

The Horrible Hundred 2015

A Sampling of Problem Puppy Mills in the United States

May 1, 2015

Dead or dying puppies, dogs with gaping wounds or infections, and dogs in the frigid cold with only solid ice in their water bowls, are just a few of the unacceptable conditions exposed in this year's third annual report on problem puppy mills.

The violations, recorded by state and federal inspectors, reveal widespread problems in the puppy breeding industry, as well as gaps in laws and enforcement. The HSUS provides this update annually in an effort to inform the public about problem puppy mills before buyers inadvertently support a cruel or substandard breeding operation¹.



The USDA photographed dogs with inadequate housing and protection from the weather at a massive breeding facility owned by Cathy Griesbauer and Mary Foster, Country Pets, in Montgomery City, MO. The facility holds more than 1,000 dogs and is one of the largest puppy mills in the U.S. / USDA 2011.

Missouri and Kansas continue to have the greatest number of problem dealers for the third year in a row (23 in MO, 16 in KS), followed by Nebraska (14), Iowa (11) and Arkansas (7). Although an enhanced kennel law was proposed in Kansas earlier this year, it failed to pass the full House, and Missouri lawmakers have proposed bills year after year designed to weaken kennel oversight. This year's list includes numerous "repeat offenders," dealers who have been exposed in our prior reports, yet whose inspection records continue to show cause for concern.

The USDA has made progress in revoking some licenses of dealers who have appeared in the HSUS's reports in the past. The license of Shirley Machin of Ada, Oklahoma, was revoked in September 2014 after

¹ The information in this report is based on the most current available public information as of May 1, 2015.

inspectors repeatedly documented evidence showing that her animals were not receiving proper care. The agency also revoked the licenses of Kenneth Dake, Dake's Kennel, Dixon MO (March 2014), Shauna Engelken of Seneca, KS (July 2014) and Larry and Pat Peters of Taylor, Nebraska (December 2014), after those breeders appeared in HSUS reports due to repeated animal welfare problems. However, it is important that the public understand that such revocations are rare, and that simply having a USDA license does not mean a facility maintains its dogs in humane conditions. All too often, that is not the case; even licensed puppy dealers who pass all their inspections can still legally keep hundreds of dogs in small, stacked cages for their entire lives, with little or no exercise, enrichment or human attention.

A puppy mill is a dog breeding operation, offering dogs for monetary compensation, in which the physical, psychological, and/or behavioral needs of the dogs are not being fulfilled due to inadequate housing, shelter, staffing, nutrition, socialization, sanitation, exercise, veterinary care and/or inappropriate breeding.

Partly as a result of greater public scrutiny and stronger laws, it appears that nearly two dozen of the problem puppy mills identified in our last two reports have closed their doors. But this new report shows that there is still no shortage of substandard puppy mills, and many of them continue to be relicensed year after year, despite ongoing problems. Regulation alone cannot put an end to puppy mills; they will end for good only when consumers become educated and stop buying their puppies.

This report includes puppy mills from 16 states, but because most of these 100 dealers sell online or to pet stores, their puppies could be available to unwary consumers in all 50 states and beyond. The HSUS recommends not purchasing a puppy from a pet store or over the Internet, because they commonly are sourced from puppy mills. The only way for a potential buyer to know if they are purchasing from a humane and responsible breeder is to visit their breeder in person and see how and where their puppy was raised.

The breeders and sellers on this list represent common issues with puppy mills and puppy mill brokers. This report is not a complete list of all puppy mills, nor a list of all problematic facilities. For more information on the methodology used in preparing this report, please see the Methodology section on the last page.

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) and/or 101 Puppy Mills (2014).

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ARKANSAS

- **Harry Rudell Freeman, Freeman Farms, Tilly, AR – NURSING MOTHER DOG HAD RIBS AND SPINE PROTRUDING; OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR POOR VETERINARY CARE.** Although he has only been licensed since May 2012, Freeman has already received an official warning from USDA in May 2014 for “failure to establish and maintain programs of veterinar[y] care” to prevent and control diseases and injuries. The first signs that Freeman Farms might not be able to consistently meet USDA requirements came during a prelicense inspection in March 2012, when inspectors noted an “incomplete and inaccurate” program of veterinary care, as well as a female Jack Russell with a new litter of puppies who was very thin. The inspector noted that “her spine was easily visible from a distance as were her ribs. The hip bones could also be easily seen.” During the same visit, a male Jack Russell Terrier was found with a swollen, crusted wound on his ear and patches of missing fur, and newborn puppies were found housed outside without adequate shelter (3/7/12). Although all the issues noted in March 2012 were addressed prior to final USDA licensure in May 2012, problems were again noted in Dec. 2013, when animals were found walking through fecal material in enclosures that had not been cleaned in weeks, and in March 2014, when four dogs were found in need of veterinary care; two of them had untreated wounds, another was excessively thin “to the point of ribs, hip bones and spine protruding,” and two also had signs of dental disease. The facility had more than 400 dogs and puppies on the property as of August 2014, according to USDA records. The most recent USDA inspection was compliant (Aug. 19, 2014). USDA #71-A-1310.
- **Barbara Gullett, Gullett Kennel, Russellville, AR – DOGS WITH SORES AND HAIR LOSS.** This year marks the third year that Gullett Kennel has appeared in The HSUS’s annual puppy mills reports. After appearing in last year’s report, Gullett Kennel was cited for additional violations of the Animal Welfare Act in May and September 2014 for many dogs in need of vet care, including dogs with crusty sores and hair loss. The inspector noted that the breeder had no documentation that any of the dogs in question had been treated for their conditions. During the September 2014 visit, the inspector also found an English Bulldog with no shelter from the rain, unsafe conditions, contaminated food and 20 puppies exposed to “accumulations of dead flying insects.” In March 2015, the facility was cited for having some of the dogs’ food stored in an open barrel that didn’t protect the food from spoilage or contamination. USDA violations at this kennel go back to at least 2006. USDA #71-A-0748. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Anita Gustin, Kings River Kennel, Berryville, AR – NINE DOGS FOUND IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE.** Between its two most recent USDA inspections (February 2015 and April 2014), a total of nine dogs were found at Kings River Kennel who were in need of veterinary care. The issues found at the 2015 inspection included a pomeranian with an open ulcer on his paw and green discharge coming from his mouth; a schnauzer with hair loss over his rump, back and underbelly; and a Chihuahua with an “open puncture” on her paw. Some of the issues found at the 2014 inspection included a Maltese “whose eyes were glassy with no teeth and [who] had holes in the gums where the canines were once located,” two other dogs with signs of advanced dental disease, and a Chihuahua with an injured paw. Sanitation and safety issues were also documented at both inspections. USDA # 71-B-0123.
- **Bill Nored, Dryfork Kennel, Prim, AR – DOG WITH HER FOOT STUCK IN WIRE FLOORING; SICK DOGS WITH MOLDY FOOD.** Even after appearing in our May 2014 report for serious animal care issues, including a dead puppy who had not received veterinary care, Dryfork Kennel continued to be cited for significant Animal Welfare Act violations by the USDA in both 2014 and 2015. In February 2015, several dirty and unsafe conditions were found, including poor drainage in stacked cages that allowed wastes from the top enclosures to rain down on dogs in the lower enclosures. In June 2014, a USDA inspector found five adult dogs in need of veterinary care at Dryfork Kennel, including a dog with her paw stuck in the wire flooring, a dog with red scabs, a limping dog and a dog with “green discharge” around the eye.

Many dogs were also found with dirty and/or moldy food. In August 2014, the USDA issued an official warning to Nored for inadequate veterinary care and unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Issues at the kennel stretch back at least as far as May 2011, when a USDA inspector noted that there were 12-14 large “hunting dogs” running loose, nine of whom were “extremely thin to the point of ribs, hips and spinal column protruding.” USDA # 71-B-0170. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Leon Walthall and Peggy Van Huss, Wagging Tails Kennel, Siloam Springs, AR – “STRONG SMELL OF RODENT URINE,” FIVE YEARS OF DIRTY CONDITIONS.** Wagging Tails Kennel appeared in our 2014 report for an extremely underweight dog and repeated problems with unsanitary conditions. Wagging Tails Kennel was cited for unsanitary conditions in 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010, and 2008. In October 2014, a USDA inspector found a vermin infestation, foul odors, and “a build up of dirt, old food and feces on the floors.” Feces from both dogs and rodents were found throughout the facility. One dog was also found to be so matted that “the matting hair was in a ball hanging from his rear legs.” In May 2013, USDA inspectors found three dogs in need of veterinary care at Wagging Tails Kennel, including a male Chihuahua who was “extremely underweight,” with his spine and ribs clearly visible. A second dog had hair loss and crusted lesions on the ears and a third had an eye that was discolored and bulging. USDA # 71-A-1134. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Gerald Watts, Marshall, AR – EMACIATED DOG IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE.** Watts appeared in The HSUS’s Horrible Hundred report in 2013 but had no new violations at the time of our May 2014 report. However, in November 2014, a USDA inspector found two dogs at Watts’s facility in need of veterinary care; a French Bulldog with cloudy blue eyes and an American Bulldog who was “thin to the point of spine, ribs and hip bones protruding.” The latter also had sores on both hips, according to the inspector. The inspector also noted dirty food receptacles, cobwebs and dead insects throughout the kennel building (11/12/14). In February 2015, the facility was cited for a safety issue related to broken wire flooring that could injure the dogs. Watts was also cited for a failure to maintain proper veterinary care for dogs in 2011, 2010 and 2009. USDA #71-A-1095. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Sarah Young, Clear Springs Kennel, Hardy, AR– DOG WITH EXPOSED BONE IN JAW AND MISSING TEETH.** Even after appearing in the HSUS’s annual puppy mills reports in 2013 and 2014, Clear Springs Kennel has continued to be cited by USDA inspectors for veterinary care problems as recently as January 2015, when a Chihuahua was found coughing, and in June 2014, when an inspector spotted a pomeranian whom they noted “did not have any teeth and the jaw bone on the left side was partially missing and detached from the gums leaving the bone exposed.” Another pomeranian was found at the same inspection with “green goopy discharge from both eyes” and bleeding gums. A third dog was unable to bear weight on one of her back legs and had blood on her paw; a cocker spaniel was found with “goopy drainage” from her eye, hair loss and scabs; and a Yorkie was found with an eye injury. In prior years, Young was cited for a “Direct NCI” for two dogs with veterinary problems; one appeared “thin to the point of spine and hip bones protruding,” and the other had a bloody wound (Feb. 2014). A third dog was found with apparent eye and dental disease (March 2014). The facility had almost 300 dogs and puppies as of its January 2015 inspection. USDA # 71-A-0676. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

GEORGIA

- **Leslie Ayo, Heaven’s Gate Kennels LLC, Fairburn, GA – OWNER CHARGED WITH ANIMAL CRUELTY AFTER BOTCHED DO-IT-YOURSELF SURGERIES ON PUPPIES’ TAILS.** According to news sources, the owner of Heaven’s Gate Kennels, Leslie Ayo, was charged with eight counts of animal cruelty in March 2014 for “inhumanely removing the tails of eight puppies,” one of whom later died. Reportedly, she was offered money to dock the tails of the Rottweiler puppies, who were heard to be “screaming excessively” and were later found to be “extremely bloody,” with apparently nothing having been done to appropriately close their wounds. (Source: <http://www.gwinnettdailyreport.com/news/2014/mar/13/8216atlanta8217s-celebrity-dog->

breeder8217/.) State records show she was also charged with practicing veterinary medicine without a license (<http://www.gwinnettcourts.com/casesearch/casedetail.aspx?FileId=14-D-03371-S1>), although the final outcome of the charges was not immediately available as of April 1, 2015.

The Georgia state Department of Agriculture issued a “stop sale” order shortly after the charges were filed, which allowed Ayo to sell some animals currently on the premises, but not to breed any more litters. It is unknown when or if the order expired, but HSUS staff noticed that puppies were still being offered for sale on Heaven’s Gate’s website, www.heavensgatekennels.net, Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Heavens-Gate-Kennels/263083305825>) and on PuppyFind.com², (a notorious site for unlicensed and questionable breeders), as of March 2015 (http://www.puppyfind.com/l/?acct_id=183595). This information was reported to the state Department of Agriculture on March 30, 2015. It also appeared that Ayo did not have a USDA license to sell puppies online, even though her page on PuppyFind listed 16 puppies for sale as of April 14, 2015 and offers worldwide shipping.

- **Low Country Kennel, Statesboro, GA – FAILED AT LEAST FOUR STATE INSPECTIONS FOR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS.** Even after appearing in our previous puppy mills report for repeatedly failing to maintain sanitary conditions, Low Country Kennel once again failed a state inspection on May 30, 2014, for the same issue. The kennel failed its May 2014 inspection due to sanitation and waste disposal issues. In May 2013 the kennel failed inspection in three areas: structural strength, sanitation and waste disposal. In October 2011 an inspector noted that the septic system was “backed up and overflowing,” “dogs were laying in fecal material,” and the inspector “observed several dogs with flea infestations; upon inspection, inspector’s pants were covered with fleas.” In February 2011, a state inspector went to the facility to follow up on a complaint about a bad odor and noted three violations for similar issues. Photos taken by state inspectors show many of the dogs living in rabbit-hutch like enclosures outside, which is not illegal according to state law, but which is a typical condition at puppy mills. Environmental pollution due to improper waste disposal at puppy mills is also a growing concern. GA license ID #92072. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

ILLINOIS

- **Bridget and Greg Ellett, Ellett’s French Bulldogs, Vergennes, IL – FINED THREE TIMES BY THE STATE; \$1,000 FINE FOR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS.** Illinois state records show that Ellett’s French Bulldogs was fined at least three times by the state Department of Agriculture between 2011 and 2015. The most recent was a \$1,000 fine in January 2015 for unsanitary conditions. The kennel was also fined \$500 in October 2013 for failing to have brucellosis tests on sires (male breeding dogs) and \$200 in 2011 for operating without a state kennel license. According to state records, the Elletts appealed the 2011 formal complaint, stating that they were “working on getting our buildings up to code,” and claiming that their application “was in the mail” when the inspector visited. Yet web pages associated with Ellett’s French Bulldogs claimed the facility has been in business for many years, and their profile on the puppy-selling website www.PuppyFind.com has been active since 2005. In addition, as of April 2015, no record could be found of any breeder in Illinois by the name of “Ellett,” nor any breeder in the town of Vergennes having a USDA license, which is required for breeders who have more than four breeding females and sell puppies online sight-unseen, yet ads were found for Ellett’s French Bulldogs on sites like www.PuppyFind.com, oodle.com, and other websites that are common forums for unlicensed breeders. IL lic #14072.

² The HSUS recommends never purchasing a puppy online via PuppyFind.com due to a high number of questionable and unlicensed breeders advertising on the site.

- **Merle Schlabach, Campbell Hill, IL – UNSANITARY CONDITIONS AND MATTED DOGS**. USDA inspectors have repeatedly found unsanitary conditions at the Schlabach kennel. In February 2015, the USDA found some parts of the kennel so rusted that the rust was leaving “some orange color on the dogs’ legs” from brushing against it. The inspector also found excessive feces in some of the dog runs and a buildup of grime on some of the food receptacles. In May 2014, a USDA inspector found three Yorkies with “multiple matts covering their eyes and body.” One dog’s eyes were “red and raw in appearance with a clear watery discharge that appears to be from the hair being pulled by the matts surrounding her eyes,” the inspector noted. “She also has multiple ‘gummy’ type matts all over her legs, feet and head that need to be trimmed.” In May 2013, a USDA inspector found two dogs in need of veterinary care as well as additional issues with unsanitary conditions, including excessive feces and grime on the food and water receptacles. USDA #33-A-0510.

INDIANA



Dogs were found living in darkness at Elmer Lapp's Pine Hill Kennel in Hagerstown, IN. /USDA, 2013.

- **Elmer Lapp, Pine Hill Kennel, Hagerstown, IN – DOGS FOUND LIVING IN DARKNESS**. During a December 2014 inspection of Pine Hill Kennel, a USDA inspector noted that dogs were living in a barn so darkened that “a flashlight had to be used to adequately inspect the facility” and check on the health of the dogs. The operator admitted to the inspector that he regularly used a flashlight to work inside the building. In addition, the inspector noted an “excessive accumulation of brown material consistent with feces and other excreta.” During another USDA inspection in February 2013, an inspector found numerous veterinary issues including: puppies who had recently had their tails docked, and expired surgical glue was used to close the open wounds; a Boston terrier with an injured foot; a Shih Tzu who had signs of dental infection and also had hair matted and overgrown around the eyes and muzzle; “beetles and dried dog feces” in some of the food receptacles; and “extensive evidence of rodent feces” throughout the kennel. As of March 2015, Lapp had cancelled his USDA license, but was still licensed by the state of Indiana, which allows him to sell puppies face-to-face to consumers. Former USDA #32-A-0363. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

IOWA

- **Lindy and Kevin Aschinger, K & L Kennels, Westside, IA – SEVENTEEN PAGES OF USDA VIOLATIONS IN 2014 ALONE; LIMPING AND WOUNDED DOGS**. Dogs in critical need of veterinary care were found in both 2015 and 2014 at K & L Kennels. During its most recent inspection in March 2015, a rat terrier was found with patches of hair loss and/or red lesions on her legs, feet, head and ears. She

was holding two legs up, standing on only one rear leg and one front leg. The licensee could not show that the dog had been recently treated by a vet. During several inspections in 2014, USDA inspectors found multiple dogs in need of veterinary care at K & L Kennels, including dogs who were limping or had open wounds that had not been treated by a vet, dogs with signs of dental infections or eye infections,

and many severely matted dogs, including some who were so severely matted that they seemed to be having trouble seeing and/or moving about normally. During the October 2014 inspection alone, thirteen dogs were found in need of medical care for injuries and/or for treatment of severe matting. Dogs were also found in the winter months without adequate protection from the bitter cold, and the kennel was cited repeatedly for excessive feces and feeding dirty, contaminated food and water to the dogs. There were 260 dogs and puppies at the facility at its last inspection (USDA, 3/18/15). USDA #42-A-0446.

- **Fedler Ag Inc., Pee Vine Kennels, West Point, IA – DOGS WITH OPEN WOUNDS AND LESIONS.** Since appearing in last year's report due to a gravely injured dog entrapped in wire flooring, who later died, Pee Vine Kennels has continued to be found with animals in need of veterinary care. In July 2014, a USDA inspector found nine dogs in need of care, including two shih tzus with "thick, mucoid-like discharge" around their eyes, several dogs who appeared to have lesions in their eyes, a Bichon missing most of her teeth who appeared to have an abnormal mass in her mouth, and four dogs with swollen, red lesions on their feet, common in dogs forced to stand all day on wire flooring in puppy mills. During the same inspection, the inspector noted a "strong odor of feces and urine," "piles of excreta" with "flies around each pile," and feces inside some of the dog feeders, among other unsafe and unsanitary conditions. In May 2014, the USDA fined Fedler Ag \$2,000 for failure to provide proper veterinary care to the dog who was found with her foot stuck in wire flooring, stating that the dog was taken to a vet at the inspector's request, but died overnight. USDA #42-A-1428. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Gary Felts, Black Diamond Kennel – Kingsley, IA – DOG WITH "SEVERELY BLOODY" WOUND AND DOG WITH OOZING SWELLING ON NECK HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** Even after appearing in The HSUS's puppy mills reports for two years in a row, Black Diamond Kennel continued to be cited for severe Animal Welfare Act violations as recently as February 2015, when USDA inspectors found a female Saint Bernard named Georgia "laying on the ground within an outdoor enclosure"; the dog "appeared extremely lethargic and barely lifted her head." The inspectors noted that they observed Georgia for about 10 minutes while trying to make contact with the owner, and noticed the dog trembling. After being unable to contact Felts, inspectors left and came back later. When they returned, Georgia was moving around again but inspectors noticed "an approximately two inch swelling" on her neck which was surrounded by "pink to red tinged fluid" and "when the licensee touched the affected area a creamy red substance came out of the swelling." During the same visit, inspectors noticed a female Mastiff who had a "severely bloody" area about two to four inches long at the end of her tail. Neither dog had been treated by a vet for their conditions, even though the licensee admitted that the dog with the bloody tail had had the condition off and on for "an extended period of time." During the same inspection, two poodles were found with hair so badly matted that "the entire hair coat is starting to become rope-like and twisted." Feces were also piled "several inches high" in some parts of the kennel. In November 2014, inspectors found dogs in outdoor runs with no wind or rain protection at the entrance of their shelters and/or no bedding material provided when temperatures had recently been below zero. (USDA, 11/18/14). During the same inspection, a USDA inspector found a male standard poodle "lying in the back of his enclosure with a black substance around his left ear and on the left side of his face." Closer inspection showed "the hair around the ear was wet and caked with a thick black substance and the ear was red and inflamed." There were almost 300 dogs and puppies at the facility as of March 2015 (USDA, 3/4/15). USDA #42-A-0757. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Lucille Godfrey, Bussey, IA – DOGS EXPOSED TO FREEZING COLD IN TEMPERATURES AS LOW AS FOUR DEGREES.** In November 2014, a USDA inspector found dogs without adequate protection from the cold at Godfrey's property when temperatures were 28 degrees and had recently been 4 degrees overnight. During the same inspection, dogs were found outside in enclosures with "an excessive build-up of snow, feces and/or urine" that covered nearly the entire floor surface of some of the enclosures. Many of the dogs' legs were "wet, iced and/or soiled with feces and/or urine" and there were multiple other issues found related to inadequate housing. In January 2015, the USDA gave Godfrey an official warning for

four different violations related to failure to protect dogs from filthy conditions and inclement weather. A February 2015 USDA inspection was compliant. USDA #42-A-0913.

- **Martin and Barbara Hammen, S R K Kennel, Jolley, IA – REFUSED TO LET USDA INSPECTOR TAKE PHOTO OF DOG THEY PLANNED TO HAVE SHOT.** In August 2014, a USDA inspector visited S R K Kennel for a routine inspection. According to the inspector's report, as she was preparing to start the inspection, the licensee admitted that one of her dogs had mammary tumors that had not been treated by a vet, but added that the dog was going to be "euthanized" next week. Upon further questioning, the licensee "revealed that their routine method of euthanasia is gunshot." She then told the inspector that "6 to 7 dogs were scheduled to be euthanized by gunshot next week due to mammary tumors, old age or failure to produce." The inspector notified the licensees that gunshot is not an acceptable method of routine euthanasia. But when the inspector tried to get a camera out to document the condition of the dog with tumors, the licensee refused to allow the photos, asking, "Why do you have to take a picture of a dog I'm putting down next week?" USDA records show that the two licensees then began to intimidate the inspector and refused to let her use her camera, at which point they were cited for interfering with government officials. Several other violations were found in 2014 including, "a strong smell of ammonia and manure, as well as, a large number of flies" and two dogs with signs of dental infections. USDA #42-A-1048.
- **Brian Huffman, Silver Fox Farms, Osage, IA – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VET CARE.** In May 2014, the USDA issued an official warning to Brian Huffman for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The warning stemmed from an issue found during a February 2014 USDA inspection, when a basset hound was observed to be so thin that he "had easily visible ribs, vertebrae and a defined waist." During the same visit, two Boston Terriers were found with symptoms of significant eye disease. One of them had "opaque, blue bulging eyes" and the other had a cloudy spot in the eye the size of a pencil eraser. During the same inspection, a "strong ammonia [urine] odor" was noted in the indoor kennel, which "caused irritation to the inspector and can irritate the respiratory system of the puppies and dogs within the building," and some of the enclosures had so much feces in them that the dogs were forced to stand in it (2/27/14). Additional cleaning and safety violations were found in June 2014. A February 2015 USDA inspection was compliant. USDA #42-A-0894.
- **Loren and Lora Kooiman, River View Kennels, Doon, IA – ADMITTED SHOOTING DOGS WAS "ROUTINE FORM OF EUTHANASIA".** In August 2014, a USDA inspector noted the "licensee stated that euthanasia by gunshot was the routine form of euthanasia" at River View Kennels. The inspector had to explain to the licensee that "euthanasia by gunshot can cause unnecessary pain and distress to the dog" and that it is not an acceptable routine form of euthanasia for dogs, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association's guidelines. Other violations found on the same date included unsafe conditions such as rusty, sharp points that could injure the dogs, and an enclosure with a three-inch hole in the floor. An inspection in January 2015 was compliant. USDA #42-A-0409.
- **J Maassen, Inc., Rock Valley, IA – "GUNSHOT TO BRAIN AT CLOSE RANGE" NOT ACCEPTABLE FORM OF EUTHANASIA, PER USDA INSPECTOR.** During an August 2014 visit, a USDA inspector noted that the official Program of Veterinary Care for J Maassen, Inc. listed "gunshot in brain at close range" as the facility's primary method of euthanasia. The inspector had to explain that gunshot is not an acceptable form of routine euthanasia, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines. During the same visit, a shar pei was found with a "large, red swelling" on her paw which "may cause pain and discomfort to the dog;" she had not been treated by a vet at the time of inspection. The inspector also noted unsafe housing that needed repair. A November 2014 USDA inspection and a March 2015 inspection were compliant. USDA #42-A-0760.
- **Cathy Speer, Milton, IA–SIX REPEAT VIOLATIONS IN MARCH 2015; DOGS WITH SIGNS OF SEVERE EYE DISEASE HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** During two different visits in March 2015, USDA inspectors found a total of six repeat violations at Cathy Speer's kennel. Issues documented by inspectors include a Samoyed who was "carrying its left front leg in an abnormal manner " and avoiding putting weight on his leg, who had not received veterinary treatment for his injury; unsanitary conditions with dogs whose

paws were “wet and covered with excreta” from standing in filthy enclosures; and shelters without enough protection from the elements when the temperature was just 37 degrees, among other conditions. In December 2014, USDA inspectors found two pugs with eye problems who had not been treated by a vet for their conditions; the first dog was “thought to be blind or partially blind” and had “an abnormal blue-gray spot in the center” of her eye, which was also “heavily matted with greenish colored mucus.” Her other eye had “black and dried crusty matter covering approximately 70 percent of the surface.” Both of the eyes of the same pug had “a protruding bubble-like bulge in the center.” The second pug had “a buildup of greenish colored mucus” on the surface of one eye and the other eye was cloudy and bluish. USDA #42-A-1238.

- **Randy Stoen, Dows, IA– SIX DOGS FOUND WITH EYE PROBLEMS AND/OR OPEN WOUNDS.** In both March 2015 and August 2014, USDA inspectors found three animals in need of veterinary care at Stoen’s breeding operation. In 2015, three dogs were found with eye problems, including a poodle with a “raised red area that has an indented center” on her eye, a cocker spaniel with cloudy eyes who was squinting, and another cocker spaniel with an enlarged and bulging eye. In 2014, a Japanese Chin was found with “greenish-colored mucus covering both eyes,” matted fur and scabs from fly bites on his nose; a cocker spaniel was found with a 3 ½” open wound on his neck that was surrounded by dried blood, and another open wound on his nose; and a golden retriever was found with a 3” open wound on his ear. Inspectors also found housing and sanitation problems during both inspections. USDA # 42-A-0895.
- **Clayton Yoder, Clay Kennel, Kalona, IA – PUPPIES FOUND SHIVERING IN THE COLD, OTHERS FOUND INSIDE A DIRT HOLE.** In November 2014, a USDA inspector found a mother Rottweiler with four 4-week-old puppies at Clay Kennel in an enclosure with an indoor temperature of 41.1 degrees Fahrenheit. The inspector noticed that some of the puppies were huddling together and at least one of them was visibly shivering and hunched over. The inspector also noted ice forming on some of the enclosures that were not insulated; the outdoor temperature was 16 degrees with a wind chill of -2 degrees. In August 2014, Yoder received an official warning from the USDA for failure to provide clean food and water to animals and failure to provide an adequate vet care plan. Despite this warning, when an inspector visited again in October 2014, the facility still had no documentation of receiving a veterinary visit for more than 18 months, and green slime was still found in some of the dogs’ water. During the October 2014 inspection, the inspector found 9 different violations, and six of them were repeat violations. In July 2014, a USDA inspector found 11 violations, including a Newfoundland dam with her 8 newborn puppies “located in a dirt hole” in an outbuilding; the licensee stated “he was not aware [that] the puppies were there.” The puppies did not have their eyes open yet, they were soiled and vocalizing, and they were “too young to move out of the hole on their own,” according to the inspector’s report. In January 2015, Yoder’s USDA license was cancelled for unknown reasons, but in February 2015, he applied for a new license. The prelicense inspection was compliant. New USDA #42-A-1498; former USDA #42-A-1000.

KANSAS

- **Dorothy Brecheisen, Dot’s Little Doggies, Inc. Lyndon, KS – VIOLATIONS FOR FIVE YEARS IN A ROW.** The year 2015 marks the fifth year in a row that Dot’s Little Doggies has been cited for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. In March 2015, USDA inspectors found two severely matted dogs at Dot’s Little Doggies; the matting was so severe that it covered 60% of one dog’s body and 40% of the other dog’s body. Sharp wires were also found protruding into the enclosures, which could injure the dogs. USDA inspectors also found five different violations in January 2015, including unsanitary conditions and two Chihuahuas in need of veterinary care. One of the Chihuahuas had an eye condition and the other appeared to have severe dental disease; issues for which the same operator had repeatedly been cited in prior years. Repeat violations in prior years included dogs with eye discharge, matted fur, hair loss, an “abnormal growth” and dental problems. In June 2014, the USDA fined Dot’s Little Doggies, Inc. \$2,929

for five different prior violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Repeat violations in 2013 included unsafe housing, dirty conditions, and 36 dogs outside in temperatures of 25.8 degrees (F) without adequate bedding or protection from the cold. Repeat violations in November 2012 included dogs with eye problems and one dog who appeared to have such severe dental disease that she could no longer hold her tongue in her mouth. In January 2015, the USDA documented over 300 dogs and puppies at Dot's Little Doggies. USDA #48-A-1755. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Marla and Roger Campbell, Iris Lane Kennel, Newton, KS—FINED \$6,643 BY USDA FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE VETERINARY CARE.** Even after appearing twice in The HSUS's annual puppy mills reports and being fined thousands of dollars by the USDA, the Campbells once again failed to provide adequate care for their dogs since our last report was released in May 2014. Between July 2014 and March 2015, they were cited for many violations, including eight different repeat USDA violations, including dogs with hair loss, open wounds and eye problems; unsafe conditions, and excessive feces. These violations apparently occurred despite USDA intervention in February 2014, when the USDA disclosed that it was entering into a pre-litigation settlement agreement with the Campbells related to their many prior Animal Welfare Act violations. The Campbells were fined \$6,643. In addition, Kansas state inspectors found serious problems during several visits in 2014, including some dogs who did not have water, some who did not have adequate space to move around normally, excessive fecal matter, and several nursing mother dogs who were very thin. The USDA's most recent attempt to inspect the kennel was in February 2015, at which time no one made the kennel available for an inspection, which is an additional violation of the Animal Welfare Act. USDA #48-A-1549, KS lic. #CB0009SM. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Mary Carpenter, Blue Moon Kennels, Melvern, KS – FAILURE TO OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE FOR 30 SICK OR INJURED DOGS.** In February 2015, the USDA filed a complaint against Mary Carpenter for dozens of animal care violations going back to at least May 2012. The legal complaint detailed more than 30 different dogs who were found to be in need of medical care and had not been treated by a vet, including emaciated dogs, limping dogs, dogs with fleas and hair loss, and dogs with apparent injuries and infections. One of the many violations cited in the complaint was an English Mastiff who was found with a tennis-ball-sized growth on her leg in October 2012; the licensee was ordered to get veterinary care for the dog, but when the inspector returned in December, the dog, who had been pregnant, had given birth, but "none of the puppies survived, and the respondent took no steps to have the mass removed from this dog's leg." Another English Mastiff was found to be thin, with protruding ribs, backbone and hip bones (Oct. 2012). On two occasions, the USDA reported that a veterinarian had recommended that the dogs be seen for their issues "as soon as possible," but no action was taken by the owner, according to the USDA's complaint. USDA #48-B-0302. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Roxanne Castens, Ludell, KS – VERY THIN DOG HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN TO A VET; FINED BY USDA.** In June 2014, Castens was fined \$2,000 by the USDA for a repeated failure to make her dog breeding facility available for inspection. In October 2014, USDA inspectors finally got in to view the facility and found several violations, including a pomeranian with a "thin body condition" whose "hip, back and shoulder bones [were] easily palpable." The dog also had a problem with his rear legs, yet the licensee admitted she had not taken him to a vet. In July 2014, inspectors found three more repeat violations, and the inspector noted that the licensee was mixing her own cocktail of drugs for the dogs without approval from her veterinarian, an apparent shortcut for paying for professional disease control. In August 2013, Castens was given an official warning by the USDA for failing to maintain an adequate program of veterinary care for her animals. In July 2013, Castens was cited for having four dogs in need of veterinary care, including two huskies with scabs and hair loss and two dogs with signs of severe dental disease, and an additional ten other violations of the Animal Welfare Act. USDA #48-A-1628. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Pat Crabtree, Crabtree Kennel, St. Francis, KS – PUPPIES NOT VACCINATED FOR DEADLY DISEASES.** The USDA has cited Crabtree Kennel for repeat violations for a lack of adequate veterinary care on three different visits since our last report (May 2014, July 2014, and January 2015). Issues found during the

2014 inspections included a failure to properly vaccinate young puppies for deadly diseases such as Distemper; adult dogs with signs of dental disease and ear infections; and filthy conditions. During visits to Crabtree Kennel in 2013, USDA inspectors found several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a Yorkie with a swollen abscess on her face, a Yorkie with such advanced dental issues that the roots of his teeth were exposed and he could no longer keep his tongue in his mouth, two dogs who were lame or limping and several dogs with badly matted fur. The USDA documented more than 300 dogs and puppies at the facility during its January 2015 inspection. As of April 2015, Crabtree Kennel cancelled its USDA license for unknown reasons, but may be still be selling puppies face-to-face directly to the public, a mode of sale that is not regulated by USDA. Former USDA #48-A-1641. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Dianne Dick, Puppie [SIC] Trails Kennels, Rossville, KS – REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF ANIMAL WELFARE ACT; FINED BY USDA.** Puppie Trails Kennels has been cited for repeat violations by USDA inspectors almost every year between 2012 and 2015. Violations have included issues such as dogs in need of veterinary care (Jan. 2015 and earlier) and filthy conditions with excessive feces (Jan. 2015 and earlier). At the January 2015 inspection, two dogs were found with signs of dental and gum disease, which appeared to be advanced to the point that a pus-like substance was seen along the gumline of both dogs and the gums were red, swollen and receding. During the same inspection, some dogs had up to 30% of their wire flooring coated with feces. In May 2014, Dick was fined \$500 by the USDA for violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act. In 2013, USDA inspectors cited the kennel for issues with sick and emaciated dogs, and in 2012, the kennel was sent a warning letter by the state for repeatedly failing inspections. Issues go back at least as far as 2011, when the facility received an official warning letter from USDA for multiple Animal Welfare Act violations. #48-A-1237. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Irene Finley, Herington, KS – DOG WITH SOFTBALL-SIZED MASS HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.**

During a visit in October 2014, USDA inspectors found two German Shepherd Dogs in need of medical care at Finley's kennel. One had a large mammary mass "approximately the size of a softball," and the other was "limping on his front right leg." Neither dog had been seen by a veterinarian prior to the inspection. In addition, the inspector found expired and improper drugs stored for use on the dogs. These violations occurred even after Finley was fined by the USDA in March



Numerous sick and injured dogs, as well as dogs with hair loss and skin problems, were found at the facility of Irene Finley, Herington, KS. /USDA, 2011.

2014 for three different issues, including a failure to obtain proper care for an injured shepherd who was found in May 2013 with a "pink, moist" wound behind his ear and a "thick, creamy discharge" oozing from his ear that hadn't been treated by a vet, and a failure to protect dogs from sharp points and edges that could cause injury. The licensee was warned during five different inspections over a two-

year period about sharp points and edges that could injure the dogs, but federal inspection reports show she did not correct the problem (August 2012, Nov. 2012, February 2013, May 2013, Nov. 2013). The March 2014 fine was not the owner's only warning. In April 2013, The USDA gave Finley an official warning for a repeated failure to maintain surfaces free of rust and a repeated failure to correct the sharp points and edges that "could injure the animals." USDA #48-A-1460. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Bonnie and Bobby George, Salina, KS – HAIRLESS DOG FOUND SHIVERING IN THE COLD.** In November 2014, Kansas state inspectors found several issues at the Georges' facility that left dogs unprotected from the bitter cold weather. It was noted that 77% of the dogs had either no bedding or an inadequate amount of bedding to protect them from the winter cold. In addition, six Chinese Crested dogs, "one of which [was] hairless and shivering," were seen in an outdoor facility with no access to a heat source. The inspector noted that "Cresteds have very thin hair coats and some are hairless, in turn this breed of dog should be housed in appropriate housing with access to heating." The inspector also found excessive feces and some dogs who were excessively matted. The facility was also found in August 2014 to be operating without a license, with eight litters of puppies on the premises, after having given the inspectors the impression that it was closing. As of April 2015, the facility also appears to be selling online without the required USDA license, via www.minitoyhuskiesgalore.com, where more than 20 different puppies and adult dogs are advertised. State license # CB00028H.
- **Virginia Hinderer, Wakarusa, KS – USDA VETERINARY CARE VIOLATIONS FOR FOUR YEARS IN A ROW; MEDICATIONS 10 YEARS PAST EXPIRATION DATE.** For the last several years, USDA inspectors have repeatedly found veterinary care problems at Hinderer's facility, including expired medications kept for use on the dogs, dogs with signs of dental or eye disease and dogs with excessively long nails. During a pre-license inspection in May 2012, inspectors found medications stored for use on the dogs that expired in the 1990s and early 2000s. Despite being warned that the effectiveness of expired drugs can be drastically diminished, inspectors once again found long-expired drugs during an April 2014 inspection. USDA inspectors also repeatedly cited Hinderer for inadequate record-keeping on large numbers of puppies, which makes it extremely difficult to provide the proper veterinary care and vaccinations on the correct animals at the correct dates. USDA #48-A-2139.
- **Justin and LaNae Jackson, Jackson Kennels, Clifton, KS – DOGS FOUND LIMPING AND WITH OPEN WOUNDS.** Both state and USDA inspectors have repeatedly found miserable conditions at Jackson kennels, including injured and underweight dogs, as well as filthy and unsafe conditions. Even after appearing twice in The HSUS's puppy mills reports, Jackson Kennels was once again found with multiple injured dogs as recently as June 2014 and September 2014, when USDA inspectors noted seven dogs in need of veterinary care between the two visits. Injuries most commonly found at the facility were dogs with swollen masses on their feet who were unable to put weight on all four legs—common injuries in dogs forced to stand on wire cage floors continuously. In addition to the lame and limping dogs, a German Shepherd was found with an oozing, open wound covering 1/3 of her ear in September 2014. The licensee admitted the dog had had the problem for at least a week but had not yet been seen by a vet. The USDA documented more than 500 dogs and puppies at Jackson Kennels as of 2/12/15. A USDA inspection in February 2015 was compliant. #48-A-1849. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Darlene and Charlene Koster, Rainbow Ranch Kennel – Minneapolis, KS: YORKIE DIED AFTER NOT BEING TREATED FOR INJURY.** Even after appearing in our two prior reports, Rainbow Ranch Kennel continued to be cited for additional repeat violations after our last report was issued in May 2014. In December 2014, a state inspector found a Yorkie who had reportedly been injured in a fight but had not been treated by a vet; the inspector "recommended" that Koster take the dog to a vet, but then received a call the next day stating the dog had died overnight. In August 2014, USDA inspectors found puppies with their legs falling through openings in the flooring, a serious injury and entrapment risk, cattle medicines being used on the dogs without written veterinary approval, and unsafe conditions. In March 2015, a USDA inspector once again found a wounded dog who had not been treated by a vet; the dog, a shih tzu, had a wound on her leg that was "moist with a discharge and red," and the licensee

admitted the dog had been injured “a few days ago” but had not been taken to a vet, according to the report. The facility has also been cited repeatedly for failing to protect the dogs from extreme weather conditions, dangerous housing, dirty conditions, and failing to make the facility available for inspections. #48-B-0271. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Michelle Miller, Plum Crazy Kennel, Elk City, KS – FAILED THREE STATE INSPECTIONS IN A ROW; “CONTINUAL INADEQUATE SPACE.”** Even after receiving a warning letter from the Kansas Animal Health Department in December 2013 for failing two consecutive inspections, Michelle Miller’s Plum Crazy Kennel failed a third state inspection in June 2014. Issues found at that inspection included unsanitary conditions; repeated problems with dogs and puppies who did not have an adequate amount of space; strong odors; infestations of flies, mice and fleas; and an expired program of veterinary care. Eight different noncompliant items were found in a January 2013 inspection, and five of them had still not been corrected as of December 2013. Issues found included filthy conditions, dogs housed in rusty cages and standing on uncoated wire flooring that could hurt their feet, dogs without enough protection from the cold and wind and six dogs in need of veterinary care, including some who were underweight with prominent hip bones and ribs. Lic # CB000U5L. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Peggy Pierce, Pierce’s Kennels, Narka, KS – DOG’S SEVERE MATTING COVERED 80 PERCENT OF HIS BODY; OPERATOR FAILED EIGHT INSPECTIONS SINCE 2011.** In November 2014, a USDA inspector found an adult male shih tzu mix at Pierce’s Kennels who had “matted hair on its back, hindquarters, face, ribs and rear legs covering approximately 80 percent of its body.” The inspector noted that “the matted hair is balled and is tightly adhered to the skin.” Matted hair can lead to extreme discomfort and, according to the inspector, could “foster skin infections and hinder the animal’s ability to move or defecate normally.” This issue was not the only one recorded by inspectors; between April 2011 and November 2014, Pierce’s Kennels was found failing to comply with Animal Welfare Act standards at eight different USDA inspections. USDA inspectors found multiple issues at almost every visit, including dogs with hair loss and scabs who were crawling with fleas (September 2013), medication kept for use on the dogs which had expired almost five years earlier (March 2014), unsafe housing, unclean food and water, unsanitary conditions and dogs and puppies who did not have enough protection from the cold when the overnight temperatures had been as low as 27 degrees. USDA # 48-B-0273. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Keith and Lila Ratzlaff, Canton, KS – DOGS UNABLE TO AVOID CONTAMINATION WITH SMEARED FECES.** In February 2015, a Kansas state inspector found numerous sanitation problems at the Ratzlaff facility, including five pens with such excessive feces that the dogs had smeared it throughout and were “unable to get out of contamination.” During a November 2014 USDA inspection, a bulldog was found with such long nails that they were “curving backwards toward the foot pad,” and a mix of “dirt, grease and other excreta” was found covering parts of the kennel. Issues at the Ratzlaff kennel have been noted for years by USDA inspectors; the kennel appeared in The HSUS’s 2013 Horrible Hundred report for violations such as: a dog with hair loss and scabs across his entire head; a puppy with a sprained leg; lack of bedding in shelters; and accumulated feces. In July 2012, a USDA inspector noted that at least nine dogs didn’t have any water, and “when water was offered during the inspection, many of the dogs drank voraciously in a manner that indicated that they were extremely thirsty. One dog was timed drinking for a total of 2 minutes and 15 seconds. The temperature at the time of inspection was over 90 degrees [Fahrenheit].” USDA #48-A-1793. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Marilyn Soukup, Wilson, KS –UNLAWFULLY FAILED TO LET INSPECTORS IN FOR TEN DIFFERENT VISITS SINCE 2011.** Between March 2011 and March 2015, this facility has failed no fewer than ten times to give access to USDA inspectors as required by law. On the occasions that inspectors were able to access the facility between 2011 and 2015, Soukup was cited at every USDA inspection for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act (April 2015, Nov. 2014, June 2014, Jan. 2014, Oct. 2013, Sept. 2012, May 2012, Sept. 2011, and March 2011). During her most recent USDA inspection in April 2015, eleven different violations were found, mostly related to unsafe housing and unsanitary conditions. In November 2014, Soukup was cited for improper veterinary care and unsafe housing; in June 2014, inspectors found unsafe housing conditions, soaked food that had been left out in the rain, and

excessive feces. In January 2014, USDA inspectors found below-freezing temperatures in the whelping building where puppies are kept; recent temperatures at night had been 5 degrees Fahrenheit, and lamps were the only source of heat in the building. Similar violations were found by USDA in earlier years as well. USDA #48-A-1157. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Darryl and Larry Wilson, D & L Kennels, El Dorado, KS – GIVEN TWO OFFICIAL WARNINGS BY USDA FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROPER CARE.** In June 2014, the USDA gave Darryl and Larry Wilson an official warning for “failure to establish and maintain programs of veterinar[y] care that use appropriate methods to [prevent, control and treat] diseases and injuries.” The warning came after an inspector found a pug with symptoms of eye and dental disease who had not been treated by a vet, as well as a Havanese who was so badly matted that approximately 75% of the animal’s body was covered in tightly matted hair. It was the Wilsons’ second federal warning in less than a year; in February 2014, the USDA gave D & L Kennels an official warning for dogs without bedding in freezing temperatures. Similar problems were noted in prior years as well; in December 2013, USDA inspectors found 41 dogs in outdoor enclosures at D & L Kennels who didn’t have enough protection from the frigid cold when the temperatures were only 17.5 degrees Fahrenheit. USDA #48-B-0276. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

MINNESOTA

- **Wanda Kretzman, Clearwater Kennel Inc., Cushing, MN– USDA FILED OFFICIAL COMPLAINT DUE TO YEARS OF VIOLATIONS; ONE OF THE LARGEST PUPPY MILLS IN AMERICA.** On March 2, 2015, the USDA filed an official complaint regarding a series of violations at Clearwater Kennel, one of the largest puppy mills in the country. The violations listed in the complaint occurred between March 2010 and June 2013, although additional violations were found by USDA inspectors as recently as February 2014. The complaint alleges that Clearwater Kennel, Inc. willfully violated the Animal Welfare Act by failing to establish and maintain a program of adequate veterinary care, failing to provide the proper cleaning, maintenance and sanitation, and failing to maintain enough employees to carry out the level of care needed by the enormous number of dogs at the facility. Clearwater Kennel, Inc. is one of the largest puppy mills in the country, with more than 1,000 dogs. February 2014 violations at Clearwater Kennel included a strong ammonia (urine) odor, rodent feces near the dogs’ food, and excessive dog feces in the enclosures that left “limited areas for the dogs to walk or stand without coming into contact” with their own wastes, according to a USDA inspection report. Although a September 2014 inspection of Clearwater Kennel was compliant, the operation has a history of temporarily coming into compliance only to be found with additional severe violations at subsequent visits. No 2015 inspection reports were available at the time of this report. USDA #41-B-0190. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **John & Lyle Renner, Renner's Kennel, Detroit Lakes, MN– INSPECTORS REPEATEDLY FOUND**



Dogs were found with fleas and skin disorders at Renner’s Kennel in Detroit Lakes, MN / USDA, 2013.

INJURED DOGS. During three separate visits since our last report was published in May (May 2014, Sept. 2014 and Nov. 2014), USDA inspectors found sick or injured dogs at Renner's Kennel. The issues included dogs with swollen areas of red skin, a husky with a "reddened and cloudy right eye," and a Greyhound with signs of severe dental disease that "can make it difficult for the dog to eat" and "can be painful," according to the USDA inspector. In July 2014, the USDA gave Renner an official warning for violations of federal regulations for the failure to maintain adequate veterinary care for several animals. In February 2014, four dogs were found with injured paws, and two of the buildings had such strong odors that the inspectors said they felt "a burning sensation in our throats," and in the puppy nursery, "our eyes also felt a burning sensation." USDA # 41-A-0248. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Michelle Sonnenberg, Detroit Lakes, MN – STANDING WATER MIXED WITH FECES PRESENTS HEALTH HAZARD TO HUNDREDS OF DOGS.** Health and sanitation problems were found repeatedly at Sonnenberg's kennel every year between 2011 and 2014, and the kennel failed to let inspectors in during an attempted inspection in April 2015. In September 2013, USDA inspectors noted a "foul odor" due to standing water mixed with feces and maggots, an issue that persisted at subsequent inspections well into 2014. In June 2014 an inspector found the same standing water issue in three different barns that contained a total of 306 dogs and puppies, and noticed that the standing water was buzzing with flies – yet the same issue was noted again in October 2014, when the inspector noted that the water was "dark, dirty and mixed with excreta" and presented a "risk of odors, insects and disease hazards." In February 2013 an inspector noted an "ammonia level strong enough to make the inspector cough and feel a burn in the back of the throat" and other problems. The HSUS has also received complaints from buyers who reportedly purchased sick puppies from the facility. At its last inspection, the USDA documented more than 300 dogs and puppies at Sonnenberg's kennel (10/2/14). USDA #41-A-0021. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

MISSOURI

- **Pamela Baldwin, Samples Creek Kennel, Edgar Springs, MO – DOG'S OPEN WOUND EXPOSED MUSCLE AND BONE.** In July 2014, a USDA inspector noted that Samples Creek Kennel had a flea problem, with eight dogs who "were observed scratching or biting at themselves" due to fleas. In years past, both USDA and MO state inspectors found multiple additional violations. In 2013, state violations included dirty conditions, contaminated water, and many dogs who appeared sick or injured, including a female dachshund who was unable to walk on her back legs (5/16/13) and a jack russell terrier who had leg and foot injuries so severe that the open wound exposed muscle and bone (10/01/13). USDA #43-A-4762. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Maureen Butler, PugPekinpoo-Tzu, West Plains, MO – PUPPIES "HUDDLED TOGETHER AND SHIVERING" IN THE COLD.** Severe animal care problems have been found at PugPekinpoo-Tzu Kennels by USDA inspectors for several years in a row. 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, and in March 2014, another Chihuahua was found who was unable to bear weight on one of her back legs. Two other dogs were found in March 2014 with abdominal masses that had not been fully treated by a vet. 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 (12/09/13). 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. USDA #43-A-5702. MO CB-8285.

- Kimberly Coleman, TLC's Kennel, Clinton, MO – MORE THAN 100 DOGS AND PUPPIES CONFINED IN DARK, WINDOWLESS BUILDING.** In November 2014, a USDA inspector found 66 puppies and 43 adult dogs at TLC's Kennel in a darkened building with no windows. The inspector noted that even when the overhead lights were turned on at her request, some parts of the building were still so dark that she needed a flashlight to check on the dogs. In addition, the inspector found conditions so dirty that some of the dogs were smeared with feces. In May 2014, the USDA gave Coleman an official warning for failure to provide adequate veterinary care and a repeated failure to make the facility available for inspection – yet despite this clear warning, Coleman once again failed to make the kennel available when the USDA tried to inspect it in March 2015. Prior issues documented at the kennel included a morkie found by a USDA inspector in March 2014 who was “extremely thin with minimal muscle mass so that nearly all her bones (shoulders, spine, ribs, hips, legs, etc) were prominent,” and a Shih Tzu found with lesions on both eyes. During the January 2014 state inspection, inspectors noted that several dogs had a body condition score of only 2 or 3 out of 9, indicating that they were seriously underweight. As of November 2014, the kennel housed more than 250 dogs and puppies (USDA, 11/13/14). USDA #43-A-4973. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- Rachel, Virgel and Vickie Davis, Davis Kennel, Seymour, MO – MALTESE FOUND DEAD, FROZEN IN BITTER COLD.** Although the USDA's inspections of Davis Kennel have typically been compliant, Missouri state inspectors found violations at Davis Kennel 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 dog house 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 swelling of the mammary gland in August 2013, but as of January 2014, she had not done so. The dog was eventually disposed of by 7/22/14, with no indication in state records that she was ever treated for the disorder. Missouri state inspectors also found that the kennel was operating as a dealer without the required dealer's license, and was found to be obtaining animals from questionable and/or undocumented sources on several occasions. The kennel had been previously licensed by the 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. USDA #43-B-3732. MO DL-4865.
- Stacy L. Farley, Lancaster, MO – FINED \$4,107 by USDA IN NOVEMBER 2014 FOR DOGS WITH FROZEN WATER, FILTHY CONDITIONS AND OTHER PROBLEMS.** Stacy Farley was fined more than \$4,000 by the USDA in November 2014 for a number of violations, including failure to provide drinkable, unfrozen water to the dogs; failure to clean up excessive feces, failure to protect dogs whose “feet were soiled with feces and/or urine” and failure to provide adequate medical care for a Maltese who “had a dirty face, discharge coming from its eyes, and reddening of the gum line” as well as “pockets of a white creamy substance” similar to pus in the mouth. The USDA had repeatedly warned Farley about the filthy conditions on previous visits, including a “strong and prominent ammonia [urine] odor” in the indoor kennel, and accumulations of feces in some of the cages that made it difficult for the dogs to walk without stepping in it. A March 2015 USDA inspection was compliant. USDA # 43-B-3663. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- Mary Foster and Cathy Griesbauer, Country Pets – Montgomery City, MO: MASSIVE PUPPY MILL HAS MORE THAN 1,000 DOGS; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CARE TO TEN DOGS.** Country Pets is one of the most massive, substandard puppy mills in the country, with more than 1,000 dogs. It has been repeatedly cited by the USDA for multiple problems at the facility, including failing to let inspectors in on multiple occasions, and health, safety and sanitation issues. In December 2014, the USDA issued an official warning to Cathy Griesbauer and Mary Foster for failure to provide adequate medical care to ten different dogs during inspections that occurred in October 2014 and December 2013. The dogs included a dachshund who could not bear weight on his leg, a husky who had “lesions around the lips with hair loss and a wet discharge,” and a Maltese with a lesion on his paw. Some of the repeat violations documented at the kennel in prior years by state inspectors included underweight, sick and injured dogs, dirty conditions, excessive feces, and inadequate shelter.



In
October 2013
the licensee

Dogs were found in substandard and overcrowded conditions at Mary Foster and Cathy Griesbauer’s Country Pets in Montgomery City, MO. The facility is believed to be one of the largest puppy mills in the United States. /USDA, 2011.

admitted to a state inspector that she didn’t have enough housing to shelter all the dogs; the facility housed almost 900 dogs and puppies at that time, according to the state inspection report. In December 2013, state inspectors found several injured dogs, and the inspector noted that one of the dogs she had instructed the licensee to have examined by a vet in October still apparently hadn’t been treated. In March 2014, a state inspection report found that some issues had been corrected, but several new ones were found, including dogs who were wet outside when the temperature was only in the 20s, a dog with a bloody wound, and dogs who were matted and unkempt. Yet despite its history of violations, the size of the Country Pets puppy mill is growing; USDA records show the facility had an astonishing 1030 dogs as of 10/14/14. USDA #43-A-1843, MO#2615. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- Sharon Fox, South West City, MO – STENCH OF AMMONIA [URINE] IN WHELPING ROOM “BURNED THE INSPECTOR’S EYES AND THROAT;” CITED FOR SAME ISSUE FOUR YEARS IN A ROW.** For at least four years in a row (2012-2015), USDA inspectors have warned Sharon Fox about the lack of ventilation in her whelping room, which leads to an overwhelming stench of urine fumes. The most recent notification was given in January 2015, when an inspector noted that the stench was so strong it “burned the inspector’s eyes and throat.” As the inspectors repeatedly noted, “breathing air with high ammonia levels can lead to health complications.” Other serious issues found at Fox’s facility included a nursing mother Chihuahua with five puppies who was found without water in August 2014; when the licensee

was told to provide water, the dog was seen “anxiously pawing the enclosure door” as the water was brought over and then “drank continuously for almost a minute.” In addition, both state and federal inspectors noted several dogs with veterinary problems, including an adult Yorkie found in December 2012 who had “crusted matter in both eyes” and repeatedly ran in circles; the dog was being given cattle medication instead of medication labeled for use in dogs (USDA, 12/14/12). USDA #43-A-2581.

- **Jeffrey and Judy Gray, Rothville, MO – RECURRENT VETERINARY CARE PROBLEMS EVEN AFTER OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA.** Despite receiving an official warning from the USDA in January 2014 for repeated problems with inadequate veterinary care and sanitation issues, the Grays continued to be cited for the same problems in July 2014 and October 2014. In July, two dogs were found with greenish discharge around their eyes and one of them was “squinting his right eye and rubbing at it with his paw,” according to the inspection report. Another appeared to have a “concave lesion” on her eye. In October 2014, a shih tzu was found with “reddened and inflamed” gums and signs of dental disease so severe that the roots of her teeth were visible; she had a “reddish discharge” coming from the lower teeth, and some teeth were missing. The inspector also noted evidence of rodent infestation near the food (July 2014). The Grays were cited for eight different repeat violations in 2013. Photos taken by USDA (2014/2012) show dogs in rusty, small enclosures and puppies with their feet falling through wire flooring, which is a dangerous entrapment risk. USDA #43-A-4052. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Wilma Jinson, Jinson Kennel, Stella, MO – SICK, DEAD AND DYING PUPPIES FOUND BY INSPECTORS.** On May 8, 2014, a USDA inspector found a dead schnauzer puppy and a second puppy who “appeared to be dying as evidenced by lack of normal movement, thin appearance, and an inability to right itself” at Jinson Kennel. The dying puppy was found lying on “expanded metal” gridded flooring with no supplemental heat source. Puppies were also found repeatedly on unsafe gridded flooring that could allow their legs to become trapped. During the same inspection, the USDA inspector noted five pug

puppies “huddled on top of each other” as if cold, with no supplemental heat source. In August, the same inspector noted that a bulldog named Bonnie Sue had recently died of an apparent uterine infection. The inspector noted that Bonnie Sue had been taken to the vet on August 19, 2014 after being ill since August 7. The vet “noted a bloody purulent discharge

from the vulva. His diagnosis was pyometra and he

sent antibiotics home with the licensee for the dog,” according to the inspector’s report. However, the dog apparently did not get any better and Bonnie Sue died on August 23 “without the licensee seeking any further consultation with the veterinarian.” Other sick dogs found during recent inspections included a male dachshund with “circular patches of hair loss on his tail, as well as round red scabs on



Sick and injured dogs have been found year after year at Jinson Kennel in Stella, MO. /USDA, 2013.

his tail, hips and back legs” (Dec. 2014). Another dog was found with “an area of dry, crusted skin on her abdomen with streaks of reddened, swollen skin;” another had skin that was “reddened and oozing” and had patchy hair loss; and a Chihuahua was found hunched over with a golf-ball sized mass on her abdomen. In addition, roaches were found crawling in the dog food during at least two visits in August. In May 2014, six sick puppies were found and an inspector noted that another puppy had recently died. The inspector also found several adult dogs in need of veterinary treatment. All in all, between May and December of 2014, Jinson Kennel was cited for 12 pages of USDA violations, including 12 separate repeat violations. Similar animal welfare violations have been recorded by USDA inspectors for many years at Jinson Kennel. USDA #43-A-2656. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Earl R. Light, Corn Creek Kennels, Newburg, MO – PERFORMED DO-IT-YOURSELF EUTHANASIA INSTEAD OF TAKING HURT CHIHUAHUA TO VET.** When a state inspector informed Earl Light that a Chihuahua who had a “large, brown sore on her tongue” should be taken to a veterinarian for treatment,



A Chihuahua was found with a grotesquely enlarged eye at the facility of Earl Light, Newburg, MO. /USDA 2014.

the licensee instead obtained euthanasia drugs

from his veterinarian and injected them himself, a violation of state law (Missouri state inspection, July 2013). Additional problems found by USDA inspectors in 2014 include a dog with an enlarged right eye that was discolored and “appeared dull, dry and 1.5 to 2 times the size of the left eye,” as well as two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels with excessive matting , and a very strong odor that caused inspectors to feel “a burning and stinging sensation to the eyes, throat and nose” which “lingered after leaving the buildings.” Problems go back to at least December 2012, when state inspectors found a number of serious violations at the kennel; yet when they returned a month later (Jan. 2013) to re-inspect, the licensee refused to permit the inspection. According to the state inspector, Light stated that “he would not allow an inspection today because he still had to move dogs in order to become compliant.” The inspector noted that as she “attempt[ed] to speak with Mr. Light, he walked away from the vehicle.” A November 2014 USDA inspection was compliant. Light remains licensed in 2015 and there were no 2015 inspection reports available for Corn Creek Kennels as of the time of this report. USDA #43-A-5676, MO lic #CB-7873.

- **Eva and Isaac Martin, Cedar Line Kennel, Fortuna, MO – YORKIE WITH POSSIBLE BROKEN LEG WENT THREE MONTHS WITHOUT BEING TREATED BY A VET.** During a March 2015 visit, a USDA inspector spotted a 7-week-old Yorkie puppy who appeared to be very ill at Cedar Line Kennel; he was “unsteady

when walking and was shivering” and seemed uncoordinated. When asked about the puppy, the licensee admitted that she thought he may have had a seizure that morning, but said she had not contacted a veterinarian about the puppy’s condition.

Cedar Line Kennel has also been cited three years in a row by USDA inspectors for cages that were so rusty and in disrepair that there were holes rusted through the flooring, and/or the flooring of the cages was becoming detached, leaving dangerous gaps that could entrap a dog’s foot or leg (March 2015, Nov. 2014, April 2013). Dogs with leg injuries that could be related to the dilapidated flooring were found during at least two USDA inspections in January and April 2013, yet even after the USDA notified the Martins about the issue in writing, similar dangerous conditions were still found at inspections in 2014 and 2015.

In January 2013, one of the owners displayed a shocking lack of concern when a USDA inspector spotted a Yorkie in the kennel who seemed to be having trouble using her left front leg. According to the USDA inspection report, when asked about this dog, the licensee stated that “he first noticed the dog’s ‘broken leg’ about three months ago. According to the licensee, “it was possible that the dog was a few weeks pregnant and he planned to ‘give her away’ once she was bred.” When asked if a veterinarian had been contacted regarding the dog’s condition he replied, ‘no’” (USDA inspection report, Jan. 2013). Other injured dogs found in 2013 included a Maltese with a lump the size of a golf ball on her leg and another Maltese who was limping (April 2013). USDA # 43-A-4303, MO#5897.

- **Eli A. Miller, Hill Top Kennel, Clark, MO – DOGS FOUND PANTING IN BUILDING WITH A HEAT INDEX OVER 100 DEGREES; WORMLIKE INSECTS CRAWLING IN THE FOOD.** In 2012 and 2014, USDA inspectors found several dogs in need of medical care at Hill Top Kennel, including a shih-tzu with a blackish build-up covering most of her eye and a “BB size lesion” on the surface of her eye (July 2014). During the same July 2014 inspection, “1/2 inch long worm-like insects” were found crawling in the dogs’ food, as well as “1/4 inch beetle-like insects.” In August 2012, a USDA inspector found numerous dogs panting in an enclosed building at Hill Top Kennel with a heat index of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The inspector noted that some of the dogs were panting and informed the owner in writing that proper ventilation in such heat could prevent “serious medical problems caused by heat stress which can include death.” In May 2012, a beagle was found with thinning hair and itching skin, a pug was found with an eye condition, and several of the medications kept for use on the dogs were long-expired, including one that had expired six years previously. USDA #43-A-5541, MO#300002.
- **Barbara Neubert, Barb’s Pups, Formerly Neubert Kennel and Farms, Vienna, MO –THIN MOTHER BOXER’S RIBS, SPINE AND HIP BONES COULD BE VISUALIZED FROM A DISTANCE.** In August 2014, a USDA inspector found several violations of the Animal Welfare Act at Barbara Neubert’s kennel, including a mother boxer who “was nursing eight puppies approximately 3 ½ weeks of age, who was very thin. The dog’s ribs, spine and hip bones were easily visualized from a distance.” Even though the dog’s emaciated condition had been easily spotted by the USDA inspector, the licensee indicated she had not taken the dog to the vet. During the same inspection, another dog was found with several piles of loose, abnormal-looking stools around his enclosure. The inspector also noted “bones with small pieces of meat and bone marrow still attached” littering the floor of many of the dogs’ enclosures.

The issues of emaciated dogs, loose stools and questionable dietary practices had all been raised by USDA in prior years. In 2012, Neubert admitted to a USDA inspector that “she was obtaining ‘downer cows’ from the sale barn and slaughtering them on her premises to feed to the dogs,” and that the meat was fed to them raw. The USDA inspector noted concerns about “the safety in the handling of this unusual diet.” It appears that despite the USDA’s warnings about feeding raw or rotting meat to the dogs in 2011 and 2012, the problem continued well into 2014. A Missouri state inspector spotted rotting meat in two of Neubert’s dog kennels in May 2013, and noted, “Meat and bones that become infested with maggots and begin rotting need to be removed from the animals’ pens to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests and odors.” Previously licensed with Carl Neubert under #43-A- 5339; current USDA lic. #43-A-5777, MO#5898. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Robert Osburn, Osburn's Kennel, Joplin, MO– DOGS "COVERED WITH FLEAS AND TICKS;" ONE PUPPY HAD TICKS IN HIS EARS, ON HIS STOMACH AND BETWEEN HIS TOES; MORE THAN A DOZEN DOGS IN NEED OF VET CARE.** USDA inspectors found more than a dozen dogs in need of veterinary care during several 2013 inspections at Osburn's Kennel, including a dog whose ear was so badly infected that a "putrid odor" could be smelled, dogs "infested with fleas and ticks," including a great dane puppy who had such a severe infestation that the ticks were "in his ears, on his stomach and between his toes," an adult male great dane whose tick infestation was so bad that the ticks were "on his body and between his toes and fleas were visible over his entire head and body;" dogs with masses, scabs and lesions, and many other clearly unacceptable conditions. The USDA inspector concluded the August inspection by noting the many animals in need of veterinary care and stating that there clearly were not enough employees to care for the number of dogs present. Yet the USDA's oversight promptly ceased when the Osburns dropped their federal license after the August 2013 inspection. That was not the end of the substandard operation, however, because the state of Missouri has continued to renew its state license through 2015. After dropping its USDA license, the facility has continued to be cited by state inspectors for violations, including a great dane with blood on her ears and a German shepherd with hair loss who had not been treated by a vet (Oct. 2014), selling a puppy with no medical records (Nov. 2014), failing to obtain veterinary consultation records for a bull terrier with a longstanding eye disorder even after instructed to do so by state inspectors (Nov. 2014), excessive feces (Oct. and Nov. 2014) and many other issues. MO lic #3749, Former USDA#43-A-2621.
- **Carol Prothe, Urbana, MO – FINED BY USDA FOR DOGS EXPOSED TO FREEZING COLD, EXCESSIVE FECES AND INJURED DOGS.** In September 2014, The USDA fined Prothe \$2,857.00 for failing to provide veterinary care for six different dogs, failure to clean up excessive feces, failure to protect dogs in frigid weather, and other issues. Additional issues found by USDA inspectors included a drainage area with two or three inches of feces that the licensee admitted had not been cleaned in about a week. In January 2013, Missouri state inspectors found dogs who could not drink their water because it was frozen. Despite being warned about these repeated issues with dogs exposed to the cold weather, USDA inspectors once again found the same problem in March 2015, when no bedding was found in the outdoor enclosures even though the temperature the night before had been in the 40s. USDA #43-A-4562, MO CB-6155.
- **Ellen Roberts, Rocky Top K-9s, West Plains, MO – SICK PUPPIES, DOGS WITH MANGE AND UNDERWEIGHT NURSING MOTHERS.** Both state and federal inspectors have found repeated animal care problems at Rocky Top K-9s over a period of several years. In October 2014, a USDA inspector found an Olde English bulldog with "reddened skin and hair loss" and a boxer who was thin with easily visible ribs. In February 2014, a USDA veterinary medical officer found four 10-week-old English bulldog puppies who were coughing and seemed to be sick, but had not been treated by a vet. During the same inspection, a boxer was found with symptoms of mange. During a June 2013 USDA inspection, two dogs nursing puppies were found to be "very thin" with ribs and spinal arches prominent, four boxers were found with symptoms of mange, and two dogs were found squinting, with swollen skin around their eyes and discharge coming from their eyes. In March 2013, a USDA inspector noticed a boxer puppy who was "very thin and had a hunched posture when she moved about. The hip bones, vertebrae and ribs were easily observed." State inspectors found similar problems during their inspections, as well as other dogs with signs of mange, dogs without enough protection from the cold, and puppies with bloody stools. The facility did pass a state inspection in January 2015. USDA #43-A-5445, MO#7638.
- **Lynn Sartin, Lynn Sartin Kennel, Granby, MO – DEAD PUPPY LEFT IN CAGE UNTIL NEXT DAY.** In May 2014, a USDA inspector found a dead puppy in an enclosure at Lynn Sartin's facility. When asked about the puppy, the owner stated that she was aware the puppy had died the previous day, yet apparently she had not taken the time to remove the body. She was cited simply for a "drainage and waste disposal" violation, and there was no indication that inspectors asked her any questions about the health history of the puppy or its mother. During the same inspection, at least two dogs were so badly matted that "you could not see their eyes," according to the USDA inspector, and a shih tzu appeared to

be unable to put weight on her foot due to an untreated paw injury. During the same visit, the inspector noticed two Labradors who were kept outside without any shade or shelter when the temperature was 84 degrees; the dogs were seen “panting heavily.” In August 2014, USDA inspectors returned to find that the shih tzu was still limping, and also had “a thick, yellow-green discharge partially covering both eye globes.” When questioned, the licensee showed an inspector some medication that she claimed she had been applying to the dog’s eyes, but the medication had expired in August 2011. Another shih tzu was coughing loudly, and a rodent problem was still present. In January 2015, the USDA issued an official warning to Sartin for failing to provide veterinary care to the two ill shih tzus, and cluttered and unsanitary conditions. Despite these warnings, in February 2015, inspectors once again found filthy conditions, as well as puppies as young as 1 day of age who were kept on expanded metal flooring that allowed their feet and legs to fall through the gaps, a risk of entrapment and injury. USDA #43-A-4843, MO#7814.

- **Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel, Edina, MO – YEAR AFTER YEAR OF SICK AND INJURED DOGS; MORE THAN 90 DOGS AND PUPPIES FOUND ILL OR INJURED DURING USDA INSPECTIONS.** Despite the kennel’s appearance in three previous HSUS puppy mill reports, USDA inspectors have continued to document repeat, severe violations at Rabbit Ridge Kennel as recently as February 2015 and have still not succeeded in shutting it down. In February, the USDA filed an official legal complaint against Donald Schrage for allegedly willfully violating the Animal Welfare Act. The 24-page complaint detailed year after year of violations, including noncompliant issues found on 23 different dates between 2010 and 2014. The violations included more than 90 dogs and puppies found in need of medical attention over a four-year period, including emaciated, bleeding and injured dogs who had not received veterinary care. In addition, the USDA noted that Schrage had performed his own surgeries, such as ear crops and tail docking, on puppies, “although not a veterinarian [himself] and lacking appropriate veterinary training.” The HSUS has contacted the USDA repeatedly to express concerns about why this kennel is still in business when it has repeatedly failed to meet its most basic animal care responsibilities. Issues at Rabbit Ridge Kennel stretch back to at least 1996, when it entered into a consent decision with USDA over noncompliance with the Animal Welfare Act, at which time Donald and Mary Beth Schrage were fined \$12,000. The USDA’s 24 page February 2015 complaint can be downloaded at http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/enforcement_actions//2015/February/AWA/Complaints/MO10023_AC_Complaint%20for%20Donald%20Schrage_Redacted.pdf. USDA #43-A-1957. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Nathan and Juanita Schreiber, Circle S. Puppies and Paints, Revere, MO – “HE KILLED THIS DOG BY GUNSHOT;” INSPECTORS FOUND EMACIATED, SICK AND DYING DOGS.** Terribly ill animals were documented repeatedly at Circle S. Puppies and Paints by state inspectors in 2013 and 2014. Some of the dogs did not survive. On January 22, 2013, a state inspector noted that “Maggie, a basset hound previously cited as emaciated and evaluated by [a vet] with a body condition of less than one, was later destroyed in an unlawful manner. The Canine Cruelty Prevention Act requires that this facility have any euthanasia performed by a licensed veterinarian [but] according to the licensee, he killed this dog by gunshot.” Maggie the basset hound was not the only dog to suffer at Circle S. Puppies and Paints, according to state records. Other violations found in January 2013 included an “emaciated” Cavalier King Charles Spaniel female and a shar pei female with an abdominal mass; both dogs died within a few months of the inspection. During a previous inspection several dogs were found “in poor body condition,” and upon re-inspection on 1/22/13, the inspector noted that “several of the thin dogs were euthanized.”

State inspection reports from 2014 show almost identical problems found at many inspections, including puppies with squinting or draining eyes who were not treated by a vet even after an inspector instructed the dealer to have them examined (March 2014), 16 shar peis with scaly dermatitis who had not been treated by a vet (March 2014), puppies found shivering outside in the cold even after an inspector had told the dealer to bring them inside at the previous inspection (March 2014); four shar peis with “bloody lesions” (Oct. 2014), several other dogs with injuries or hair loss, and issues, such as

excessive feces, that were found to be noncompliant at ten or more inspections between 2012 and 2014.

Missouri state inspectors diligently re-inspected the kennel multiple times in 2013 and 2014, finding many severe repeat issues at each visit. Finally, in February 2015, the kennel claimed that it had reduced its breeding stock to three intact females, a number that would make it exempt from both Missouri and USDA kennel oversight. In April 2015, the kennel appeared to be unlicensed, but it continued to have ads on online sites such as PuppyFind.com³, where the Schreibers identify themselves as Iowa breeders, yet they still have a Missouri area code. They were offering AKC puppies for sale to the public at: http://www.puppyfind.com/l/?acct_id=71734. Former Missouri license, # CB-8171.

- **Josh L. Souza, Chevoret Ranch [SIC], Phillipsburg, MO – VIOLATIONS FOUND AT 20 DIFFERENT USDA INSPECTIONS WITHIN THREE YEARS; DOGS REPEATEDLY FOUND IN NEED OF VET CARE.** Between May 2012 and March 2015, USDA inspectors found violations at 20 out of 22 inspections at Josh Souza’s kennel. Issues documented in February 2015 alone included: sickly and underweight dogs who were not treated by a vet even after the licensee was instructed to get them medical care by the inspector; dogs so severely matted that at least one of them had difficulty moving around; dogs without enough protection from the bitter cold when the wind chill was just 16.2 degrees Fahrenheit; dogs forced to walk in their own feces because it covered 85% of their floor space; and many other filthy and unsafe conditions. In January 2015, Souza was found to be selling underage puppies, and on several dates in 2015 and 2014, he was found selling puppies to pet stores from undocumented sources, which could include unlicensed breeders. In November 2013, The USDA gave Souza an official warning for six different violations found on six different inspections in 2012 and 2013, including a repeated failure to provide adequate veterinary care and a repeated failure to provide safe housing with enough space and weather protection for the dogs—warnings which Souza clearly continues to disregard. USDA #43-B-3620. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Allen Strenke and Jerry McClure, Jerrens Kennel, Grant City, MO –REPEATED ISSUES WITH THIN AND MATTED DOGS.** On several occasions over the last two years, federal and state inspectors have found underweight and matted dogs at Jerrens Kennel. In June 2014 a USDA inspector found a female silky terrier nursing two puppies who was “very thin with easily palpable ribs and defined vertebrae.” The same dog had “a buildup of brown, gray-green material on her back teeth with gums that were swollen and when touched, a thick yellowish-white discharge occurred.” The inspector also noted that the same mother dog had “matted hair on the face and legs that are dangling and pulling on the skin.” In March 2014, a USDA inspector found a Pekingese with an eye disorder, a boxer with a “dangling mass on the left side of her abdomen,” three dogs who were severely matted, and a Chihuahua whose nails were so long that they “bend to the side when the animal is standing.” Multiple similar problems were found by state inspectors in 2015, 2014 and 2013, including an underweight Maltese and shih tzu (Nov. 2013), a boxer with a mammary mass (March 2014), a Chihuahua with dermatitis on all four feet (Nov. 2013), excessively matted dogs (March 2014, July 2014) and a boxer with a harsh cough (Jan. 2015). MO lic #CB-6173, USDA #43-A-4362.
- **David and Esther Troyer, Clark, MO – DO-IT-YOURSELF VET CARE INVOLVED RE-USING SAME SYRINGE ON ALL PUPPIES.** Cited by the USDA in 2012 for using dirty wire cutters to remove dewclaws on puppies, Troyer once again showed a disregard for basic, responsible veterinary care practices in November 2014, when a USDA inspector found him preparing to use the same syringe to vaccinate all his dogs and puppies. When questioned about the re-use of the same syringe and needle, the licensee stated that he did not even switch syringes when changing medications, but instead “would clean the syringes / needles out with water in between uses” of different drugs, according to the inspection report. The

³ Puppyfind.com has consistently been a haven for some of the most substandard breeders that The HSUS is aware of. Buyers are cautioned not to purchase puppies online from websites such as PuppyFind.com.

inspector noted that this practice could “spread disease from one animal to another, may cause infection at the puncture site, and may contaminate the medication or vaccine.”

In prior years, USDA inspectors cited this facility for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a limping Maltese mix who couldn’t put weight on her leg because of a lesion on her foot, a dog with loose teeth, and a bichon who could not bear weight on her leg. The bichon had a lesion on her foot as well as a “yellowish discharge” coming from her ear and “discharge from the eyes.” USDA #43-A-3085. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **John Winkelman, Osage Kennels, Linn, MO – FAILED NINE USDA INSPECTIONS SINCE 2012.** Osage Kennels failed nine USDA inspections between March 2012 and February 2015. Many of the problems cited by inspectors included repeated issues with dogs suffering from symptoms of eye or ear infections, and severely matted dogs. In November 2014, the USDA gave Osage Kennels, LLC an official warning for failing to provide proper veterinary care for four dogs. In addition, two different dogs whom an inspector had noted as needing veterinary care in August 2013 disappeared from the facility under questionable circumstances. The licensee told an inspector on 11/14/13 that one of the dogs who had been identified in August as in need of veterinary care had been killed by another dog. And a female shih tzu who had been identified as needing veterinary care during the same August inspection had reportedly been “given away,” yet medication which had been dispensed to her just before she was “given away” was still at the facility. Conditions found during many other inspections included excessive filth and feces, and in November 2013, 109 dogs were found without adequate protection from the weather when temperatures had been as low as 17 degrees Fahrenheit. USDA #43-A-4667.

NEBRASKA

- **Jamie Bailey, Saints4Life, Beaver City, NE – SELLER OF “AKC SAINT BERNARDS” AND BULLMASTIFFS FAILED TEN STATE KENNEL INSPECTIONS WITHIN TWO YEARS.** During at least ten state inspections between May 2013 and February 2015, Saints4Life failed to meet basic state requirements. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture sent Bailey a warning letter in February 2015 for several repeat violations, including dangerously high ammonia (urine fume) levels of up to 24 ppm (a repeat violation on four different dates), sanitation problems found on three different dates, and water bowls covered with grime found on three different occasions. In January 2014, Bailey was also given a state warning for a failure to allow the kennel to be inspected as required by law. During a state inspection in February, 2014, three dogs were found with injuries and Bailey failed to notify inspectors that a dachshund puppy had died. In addition, the kennels were “brown with grime and feces,” and dogs were living in such dark enclosures that it was difficult for the inspector to see them to check on their welfare. In July 2014, dogs were found with wounds on their ears from fly bites.

As recently as April 3, 2015, Bailey was found to be offering “AKC puppies” online and claiming to be a “state licensed kennel,” via a Facebook page, on, [PuppyFind.com](#), [www.greatbulls.webs.com](#) and [saints4lifesaintbernards.webs.com/](#). As of March 2015, HSUS staff could find no record of Saints4Life holding a USDA license. A USDA license is required to sell puppies online sight-unseen if a breeder has more than four intact female breeding dogs. Nebraska license #02141215. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Douglas and Mary Jane Brosh, Brosh’s Kennels, Pender, NE – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FOR DOGS WITHOUT WATER, EXCESSIVE FECES, DOG WITH BULGING EYE.** In January 2015, the Broschs were given an official warning by the state of Nebraska for several violations of the Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act. The violations included a Boston terrier with a bulging eye who had not been seen by a vet, excessive feces, and dogs found without water who had reportedly not received any water since the previous afternoon. Issues have been found at the facility by both state and federal inspectors repeatedly over a period of several years. The facility had more than 160 dogs and puppies at its February 2015 inspection. USDA #47-B-0091, Nebraska license #031465.
- **Clem Disterhaupt, Jr., Ponca Creek Kennels, Spencer, NE – RECEIVED TWO OFFICIAL WARNINGS FROM STATE.** In October 2014 and February 2015, Disterhaupt received official warnings from the state 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 (Jan 2014), mouse feces and foul odors. Nebraska license # #0413211.

- **Laurel and Barbara Gilbertson, Broken Bow, NE – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA IN JUNE 2014 FOR SEVEN VIOLATIONS.** On June 10, 2014, the USDA gave the Gilbertsons an official warning for many repeated violations, including failure to maintain clean and safe housing, unsanitary conditions, and inadequate pest control. After issuing the warning, the USDA then tried on at least three different occasions to re-inspect the kennel in September 2014, December 2014, and February 2015. During each of these visits, no one was available to allow inspectors in during regular business hours – a repeat violation. USDA #47-A-0552.
- **Linda Hager and Edward Ruyle, Crab Orchard, NE –DROPPED USDA LICENSE AFTER MORE THAN 50 DOGS WERE FOUND IN NEED OF VET CARE AND PUPPY DIED; FAILED NINE STATE INSPECTIONS.** Linda Hager first appeared in The HSUS's Horrible Hundred report in 2013, after being "unavailable" six times in a row when the USDA tried to inspect her kennel. When the USDA finally gained access for an inspection in March 2014, no fewer than 54 dogs were found in need of veterinary care. One of the dogs, "Evie," a nursing papillon, seemed to have a mastitis-like condition, according to the USDA's report. The breeder claimed that Evie had been given Baytril, but she had not taken her to a vet. One of Evie's two puppies died during the USDA's inspection. Other dogs were found to be underweight or suffering from lumps, swellings, injuries, eye and skin disorders and infections.

After news of the horrific violations reached the public, Hager cancelled her USDA license in May 2014. However, she is still licensed by the state of Nebraska in 2015, and state records show that the kennel was found to have noncompliant issues at nine different state inspections between January 2014 and February 2015.



Filthy conditions and severely matted dogs were found repeatedly at the facility of Linda Hager, Crab Orchard, NE. The facility dropped its USDA license in May 2014, but it is still operating in 2015, and is licensed by the state to sell directly to the public. /NE Dept of Ag, 2014.

The issues most commonly noted on state reports include filthy conditions, high ammonia levels (urine fumes), matted dogs and a lack of adequate staffing to properly care for the animals. In addition, photographs taken by state inspectors reveal dogs in rows of barren, wire cages, which are common conditions at puppy mills. Many of the dogs appeared to have only plastic "igloo" style huts to protect them from the weather. The facility had more than 100 dogs and puppies at its most recent state inspection in February 2015. Former USDA#47-A-0410, Nebraska license #0414162. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Rodney and Joni Isom, Isom Pets, Page, NE – RECEIVED AT LEAST THREE OFFICIAL WARNING LETTERS FROM STATE.** Between 2014 and 2015 alone, the Isoms received at least three warning letters from the state for issues ranging from refusing an inspection (Feb. 2015) to inadequate veterinary care, matted dogs, unsanitary conditions and having insufficient staff to properly care for animals in the kennel (May 2014). In January 2015, inspectors found dogs with frozen water and no bedding during cold weather as well as excessive feces. In May 2014, inspectors also noted severely matted dogs, limping dogs, and a dog with an untreated wound. Nebraska license # 0313245.
- **Jerome and Nancy Packer, Pack's Pups, Wood River, NE – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA IN DEC. 2014 FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE TO SIX DOGS.** In August 2014, a USDA inspector visited Pack's Pups to check on six dogs who had been found with veterinary issues the previous month. The inspector found that four of the six dogs had not received treatment yet for their problems. Three of these dogs had symptoms of dental disease so severe that their gums were receding, a pus-like material was seen along the gum line and some teeth were missing, and the fourth dog had a "greenish-tan discharge" on and around her eye. The inspector was not able to confirm that all of the dogs had been treated for these potentially painful issues until his third visit in September. The Packers received an official warning from the USDA in December 2014 for failure to provide adequate veterinary care to the six dogs. Other issues noted during USDA inspections in 2014 included excessive feces and rust, and no exercise plan for the dogs. Two separate Nebraska state inspections in April 2013 and October 2013 found beetles in the dogs' food and high ammonia (urine fume) odors at both visits, and in April 2013, dogs were found with their nails so long that it caused their toes to turn sideways. Pack's Pups cancelled its USDA license in January 2015, but as of April 2015, they were still operating and licensed by the state. Former USDA #47-A-0217. Nebraska license #031342.
- **Mitch and Alisa Pesek, Swanton, NE – AKC "BREEDER OF MERIT" HAD UNDERWEIGHT DOGS, SOME WITHOUT WATER OR FOOD; RECEIVED TWO OFFICIAL STATE WARNINGS FOR INADEQUATE CARE.** In March 2014 and again in November 2014, Alisa Pesek, an AKC "Breeder of Merit," and her co-licensee, Mitch Pesek, received official warnings from the state of Nebraska for severe animal care issues. The November warning alone outlined five different issues, including failure to provide "enough nutritious food to maintain body weight," failure to have enough employees to properly care for dogs and failure to maintain a current veterinary plan. According to the warning, "at least 15% of the adult dogs were reported to be very thin and underweight," and "dogs were reported to have serious and severe levels of internal parasites (whipworms and hookworms)." Despite these violations and the many other violations found, as of March 2015, Alisa Pesek was still listed on the AKC's website as an esteemed Breeder of



State inspectors found underweight dogs and a dog with an injured leg outside in the snow at the facility of Alisa Pesek, an AKC Breeder of Merit. / NE Dept of Ag., 2014.

Merit; one of many indications that The AKC, which repeatedly fights laws designed to address puppy mills, is failing in its duty to protect dogs (www.humanesociety.org/AKCreport).

This is the second year in a row that Pesek has appeared in an HSUS puppy mills report: on February 10, 2014, state kennel inspectors noted that six dogs were in an outside enclosure at Pesek's kennel without adequate bedding or shelter when the temperature was only 1 degree, and all outside water for the dogs was frozen. The licensees had been warned about the lack of adequate weather protection on two prior visits (March 2013, May 2013), yet apparently had not corrected it almost a year later. On several other occasions inspectors also noted excessive feces and matted dogs and noted that the licensees "need more employees to properly care for dogs." Nebraska license #03131115. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Daniel and Jaynell Schaaf, Kuddly Kritters Kennel, Atkinson, NE – DOGS WITH VETERINARY PROBLEMS FOUND FOUR YEARS IN A ROW.** In 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012, USDA inspectors found dogs in need of veterinary attention at Kuddly Kritters Kennel. These issues included a dog with a four-inch long abnormal growth (July 2014), a dog with a "red and oozing" open wound on her foot (July 2014), and a dog with dental disease and "green-colored mucus covering about 75 percent" of his eye (Nov. 2014). In addition, several outdated medications were found in the facility, including medication that expired in 2004. In both July 2014 and November 2014, USDA inspectors warned the Schaafs that their kennel facility "does not have enough employees to adequately in a timely manner take care of the maintenance and daily routines that a kennel of this size requires." USDA #47-A-0146. Nebraska license #021416.
- **Jo Anne Steiger, In God's Hands Kennel, Randolph, NE – RECEIVED TWO STATE WARNINGS FOR DOGS AND PUPPIES KEPT IN FRIGID CONDITIONS WITH FROZEN WATER.** In January 2014, Steiger received an official warning from the state of Nebraska for dogs and puppies kept in "bitter temperatures" without enough protection from the cold, dogs with frozen water who had not had potable water for "at least 16 hours," and accumulations of wastes and feces. Despite this warning, poor conditions continued to be documented at the kennel. In February 2015, Steiger received another warning for the very same issues, as well as the lack of a veterinary care plan, two dogs who were injured, and unsafe conditions. Nebraska license #04141104.
- **Duane and Sheryl Tietz, Heavens Blessings, Bancroft, NE – "HEAVENS BLESSINGS" KENNEL MORE LIKE HELL FOR MANY DOGS FOUND INJURED AND UNTREATED.** Even after appearing in our 2014 report for egregious violations such as using gunshot as a method of "euthanasia," Heavens Blessings Kennel has continued to be more like hell for the dogs forced to live (and die) there. Within less than a year, USDA inspectors found 11 pages of violations at Heavens Blessings, including several repeat violations for sick dogs who were not given veterinary care even after an inspector directed the owners to take the animals to a veterinarian for treatment. These animals included a wheaten terrier with such severe dental problems that the roots of the teeth were exposed and oozing a pus-like material, another wheaten terrier who was so severely matted that "excessively twisted, densely matted hair covered and dangled off most of his body" and a Cavalier King Charles spaniel who had symptoms of three different infections around her eyes, ears and mouth. Other dogs found with serious medical problems included a shih tzu with crusted eyes and matted hair around her eyes so severe that it "interferes with her ability to see," three dogs "with toenails so long that they were curling around and growing back towards the pads of the feet, such that they could not stand normally, and several other dogs with open wounds or signs of infections. Other issues noted included excessive feces, cages that were too small, and unsafe conditions. According to a January 2015 state inspection report, the facility had 119 dogs and 59 puppies. USDA #47-A-0316, Nebraska license #0214185. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Paul Urbanec, Pender, NE – DOG'S OPEN WOUNDS WERE BUZZING WITH FLIES.** Urbanec has repeatedly been found with ill or injured dogs at his kennel during USDA inspections. Problems recorded at the kennel in 2014 included a mastiff with open wounds on both ears that were "moist and bright red" and had "numerous flies" on them. When questioned about whether the dog was being treated for

the wounds, the licensee produced an ointment which had expired almost a decade previously, in August 2004. During the same inspection, two dogs were found with signs of dental disease so severe that a pus-like substance could be seen along their gums, and two German Shepherds were found with hair loss and “bare skin was exposed” on the tips of the ears, which also had flies crawling on them. When questioned about the treatment these dogs were receiving, the licensee again pulled out the ten-year-old ointment, according to the inspection report (7/29/14). Additional problems found at the same inspection included excessive feces, unsafe housing, and other unsanitary conditions. On December 2, 2014, Urbanec reportedly refused to complete a USDA inspection that was in progress after the inspector recorded a “Direct NCI” related to dogs who did not have enough protection from the cold. In 2013 and 2014 alone, Urbanec failed to grant inspectors access to his kennels a total of seven different times, a repeated violation of the Animal Welfare Act. USDA #47-A-0540.

- **Kevin and Anne Marie Williams, K & A Kennel, Ashton, NE – FAILED FIVE STATE INSPECTIONS IN A ROW.** Even after appearing in our 101 Puppy Mills report last year, the Williams continued to be found with poor conditions during at least five additional state inspections in 2014 and early 2015. Issues documented by state inspectors included a dog with a cloudy eye that appeared to be sunken in, dogs with matted feces around their rears, and excessive accumulations of feces. The Williams appeared in the HSUS’s 101 Puppy Mills report in 2014 due to numerous issues found at the kennel by state inspectors, including dogs found without bedding when the temperature was only 9 degrees (Dec 2013), a wounded dog who did not receive veterinary care even after the licensee was specifically told to have him treated, and a written veterinary plan that stated the licensee would conduct his own euthanasia by “lead injection, referring to gunshot wound,” among numerous other problems. Nebraska license #05141023. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**
- **Wulf Kennels, Guide Rock, NE – DOGS WITH FROZEN WATER AND FLY STRIKE.** The kennel at this address in Guide Rock, NE has been associated with a few different business names and several individuals (including Chad Wulf, Krystal Wulf, and Steph McCutcheon). Regardless of the name or license number, issues have been found on the property for at least four years in a row. At its most recent available state inspection in January 2015, dogs were found with frozen water in the dead of winter; historical weather data shows that the temperature in the area was about 12 degrees at the time, with lows of about 2 degrees. The state inspector also noted that interior surfaces were “brown with grime,” and there were excessive feces present. In July 2014, USDA inspectors found dogs with wounds on their ears from fly strikes, an issue that was also noted during a 2012 pre-license inspection, when a labrador retriever was found with “open, crusty sores” on his ears that had “many flies” landing on them. During the same inspection, a female chocolate Labrador was found with “abnormal appearing eyes” that had not been treated by a vet, and numerous unsafe and unsanitary conditions were also documented. A March 2015 USDA inspection was compliant. USDA #47-A-0596; may be related to former USDA #47-A-0553, Nebraska license #03141164. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

NEW YORK

- **Rebecca Graber, Waterloo, NY – EXCESSIVE FECES SOILED THE DOGS’ FUR.** USDA inspectors continued to find multiple violations at this kennel as recently as January 2015, when two dogs were found with “a large amount of feces stuck in their fur,” some dogs were excessively matted, and others were found outside in 21 degree temperatures without adequate protection from the cold. During the same inspection, the kennel was cited for repeat violation for various sanitation issues, including “a strong ammonia odor in the whelping room,” and excessive feces. Mouse droppings were also found in the dogs’ living areas. Issues cited during prior years’ USDA inspections included animals missing from the kennel with no explanation for what happened to them; animals in the cold without adequate protection from the weather; improper vaccination protocol, and additional unsanitary and unsafe conditions. USDA # 21-A-0159. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Marjorie Ingraham, Marjorie’s Kennel, Harpursville, NY – RUSTED-THROUGH ENCLOSURES HAD HOLES IN THE WALLS**. Marjorie’s Kennel has been a source of concern for local residents for several years. Although repeated state inspections found several violations in February 2015, August 2014, and July 2014, the state appears willing to give the operator repeated chances to fix the problems, even though the repairs don’t seem to last very long. Issues found by state inspectors in February 2015 included dogs with feces stuck in their fur and dogs given away without health exams. Violations found between July and August of 2014 included metal siding on the kennels that was rusted through, framework on chain-link kennels that was rusted and broken, and several dogs with matted fur or feces on their fur. The kennel houses approximately 50 dogs. The HSUS has received complaints about sick puppies sold by the kennel. NY lic # 305. **REPEAT OFFENDER**.
- **Frances and Isaac Zimmerman, Dundee, NY – VIOLATIONS AT EVERY USDA INSPECTION SINCE SEPTEMBER 2011**. The Zimmermans acquired their USDA license in October 2011 after failing their first two pre-license inspections. Upon the third try, they received their license, but have had noncompliance issues at every routine inspection since that date. During their most recent inspection in July 2014, expired vaccinations were found, which could leave puppies exposed to deadly diseases, and there were two repeat violations for failing to keep a record of what happened to puppies who died or were sold, and unsafe housing that could injure the dogs. USDA #21-A-0156. **REPEAT OFFENDER**.

OHIO

- **Marvin Burkholder, Berlin Kennel, Millersburg, OH – SALE OF UNDERAGE PUPPIES; WOUNDED DOGS**. In September 2014, a USDA inspector found that Marvin Burkholder sold at least two litters of underage puppies. One of the litters was only 46 days old, which is about 6 ½ weeks; USDA requirements and many state laws require puppies to be at least 8 weeks of age prior to sale for their health and safety. According to the USDA, sale of underage puppies “can cause additional stress, social anxieties, and lead to disease problems since immune systems have not [been] fully developed.” Additional problems found at Berlin Kennel included a Yorkie with a severe eye injury (9/18/14), a Boston terrier with a “right eye that is cloudy and blue, with green thick discharge” (1/15/15) and repeated issues with unsanitary conditions. USDA #31-A-0224. OH lic #CB0003HW.
- **Alvin Hershberger, A & E Kennels, Sugarcreek, OH – DOGS IN THE FREEZING COLD WITH ONLY BARRELS FOR SHELTER; OWNER WAS WARNED FOUR TIMES THAT A PLASTIC BARREL IS NOT ADEQUATE SHELTER**. In 2015, 2014 and 2012 dogs at A & E Kennels were found without adequate housing and without adequate protection from inclement weather. The most recent violation was noted by a USDA inspector in January 2015, when dogs were found outside in 19 degree weather with only plastic barrels as shelter. Some of the dogs could not even sit, stand or lie normally inside the barrels due to the inadequate size of the barrels. The licensee had already been advised about the same issues in December 2014, when he was clearly warned in writing that a failure to protect the dogs from the cold “as the winter months continue” could put them at risk of discomfort and disease, but apparently he took no steps to ensure these dogs were protected. The licensee was also warned about the inadequacy of barrels as shelter in January 2014 and May 2012. Other issues found by USDA inspectors included a female boxer who was severely underweight and had diarrhea. The dog’s “ribs were visible and she also has sunken flank areas and prominent pelvis and spinal bones,” according to the inspection report (May 2012).

Hershberger cancelled his USDA license (#31-A-0213) in February 2015, which means he can no longer legally sell to pet stores or online sight-unseen, but as of April 2015, he still had an active Ohio state license, which allows him to sell puppies in person directly to the public. OH lic #CB00023T.

- Andy Yoder, Yoder Backroad Kennel, Millersburg, OH – SEVEN DEAD PUPPIES FOUND ON ONE DAY; DOG HAD SEVERELY EMBEDDED CHAIN COLLAR**; On 2/26/14, a USDA inspector found seven dead puppies at Yoder Backroad Kennel that were spread out on the ground near one of the housing buildings, with no clear explanation of what had happened to them. For this violation, the USDA only cited Yoder for an indirect violation under “Housing Facilities, General.”



A USDA inspector photographed an emaciated breeding dog at the facility of Alvin Hershberger, A & E Kennels. /USDA, 2012.

During the same inspection, four adult dogs were also found in need of veterinary care, including a shih tzu who had such a severely embedded collar that the inspector was unable to remove it because “several of the chain links were embedded to the dog’s neck [and] skin has grown over and through the links of the chain collar on the underside of her neck.” The inspector noted that “scabs and dried blood” were present on the dog’s neck. A second dog was found with a “very tight” collar with hair loss and scabbing on her neck, a third dog had signs of dental disease, and a fourth dog had “thick, green discharge in and around both eyes.” Dogs in need of medical care were also found in 2013 and 2012. A USDA inspection in July 2014 was compliant. USDA #31-A-0396. OH lic # CB000102.

OKLAHOMA

- Brett Bonham, Calvary Creek Kennels, Cordell, OK – SEVEN DOGS HAD OPEN WOUNDS FROM BITING FLIES**. In June 2014, a USDA inspector found seven dogs at Calvary Creek Kennels who had “open wounds on the tops of their ears from flies biting them.” The inspector noted that “the sores on all seven dogs were moist, reddened and inflamed in appearance,” and there was no indication that they had been treated by a vet. In fact, the inspector noted that “the facility does not employ a full-time veterinarian and there was no written program of veterinary care available.” The inspector also noted that 163 dogs were on the premises at the time of the most recent inspection, and 33 dogs were listed in the computer records who were no longer at the facility, with no documentation to explain what had happened to them. In August 2012, a USDA inspector found dangerous broken wire flooring which exposed 21 dogs to “sharp, jagged points [that] are in direct contact of the

animals.” In addition, on a total of three dates in 2012, 2013 and 2014, the owner failed to make the facility available for an inspection, which is a violation. USDA #73-A-2637.

- **Jan Harper, Welch, OK – EMACIATED DOG HAD TROUBLE WALKING.** In December 2013, a USDA inspector found a six-year-old Japanese Chin at Jan Harper’s facility whose “ribs and backbone could be visualized” and whose hip bones and leg bones were easily visible. The inspector noted that “it looked as if the dog was having trouble walking and maintaining normal balance,” yet when asked if the dog had been taken to a vet, the owner was unable to prove that a vet had looked at the dog or that any treatments were taking place, according to the USDA report. There was no follow-up report in the USDA’s records to explain what happened to the emaciated dog after the December 2013 inspection, and it appears that no additional USDA inspections occurred for almost two years, until February 2015. On February 25, 2015, the USDA found three Pomeranians at Jan Harper’s kennel who had matted hair and feces hanging from them, as well as rodent feces and “an odor associated with rodents” in the whelping building. USDA #73-A-2038.
- **Dwayne Hurliman, Cordell, OK – MASSIVE KENNEL RECEIVED TWO OFFICIAL WARNINGS FROM USDA IN 2014 FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VET CARE, YET PROBLEM RECURRED.** Dwayne Hurliman operates one of the largest puppy mills in the country, with more than 1,170 dogs and puppies documented at its most recent USDA inspection (Dec. 2014). In August and November 2014, the USDA issued two official warnings to Dwayne Hurliman for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a number of dogs. Despite these two warnings, in December 2014, Hurliman was once again found to have animals needing veterinary care, including a pomeranian with such severe dental problems that “the shape of the teeth is no longer visible,” a Boston terrier with ulcers in both eyes, another Boston terrier with swollen cysts on his foot, and two pugs with cloudy/reddened eyes and eye drainage. During the same inspection, puppies were found with their feet and legs falling through holes in wire floors, a significant injury and entrapment risk, and “roach-like insects” were found crawling all around the facility and in one of the puppies’ food. Additional problems found in March 2014 by USDA inspectors included rodent feces on the floor where the food was stored, and almost 40 dogs held in small enclosures that didn’t provide enough space for them to move about freely. USDA #73-A-2621. OK Lic #206.
- **Chris McGill, Chris’s Kennel, McAlester, OK – “THIN” DOGS WITH WOUNDS.** During a December 2014 inspection of Chris’s Kennel, three dogs were found in need of medical care by USDA inspectors. Each of the three dogs had multiple symptoms that concerned the inspector, including two who were in “thin condition” and had sores, and were shaking their heads and scratching. Two dogs also had signs of ear infection and dental disease, and one had signs of a possible eye infection. In May 2013, five other dogs were found in need of medical care, including dogs with scabs and wounds. One of the dogs had a wound on her face that “appears to be draining,” according to the inspector, with “what appears to be some blood and pus.” Inspectors also found repeated problems with outdoor structures that had “little or no protection from the wind, snow or rain” as well as sanitation violations. USDA #73-A-1257.
- **Ray Range, D & B Kennel, Arnett, OK – BLIND DOG, DOG WITH PING-PONG BALL -SIZED TUMOR AND OTHERS HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** After appearing in The HSUS’s 101 Puppy Mills report in May 2014, conditions at Ray Range’s kennel have only seemed to get worse. USDA inspectors found multiple dogs in need of veterinary care at the kennel during an October 2014 inspection, including a Chihuahua named Spanky who appeared to be blind and never left the back corner of his enclosure, and another Chihuahua, named Boop, who had a tumor the size of a ping pong ball, which the owner admitted had been there for “quite a while,” yet the dog had not been taken to a vet. Other dogs found in need of vet care included a shar-pei named Sissy who had greenish eye discharge, and a schnauzer named Heidi who was so badly matted that the matted fur covered approximately 80 percent of her body. Puppies were also found with their feet hanging through the wire floors of their enclosure, a serious entrapment and injury risk which the owner had

been cited for in the past. The USDA gave Range an official warning in February 2015 for two of these violations. Former USDA #73-A-2298; current USDA #73-A-2676. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

- **Dawn and Robert Troupe, Dibble, OK – INJURED DOGS AND FILTHY CONDITIONS.** USDA inspectors found several dogs with untreated medical problems during inspections in both February 2015 and October 2014, including dogs who appeared to have difficulty walking, and dogs with signs of ocular or dental infections. The facility has also been repeatedly cited for filthy conditions. During the February 2015 inspection, there was so much fecal material in some of the outside dog runs that it covered up to 50% of the floor, and the licensee reported that they had not been cleaned in about four days, according to the inspection report. During the October 2014 inspection, some of the dogs' water receptacles were found with "an algae looking substance" in them, and the facility representative admitted that they were only cleaned "every 4 to 6 weeks." There were also rodent droppings on the floor and around the food. The licensees were given an official warning by USDA in May 2014 for "refusal to provide access to an APHIS official" to conduct an inspection as required by the Animal Welfare Act. #73-A-2675.

PENNSYLVANIA

- **Garden Spot Puppy Haven, Parkesburg, PA (Chester County)–CITED FOR SELLING UNDERAGE PUPPIES.** On March 27, 2015, Pennsylvania's Dog Law Enforcement Office cited Garden Spot Puppy Haven for selling underage puppies. It is a violation of Pennsylvania law to sell puppies under eight weeks of age. The citation was not the facility's first. It also received a citation in October 2014 for two dogs without rabies vaccinations and two missing bills of sale, and in March 2013, a vet check was ordered for reasons that were not specified in the inspection report. In 2012, the facility received three verbal and written warnings from the state for many issues, including dogs in need of veterinary care, dirty conditions, dogs not protected from extreme temperature and poor air quality. It also received a citation in July 2012 for not using the required ventilation system, resulting in poor air quality. In 2010, the facility received a citation for a variety of issues, ranging from unsafe housing, puppies with their feet falling through the wire flooring, and two dogs without current rabies vaccinations, and a verbal warning for unsatisfactory maintenance. PA lic number 06301.
- **Hill Top Farm Kennel, Honey Brook, PA (Chester County) – EIGHT WARNINGS OR CITATIONS FROM THE STATE SINCE 2010.** Between January 2010 and March 2015, Hill Top Farm Kennel received six written warnings, two citations and a cruelty referral from the state Office of Dog Law. The 2015 warnings were related to humidity, sanitation and pest control problems. The cruelty referral took place in September 2012, when dog wardens "observed two dogs in the kennel that exhibited signs of poor health." Issues at the kennel go back at least as far as January 2010, when wardens found dogs, including a mother dog with puppies, in a barn with broken windows and no heat when the temperature was only 28 degrees. During the same inspection, a newborn puppy was found "screaming in pain, with a limp back leg" and fresh blood on the floor. The inspector wrote, "kennel [owner] thought maybe puppy with injured leg had been stepped on and that a bitch had miscarried that morning, this warden observed both dogs to be in need of immediate veterinarian care." The puppy later died, according to the inspection report. The kennel passes some inspections, but violations seem to be a recurring pattern. PA license # 04370.
- **Marlin Zimmerman, Turkey Hill Kennel, East Earl, PA—RECEIVED SIX VERBAL AND WRITTEN WARNINGS FROM STATE SINCE 2010.** Issues at Turkey Hill Kennel have been found intermittently for at least five years in a row. After appearing in The HSUS's report last year on problem puppy mills, the facility did pass one USDA inspection. However, when state inspectors visited in December 2014 (after the USDA inspection), they found high ammonia levels (urine fumes) exceeding the state's maximum levels, and required a "vet check" for an unspecified veterinary concern. The facility was issued a written and verbal warning for these violations, its sixth warning from the state since December 2010. And at seven different state inspections between June 2011 and December 2014, the inspectors noted that a

“72 hour vet check” had been “ordered during this inspection,” although specific details about their veterinary concerns were not described in the reports. Turkey Hill kennel also received three citations from the state between October 2010 and March 2011 for multiple issues related to inadequate veterinary care and unsanitary and unsafe conditions. USDA #23-A-0268, PA license #02459. **REPEAT OFFENDER, THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

TENNESSEE

- **Rebecca Van Meter, QUEEN ELIZABETH POCKET BEAGLES AND BEARS, McDonald, TN – 200 ANIMALS REMOVED FROM SQUALID CONDITIONS, YET OWNER STILL SELLS ONLINE.** In June 2014, The HSUS and local law enforcement assisted in removing dogs from terrible conditions at Queen Elizabeth Pocket Beagles. A report in the Times Free Press that was published shortly after many dogs were removed described “240 dogs kept in feces-covered pens and kennels” that were “a petri dish of diseases because of feces, urine and standing water” (source: <http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2014/jun/14/911-call-led-to-dogs8226-filthy-kennels-described/>). Among the dogs removed were some who were blind and deaf and others who suffered from severe mange and staph infections. Yet as of the date of this report, the kennel is still operating and the operator continued to offer puppies for sale online as of April 2015, via her website, Queen Elizabeth Pocket Beagles and Bears (<http://www.queensbeagle.com/>). She is also believed to have associates in other states who keep additional dogs for her. The HSUS has reported this seller to the USDA, requesting investigation into whether the dealer is selling puppies online without a USDA license. More information on the animals removed can be found at: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/story/25766792/112-dogs-remain-at-suspected-puppy-mill-in-bradley>.

TEXAS

- **Susan Franz, Belton, TX – “OVERWHELMING SMELL,” VIOLATIONS FOUND AT LAST 8 USDA INSPECTIONS.** Repeat violations have been found at three different USDA inspections since Franz appeared in our last report. In fact, significant problems at Franz’s kennel have been found during every one of her last eight USDA inspections over the last several years. Recent violations included dogs who were crawling with fleas, an “overwhelming smell” in the puppy room, no evidence that a veterinarian had been at the facility for more than a year, despite a prior warning from USDA to have it done (May and June 2014), and dogs with dental and eye problems.

As noted in our last report, a March 2014 USDA inspection found a dog suffering from dehydration, puppies with their feet falling through wire flooring (a serious injury and entrapment risk), and dirty conditions. In December 2013, three dogs were found with hair loss or abnormal masses; piles of abnormal-looking feces on the floor of one kennel were crawling with live worms; and dogs were found with inadequate protection from the rain or cold. Issues noted at previous inspections included repeat violations for fleas and dirty conditions, repeat violations for unsafe outdoor housing and food that was caked, deteriorating or contaminated. USDA # 74-A-1475. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

WISCONSIN

- **Mose Bontrager, Hillsboro, WI –DOGS INFESTED WITH LICE HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** On February 5, 2015, according to state inspection reports, a kennel inspector and compliance officer went to Mose Bontrager’s kennel to check on a complaint. When they arrived, Bontrager admitted that he had been out of town for a week and knew the kennel had not been cleaned in his absence, according to the inspection report. During the inspection, the inspector saw “lice nits in the fur of several dogs, and asked Bontrager if he was having a lice problem.” Bontrager said yes, according to the report, and claimed he had spoken with his veterinarian about the issue. But when the inspector called the vet, the

vet said she had no record of speaking with the breeder about a lice infestation. Other violations found during the February 2015 visit included matted dogs, some dogs with fur “dirtied with excrement due to unsanitary conditions”, a dog with nails so overgrown that the dog could not walk normally, and a “significant and unacceptable accumulation of excrement in whelping enclosures.” In addition, a Siberian husky with three puppies was kept in an outdoor enclosure with only a cracked igloo-type shelter, and other puppies were found housed in a corncrib without any other protection from the elements. The inspector also noted that Bontrager was selling puppies wholesale without the required USDA license. State lic #402544.

- **Herman Gingerich, Brooknook Puppies, New Holstein, WI – EXCESSIVE FECES FOUND SEVERAL YEARS IN A ROW**. Gingerich has been cited again and again by both state and USDA inspectors for issues related to excessive feces and unsanitary and unsafe conditions. During inspections in 2012, 2013 and 2014, USDA inspectors found numerous health and sanitation problems at Brooknook Puppies, including excessive cobwebs, debris, and rodent droppings in the facility (Jan. 2014) and “a strong ammonia [urine] odor,” lack of fresh air flow and excessive piles of feces (Oct. 2013). In July 2012, a USDA inspector found indoor temperatures over 87 degrees without even a fan turned on to move the air around, and once again, excessive fecal matter in and around the kennels. Similar issues were noted by Wisconsin state inspectors during several inspections and re-inspections in 2014. The most recent state report available prior to the date of this report was from December 2014, at which time some housing issues had been corrected but a lack of adequate grooming and excessive feces were still an issue. USDA #35-A-0334. State lic, 267988.
- **Alvin and Esther Nolt, Thorp, WI – DOG FOUND WITH TUMORS AND OPEN WOUND**. Both USDA and state inspectors have repeatedly found problems with sanitation and animal care at the Nolts’ kennel. In November 2014, a state inspector noted a “lack of sufficient care and effort” at the facility, including piles of feces that were not cleaned up even after a prior warning, dogs without adequate protection from the cold when temperatures had recent lows around 10 degrees, puppies with their feet falling through holes in wire flooring, and several dogs in need of veterinary treatment; one of the dogs was later euthanized due to “several tumor-like growths” near the ear, along with a wound that was open and bleeding. A March 2015 USDA inspection was compliant. USDA #35-A-0248, state license #268017.
- **John Zeiset, Lone Pine Kennels, Thorp, WI – DOG WITH “OPEN AND DISCHARGING” NECK WOUND FROM EMBEDDED CHAIN COLLAR**. In June 2014, a USDA inspector found a Cavalier King Charles spaniel at Lone Pine Kennels with an “open and discharging laceration on the bottom of its neck” which appeared to be caused by an embedded chain collar. It was noted that there was an “open gash” on the neck that was “wet and discharging fluid,” yet remarkably, the owner had failed to notice this obvious injury and thus had failed to have it promptly treated by a vet. The facility did pass some inspections, including an inspection in October 2014. But it appears that compliance did not last long, because in December 2014, a state inspector found more dogs in need of veterinary care, including a 15-week-old Maltese puppy with “an obvious infection of both eyes” to the point where one eye was “completely sealed shut from dried mucus.” The puppy also “appeared underweight,” according to the inspection report. The inspector also found excessive feces and unsanitary and unsafe conditions. USDA # 35-A-0224, WI#268212. **REPEAT OFFENDER.**

Methodology

It is not possible to list all of the problematic puppy mills in the country in a single report. Due to the patchwork of laws across the U.S. and spotty enforcement, many puppy mills are not licensed or regulated and very little information on them exists. The facilities listed in this report were selected to demonstrate common problems and conditions at puppy mills and puppy mill 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 and/or federal kennel inspection reports showing violations, or related documents received via public records requests;
- USDA official warnings or fines;
- The quantity of violations found on those reports and/or the severity of violations, especially those affecting animal safety and health, and how recently the violations occurred;
- 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, photographs and news articles; and
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business at the time of publication.
- Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation.
- 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 a lack of significant problems.
- Some brokers or re-sellers were included because many brokers are also breeders.

Persons who have purchased a sick puppy whom they believe may have come from a puppy mill may report it to the USDA using their online form at aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/aw_complaint_form.shtml and to The HSUS at humanesociety.org/puppycomplaint. They may also consider filing a complaint with the breeder's state department of agriculture.