes that “the kennel owner did not possess accurate and complete records for multiple litters of puppies bought and sold from this kennel. There were records missing for multiple litters sold and records with incorrect/fraudulent breeder information on them. Also, the kennel owner did not have any kennel records for 2020 available at the kennel for review by the wardens.” The dog warden also found that, “After thorough review of kennel records, it was discovered that the kennel owner provided wardens with fraudulent bills of sale. Wardens also did not observe bills of sale for multiple litters dealt by the kennel owner at the time of the inspection.” The warden noted, “The kennel owner interfered with the duties of State dog wardens by having provided inaccurate/fraudulent information on bills of sale and by not providing bills of sale or records for all dogs bought and sold by the kennel.”

During an October 2021 inspection, similar issues were found. Once again, the “owner did not possess accurate and complete records for multiple litters of puppies bought and sold by this kennel,” and “there were seven litters confirmed by visits to breeders and at least eight additional litters that the kennel owner failed to have documentation for.” Wardens also stated: “Wardens were not shown bills of sale for multiple litters.” And once again, “The kennel owner interfered with the duties of State dog wardens by having provided inaccurate information on bills of sale and by not providing bills of sale or records for all dogs bought and sold by the kennel. At this inspection, wardens were provided with a bill of sale and records for a litter from May of 2020. These records were not viewed or counted at the three previous inspections (10/15/20, 3/12/21 and 9/2/21).”

Little Mountain Doodles also appeared in our 2021 Horrible Hundred report for similar issues, indicating not much is being done to address the warden’s serious concerns. As we noted in that report, the facility had three

warnings or citations from the state since 2018 related to dealing dogs without appropriate records. In October 2020, the state issued a citation to Little Mountain Doodles for not keeping adequate records on some of their puppies, and for selling at least one underage puppy who was less than 8 weeks old. In March 2019, the kennel received a warning for not possessing complete records for dogs who had been transferred in and out of the kennel, not using state forms for records, and incomplete and/or lack of bills of sale. The records issue had been cited at a November 2018 inspection as well.

Failing to keep accurate records on dogs moving in and out of the kennel could mislead buyers and also pose a risk in tracking infectious disease outbreaks. In addition, the operation's website admits that the kennel ships some of its puppies by air. Commercial breeders who ship puppies to buyers without meeting them in person require a USDA license. HSUS staff who reviewed USDA's license list on May 2, 2022, could find no breeders listed under the name Little Mountain Doodles nor any licensed dog breeders by the name of Yoder in Myerstown, Pennsylvania. The operation advertises puppies for over \$2,000 each via its website, [littlemountaindoodles.com](http://littlemountaindoodles.com).

The facility passed an inspection in February 2022, but concerns remain about how long the compliance will last. PA #16267. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## SOUTH DAKOTA

**Vickie Hines/Lar-Kie Kennel, Woonsocket, South Dakota: Cited for repeated issues with clutter, grime and debris; also had excessive flies and insufficient veterinary records; history of poor conditions goes back for nearly a decade (repeat offender).** Lar-Kie Kennel has had recurring issues for nearly a decade and has been cited for 24 USDA violations since 2017. Some of the more recent violations were found during a June 2021 inspection, when inspectors noted that Vickie Hines had repeat violations for housing and cleaning issues. There were "multiple areas of clutter and accumulation of items on the floor of the south room of the house [where] dogs are allowed to roam freely," and the inspector noted that there had been a similar issue on at least two prior inspection dates. In addition, there was an issue with "multiple areas with accumulation of grime and debris on the floor and items in the room," an issue that had also been documented at four previous USDA inspections.

Yet even though the June inspection identified repeat violations, when USDA inspectors arrived again in September 2021, they failed to document a new issue on Hines' actual inspection report. Instead, the licensee was given a "teachable moment" note for a pest infestation. The "teachable moment" stated that numerous flies "were observed in the whelping room," which poses a health concern. USDA's own rules state that repeated violations should not be documented as "teachable moments" but should be written on the inspection report as violations.

A USDA inspector returned in December 2021. At that time, the inspector noted that the breeder had missing veterinary records. The report states there were "no records available from the licensee showing each regulated adult dog had received a complete physical exam by a licensed veterinarian during the past twelve months."

Lar-Kie Kennel is appearing in this report for the third time. Some of the concerns we mentioned in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report included issues found at 2019 inspections related to a strong urine odor, "visible accumulations of grime and debris," clutter, long-expired medications kept for use on the dogs, and housing that was corroded and falling apart, with sharp edges that could injure the dogs.

Additional issues at the kennel go back to at least 2011. As we stated in our 2014 Horrible Hundred report, between August 2011 and August 2013, serious violations were found at Lar-Kie Kennel during six USDA

inspections in a row. A few examples of prior issues include dogs found on Aug. 28, 2013, by a USDA inspector who was in a building that had a heat index over 102 degrees Fahrenheit; USDA inspectors had already visited twice during the same week and warned the licensee to correct the condition. On one of those visits, the heat index was measured at over 109 degrees (Aug. 27, 2013). During all three visits in August 2013, the inspector noted that dogs were showing signs of heat stress and were panting heavily. Several of the dogs were pugs, a breed that has a very low ability to tolerate heat. The pugs were seen with “heavy panting” and “dry, spoon-shaped tongues.” And in April 2013, USDA inspectors found 10 dogs in need of veterinary treatment, including dogs with hair loss and signs of eye and dental infections. In February 2014, the USDA fined Hines \$2,679 for five of the violations found in 2013. USDA # 46-A-0233. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## TEXAS

**Danya Bueno/Buenos Little Bulldogs, Andrews, Texas: State inspectors found AKC-affiliated breeder had no proof of timely annual veterinary examinations or routine preventive care plan on dogs; standing water in dog kennel; Texas inspectors sent violations for enforcement.** State inspectors who visited Buenos Little Bulldogs in June 2021 found nine violations, and state records show the violations were sent for enforcement. The result of the enforcement investigation was not shared with the HSUS, but issues noted at the June inspection included a lack of veterinary examinations for the dogs, lack of a health care protocol signed by a vet, lack of an exercise protocol signed by a vet, a failure to send inventory to the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration, and incomplete information on dogs leaving and entering the kennel, among other issues. The breeder told the inspector that the vet “usually comes in May.” Inspectors also noted there was standing water in at least one area of the kennel due to a broken drain trap, which is a significant disease hazard for the dogs.

Buenos Little Bulldogs advertises AKC-registerable puppies on [its website](#), where photos show some dogs who appear soiled or have visible debris in their ears, and where the breeder openly seems to be avoiding state sales tax laws. The website proclaims: “If you do not pay cash we have to add sales tax!” The breeder also advertises some puppies on [Facebook](#). TX #355.

**Patricia Fenton/T’s Chi’s Kennel, Daingerfield, Texas: Breeder with almost 100 dogs had a matted dog and unsafe conditions; had a previous enforcement referral for lacking enough employees for adequate husbandry; excessive feces and other issues.** During an inspection of T’s Chi’s Kennel in October 2021, state inspectors found six different noncompliances. Issues included a Yorkie with “overgrown, matted hair,” excreta in one of the dogs’ food bowls on top of the food, “no effective drainage system” in one building, and maintenance and safety issues. The safety issues were related to jagged edges that could hurt the dogs and wire cables inside the dog kennels, which dogs could chew on or otherwise hurt themselves on. There were 96 dogs on the property at the time of the inspection.

State inspectors also found eight noncompliances at the kennel in December 2019, and state records show the violations were sent to enforcement for further action. It is unknown if the breeder was fined or the outcome of the enforcement referral. The past issues at the kennel included operating with an expired license, failure to keep structurally safe conditions, “failure to spot clean to prevent accumulation of Excreta,” “failure to have an effective program for insects and rodents,” and a failure to have an adequate number of employees for proper husbandry, among other issues. It is unknown if any state inspections were performed on the kennel in 2020 or

2022, as the state did not send records from that timeframe, but another nonprofit organization visited the kennel in 2020 and [posted footage online](#) that it says was taken at T's Chi's. The undercover footage shows dogs kept in ramshackle conditions surrounded by excessive weeds and clutter.

T's Chi's Kennel advertises puppies on its [website](#), where the owner claims to sell dogs who are registerable with the AKC, American Canine Association and other registries. The business has also sold puppies at flea markets in Texas and Louisiana, according to its website. TX #330.

**[Tiffany Harvey/Ace Deuce Ranch, Avery, Texas: Two mother dogs died in a fire; others were found in stacked cages with excessive feces and flies \(repeat offender\)](#)**. Texas inspectors went to visit Ace Deuce Ranch in September 2021, state records show, to check on a licensing issue. While the inspector was there, she noticed dogs in stacked cages with excessive feces and flies. In a direct to enforcement report, the inspector noted that “nursing mothers with puppies in the stacked kennels had lots of excreta causing lots of flies.” There had also been a trailer fire that had killed at least two dogs. The inspector wrote: “Mrs. Harvey stated a trailer caught fire that held mothers and puppies and she lost 2 of the mothers.” In addition, the inspector wrote that during the onsite inspection, “standing water from rain was close to some of the primary enclosures causing lots of flies, more than normal.” The inspection report noted that some dogs needed grooming due to long nails and that there was an excess of “weeds, grass + discarded material” from the fire that had reportedly happened three months prior. There were about 134 dogs on the property at the time of the September inspection.

Ace Deuce Ranch also appeared in our 2017 Horrible Hundred report, after Harvey was fined \$550 in 2016 for allegedly shipping a puppy to a buyer without the necessary health records and allegedly making fraudulent claims about the dog's breed. Records of the complaint state that the puppy was shipped via airline to the buyer, but there is no indication that the breeder was USDA-licensed (per an HSUS review of the USDA license list at the time), which would be a requirement for any breeder with five or more breeding female dogs who ships puppies sight-unseen. In addition, a state kennel inspection in December 2015 uncovered a number of issues at the kennel, including a failure to submit annual inventory; failure to have a vet-approved exercise, health care or breeding cycle plan; and failure to have annual veterinary examinations on the dogs.

Harvey has advertised puppies for sale on PuppyFind.com, now called Puppies.com, a website that the HSUS has linked to numerous unlicensed and/or problematic puppy mills. It is unknown whether Harvey continues to sell puppies online in 2022, but as of May 2, 2022, HSUS researchers could find no sign of a USDA license for anyone named Tiffany Harvey or any business called Ace Deuce. It appears Harvey may have a business partner named Donnie Grenier/Deuce Ranch LLC, who does have a USDA license. TX #295. **REPEAT OFFENDER: SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Lorraine Johnson/Johnson's Call of the Wild, Killeen, Texas: Texas agent found a repeated failure to have any individual veterinary examinations on dogs or a veterinarian-approved health protocol; some violations sent directly to enforcement](#)**. In July 2021, an agent from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation went to inspect Johnson's Call of the Wild and found 11 different violations, six of which were sent directly to enforcement, state records show. The violations were mostly related to having almost none of the documentation that Texas requires for licensed dog breeders, including no health records on the dogs, no documentation that the dogs were examined by a veterinarian at least once a year, no health care protocol signed by a veterinarian, no document of employee training, and no document describing an approved exercise program for dogs, most of whom were being kept inside the home in crates. The violations were of significant concern because they were almost identical to violations the breeder had been warned about at a previous state inspection in April 2019, state records show.

When the inspector asked the breeder at the July 2021 visit why she didn't have any veterinary records, she reportedly stated that "she does not take her dogs to see a veterinarian unless they are sick," even though she had been clearly notified more than two years prior about the rules regarding annual exams. As for other documents that the breeder said she could not find, the inspector "was at the facility for approximately 2 hours during the inspection," but no documents were produced. Other violations noted in 2019 included issues with housing, including a sharp torn tin partition that could injure the dogs. Johnson's Call of the Wild has a presence on [Facebook](#) offering small breed dogs such as Yorkies. TX #195.

**Robert Snyder/To-Ho-Wi Kennels, Quinlan, Texas: They were "just going to let it die." Breeder received official warning after USDA inspectors found ailing puppy who could not stand up; breeder admitted they had not had any plans to take the puppy to a veterinarian.** USDA gave Robert Snyder an official warning in December 2021 for a failure to maintain adequate veterinary care. The warning came after a September 2021 USDA inspection, when a puppy at To-Ho-Wi Kennels was found unable to stand and with an apparent eye problem, and the breeder admitted they were "just going to let it die."

According to the USDA inspection report, "In the Whelping Building, there was one adult female dog and two puppies contained in one enclosure. One puppy (DOB 8/12/21) was laying at the back of the enclosure and only moving it's head. When questioned about the puppy, the facility representative stated that the puppy's back legs turn outward and that it cannot stand up. The facility representative stated that the puppy was being force fed and would vomit after feeding so they were just going to let it die. Inspectors then asked if the Attending Veterinarian had been contacted or if the puppy had been seen by a veterinarian. The facility representative stated that taking the puppy to a veterinarian was not an option due to personal issues. The licensee stated that when he was at the whelping house a couple of weeks ago, the puppy was up and bouncing around. The puppy was removed from the enclosure and placed on a flat surface. The puppy attempted to stand, but could only stand on it's front feet. The puppy's left eye was closed and would not open. There was clear drainage and crusting around the eye." The inspectors apparently urged the licensee to take action and stopped the inspection. Only after inspectors stopped the inspection did the breeder apparently understand the gravity of the situation, and a "Veterinarian was called and agreed to examine the puppy as soon as possible. The inspectors left the facility so the licensee could take the puppy to the veterinarian." It is unknown what happened to the puppy after that or whether the puppy survived.

There were almost 100 dogs and puppies on the premises at the time of the September inspection. TX #151. USDA #74-A-1476.

## WISCONSIN

**NOTE: Despite multiple attempts by the HSUS to receive documents under the state's public right-to-know law starting in February 2022, as of May 4, 2022, Wisconsin state officials had not provided kennel inspection records to the HSUS in a reasonable or timely manner; thus this section of our report is incomplete. Only federal records were used to compile this section.**

**Amos Allgyer/Pawfect Paws, Platteville, Wisconsin: Dealer who sold to many pet stores, including at least one Petland store, was found repeatedly obtaining puppies from unknown, possibly unlicensed sources; some puppies were transported without health certificates (repeat offender).** USDA inspectors found many

new issues at Pawfect Paws since Amos Allgyer last appeared in our report. At an August 2021 USDA inspection, inspectors found many issues with record-keeping, including some dogs who did not have official identification, and litters of puppies who were obtained and resold without complete information about where they came from or were sold and without the required health certificates—violations similar to issues that the state of Wisconsin cited Allgyer for in the past, indicating he was already aware of the rules.

The reason that having puppies from unknown sources is problematic is that it skirts the entire system of USDA oversight, essentially allowing a B dealer to circumvent breeder inspection laws by reselling puppies from potentially unlicensed and uninspected puppy mills. USDA's findings that at least two litters of puppies appeared to have been transported from Iowa to Wisconsin with no proof of a required health certificate shows the dealer was not even complying with the most basic laws related to making sure puppies are healthy before transport or resale. USDA also noted: "The licensee said they verbally certify or in person certify if a facility has four breeding females or less for sources of litters to re-sale, however a certification on the records isn't being kept. Certification is required to ensure small breeders aren't required to be licensed." USDA also found that the operation did not have an approved program of veterinary care.

USDA returned in October 2021 and found additional problems, including some medications that were past their "use by" date and additional issues with missing identification and an incomplete record. USDA returned yet again in January 2022, and similar problems with record-keeping and identifying dogs were still occurring. The January 2022 visit was the third inspection in about six months during which the facility was found not properly documenting dog records, meaning it could have been obtaining dogs from anywhere and essentially "laundering" them under a USDA license.

Allgyer was found with similar issues in prior years. He was also sued and fined by the state of Wisconsin for failing to provide veterinary care to sick puppies with parvovirus and transporting a sick puppy.

As we noted in our 2021 report, state inspectors looked into Pawfect Paws repeatedly in 2020 after receiving two complaints about sick puppies who were traced back to the kennel. After admitting to transporting sick puppies and failing to provide proper veterinary care, Allgyer was taken to court and fined in May, but even after paying his fine in June 2020, he failed another inspection in August 2020 and received a warning from the state for numerous violations. Allgyer eventually paid a fine of \$664.50 for the violations (June 9, 2020), yet continued to be found with even more violations after that. In August 2020, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection gave Allgyer an official warning notice due to the violations.

Shipping records studied by the HSUS indicate that in 2020, Allgyer sold puppies to a Petland store in Fort Myers, Florida, and at least one other Florida store, and between 2018-2021, he sold puppies to at least five pet stores in New York. WI #467683-DS. Former USDA #35-B-0219. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Vernon Bontrager/Grand Valley Kennels, Markesan, Wisconsin: Received official warning from USDA for inadequate veterinary care due to a shih tzu who had "three large lacerations" that had not been treated by a veterinarian.](#) In October 2021, USDA gave Vernon Bontrager an official warning for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. The issue stemmed from a September 2021 inspection, during which a shih tzu was found with significant injuries. The inspector wrote: "Female Shih Tzu #61 was observed to be in discomfort and have a wound to her right hindquarters. The wound appeared to consist of three large lacerations approximately each 1 inch in length by ¼ - ½ inch in width. The area around the wound was red and the leg was swollen. The licensee stated that he found her in her pen that way this morning (09/15), he thinks she may have been attacked by the other dog(s) in the enclosure. He said that he put some ointment on it and moved her to another enclosure. I asked if he had contacted or planned on contacting the attending veterinarian and he stated that he was just

going to see how it would heal using the ointment that he had.” During the inspection, there were more than 100 dogs and puppies on the property.

When the USDA returned later in the same month, the facility received another violation, this one for failing to make the facility available for an inspection. The attempted inspection violation is significant because it likely interfered with attempts to check on the injured dog’s welfare. Missed inspections could also indicate that a licensee is dodging inspectors or hiding poor conditions.

Bontrager has sold to many pet stores, including several Petland stores, in recent years. WI #475003. Former USDA #35-A-0434.

**Christy and Eli Borntreger/Shady Valley Kennels, Tomah, Wisconsin: One dog had an open, oozing wound that had not been seen or treated by a veterinarian three days later; four puppies were in a small cage without adequate room; USDA issued official warning.** In February 2022, USDA gave Christy and Eli Borntreger an official warning notice for a failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The warning stemmed from an issue found during a routine USDA inspection in December 2021. During that visit, the inspector noted that a “silver, black, white, and brown (Blue Merle) male Welsh Corgi (# 054) had an open wound on [his] left ear. The wound was oozing a yellowish mucousy substance from the ear. The licensee stated the dog got into a fight three days ago. He has been trying to treat it himself, but has not contacted the Attending Veterinarian.” The failure to obtain adequate veterinary care for such a noticeable injury could lead to infection and pain for the animal. In addition, some of the puppies were found in a cage that was too small: “Four puppies were not provided with enough space in the enclosure. Two of the puppies measure 13 inches while the other two measure 12.5 inches. Together the four dogs require 1,406.5 square inches of space. The enclosure measured 35 X 30 inches for a total of 1,050 square inches of space.” There were almost 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection. WI #484198. USDA #35-A-0459.

**Joseph Hochstetler/Sideline Kennel, Soldiers Grove, Wisconsin: Pug puppy died after puppy mill provided ad hoc treatment; owner received official warning from USDA for lack of adequate and approved veterinary care.** During a December 2021 relicensure inspection, USDA cited Joseph Hochstetler with a “critical” violation for failing to get proper medical care for a puppy, apparently resulting in the puppy’s death. According to the report, “A pug puppy about 4 months ago was reportedly injured by the dam. The licensee didn’t contact the attending veterinarian and the treatment method used by the kennel resulted in its death.” The inspection report did not explain exactly how the treatment method resulted in killing the puppy or what that method was.

The inspection report also noted that there was insufficient information on one puppy’s history: “An approximately 16 wk old male pug (#79) that facility reports was born in the kennel and kept for breeding did not have acquisition information on APHIS 7005 (Record of Animals on Hand) or a kennel card available that had the required information.” In addition, inspectors found unsafe housing conditions: “The housing area for the 5 large breed dogs has edges of tin exposed on a gate where they were seen able to stick their nose and paws through. This area of tin was rough/sharp to the touch and could hurt the dogs.” Inspectors also noted that vaccinations for the dogs seemed to be long overdue: “The last record of adult vaccinations completed for parvo and distemper was 7-15-2020 and the written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) requires dogs to be vaccinated annually.” There were more than 100 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection.

On Jan. 20, 2022, USDA issued an official warning for lack of adequate veterinary care related to the issue found at the December inspection. Even after that warning, USDA inspectors returned in March 2022 and found a new violation, this time for having dangerous conditions, with sharp points that could injure the dogs. The issue

should probably have been marked as a repeat violation due to the similar issue found in December. There were 110 dogs on the property at the time of the March inspection. WI #468313. USDA #35-A-0410.

**Jesse and Timothy Lambright/Country Boy Kennels, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Violations found at four different USDA inspections in a seven-month period (repeat offender).** Inspectors found violations at four different USDA inspections between June 2021 and January 2022 at Country Boy Kennels, USDA records show. Issues included mouse droppings and a live mouse seen in the feed room on Oct. 6, 2021. When inspectors returned later that same month, the issue had not been fixed: “The licensee covered mouse entry holes with flashing and put mouse baits in place in areas outside of the food storage room, however there was some loose feed on the floor, mouse droppings in the corners of the room, and the food was stored on the floor. A live mouse was also seen running out of the feed room when the licensee moved a bag of feed.” During a Jan. 10, 2022, visit, inspectors also noted an enclosure with a 5-by-3-inch hole in the floor and a gap in a divider that could cause injury to dogs. USDA also noted a cleaning issue that it marked as a “teachable moment” instead of documenting it on the inspection report.

Country Boy Kennels was listed in our 2019 report without a name, which had been redacted at the time by USDA. (The rules for redactions have now changed.) The facility listed in the 2019 report was later identified with the Lambrights by matching details in the unredacted report. As we noted in that report, during a July 3, 2018, USDA inspection, the 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.” Some of the teeth were loose and others had pus-like material around them. In addition, two dogs who 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 veterinarian. The licensee claimed they had been given away. The dogs were a shih tzu who had been found with crusty material around her eyes and hazy, discolored eyes; and a King Charles spaniel with matted hair around the ears, which were reddened and had a foul-smell and discharge. WI #412325. USDA #35-A-0384. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Moses Lee, Wilton, Wisconsin: Parts of facility hadn’t been cleaned of feces in at least a week; some areas underneath enclosures had not been cleaned in more than six months; sale of underage puppies.** USDA inspectors who visited Moses Lee’s kennel in December 2021 found very unsanitary conditions. The inspection report noted, “There was an excessive amount of feces in the outdoor enclosures, underneath the outdoor enclosures, and also underneath the puppy enclosures inside the building. When asked when the enclosures were last cleaned he couldn’t say for sure when they were last cleaned, but it definitely hasn’t been in the past week. When asked when the area underneath the outdoor enclosures was last cleaned, he looked at his notebook and showed me they were last cleaned in May.” There were only about 26 dogs and puppies on the property at the time of the inspection, but that makes it even more puzzling why a facility with a relatively small number of breeding dogs could not or did not clean regularly. During the same inspection, USDA noted that nine puppies had been sold underage; federal rules require dogs to be at least 8 weeks old prior to sale or transfer. WI #480539. USDA # 35-A-0448.

**Daniel A. Schrock; Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Sale of underage puppies; no distemper vaccines for puppies; two dogs were matted and had burrs in the matted fur; USDA hid additional issues under “teachable moments.”** During an October 2021 USDA inspection, inspectors found an issue with underage puppy sales at Daniel Schrock’s kennel, noting, “Two litters were sold and transported before they were 8 weeks (56 days) old. Two 54-day old puppies (DOB 4-12-2021) and three 50-day old puppies with (DOB 4-16-2021) were picked up by a buyer and per records transported to New York on June 5, 2021.” Records obtained by the HSUS show that

Schrock sent several shipments of puppies to pet stores in New York in 2021, indicating that a complaint about one or more of the puppies may have sparked the USDA to look into the issue.

USDA also noted a housekeeping issue, a vaccination issue and a grooming issue during the October visit. Apparently, some puppies were sold without adequate vaccinations. According to the USDA report, “The vaccine and deworming schedule in use for puppies that a pet store requested does not match the Attending Veterinarian’s (AV) approved schedule. The schedule in use does not include a Distemper vaccine.” Failing to properly vaccinate puppies and shipping them out for sale under 8 weeks of age could both be deadly to very young animals with immature immune systems. In addition, two dogs were found in poor condition. The inspector noted, “Two female dogs (tag #1 and #60) had areas of burrs matted in their hair coats and had to be trimmed out. Female #1 was seen scratching at the area with her paws and when held by the licensee I could see the burrs were matted in tightly.”

The facility passed an inspection in January 2022. But when USDA inspectors returned to Schrock’s property again in March 2022, two more issues were noted. This time, USDA failed to document the two problems it found on the inspection report. Instead, the issues, a housing violation and a cleaning violation, were hidden under the “teachable moments” section of USDA’s website. “Teachable moments” are highly controversial because USDA has admitted that they are violations and yet they are not documented on inspection reports, which many people believe is deceptive and misleading to the public. As of May 2, 2022, USDA has stated that it is ending the practice of using “teachable moments” at some point soon, but it has not yet set an exact timeline for the end of the questionable practice. USDA #35-A-0463.

## METHODOLOGY

The HSUS shares this report with the following goals: to inform the public about ongoing animal welfare concerns at puppy mills; to warn consumers about problem puppy sellers, especially those who sell online or through pet stores, concealing their operations from public view; to urge government oversight agencies to live up to their enforcement obligations; to encourage government decision-makers to properly fund and support humane law enforcement and oversight agencies; and to encourage policymakers to pass stronger rules and laws to protect dogs.

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., spotty enforcement and COVID-19 restrictions in some parts of the country, many puppy mills operate largely hidden and unseen. Many are not required to be regulated or simply fail to get the required licenses, 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) breeder or broker inspection reports showing violations, “teachable moments” or related documents received via public records requests.
- Federal, state or county official warnings or fines, if available.
- The quantity of violations found on state or federal inspection reports and/or the severity of violations, especially those affecting animal safety and health, and how recently the violations occurred.
- Whether a seller appears to be providing misleading or potentially fraudulent information to puppy buyers.

- Whether a facility’s violations or other issues 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 and/or news articles, or undercover photographs and video taken by HSUS investigators.
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business or in possession of an active license at the time of publication.

The large number of listings in certain states in this report is at least partly due to the greater availability of records in some states. Some states that do not inspect puppy mills at all, or that may have reduced their inspections due to the COVID-19 pandemic, or that don’t adequately enforce their kennel inspection laws, have scant information available.

If a breeding facility is not listed in this report, it may be due to a lack of available records and/or a lack of information or space, not necessarily a lack of significant problems. Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation or litigation.

Some brokers (resellers) and transporters were included because many brokers are also breeders or support the industry by buying from puppy mills. Pet stores were only included if the operators are also breeders/brokers.

Throughout the report, the notation “**Repeat Offender**” means that the facility or operator has appeared in one or more prior HSUS puppy mills reports, including Missouri’s Dirty Dozen (2010); Update Report: Missouri’s Dirty Dozen (2011), the Horrible Hundred (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and/or 2021) and/or 101 Puppy Mills (2014).

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

### *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](#) and to the Humane Society of the United States at [humanesociety.org/puppycomplaint](https://humanesociety.org/puppycomplaint). Buyers of sick puppies may also consider filing a complaint with the breeder’s state department of agriculture and/or their state attorney general or consumer protection division.

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