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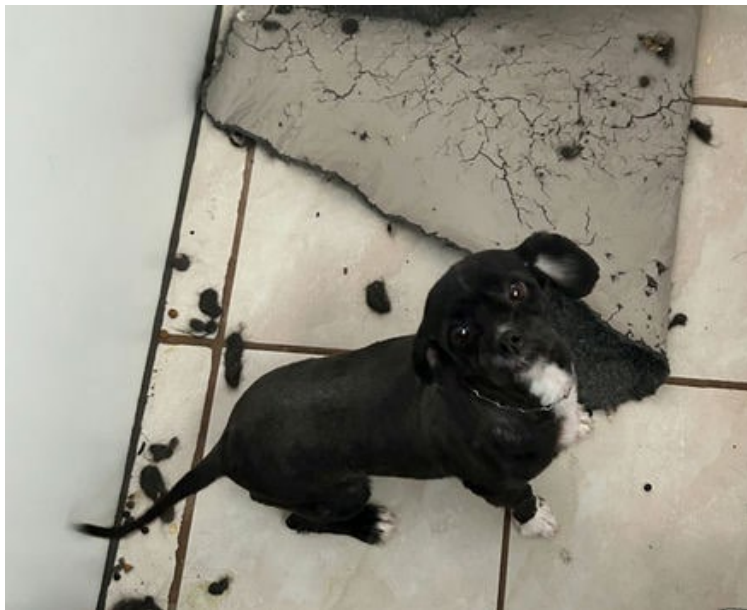
The Horrible Hundred 2026

100 problem puppy mills and puppy sellers in the U.S.

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For our records on each entry and additional photos, click here for our **Airtable** database.



A dog at Amos Borntreger Jr.'s facility in Wisconsin. / Wis. Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 2026

Summary of the 2026 *Horrible Hundred* report

The 2026 *Horrible Hundred* report lists 100 problem puppy mill breeders and dealers in the United States. A puppy mill is an inhumane breeding facility where puppies are churned out for the pet trade.



Inspectors found a puppy at Bluebird Hill Farm in Missouri who was coughing and lethargic but had not been taken to a veterinarian. Instead, the breeder had injected her with a medication formulated for livestock. / USDA, 2025.

Dogs in puppy mills often live continually confined in cages with little attention or regard for their health or quality of life. Dealers sell puppies bred by others to pet stores or online, and also frequently breed puppies as well.

Humane World for Animals (formerly called the Humane Society of the United States) publishes this report annually to warn consumers about common problems at puppy mills, and to promote enhanced laws and stronger humane law enforcement.

What makes the *Horrible Hundred* report different

In contrast to other public collections of breeder records that can be found online, the *Horrible Hundred* report offers a succinct analysis of puppy dealers with recent violations or concerns. It is compiled by professional researchers from a variety of sources, including U.S. Department of Agriculture and state inspection reports and enforcement records, court records, undercover photographs, consumer complaints and more.

Only dealers linked to documented violations or concerns within the prior 12 months are included, but some dealers in the report have problematic histories stretching back decades. We've included details on dealers' longer term, recurring violations when they seem applicable. We considered the relative severity of prior violations as well as how many animals are impacted by each infraction and how long the violations have re-occurred.

Where relevant, we sometimes include information about other affiliations, such as kennel clubs, misleading "breeder collective" websites and sales to problem pet stores. This gives readers the power to view a single, concise entry—a few paragraphs summarizing key concerns—for each dealer. For more information on how the report is compiled, see the Methodology section at the end of this document.

Key findings

- **For the 14th year in a row, Missouri has the highest number of dealers in the report, with 31 operations listed.** Missouri is followed by Wisconsin, which replaced Ohio in the #2 spot this year, with 14 dealers in the report. New York and Pennsylvania are next, with nine dealers each, and Kansas and Ohio each had eight.

- **More than half of the breeders in this report are USDA licensed.** This means they can legally sell puppies to pet stores and online, without meeting their buyers in person and giving buyers an opportunity to see where the puppy was raised.
- **More than 20% of the dealers in this year’s report have sold to Petland or its affiliated pet stores or have been listed on Petland’s website as one of their breeders.** Petland is the only national chain of pet stores in the United States that sells puppies.
- **Many of the dealers in this report are linked to the American Kennel Club.** This dog registry organization routinely lobbies against humane laws that would curb puppy mills.
- **Websites that feature breeders in this report include Puppies.com, GreenfieldPuppies.com, GoodDog.com and LancasterPuppies.com.** Social media sites such as Facebook and Instagram are also commonly used by breeders in this report to promote their puppies.
- **About half of the breeders in the report are repeat offenders—dealers** who have been in one or more of our prior reports. Humane World for Animals urges enforcement authorities to look closely at these dealers.

As described in more detail in our Methodology section, some states are under-represented in the Horrible Hundred report. These states do not have laws that require commercial dog breeders to be inspected, or they have failed to respond to public records requests in a timely manner.

Updates following prior *Horrible Hundred* reports

Since our last report was published in April 2025, some of the largest puppy mills that appeared in that report or in recent reports have closed, while some others were significantly penalized. For example:

- **Jerry Hine of Add Love Pets**, who also operated a pet store called Pink Poodle, was arrested on animal cruelty charges and 405 dogs [were removed](#) from his facility in Stroud, Oklahoma, in July.
- **Barbara Bowman** of Colorado was [charged with 258 counts](#) of animal cruelty in July after more than 160 dogs and cats were removed from her property.
- **Becky and Leonard Goodman (Goodman’s Good Dog)**, who appeared in our 2024 report, and is featured in this report due to still advertising dogs on social media, had their license revoked by the USDA in December 2025.
- **Norman E. Yoder (Green Meadow Farm)** in Ohio had his USDA license revoked in February 2026—after appearing in two of our prior reports.
- **Benuel Stoltzfus (Mountain Top Kennel)** was closed by Pennsylvania authorities in December 2025, after the breeder was charged with animal neglect.

These closures and others like them brought the total of animals rescued from *Horrible Hundred* breeders who have closed since 2013 to more than 3,330.

But while many puppy mills have closed, others that have been in our prior reports six or more times remain in business despite recurring animal care violations. Humane World for Animals urges authorities to take stronger action against repeat offenders—and to enact tougher policies to prevent poor conditions from escalating into animal cruelty.

The USDA is the only agency that has the authority to regulate dog breeders in any state, under the federal Animal Welfare Act, but only if the breeders have five or more breeding females and sell sight-unseen to pet stores, brokers or online. USDA does not license or inspect breeders who only sell to the public in person—even those who have hundreds of dogs.

The Animal Welfare Act standards are minimal and enforcement continues to be spotty, with the agency rarely revoking the licenses of problem breeders. An internal [audit](#) of the program's dog breeder oversight, released in February 2025, indicated that 80% of studied dog breeders with non-compliances did not fully correct the concerns found during inspections. However, the agency did signal in early 2026 that they will be considering some improvements in minimum care standards, including new health screening, exercise and socialization rules. The impact of those rules will only be as strong as their enforcement.



An ailing dog at EllaMae Brubaker's facility in Wisconsin, where USDA found several dogs with injuries. / USDA, 2025.

Humane World for Animals supports two federal bills that would improve the safety and conditions of dogs in commercial breeding operations: the Puppy Protection Act and the Better CARE for Animals Act. The PPA would improve the care standards at USDA-licensed dog breeding operations, while the Better CARE Act would give the U.S. Department of Justice more tools to step in and work with USDA to charge or shut down problematic breeders and other licensed facilities that repeatedly violate the Animal Welfare Act.

In addition to the Animal Welfare Act, [some state](#) laws apply to commercial breeders. In states that do inspect kennels, such as Missouri and Ohio,

Humane World for Animals researchers found that some puppy mills with numerous state violations had not been cited for any USDA violations over the same time period—providing insight into conditions that are overlooked by federal inspectors. On the other hand, many states, such as Oklahoma and Texas, have breeder laws that are rarely enforced. Many other states have no breeder regulations at all, which leaves thousands of dogs at large-scale breeding operations unseen and unprotected. States with no commercial breeder laws, or insufficient enforcement, often have fewer puppy mills in the report because there are scant records available for review.

The *Horrible Hundred* is not a list of the worst dog breeders in the country—many breeders are never inspected, and documentation of their conditions may not be available. For more information on the

violations and dealers in the report, readers can view documents in our Airtable [database](#), including recent inspection reports, enforcement-related documents and/or photographs.

The public has the power to make an enormous difference in stopping puppy mills like the ones in this report. We encourage choosing adoption first when getting a pet or purchasing only from carefully screened breeders after in-person meetings.

Georgia

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Deborah and Gary Howington/Showboat Kennels, Thomaston, Georgia AKC 'Breeder of Merit' had over 220 dogs, state officials voiced concerns about housing and number of dogs.

Georgia state inspectors documented concerns after finding more than 220 dogs during several visits to Showboat Kennels in 2025. As of December 2025, inspectors observed that the facility continued “to maintain a large number of dogs while attempting to rehome older dogs that are no longer breeding ...” The inspector noted, “Today, there were approximately 223 dogs onsite.” Prior to the December visit, state officials at the property in September counted 228 dogs onsite, not including four litters of puppies, and notified the breeder of concerns related to the structures the dogs were housed in, and a Plan of Action that had not been completed. Photos taken by state authorities showed a variety of visible issues not specifically outlined in the report, including some dogs housed in enclosures with peeling paint, rust, dirt, and ramshackle conditions. The breeders advertise AKC Shiba Inus, AKC bolonkas (a newly recognized breed), and others [on Facebook](#) and [their website](#). GA #36104122.



Dogs at an AKC Breeder of Merit's property, Showboat Kennels, appeared to be kept in poor conditions. / GA Dept of Ag., 2025.

Sheila Ridlehoover/Walcott Lane Kennel, Hephzibah, Georgia

State issued a Stop Sale Order due to trash/debris, found matted dogs and dirty conditions at AKC-linked breeder who sells dogs on Puppies.com.

Georgia state inspectors found a number of problems at Walcott Lane Kennel, a breeding operation that offers many puppies for sale, including AKC puppies, [on Puppies.com](#). The facility had at least three noncompliant inspections and a consumer complaint in the second half of 2025 alone. In July, the facility was cited for poor housekeeping. In November, state authorities received a complaint from the public about poor conditions. The next day, according to state records, authorities attempted to look into the complaint, but no one appeared on the premises to allow them inside. Nevertheless, the inspector could see some concerns about the condition of the property from the outside, and issued a repeat violation for poor housekeeping, as well as a Stop Sale Order. On December 1, the state visited again and found many problems, including dirty conditions and several matted dogs. They extended the Stop Sale Order for another nine days. GA #36103386.

Illinois

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Andrea Cross/Andi's Adorable Babies, Vandalia, Illinois

At least 30 dogs died in a barn fire after being left unattended; breeder still has about 100 dogs but no USDA license.

When an estimated [30-35 dogs died](#) in a horrific barn fire in January 2026 in Vandalia, Illinois, it seemed like a terrible accident. But questions linger about whether the animals could have been saved. According to the fire department, no humans were in the house or barn when responders arrived at the fire before 6 a.m., leaving [questions](#) about who was monitoring the wellbeing of the dogs the morning the fire erupted. The barn was already engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived, they told the media, and they were not able to rescue any of the small-breed dogs in the structure. The barn was later identified in a state inspection report as a whelping barn. Questions soon arose about what could have caused the aggressive blaze, which was still under investigation as of April 3, 2026, according to the Office of the State Fire Marshal, which responded to our Freedom of Information Request for investigation findings by stating, ““Section 7(1)(d)(i) of the Act: Disclosure of the information you request would interfere with pending or actually and reasonably contemplated law enforcement proceedings conducted by the OSFM.”

Andrea Cross still operates Andi's Adorable Babies in Illinois, which has [offered puppies online](#), but state records from 2025 indicated Cross “breeds dogs for retail”—this would not be legal, given that she does not appear to have a USDA license. Humane World for Animals researchers also found documents showing that Cross sold puppies to a retail pet store, which would require a USDA license in addition to the state license she holds. A search of the USDA's database of licensed breeders on April 24, 2026, found no license for anyone with the last name of Cross in Illinois or any business called Andi's Adorable Babies. A state inspection in February 2026 noted Cross still had about 100 dogs and was “working [to]

rebuild after fire.” In March 2026, Humane World for Animals submitted a complaint with the USDA about a possible unlicensed sale to a pet store. IL #022-24.

Donna Frakes/Donna’s Kennel, Roseville, Illinois | Repeat Offender: Second time listed in this report

Rodent droppings, dead flies in water receptacles and cramped conditions found at breeder previously linked to Petland and now offering puppies on Puppies.com.

Several new USDA violations were found at Donna’s Kennel in 2025, just months after the kennel appeared in our prior report. In June 2025, USDA inspectors found numerous puppies kept in cages that were too small. They also found rodent droppings in one dog’s enclosure and near the stored dog food. At least six of the dogs’ water receptacles contained dead flies. In addition, just prior to cancelling her USDA license, she received two more violations in August 2025 for unsanitary conditions and two enclosures that were too small.

Almost identical issues were found in late 2024. Inspectors in December 2024 noted a violation for some dogs who were in enclosures that were too small for them, an issue that the licensee had already been cited for in October 2024 and was cited for again in 2025. Other problems found at the October 2024 inspection included a dog with conjunctivitis in both of her eyes; as well as hair loss and reddened skin, and deficiencies in cleaning and parasite prevention.

Frakes has been listed on Petland’s website as one of their breeders, and she was listed as a “[star breeder award](#)” recipient with the American Canine Association, Inc, a dog registry business, for 2026-2027. And although Frakes cancelled her USDA license in August 2025, she is still licensed by her state in 2026. A state inspection in January 2026 indicated she had 180 dogs and puppies on her property. Frakes has dogs listed for sale on [Puppies.com](#) as of April 2026. Former USDA #33-A-0590, IL #022-166.

Raymond Schlabach/Dreamy Puppy LLC and Paw Prints LLC, Campbell Hill, Illinois | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

A dog needing veterinary treatment still had not received it four months later; another was in a cage that was too small; breeder had sold to Petland stores.

In August 2025, a USDA inspector found that a French bulldog whom the licensee’s veterinarian had recommended for dental treatment four months earlier still had not received it. The dog’s condition had apparently worsened since then: By August he had two loose teeth, one of which was protruding “at a sharp angle in the mouth.” The inspector added that “the gum appeared inflamed and swollen around the affected tooth, and there was some buildup of tarter on other teeth. In April 2025 during the yearly veterinary physical exams this dog was identified as requiring a dental at a grade of 3 out of 5 (worst), however the facility has not made an appointment and provided timely treatment.” The inspector also found a second Frenchie in a cage that was too small, giving her only three inches of headroom.

It was not the first time USDA found ailing dogs at this facility. In March 2023, USDA inspectors found several animals in need of care, including a pug with puncture wounds and a large swelling with a hard mass in it. In addition, the same dog and two other dogs had ears that were red, inflamed and/or swollen. One of the dogs, a French bulldog, also had “scabs and dry flakey skin throughout both ears,” which were thickened and swollen. The breeder has sold to Petland stores. USDA #33-A-0605 (Dreamy Puppy) and 33-A-0636 (Paw Prints), IL #022-232 (Dreamy Puppy) and 022-341 (Paw Prints).

Indiana

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

David and Corinna Chupp/Family Puppies and Corinna’s Puppies, Nappanee, Indiana | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

Breeder accused of selling underweight, unvaccinated dog; Animal Health investigation found Chupp repeatedly failed to fully vaccinate dogs; issues stretch back more than a dozen years.

In November 2025, state records show that the Indiana State Board of Animal Health concluded an investigation into a concern about the Chupps repeatedly failing to vaccinate all their dogs, a recurring issue at the facility.

One specific complaint received by the Indiana State Board of Animal Health alleged that in September 2025, Chupp had sold an underweight Italian greyhound who was 23 months old and only weighed six pounds. The dog came with no proof of a rabies vaccination. An earlier potential buyer had also complained after being told that health records from a veterinarian would not come with the puppy they wanted to order. As we noted in our 2020 *Horrible Hundred* report, David Chupp was previously USDA licensed, but cancelled his license in 2013 after receiving multiple violations. He is now licensed by the state only, meaning puppies can be sold directly to consumers and not via pet stores or to brokers.

According to state records, Chupp has been in trouble repeatedly for selling dogs without rabies vaccinations. For example, in June 2019, the Board of Animal Health received a complaint that alleged Chupp sold a sick puppy who later died. The buyer said they did not receive veterinary records for the puppy, and “the puppy purchased was said to be 8 months of age” but had not been vaccinated for rabies. Most states, including Indiana, require that any puppy over three months of age have a current rabies vaccination and proof thereof. The Board of Animal Health also discovered that year that a veterinarian had not visited the facility in more than 12 months. The kennel advertises puppies for sale via family-puppies.com. IN #CB00001K.

Enos Graber, Woodburn, Indiana

USDA found eight violations at a single visit, including one dog who was only let out of her cramped cage once a week, excessive feces and flies, and inadequate veterinary care.

A USDA inspector who visited Enos Graber’s kennel for an inspection in June 2025 found eight different violations, many of which affected multiple dogs, but after Humane World for Animals saved a copy of that report, it disappeared from the USDA website. The issues included the fact that multiple areas of the kennel were found to have excessive feces and flies, and records showed some of the puppies were sold under the minimum age of eight weeks. In addition, adult dogs were not up to date on their rabies vaccines or physical examinations, and one of the dogs was in a very small cage and was only being let out for exercise once a week. The latter was a golden doodle housed by herself; the 29-inch-long dog was confined to a cage that was only 37 by 36 inches. After removing the June report from the website for unknown reasons, USDA documented two more violations when they returned in September 2025, including a veterinary care violation. USDA #32-A-1048.

James and Malinda Hilty/Pawfect Puppies, LLC, Fort Wayne/Grabill, Indiana

USDA said moving underage puppies “could cause them to become sick and even die” after

finding three-week-old puppies had been transported; 29 puppies were in cages that were too small; dealer sold to dozens of pet stores.

A July 2025 USDA inspection found multiple violations at Pawfect Puppies, a pet store broker that has provided hundreds of puppies to pet stores across the country. The inspector noted they had uncovered through another licensee that some puppies were just 20 days old when transported—regulations require them to be 56 days old (8 weeks). The inspection report noted, “Puppies younger than 8 weeks of age are more susceptible to stresses [...] which could cause them to become sick and even die.”

At the same inspection, at least 29 puppies were found in enclosures that were far too small. One of the enclosures held nine puppies in a space that was less than 4 feet by 3 feet, and other enclosures of the same size held six puppies. The inspection report explained why cramped cages are so detrimental to puppies: “cage space requirements ensure that the dogs have enough room to move about freely within their enclosures. It minimizes the dogs from stepping or sitting in their feces or urine and also minimizes the spread of disease.”

There were 107 puppies on the broker’s property at the time of the violations. The fact that the broker was found transporting puppies to a breeder—and not the other way around—also causes concerns because Pawfect Puppies, LLC is on the same property as Four Corner Puppies (32-A-1003). The latter holds a USDA breeder license and has no recent violations listed on its recent reports, which could give a false impression that no issues were found on the property. The Hiltys also own a pet store in Michigan called Your Pawfect Puppy. USDA #32-B-0276 (Pawfect Puppies) and USDA #32-A-1003 (Four Corner Puppies), IN #CB0009AL (Pawfect Puppies) and CB0007HE (Four Corner Puppies).

Harley Schmucker/Puppy Time Kennel, Wolcottville, Indiana

Breeder was found noncompliant at five out of six USDA visits; two dogs were found confined to tiny plastic crates in a garage.

Between October 2023 and February 2026, Harley Schmucker had nine different USDA violations, and five out of his last six visits from USDA were noncompliant. The February 2026 violation was for two dachshunds housed in a garage in plastic transport crates. The dogs were so cramped that the inspector warned, “dogs that are not provided with the minimum space requirements cannot make normal postural movements, nor have enough distance from where they urinate & defecate, sleep, eat and drink.”

This violation occurred even after USDA had delayed Schmucker’s license renewal in July 2025, requiring several violations to be corrected first. One of them was a repeat violation for “failure to implement the preventative treatments prescribed in the program of veterinary care” by failing to follow vaccination protocols, and two other records-related issues. Later that month, Schmucker passed one inspection and successfully renewed his license, but when USDA inspectors returned in December 2025, they were not let into the facility to inspect the dogs—despite calling, knocking on both the house and kennel door, and honking the car horn—which was another violation. Prior issues noted in October 2023 included a poodle with no access to the indoors, nor an adequate doghouse or bedding, when the temperature the previous night had been 41 degrees. USDA #32-A-0987.

**Patty and Mike Talcott, Hardinsburg, Indiana | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report
Puppy who was severely injured after do-it-yourself tail docking required surgery; facility had “dead flies, mouse droppings” throughout the housing.**

The Talcotts have two sites under one license number, and recurring issues have been found at both locations. USDA inspectors who visited one of the sites in February 2026 found a puppy who had suffered a gruesome and preventable injury, writing, “a female Australian Shepherd puppy, ID 25-63-17,

underwent surgery by the Attending Veterinarian on December 29, 2025 following tail docking that was done outside of the Attending Veterinarian's direction. The licensee stated that they had banded the tail [put a rubber band around the tail] in order to dock it, but the dam apparently pulled off the band and the skin of the tail came off, leaving bone. The licensee stated that upon noticing a piece of the tail bone, the puppy was immediately taken to the veterinary clinic. The Attending Veterinarian stated they had to perform surgery due to the presence of infection and incomplete tail removal. The Attending Veterinarian confirmed that they had not instructed the licensee on how to perform tail docking procedures.”

The violation was categorized as “critical” due to the risk to the puppy. During the same inspection, USDA found another puppy who had accidentally gotten trapped outside in the cold in the outdoor portion of an enclosure in 40-degree weather, stating: “the puppy was found vocalizing and sitting just outside the door. It was wet along its abdomen, tail, four legs, and paws. The [mother dog] appeared to be attempting unsuccessfully to guide the puppy back indoors to be sheltered. Without access to shelter and protection from extreme temperature conditions, a young animal can have trouble in conserving body heat. This can result in the animal succumbing to illness and be in a state of unnecessary discomfort.”

During the same inspection, the Talcotts also had violations for unsafe housing, dirty conditions and other concerns.

That February 2026 inspection was the last, and worst, of six problematic inspections within less than a year. Months earlier, during a relicensure inspection in July 2025, USDA inspectors had declined to renew the Talcotts’ license until violations were corrected, with concerns that included “Dust, fly strike, cob webs, dead flies, mouse droppings and other organic debris [that] has accumulated on various surfaces within the housing facility.” After the licensee had resolved the issues and renewed the license, USDA returned in September 2025, and found more issues, including a repeat problem with unsanitary conditions.

The Talcotts also had significant violations in 2021. They received a direct violation for several issues, such as a bulldog with an abnormal eye, puppies with “green and/or white discharge coming from the noses and eyes” and were coughing or had raspy breathing, and one puppy who appeared to be too thin. After receiving an official warning for the 2021 violations, the Talcotts changed to a different license number and type. Current USDA #32-A-0976, former USDA #32-B-0241.

Iowa

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Ricky (Ricki) and Mary Brodersen/Mystical (Cockers), Kiron, Iowa | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

Fourteen years after former American Kennel Club breeder was sentenced to jail time, they still appear to be breeding and showing AKC dogs; state officials found recent violations, including not enough staff to clean properly, with a build-up of feces and debris.

In August 2025, state inspectors found more issues at a kennel with a troubling history, and those issues appeared to be recurrences of significant deficiencies that the breeder was warned about in the past. Inspectors found dirty conditions, with a “build up of hair/debris/feces” below the kennels, and dogs without solid resting surfaces. In addition, there was only one caretaker to clean about 60 enclosures daily; the inspector noted that the “condition of enclosures indicates this is not adequate.” When

inspectors returned in September 2025, they noted that “licensee is working on decreasing [her] dog numbers,” after previously stating, “additional personnel must be added, dog numbers decreased.” It is not known if any other specific orders or reforms regarding downsizing were ever carried out or confirmed later. As we revealed in our 2021 *Horrible Hundred* report, Mary Brodersen was charged with animal neglect in 2012 after a raid on her previous puppy mill resulted in the [confiscation of 88 animals](#), and five dogs were found dead. Brodersen was [sentenced to jail time](#) that same year. The AKC later suspended Mary Brodersen for a period of 15 years (effective February 2013), but as of 2026, Humane World for Animals found that a Ricky Brodersen was still showing cocker spaniels at AKC-linked [dog events](#), and has been for years. Former IA #11634.

William Davenport, Afton, Iowa

USDA found numerous veterinary care concerns, including questionable care of a dog who had a cesarean section and other dogs; breeder found noncompliant at six different USDA visits in a row.

During a July 2025 inspection, USDA had concerns about the medical care that had (or had not been) provided to three dogs.

The inspector noted: “a facility calendar notes that ‘Snickers’, a 3 year old female French Bulldog, had a prolapse on July 15-16, but there are no other medical records regarding the event. The facility representative did take the dog to the veterinarian and said Snickers was sent home with medications, but there are no medical records of Snickers’ treatment, what medications were prescribed, or when those medications were given. The calendar also notes that ‘Muffin’, a 2 year old female French Bulldog, had a C-section June 18, 2025. The facility representative confirms that Muffin was sent home with medications, but there are no records of Muffin’s treatment, what medications were prescribed, or when those medications were given. A notebook mentions that ‘Princess’, a 3 year old female French Bulldog, was taken to the veterinarian on June 17, 2025, for a lump on her neck and was ‘prescribed antibiotic’, but there is no other medical record of the treatment, what medications were prescribed, or when those medications were given.”

In addition to those concerns, USDA gave the breeder a repeat violation related to eight puppies who were missing from the facility without a written record of what happened to them. When USDA returned in November 2025 to check on the dogs, they were not given access to the facility, leaving grave concerns about the care of the animals. Inspectors noted, “failure to provide access to the facility, animals, and records for inspection is a serious violation of the AWA and regulations.”

Altogether, Davenport was found noncompliant at six consecutive inspections between July 2024 and November 2025, either by having violations or failing to let inspectors access the dogs and kennel at all. William Davenport’s USDA license was recently cancelled, but another license has appeared in the USDA’s database under the name BillieJo Davenport (USDA # 42-A-1740) at a nearby address. Former USDA #42-A-1497, Former IA#10039.

Ruth (Ruthie) Ewoldt / Furkids, Toronto, Iowa | Repeat Offender: Second time listed in this report Produced sick puppies who had issues with Giardia, fleas, ear mites and upper respiratory infections.

Ruthie Ewoldt failed at least three state inspections between October and November 2025. Issues with fleas were noted at all three inspections. Other issues included structural repair problems and puppies who had to be treated for Giardia, an intestinal infection that can be spread to humans. Inspectors also found multiple dogs with “dirty ears with discharge” and noted that “puppies [were] sold with upper respiratory condition and ear mites.”

Furkids was listed in our 2021 *Horrible Hundred* report for issues that included recurring problems with unsanitary conditions and failing to follow disease prevention protocols. Records show Ewoldt had a recurring failure to follow veterinary care and vaccine protocols. During one visit in 2021, inspectors warned that the “odor and stench can not be masked with air fresheners and sprays.” In addition, the report noted, “cleaning frequency needs to be increased [...] I witnessed a pet sit to scratch itself and then land in a pile of feces.” IA #11241.

**Kimberly Olson/Kimi’s Precious Treasures, Joice, Iowa
Breeder who was found selling puppies to a broker without a USDA license also appears to offer puppies online without an appropriate license.**

During an October 2025 inspection, state officials noted that Kimberly Olson had made “several puppy sales to [a] broker.” The inspector said, “I explained [that a] USDA license is necessary to sell through or to a broker.” Brokers are middleman dealers who often resell puppies to pet stores, and federal law requires them only to obtain pets from USDA-licensed breeders or small hobby breeders with fewer than five breeding females. The state inspector added that the licensee “will apply for [a] Federal license with USDA.”

However, as of April 24, 2026, there was still no active licensee by the name of Kimberly Olson or Kimi’s Precious Treasures listed on the USDA’s website of licensed breeders or dealers. Olson would have been well aware of the rules since she herself held a USDA broker’s license until 2022, and had held that license since at least 2014, according to the USDA website.

Another violation found at the October inspection included two kennels that were eroding on the bottom from rust. Humane World for Animals reported Olson to the USDA in April 2026 for potentially selling in a manner that would require a federal license. Former USDA #42-B-0232, IA #12096.

**Wuanita Swedlund, Farmington, Iowa | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report
Dealer was repeatedly a no-show for inspections after three years of troubling violations, raising grave concerns about the welfare of all her dogs; USDA issued official warning.**

Inspectors from the state and/or the USDA who tried to check on Wuanita Swedlund’s dogs were unable to access the facility during six separate inspection attempts between June 2025 and January 2026. This raises grave concerns about the wellbeing of the animals at a facility with a troubling history.

Just prior to the string of no-show inspections, state inspectors had found multiple violations in May 2025 that mirrored conditions Swedlund had been cited for in the past, including unsanitary enclosures with built-up feces. In February 2026, the USDA issued an official warning to Swedlund for the repeat “no access” violations. At the time of the warning, USDA had not successfully entered the facility since December 2024, when they found a number of concerns that we noted in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report, including a heavily matted dog, several dogs with no water, and an enclosure that was “heavily contaminated with fecal material,” with feces flattened and smeared across the floor.

Earlier that year, Swedlund’s egregious violations were mentioned in an American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals [lawsuit](#) after [six puppies had died](#) in the cold and she was not fined or penalized. The legal complaint mentioned Swedlund’s links to Steve Kruse, a repeat offender who has appeared in eight previous *Horrible Hundred* reports and has been found with more than 140 ailing or injured dogs at prior inspections. Past violations at Swedlund’s kennel included puppies who died in the cold and injured, limping dogs. In one case, a dog in one enclosure had been able to access a neighboring enclosure and partially ate a puppy; the puppy lost his leg and was so severely injured that

he had to be euthanized. On another occasion, a puppy went missing, and after a bone was found, it was assumed that the mother ate the puppy.

A state inspector also noted in December 2023 that “Dogs are regularly transported between this facility and AW 4576 [Steve Kruse’s license number] without documentation.” Swedlund received an official warning from the USDA in January 2024, but violations continued. USDA #42-B-0340, former IA #12618, former IA #12343.

Kansas

[Click here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Justin Ashmore / Lazy A Ranch French Bulldogs, Logan, Kansas Breeder of \$6,000 puppies who sells online was found keeping impaired dogs, including one for breeding, despite hereditary abnormalities.

In October 2025, state inspectors cited Lazy A Ranch French Bulldogs for a “build-up of feces” and rust issues. It was the second time in less than a year that they found multiple issues at the kennel.

During an April 2025 visit, inspectors noted many concerns, but one of the most disturbing was a veterinary care violation for two dogs in visibly poor condition. According to the inspection report, the dogs were “Cowgirl 2.0 (a black/white/tan female French Bulldog type dog with a birthdate of 5/18/24) and Silverado (a gray/white/tan female French Bulldog type dog with a birthdate of 5/18/24), who appeared to be either diseased, ill, injured, lame or blind, and had not been provided with veterinary care as is needed for the health and well-being of the animal as required.” The report added, “Both dogs had what appeared to be red, cloudy and protruding eyes. The dogs also moved around in a circle with a head tilt, with Cowgirl 2.0 being more severe in her circling movements.”

Their caretaker told inspectors that “she believes Cowgirl 2.0 is completely blind and that Silverado is partially blind. The licensee, Justin, stated on the phone that they were born that way and as puppies they were taken to Kansas State Veterinary Health Center (KSVMHC) for evaluation.” Upon reviewing those veterinary records, the inspector noted that “both dogs [had been] seen by a veterinary ophthalmologist and diagnosed with severe corneal disease in both eyes as well as neurologic abnormalities (head tilt, nystagmus). The veterinary ophthalmologist [had previously] stated in the records that the eye condition was very painful and recommended Cowgirl 2.0’s right eye be enucleated (surgically removed) to treat the pain in that eye.”

The veterinarian had recommended follow up for both the eye issues and neurological abnormalities, but it had not been done, despite “quality of life concerns” and the veterinarian suggesting the need for “lifelong care or humane euthanasia.”

Despite these assessments, the licensee admitted that neither dog had been seen by a veterinarian since July of the previous year. At least one of the dogs was being used for breeding, according to the state’s report, risking severe hereditary issues in her puppies: “Cowgirl 2.0 was artificially inseminated on 03/31/2025 despite the severity of the documented medical issues, the suspicion that her health issues are hereditary, and the veterinary ophthalmologist’s statement that the parents should not be bred again.”

The breeder offers puppies online via [their website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, asking up to \$6,500 for some of the puppies; one female had an asking price of \$30,000. KS #CB002B1E.

Joseph H. and Bernita M. Berntsen Living Trust, La Harpe, Kansas | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

State inspectors found new concerns at kennel that sold puppies to Petland, less than a year after finding two underweight dogs in the cold.

After the Berntsen kennel appeared in our previous report for issues with visibly underweight dogs in early 2025, a new inspection report from November 2025 showed that state inspectors found more violations less than a year later. The November violations were related to rusty kennels, chewed plastic food troughs, and unsealed wood that could not be sanitized. Although the violations were not severe, they were of high concern because the kennel had serious issues only 10 months earlier. As we noted in our prior report, in January 2025, state inspectors found a male and female Great Dane who were both visibly underweight. The male had his ribs, spine and pelvic bones “prominent and easily visible.” A kennel representative said that the dog had noticeably lost weight about a week prior, but it appears he had not been taken to a veterinarian for examination. The female dog “appeared to be underweight with the tips of the spine visible and prominent pelvic bones.” The condition of the dogs was especially troubling because the inspector noted that the weather had been very cold, with temperatures below freezing “and into the negative degrees” with snow. The Berntsens have sold to Petland stores. Current USDA #48-A-2254, former USDA #48-A-0907, KS #CB00095W.

Clemens and Lizzie Borntreger, Waverly, Kansas

USDA found a dog with only one upper right tooth remaining, and it was loose; inspector cited a “noticeable odor of ammonia throughout the building,” clutter, cobwebs and rodent feces.

USDA inspectors found six different violations at the Borntreger facility during one visit in January 2026 and gave them a direct violation for two dogs in need of dental treatment. Direct violations involve a noncompliance that is having a serious impact on the health of welfare of an animal at the time of inspection and is causing suffering or likely to cause suffering. One of the dogs had such advanced disease that some of his teeth were loose and there was only one tooth left on the upper right side of his mouth and two teeth remaining on the upper left. The inspectors also found “a buildup of hair, cobwebs and organic material” in some areas, and dirty and cluttered conditions in others. They saw rodent feces in several areas and noted a noticeable odor throughout one of the buildings that housed more than 140 dogs and puppies. The licensee indicated “the dog enclosures are sanitized every 2 months,” which inspectors said was not adequate. Some medical records were also missing. A follow-up USDA inspection later in January was compliant, but when the state inspected the Borntregers in February 2026 after receiving a complaint, they found more violations, including issues with rust, housing and food containers in disrepair, and excessive feces. USDA #48-A-2261, KS #CB00281S.

Shannon Dekoning/Spur Creek Kennel, Oketo, Kansas

AKC-linked breeder had direct USDA violation for dog with signs of advanced dental decay who had not been seen by a veterinarian in more than a year.

During a January 2026 inspection, a USDA inspector found an Italian greyhound at Spur Creek Kennel with signs of advanced dental disease, including at least one tooth that was loose, and receding and reddened gums. Some of her teeth were coated by a buildup of brown colored material, likely tartar. An examination of veterinary records found that that dog had not been seen by a veterinarian since April 2024, which was another violation. USDA regulations require all breeding dogs to be examined by a veterinarian at least once a year. During a previous 2019 inspection, Dekoning had a critical USDA violation, indicating serious misconduct, for a dog who was badly injured, having broken both front legs

after falling out of a raised cage when the door was left unsecured. Dekoning offers “AKC Registered” puppies on Puppies.com, a website that Humane World for Animals has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. USDA #48-A-2223, KS #CB001V74.

Amy Gumm/NSR Border Collies aka Nightshades Border Collies, Arkansas, Kansas | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

Unlicensed breeder who was fined and ordered to cease and desist last year still offered puppies online in 2026; complaints have been recurring since 2009.

In May 2025, Kansas state authorities fined NSR Border Collies \$1,000 and ordered them to cease and desist after the business, which had a troubling history, was found to be “operating as a retail breeder without a license.” The enforcement action transpired after state authorities found Gumm was still advertising dogs for sale online without a license and after state authorities had seen 32 adult dogs and five puppies on the property during an attempted animal welfare check. The welfare check, in turn, had transpired after the sheriff’s department received a complaint about the property. A number of complaints about the facility date back many years, and the facility appeared in our 2022 *Horrible Hundred* report due to a state inspection which found a very thin, ailing dog, filthy conditions and that most of the water provided for the dogs was frozen.

As of April 2026, the facility had a new litter of puppies for sale on its NSR website ([Puppies for Sale](#)). Buyer complaints go back to at least 2009, when one buyer created [a website](#) to share her story about issues with a puppy she allegedly purchased from Nightshade Border Collies.

Stacy Hutson/Breezy Hill Puppies, Mulberry, Kansas

Inspectors found a bloody, deceased dog in the kennel of AKC-linked breeder; breeder had more than 20 state violations between 2023 and 2026.

During a state inspection in December 2025, inspectors found many violations and labelled Stacy Hutson’s American Kennel Club-linked kennel “unsatisfactory.” One of the most concerning violations was a young piebald dachshund who was found dead in a raised kennel. The dog was described as less than a year old, and the owner said she had no name. The owner could not find any records on the dog or where she came from, and the dog had no microchip, indicating no link to veterinary records that could show a health history or explanation for the early death. The licensee received only a records violation and a violation for incompatible grouping for the deceased dog, after she speculated that the other female dogs in the kennel must have killed her because they were all “in heat.” The report stated that the dead dog was “covered in blood on its front end and had multiple wounds and puncture wounds around its neck, face, and ears.”

Other violations found at the same inspection included dogs who had no bedding to protect them from the cold when the temperature had recently been as low as 24 degrees, and “an excessive accumulation of hair, grime, and animal excreta inside of, and on the underneath side of the wired raised kennels.” When state inspectors returned in January 2026, they found more issues, including mouse feces near the stored dog food, stored dog food that appeared to be contaminated, some dogs who were matted and repeated sanitation problems. Overall, the kennel had more than 20 violations at state inspections between 2023 and 2026. USDA also found violations in January 2026 for a “significant accumulation of rodent droppings” near the stored dog food, and some dogs who were matted and/or had excessively long toenails. The breeder has advertised online, including on the AKC’s Marketplace website and her own [website](#). USDA # 48-A-2263, KS #CB0027HX.

Judy Koehn/Bow Wow Mound Kennels, Burns, Kansas | Repeat Offender: Fifth time in this report
Breeding kennel that has been in Horrible Hundred report four times had such a strong odor in the

kennel that an inspector had to leave the building and use an inhaler; breeder previously sold puppies to Petland.

Judy Koehn has been in four previous Horrible Hundred reports for a variety of recurring violations. Her most recent failed state inspections took place in January and February 2026. In January, state officials saw nearly 200 dogs, and found issues with excessive feces, unsafe conditions, a strong odor that caused the inspectors' "eyes, nose, and throats" to feel a "burning sensation," and more. The burning sensation caused by the odor was so severe that one inspector had to leave the building and use an inhaler, according to the state report. Inspectors also found that one Yorkie was able to climb out of their pen during the inspection, which was an issue that had not been corrected from a prior inspection. The licensee also admitted feeding cat kibble to some of the puppies, a concern she had also been warned about at a prior inspection. At the February 2026 inspection, very similar issues were found, including the strong odor; inspectors also found a puppy who seemed "weak and wobbly" and another dog looked too thin. The Kansas Department of Agriculture had placed the facility under a long-term work plan to encourage them to correct the issues the year prior, after she appealed an attempt by the state in 2025 to revoke her license.

Koehn also failed state inspections in 2025 and 2024 for similar issues, including a strong odor that "caused [the] inspector to gag" with a "burning sensation [of the] eyes, nose, and throat" in 2024. There were also violations similar to the 2026 issues for unclean conditions, excessive feces and more. During one inspection in January 2025, an inspector found violations in ten different categories. Federal inspectors also found issues at the kennel. In July 2024, USDA cited Koehn after finding that dozens of her dogs had not been examined by a veterinarian in more than a year. Violations have been recurring at the kennel for about a decade. The kennel has sold puppies to Petland. USDA #48-A-1503, KS #CB000ANR.

Joseph Yoder, Garnett, Kansas

Petland breeder had seven violations at February 2026 inspection; several vaccines expired years ago; a dog with heartworm disease was never treated.

During a February 2026 visit, USDA inspectors found seven different violations at Joseph Yoder's kennel, making a total of 10 violations since 2023. The number was especially concerning, considering the breeder only had 16 adult dogs at the time in February 2026. The violations at the latest inspection were related to some dogs who had no water, dirty conditions, dirty food and water receptacles, unsafe parts of the enclosures that could injure the dogs, and no written program of veterinary care. The inspector found that one of the dogs had tested positive for heartworm disease about five months prior and had been recommended for treatment by the attending veterinarian, but "no treatment was ever provided." In addition, some of the vaccines stored for use on the dogs had expired years earlier. The violations were especially notable because the USDA had specifically noted similar violations in 2023 and had specified that they needed correction: These issues included expired medication, incomplete veterinary records and dogs who had not been tested for heartworm disease. Yoder has sold puppies to Petland. USDA# 48-A-2245, KS #CB00238Y.

Minnesota

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Jennifer and Jose Cervantes/Verified Puppy, New Prague, Minnesota

Received two critical violations in a row for becoming vulgar and belligerent with inspectors and not allowing them to check on the animals; license temporarily suspended.

During a June 2025 visit, USDA inspectors had to leave the property of Verified Puppy without being able to see the animals. The inspectors gave the facility a critical violation, arguably its most serious category, and described the encounter as follows: "The licensee refused to allow USDA inspectors to conduct an inspection at approximately 1:59 PM. I spoke directly to the licensee. My supervisor was also on speaker phone with the licensee. My supervisor and I both asked the licensee multiple times if we could do an inspection. The licensee would not give us a straight answer. The licensee became vulgar and belligerent with us during our conversation and after asking multiple times and not getting an answer, my supervisor directed us to leave the site. Prior to the conversation escalating at the end of our visit, the licensee was informed of the serious consequences of us not being allowed to conduct an inspection. I explained to the licensee the importance of us being able to conduct an inspection. Not allowing APHIS officials to conduct an inspection doesn't allow APHIS officials to ensure animal welfare standards are being met." The license had been temporarily suspended for about five days earlier that same month.

The June visit was the second visit in a row in which USDA inspectors were not allowed to check on the animals and were intimidated into leaving the property, leaving grave concerns about the wellbeing of the animals. In April 2025, an almost identical incident had been documented, with the licensee "using vulgar expletives directed at the inspector, and demanding the inspector leave the property. [The] male licensee became upset with the inspector. He stated 'are you accusing my wife of lying?' He went on to repeatedly yell 'get the f*** off my property' and other vulgarities. The male licensee also yelled 'I want to hit him in the face.' He finished up by yelling loudly 'get this guy off my f***ing property.'" The male licensee never made physical contact with the inspector, but approached the inspector and got within approximately a foot from the inspector as he was making these threats."

As of April 24, 2026, it appears the USDA has not been back since June 2025, to attempt another inspection, leaving the wellbeing of the dogs unknown and at risk. Verified Puppy is an [online seller](#) that advertises dogs and puppies for sale, as well as stud services. USDA #41-B-0288.

Missouri

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Steve and Sharon Allmon/S&S Kennel, Ava, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report State inspectors issued two official warnings; multiple dogs were injured; one dog was "recumbent" with a swollen area under his neck and was "reluctant to stand."

State inspectors found violations at many different visits to S&S Kennel in 2025, including repeated failure to make the facility available for inspection, repeatedly failing to take injured dogs to a veterinarian, and repeatedly exposing puppies to inappropriate temperatures outdoors (in high heat or in the cold). In

addition to these recurring issues, the Allmons also repeatedly allowed their license to lapse, selling some dogs without a license.

Of greatest concern were four injured dogs found in August 2025—none of whom had been treated by a veterinarian. One of them was a Labrador named Kenzie: First found injured in June, Kenzie still had not been examined or treated by a veterinarian for her wound two months later, even though inspectors had instructed the licensee to do so. Another dog, named Rip, was described in the inspection report: “Rip was noted to be lying recumbent and was reluctant to stand. The underside of Rip’s neck appeared to be swollen. Mr. and Mrs. Allmon had documented treatment of the dogs and stated they had consulted with a veterinarian. However, a veterinarian had not examined the dogs.” The issue was listed as a direct violation because the animals were still visibly in need of care. Dirty food, dirty water and puppies who were not getting appropriate veterinary care were some of the other issues noted at the same inspection.

Prior concerns found in early 2023 included a poodle with a wound on her neck, a boxer who was very thin with his ribs and hip bones showing, several dogs with liquid stools, and no proof of a veterinary visit to the kennel since 2021. MO #AC003JU0.

**Rhonda Kelly Boyers /First Light Farms, LLC, Poplar Bluff, Missouri
Received a critical violation after two dogs died; one had a neck wound, and another was killed by the licensee. USDA temporarily suspended breeder’s license.**

In January 2026, the USDA suspended the license of First Light Farms for 21 days after finding multiple severe violations, including two dogs who had died the previous year without receiving veterinary care for their ailments.

In September 2025, First Light Farms received a critical violation from USDA, its most serious designation, after the dogs died. One of the dogs, Mabeline, was a 7-year-old Australian shepherd who had suffered a neck wound months prior. The other was an 8-year-old male Siberian husky mix named Masterpiece who was killed by the licensee herself. According to the USDA inspector, the licensee admitted that she killed Masterpiece using a “method [that] did not meet the regulatory definition of euthanasia.” The method was not otherwise described in the report. The licensee said she did so after noticing Masterpiece was “down in the back end” and had diarrhea. The USDA called the licensee’s veterinarian, who said she had never been consulted about treatment for the dog’s illness nor about the specific method used to kill the dog.

When USDA returned in February 2026, the licensee spoke to them in person but did not allow inspectors to complete an inspection—this is a violation. State inspectors visiting the kennel in early 2026 also found violations and were told a different story about what happened to Masterpiece. The licensee said Masterpiece was “euthanized” because he was having an acute “neurologic event after hours on a holiday” and her veterinarian was not open on a holiday—the state inspector noticed that the recorded date of the dog’s death was not on a holiday. In addition, the licensee told state inspectors that the dog was “getting ready to die,” so she “called her boyfriend to take the dog and was unaware [of] how the dog died.” The state inspectors noted this was not an appropriate way to provide care or euthanasia. At the same visit, they found several additional concerns related to improper veterinary care and unsafe conditions. USDA #43-A-6373, MO #AC002NWN.

**Elam Brandenberger / Kuntry Pups Kennel LLC, Queen City, Missouri
Inspectors found a limping dog who had been injured for a week and had not been treated; licensee had prior issue with forged veterinary signature.**

During a state inspection on September 24, 2025, inspectors found several violations at Kuntry Pups, including a female Pomeranian who was limping and not bearing weight on her right front leg. The licensee admitted to inspectors that he had first noticed her injury the week prior, at which time he separated her from the other dogs, but apparently didn't provide any other treatment. Surprisingly, this violation was not listed as direct, even though the dog was clearly in discomfort. When inspectors returned in February 2026, the licensee's wife refused to let them inspect the kennel or see the dogs, stating that "they were expecting company any time and she was busy preparing the meal."

The neglect of the Pomeranian was especially concerning given Brandenberger's history: In February 2024, the state had found "evidence that the purported signature of your attending veterinarian was neither a signature nor authorized by Dr. James Foster of Lancaster, Missouri. In fact, a phone call to Dr. Foster's clinic revealed that he had not been to the facility since December 2021." The state noted at the time that "you have been cited with multiple violations of the Animal Care Facilities Act, the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act... Specifically, we have found and substantiated evidence which indicates you have completed forms required by the Revised Statutes of Missouri and deceptively represented those same documents as genuine when, in fact, they were not."

Settlement terms included paying a \$4,000 fine or meeting exempt status—i.e., going out of the commercial kennel business—by July 1, 2024. Clearly the licensee did not go out of business, and the incident with the Pomeranian indicated that the licensee was still avoiding providing proper veterinary care 19 months later. The USDA also licenses the facility, but it has not cited the breeder with any violations. USDA #43-A-6161, MO #AC002APG.

John and Marcee Bryant/Puppy Junction, Seneca, Missouri

Two pregnant dogs were "very thin" with "visible ribs" and one male had "pendulous matting."

During a USDA inspection in December 2025, inspectors noted that two dogs at John Bryant's kennel, both of whom were pregnant, were "very thin," with "prominently visible lumbar vertebrae, visible ribs with slight fat cover on palpation, and pelvic bones that are easy to appreciate when standing." The inspector added that reportedly the dogs had both been routinely dewormed, which would indicate that they should have had further diagnostics and treatment from a veterinarian. The issue was listed as a direct violation.

In addition, the inspector found that one male dog had "pendulous matting on his mid back and both hind legs," which "can be painful and cause health issues if left unattended." Later that same month, the kennel had received an official warning after being unavailable for inspections three times in a row, leading to strong concerns about the wellbeing of all the dogs. Former USDA #43-A-3807, MO #AC000HBU.

Vickie L. Burden/B&H Kennels, Dora, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

Kennel has had violations for at least five years in a row; state inspectors found accumulations of feces and dirty water; former Petland breeder has a history of dodging inspections.

USDA inspectors have found issues at B&H Kennels for the last five years in a row. Most recently, in January 2026, USDA inspectors found questionable medications stored for use on the dogs, including one that had expired in 2019. The inspector noted that, "Animals may experience discomfort or distress due to unrelieved symptoms or unexpected side effects from the use of expired medication." State inspectors also found issues, including an attempted inspection in February 2026, during which the breeder was on the property but did not let them in, and a visit in October 2025 where they noted excessive clutter and accumulations of feces. Earlier that year, on April 28, 2025, state inspectors found dirty and contaminated water and many dogs who were not up-to-date on veterinary care. In addition, a few days prior, the licensee had failed to make the facility available for a state inspection for the fourth

time in a row, an issue that had landed her in our previous *Horrible Hundred* report. USDA also cited Burden for not being available for inspections in July 2025. On their July 30, 2025, report, a USDA inspector noted they had tried to perform an inspection on both July 29 and July 30, only for all of their phone calls and/or door knocks to be ignored; for some reason, the USDA did not cite this as a repeat violation, even though it occurred two days in a row. USDA was able to inspect once during 2025; during that visit in late April, USDA found a repeat violation for inadequate identification on puppies, and noted excessive rust that resulted in making edges jagged and potentially “sharp enough to injure the dogs’ feet.”

Burden also dodged state inspection attempts in 2024 and 2023, and during the inspections that did occur, inspectors often found multiple concerns related to sanitation and other issues. In late May 2022, USDA gave Vickie Burden an official warning letter after a French bulldog was found with obvious ear issues that were not being adequately treated. When asked about the dog, the breeder admitted the dog had been in that condition for about a year. After receiving the USDA warning, B&H Kennels had more violations at several more inspections. Vickie Burden has sold to Petland. USDA #43-A-6034, former MO #AC001UZ2.

Eva Burkholder, Monticello, Missouri

Inspectors found dogs with “bare, reddened skin” and others without adequate shelter; breeder failed to give access to inspectors six different times in about a year.

During a September 2025 inspection, state inspectors found five different violations at Burkholder’s kennel, including a veterinary care violation for two poodles who were “observed with bare, reddened skin” that appeared “to be agitated by excessive scratching or pest irritation.” They also found some German shepherds outdoors who had inadequate shelter from the weather, and another who was tethered within her outdoor enclosure. Just prior to the September visit, Missouri inspectors had tried to visit twice in July but were not given access to the kennel or dogs either time, which is a significant violation, especially since there had been another “no access” violation in February 2025. In November 2025, January 2026 and February 2026, Burkholder had three more “no access” violations, which raises grave concerns about the welfare of all the dogs in her kennel. In January 2026, Burkholder reportedly called the inspector and said she was only available on Mondays, but state inspections are supposed to be unannounced and licensees are supposed to make their properties available for inspection during business hours. Later in February 2026, inspectors were finally able to gain entry, and found two violations, including a repeat violation; Burkholder was given an official letter of warning. MO #AC003Y01.

Maureen Butler/PugPekinPoo-Tzu, West Plains, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Sixth time in this report

Inspectors noted a very thin dog had not been treated by a veterinarian and “deep accumulations of grime;” kennel has a decade-long history of sick and injured dogs.

During an October 2025 visit to Butler’s kennel, state inspectors noted that a “thin” poodle was being provided with self-administered treatments instead of having been taken to a veterinarian; surprisingly, the breeder did not get a veterinary care violation, but was given a violation for not giving the dog unfettered access to the outdoors. Earlier in the year, inspectors had also noted “deep accumulations of grime” as well as hair, cobwebs and dust in some parts of the facility. Missouri state officials had also declined to immediately renew Butler’s license in July 2025 until she paid six reinspection fines that were due for repeated noncompliance. In May 2025, inspectors also noted a seven-time repeat violation for failing to have a licensed veterinarian conduct hands-on examinations on the dogs as required by state law.

Butler has a long history of animal care violations stretching back more than a decade. She has offered puppies on Puppies.com. Former USDA #43-A-5702, MO #AC0002EG.

Marty Clinton/Twin Springs Kennel LLC, Vanzant, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

State inspectors found a limping dog, dogs with diarrhea and accumulated grime and excreta; breeder had prior USDA warning for an “almost nonresponsive” puppy.

Even after appearing in our 2024 report for a severely ailing puppy, more ailing dogs were found at several additional inspections of Twin Springs Kennel in recent months. During a February 2026 inspection, state authorities found a Chihuahua with piles of vomit and “liquid diarrhea with what appeared to be some blood.” There were no records showing the dog had been taken to a veterinarian. In December 2025, state inspectors found a dachshund with “a large amount of watery stool, or diarrhea” who had not been diagnosed or treated by a veterinarian; when the inspectors returned for the February 2026 visit, the breeder had no records to show that they had consulted with a veterinarian about the dachshund, even though they had been instructed to do so in December. Inspectors gave Clinton two official warnings, in 2025 and 2026, for repeat violations.

During an October 2025 visit, state inspectors found a matted, limping dachshund and filthy conditions. The inspector noted that “primary enclosures throughout the barn were noted to have an accumulation of grime, debris, food crumbs, excreta, and other waste material,” and at least one structure was so badly rusted that dangerous jagged edges were exposed. Yet another inspection earlier in 2025 had found a “strong odor” in the whelping/puppy building. Prior issues at the kennel included a July 2023 violation for unacceptable temperatures in the puppy building, with measurements of up to 97 degrees. There were over 150 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. The kennel has also had prior violations with both USDA and the state, and although it has had no new USDA violations for several years, in 2023, Clinton received an official warning from USDA for failing to provide adequate care to a Chihuahua puppy who was “almost nonresponsive” and only about half the size of his littermates. USDA #43-A-6452, MO #AC002RBD.

Luis Gonzalez/Sunrise Puppies, Milan, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report Facility appeared to have an altered veterinary form, falsely indicating that a dog with a “large protruding mass” was healthy enough for breeding.

During a June 2025 visit, state inspectors found that someone at Sunrise Puppies appeared to have altered a veterinary form signed by the facility’s veterinarian. The form’s purpose was to indicate that a dog had been examined by the veterinarian and was healthy enough for breeding. The report stated: “a female French Bulldog with microchip #7E10333517 was not noted to have any abnormalities on examination and was found to be sound for breeding, according to the hands-on examination document that was completed by [the facility’s veterinarian]. During today’s inspection, [the inspecting veterinarian] observed the same dog to have a large protruding mass or swollen area on its ventral abdomen. The licensee stated this had been noted during the hands-on examinations and [his veterinarian] had completed a medical treatment sheet for the dog, but he had recommended it be monitored for now. When reviewing the medical treatment sheet for the dog, [the inspecting veterinarian] found it to have been whited out to cover information for a different dog and write the information for the dog with ID #7E10333517. [The inspecting veterinarian] contacted [the licensee’s veterinarian] and [the licensee’s veterinarian] stated he does not use whiteout on his forms.”

The issue was listed as a direct violation because it could significantly impact the health of the dog. Prior concerns found at the kennel included a repeat violation earlier that year for inadequate records proving that vaccinations and dewormers were administered, which could inhibit proper disease control in the dogs. USDA #43-A-6705, MO# AC003EX9.

Jessica Guilliams / Bow Pine Kennel, El Dorado Springs, Missouri
Inspectors had concerns about dog with “big round midsection but prominent ribs, pelvis, and spine” and another dog with a “red and irritated” eye; neither had been examined by a veterinarian.

During a November 2025 inspection of Bow Pine Kennel, state inspectors had concerns about two dogs with visible abnormalities for whom the licensee had not yet sought any veterinary care. One was a French bulldog named Maggie with “a big round midsection but prominent ribs, pelvis, and spine” and the other was another French bulldog named Dare whose eye was “observed to be red and irritated.” Guilliams had not yet consulted with a licensed veterinarian about the dogs. The inspectors also found questionable records that did not fully document when a number of dogs had left the facility—a concern that inspectors had noted at several prior inspections. In fact, during one inspection in 2023, they noted that the licensee had not properly documented information on puppies who were sold and “multiple puppies that had died.” Other violations found in recent years included dogs who were in the cold without enough bedding, selling puppies without a license, a pug puppy with an injured eye who had been injured for about four days and had not been taken to a veterinarian, and more. USDA #43-A-6884, MO #AC0034HB.

Jessica Harley/Financially Unstable Kennels LLC, Ava, Missouri
State issued an official warning; inspector found excessive clutter and wastes; some dogs had no water; kennel offers puppies on Puppies.com and on Facebook.

During an October visit to Financially Unstable Kennels LLC, state inspectors found seven violations, including issues with some dogs who had no water, excessive clutter and weeds and waste materials, a lack of daily cleaning, and no records of hands-on veterinary examinations available for any of the dogs. There was also a repeat violation for not keeping accurate records on dogs leaving or entering the kennel, which makes it difficult to know whether a breeder is obtaining dogs from approved sources or what happened to any dogs who may be missing.

When inspectors tried to reinspect in November 2025, the licensees were leaving the facility on what they claimed to be “urgent personal business,” and said they were unable to authorize an inspection, which is a violation. When inspectors returned in December 2025, several of the violations from October were still not corrected. Four pens still had no potable water, and there were still problems with clutter, dirty conditions, missing medical records for the puppies, and more. Despite numerous state violations, USDA has not visited since May 2025 and did not note any violations at that visit. The kennel offers puppies online, including on [Puppies.com](https://www.puppies.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). USDA #43-A-6900, MO #AC003SRA.

George and Jackie Hayes/Hayes Kennel, Seymour, Missouri
Received official warning from the state; dogs were found in the cold without enough bedding to keep warm and with dirty conditions; Missouri inspectors found 17 violations in less than six months, but USDA documented no violations at the same facility.

In February 2026, state inspectors found 10 violations at Hayes Kennel and gave the facility owners an official warning for repeat violations. Issues included dogs in the cold without enough bedding or straw to keep them warm, excreta that had not been cleaned out of the enclosures for two days, no available program of veterinary care, an expired kennel license, repeat violations for matted dogs, dogs added to

the kennel without information on where they came from, and dogs with inadequate shelter from the elements. At another recent inspection in October 2025, the state had found at least seven violations—a total of 17 violations within less than six months.

The kennel also had violations in 2024 and 2023, and the Hayes' were the subject of a state investigation in 2023 after a complainant said they were operating without a license. Another complainant said that conditions were "abusive" and claimed to see four dead dogs on the property. Despite this very troubling history, USDA inspected the same facility in 2024 and 2025 and documented no violations at all, leading to concerns about how diligently or poorly the agency is inspecting dog breeders. USDA #43-A-6844, MO#AC003QLU.

Fred and Pearl Headings/Lilac Ridge Kennels, Clinton, Missouri

Inspectors found dog shivering in the cold with no bedding; a dog with five puppies had only about 4 square feet of space; water was contaminated with "accumulation of dead flies."

State inspectors who visited Lilac Ridge Kennels in January 2026 found a number of concerns. They noted that "an adult dog named Charlie was observed shivering in an outdoor enclosure" with no bedding when "the ambient temperature was 43 degrees Fahrenheit with strong winds during today's inspection." They also found a mother dog who was housed in an indoor enclosure with her five puppies with only about 4 square feet of space for all six dogs. Both issues were listed as direct violations because the impact on the dogs was visible and immediate.

At the same inspection, "most of the dog water receptacles in the sheltered building were observed to have an accumulation of dead flies," there were issues with "excessive fecal matter" in multiple enclosures, and there were multiple dogs with matted fur. Inspectors also noted a repeat violation for decrepit flooring panels that were "lifting" and causing sanitation concerns. The facility had a violation in March 2025 for the same issue, with inspectors noting that, "the lifting floor tiles do not allow the enclosures to [be] properly cleaned and sanitized." The facility received two official warnings from the state in January 2026 for not fixing the issue after repeat violations. Lilac Ridge Kennels is also USDA licensed, but USDA has not documented any recent violations at the kennel between 2021 and 2025 and, as of mid-April 2026, it appears USDA has not visited at all since June 2025, highlighting the importance of having both state and federal oversight of large commercial kennels. USDA #43-A-6611, MO #AC003NVG.

Sidney Hostetler/Pony Trail Kennel, Buffalo, Missouri

Breeder admitted a bleeding dachshund had been injured the previous day, but she was left alone in a cage and not taken to a veterinarian until after inspectors noticed her; she was later euthanized.

During a January 2026 inspection, inspectors found a severely injured dog, writing: "there was an adult female Dachshund housed in the interior portion of the main kennel building. The dog was observed to have large wounds on its left ear with more blood observable on the dog's underside between its hind legs. Additionally, the dog was very listless; when the licensee attempted to sit the dog upright it slumped back onto its side. The licensee stated that the dog had been in a fight the previous day which is why he had shut it inside to restrict it from going outdoors and separate it from other animals."

There were no notes about why the licensee had not taken the dog to a veterinarian, but the issue was classified as a direct violation. Inspectors noted that they ended the inspection early, so the licensee could take the injured animal to a veterinarian for examination and treatment. However, after the dachshund was taken to the veterinarian, "it was recommended that the dog be humanely euthanized. The licensee was able to present documentation of the veterinary consultation, recommendation, and the euthanasia."

Prior issues at the kennel included attempted inspections in 2026, 2025 and 2023. State inspectors also cited issues with medical records and a lack of fire and smoke detection systems in 2026. The facility is also USDA licensed, but as of mid-April 2026, the agency has not cited it for any issues. USDA #43-A-6772, MO#AC003N06.

Cherylynn Hughes/Splitrock Kennel, Goodman, Missouri

Breeder who sold to Petland has dodged 10 different state or USDA inspections in recent years.

In February 2026, Missouri Department of Agriculture officials attempted to inspect Splitrock Kennel, but were unsuccessful—the latest of many failed attempts to check on the dogs. Failing to let inspectors perform inspections during reasonable business hours is a violation. Inspectors noted: “a Missouri Department of Agriculture official stopped by today to get a current copy of your program of veterinary care for [your] 2026 license renewal. The office received your renewal application, but we can’t issue the license without a current program of veterinary care.”

This was the seventh attempted inspection at the kennel within a six-month period. Prior attempts in late 2025 included one in December, three in November, one in October and one in September. Inspectors did manage to inspect the kennel in January 2026. At that time, they found a violation for peeling paint in the dog kennels, and noted that: “six attempts to conduct an inspection over the course of 104 days were required before a routine inspection of this facility could be conducted. This is not a mutually agreeable arrangement.” The facility also dodged at least three other inspections in 2023, 2021 and 2014. It is also USDA licensed, but USDA has not documented any recent concerns at the facility. The breeder advertises puppies online and has sold to Petland and other pet stores. USDA #43-A-6287, MO#AC000RLB.

Shelly Kuhn/RSD Kennel, Hartville, Missouri

Several dogs had “hair loss, crusts, flaking, or thickening of their skin;” one dog was given away without disclosure of a significant injury.

During a May 2025 inspection, Missouri state inspectors found half a dozen violations at RSD Kennel. Most concerning was the fact that several dogs had “varying degrees of hair loss, crusts, flaking, or thickening of their skin.” The inspecting veterinarian added that the breeder “had noted some itching in the dogs and treated the premises [presumably for fleas or mites], but did not have any treatments or daily health observations recorded.” The inspector added: “Today’s inspection was conducted upon receipt of a complainant regarding a dog that was given to a rescue. The dog had significant mobility and malalignment of the mandible due to an injury incurred several years ago in a dog fight. The licensee did not disclose the injury or obtain the consent of the receiving party or seek the advice of the attending veterinarian prior to the dog’s disposition.” Previous violations recorded at the kennel included a lack of hands-on examination records for all of the dogs in 2024, and a “no access” inspection earlier in May 2025 and in September 2025, during which inspectors were unable to check on the dogs at all. USDA #43-A-5457, MO #AC000SWN.

Warren Martin/Oak Ridge Kennel, Sheldon, Missouri

Inspectors found puppy who was “lethargic and unable to move or lift its head” at breeder who sold to Petland.

During a state inspection in December 2025, inspectors found two puppies in distress at Oak Ridge Kennel. The inspection report stated: “A Havanese puppy [was] observed to [be] lethargic and unable to move or lift its head. Another puppy in the same litter [was] observed standing, but still lethargic and low energy. The licensee stated [that] he had noticed the puppies not gaining weight and had given the puppies soft food and a hydration product. The licensee stated the lifeless puppy to have been acting

lethargic yesterday. The licensee stated his attending veterinarian was conducting a routine call for dentals this afternoon and he would have the puppy examined then.”

The issue was cited as a direct violation. Martin had another violation at the same inspection for incomplete rabies vaccination records. State violations noted in 2024 included issues with dangerous wire flooring that was large enough for the smaller dogs’ “toes and feet [to] fall through” and also “large enough that young puppies will have their legs fall through,” gaps in enclosures that were large enough to allow puppies to crawl out, inadequate records on a puppy who died, lack of an emergency veterinarian, missing hands-on examination records for some of the dogs, and more.

Prior to moving to Missouri, the Martins operated in Leola, Pennsylvania, until 2023 under the name Twin Pine Kennel. Upon moving to Missouri, the Missouri Department of Agriculture investigated a suspicion that the Martins were operating an unlicensed kennel. The Martins admitted they were breeding dogs and selling puppies without a license, and subsequently applied for a Missouri license in early 2024. It appears they were never penalized for selling puppies without a license before they were investigated. Martin has sold puppies to Pinnacle Pet, a large broker who sells to pet stores, and Petland, the largest chain of puppy-selling stores in the United States. Oak Ridge Kennel is also USDA licensed, but USDA has not documented any recent violations at the facility. USDA #43-A-6846, MO #AC003V37.

Magdalena McGowan/Orchard Kennel, Cabool, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

Breeder who was cited repeatedly in prior years continued to have issues at eight more inspections in 2025; issues included areas “caked with grime” and inappropriate veterinary care.

Orchard Kennel has sparked concerns from state inspectors in the past for repeatedly missing inspections, exhibiting filthy conditions and veterinary care issues, and that pattern continued even after McGowan appeared in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report last April. State inspectors found more violations in September and November 2025, and those visits were preceded by four missed inspections in a row between July and August 2025, which, including a prior attempted inspection in January 2025, resulted in eight problematic inspections or attempted inspections in 2025 alone. In September, state inspectors noted that parts of the facility were “caked with grime,” dirt and other residue, and “the licensee was not following their program of veterinary care protocols with regards to vaccination of puppies and adult dogs,” which could lead to devastating disease outbreaks, especially in such a dirty facility. In November, inspectors found that the licensee was still not following her veterinarian’s program of veterinary care, among other issues, and she received a Letter of Warning. McGowan had also received an official Letter of Warning in 2024. MO #AC000V1Z.

Betty Meeks/Meeks Kennel aka Paradise Puppies, Caulfield, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

Inspectors reported dogs in need of veterinary care two years in a row; pug had “swollen and protuberant” eye.

Even after Meeks Kennel appeared in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report due to a thin dog and a dog with wounds, inspectors found another dog in need of veterinary care when they visited in September 2025, state records show. The inspection report described a male pug who “was noted to have a swollen and protuberant right eye which also appeared slightly opaque.” The inspection report noted that the licensee “stated that the condition had been noted to begin two days prior.” Yet apparently, the dog had not yet been taken to a veterinarian for treatment or assessment for the potentially painful condition. Other violations found at the same visit included feeders “contaminated with gravel or debris.” There were also

three different attempted inspections in a row between August and September 2025, during which inspectors were not given access to the kennel or dogs at all.

As we noted in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report, many additional violations were found in 2024. Most concerning were records found in April 2024 indicating a bulldog had fight wounds and “at least one” Boston terrier was noted to be in thin condition; the breeder claimed the dogs were under treatment but could not provide records of such. When state inspectors returned in November 2024, they did not find any thin or injured dogs but noted that some veterinary records were still insufficient. The facility’s “program of veterinary care was inadequate” and did not even correctly list their attending veterinarian; in addition, no hands-on examination records were available for the inspectors to review for any of the dogs. USDA #43-A-5388, MO #AC000V8K.

**Kristyn Menendez/Glenridge Kennel/Garland’s Doodles, West Plains (Willow Springs), Missouri
Pre-license inspections found dozens of violations, including strong odors of feces, urine and ammonia; kennel advertises puppies online.**

In the first six months of 2025, state inspectors visited Glenridge Kennel many times in an attempt to find it compliant enough to issue a kennel license. In May 2025 alone, inspectors found issues with inadequate space, waste disposal and shelter from the elements along with heavily soiled areas, strong odors and more. During one inspection, a 5-month-old puppy was found in a crate that was so small that the puppy could not sit completely upright or stand, and a puppy and at least one other dog had no access to water. In addition, two dogs were seen fighting and at least one dog had a wound, while others had significantly matted hair. When state inspectors returned in October 2025, December 2025 and on Feb. 10, 2026, no one was available to let them in to check on the dogs, which is a violation. But on Feb. 19, 2026, state inspectors were able to access the kennel, and found many more violations, including dogs who seemed to be kept semi-permanently in crates inside the house, when regulations require that they be crated only for short periods of time or at night. There was also an “accumulation of excreta in the puppy enclosures,” and puppies were not being vaccinated according to protocol. Despite all the issues, it appears that Garland’s Doodles was eventually given a license; as of April 2026, it has an active website at garlandsdoodles.com and also has a presence on [social media](#). MO # AC003YY5.

William J. Miller, Keytesville, Missouri

Ailing poodle with newborn puppies was unable to hold her head up or stand, then died during the inspection.

During an August 2025 pre-license inspection, state officials found a female poodle, “housed with her 5 puppies and very lethargic,” adding, “Mr. Miller stated she had whelped yesterday. The dog was unable to hold her head up or stand. The dog and the 5 puppies were observed to have a green fluid on them. [The official] stopped the inspection and instructed Mr. Miller the dog need[ed] to be examined by a licensed veterinarian. Mr. Miller obtained a driver and found the dog dead in the enclosure upon returning to the kennel.” Shockingly, the issue was not listed as “direct,” and no information was given on the inspection report about whether the newborn puppies received treatment or survived. Despite Miller not yet having a license to sell puppies as a commercial breeder, inspectors also found that Miller had sold approximately seven puppies prior to the inspection and ordered him not to conduct licensed activity “until he meets all requirements and obtains an ACFA [Animal Care Facilities Act] license.” Miller was granted a license later that year, after the violations were corrected. USDA #43-A-6931, MO #AC0042QY.

**Janice and Kenneth Nelson/Jan’s & Ken’s Valley Kennel, Exeter, Missouri | Repeat Offender:
Second time in this report**

Kennel had “excessive accumulation of excreta,” some dogs had almost no water or only dirty water; intermittent issues stretch back more than a decade.

During an October 2025 inspection, state officials found violations at Jan’s & Ken’s Valley Kennel for

inadequate lighting, a broken shelter, some dogs who had inadequate space, dogs with dirty water or almost no water, and unsanitary conditions. Describing the cleaning issue, the report said, “during today’s inspection, there was an excessive accumulation of excreta noted in the dog enclosures in the ‘sundowner’ building. Some of the excreta was noted to have white fungal growth [indicating it had been there a long time]. Additionally, the washdowns beneath the primary enclosures had an accumulation of excreta. The licensee stated that chores had not been done this day, and that she generally cleaned every 3-4 days.” An attempted inspection in February 2026 resulted in no access, even though one of the licensees was home and spoke to inspectors.

State and USDA inspectors have found violations at the kennel off and on since at least 2015. Some of the prior violations included a USDA direct violation in 2017 for a Yorkshire terrier with “a green, crusty discharge on the edges of the eyelids of the left eye” and other symptoms, and some dogs who seemed dirty, including three-month-old puppies who “had balls of fecal material attached to the hair coat,” and a Maltese female who “had dark matting along the muzzle, around both eyes and on her jaw.” In August 2015, Kenneth Nelson received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from USDA for a failure to obtain adequate veterinary care for five dogs found suffering from masses during a prior inspection. These animals included a beagle with a “golf ball size mass” on her back, two beagles with large hernias on their stomach areas, a Yorkie with a mammary mass and another Yorkie with a large hernia. At around the same time the warning was issued, a USDA inspector also found dogs with evidence of hair loss, dental disease and more. USDA #43-A-5769, MO #AC000WH0.

Kris Peterson/Peterson Puppy Works, Hurdland, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Fourth time in this report

Licensee was seemingly questioned about multiple puppies they had euthanized; recurring violations stretch back to 2017.

Kris Peterson has had repeated state violations off and on since at least 2017. Most recently, state inspectors cited the breeder for three attempted inspections in February 2026 alone. During these visits, the licensee and/or their spouse did not let inspectors into the kennel even though “Ms. Peterson pulled into her drive, right in front of us” during one visit, and at two other visits, there were four vehicles parked at the property, making it seem likely that someone was home.

Inspectors also found repeat violations in April 2025 for unpotable water, unsafe conditions (sharp points that could injure the dogs) and chewed-up surfaces. In addition, Peterson was seemingly questioned about several puppies who had died. The inspector wrote: “the licensee stated she had multiple puppies euthanized since the last inspection. The licensee also stated she did not record the date of euthanasia.” There was no explanation in the inspection report for why the puppies were put down. Similar repeat violations were documented on and off at the kennel in 2024 and in earlier years, stretching back to at least 2017. In February 2019, the Missouri Department of Agriculture charged Peterson a \$100 reinspection fee for failing two consecutive inspections for an original violation. The violations in question appeared to be a repeated failure to fix sharp points that could injure the dogs, and a repeated failure to provide all dogs with clean and drinkable water, both of which were still reoccurring in 2024 and 2025, according to state reports. Dogs were found in January 2019 with either no water at all, or water that was frozen or undrinkable, and the issue was also noted in prior years. MO #AC000ZVX.

Teresa Rauch/Ratepa Kennels, Bolivar, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report
Breeder who cancelled her license the same month that USDA filed a legal complaint was still promoting puppies on Facebook after dropping her USDA license; breeder was previously linked to Petland.

Teresa Rauch, a breeder who has sold to Petland and a Petland-linked store in New Jersey, and who still offers puppies online in 2026, was found with violations during at least four different USDA inspections in 2025. She received an official warning in June 2025. USDA filed a [legal complaint](#) against Rauch in December 2025 for repeated violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Rauch cancelled her USDA license that same month, yet has continued to offer puppies on [her Facebook page](#) as recently as April 2026. Rauch also had state violations in February 2026 for a dog in need of veterinary care, unsafe chemicals kept near the puppies, and more.

In late April 2025, shortly after Ratepa Kennels appeared in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report, USDA inspectors found additional veterinary care issues at the property. Rauch received a direct, repeat violation for two dogs with untreated dental disease. An inspection in May 2025 was compliant, but it was followed by an official USDA warning in June 2025. In July 2025, when USDA returned to the property, there was no one available to let them see the dogs, which is a violation. In August 2025, USDA returned and found three more violations, one of which was a repeat violation for improper veterinary care for a dog who was limping “on both her right front and back legs.” Missouri state inspectors also found numerous violations in 2025.

Issues mentioned in our prior reports included a 2025 state quarantine for two dogs; a 2025 Direct, repeat violation from USDA for dog in need of veterinary care, and a 2024 state investigation for allegedly hiding dogs at an unlicensed location, among other issues. In May 2024, a state inspection found concerns that included a “buildup of dirt and grime throughout the facility.”

In January 2026, after the USDA filed the legal complaint and Rauch cancelled her license, Humane World for Animals shared information about Rauch’s ongoing online puppy advertisements with USDA and asked them to look into potential online sales. Rauch’s Puppies.com profile and her Facebook page were still active as of April 2026. Ratepa Kennels sold to a Petland store and PetCenter NJ, a Petland-linked store. Former USDA #43-A-6768, MO #AC002K0S.

Ellen Roberts/Rocky Top K-9s and Thunder River Pets, West Plains, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Eleventh time in this report

Breeder who dropped her USDA license in 2025 after repeated issues with very thin mother dogs and sick dogs still offers puppies for sale online, is still state licensed, and still has recent repeat violations despite 10 previous mentions in *Horrible Hundred* reports.

When Ellen Roberts finally dropped her USDA license in 2025 after incurring years of violations for sick puppies and ailing dogs, many hoped that the horrific facility had closed for good. But unfortunately, the kennel appears to still be in operation as of April 2026, offering many breeds of puppies for sale online. Roberts’ most recent state violation included a “no access” violation in early 2026.

In December 2025, after Roberts had dropped the USDA license, state inspectors found excessive feces and grime in the kennel—to the point where inspectors noted that “floors of the ‘pup’ building were covered in a layer of dirt or feces and gravel to the point where the floor material was no longer visible.” Inspectors also found that “every surface and enclosure of [one of the buildings housing dogs] was noted to have insects crawling in it” and there were also rodent feces in the building. Inspectors also noted, “during today’s inspection, we observed a group of dogs not being housed in pens fighting, and one Yorkshire Terrier limped away from the fight,” among many other concerns. Roberts received an official warning in December 2025 for the three issues that were repeat violations. Prior issues found by state inspectors earlier in 2025 included live cockroaches in one building, rodent droppings in another, and excessive feces.

As we noted in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report, in October 2024, just two months after federal inspectors visited and claimed to have found no violations, state inspectors found a long list of violations at the kennel, including “multiple animals” who were “stated to be escaped from their enclosures or difficult to contain,” dangerously decrepit enclosures, significantly matted dogs, two dogs actively fighting, and more. Roberts received an official state warning for some repeat violations that year as well. Most troubling of all, in May 2024, USDA inspectors found a very thin nursing mother boxer whose ribs could be easily seen. She had six puppies, four of whom appeared lethargic. One puppy had diarrhea, and another was very thin. The puppies were in a dirty enclosure soiled with grime and feces and with flies “that can bite and irritate the dogs.” Shockingly, the mother dog, named Lindy Lou, was the same boxer whose photograph was on the cover of our 2023 *Horrible Hundred* report, showing that she was very thin while nursing puppies even in 2022. This repeat violation was found even after the USDA had issued Roberts an official warning in April 2024.

Last year, Roberts dropped her USDA license, but USDA still gave her an official warning in March 2025. Roberts offers puppies on a website under the name of [Thunder River Pets](#). Former USDA #43-A-5445, MO# AC00124U.

**Kevin Street/Street’s Kennel, Bowling Green, Missouri
AKC breeder and regular supplier of puppies to Petland stores had violations at three USDA inspections in a row; massive kennel had over 300 dogs and cats.**

USDA inspectors found violations at Street’s Kennel, a dog and cat breeder, during its last three visits: September 2025, December 2025 and January 2026. The issues found in September included 57 dogs overdue for parvovirus and distemper vaccinations; a mother dog with newborn puppies who was housed with an unrelated adult dog, which could “lead to injury or death;” and issues of unsafe housing and trash near the dogs. In December, the licensee did not make the facility available for inspection, a recurring issue that he had been cited for at three other attempted visits since 2015. The inspector wrote that they “attempted to contact the licensee by phone. Inspector left message, waited 30 minutes called again and left message. Inspector spoke with employee, who was unable to conduct inspection. Employee stated that licensee was out of town.” Licensees are required to leave a responsible adult in charge and able to allow inspections.

In January 2026, USDA found issues with puppy records, with mingled litters of puppies held together and no way of telling some of them apart. During that visit, the facility held 240 dogs and puppies, and 75 cats and kittens, for a total of 315 dogs and cats. In addition to selling dogs to pet stores like Petland, Street also offers puppies on his [social media](#) page and has offered puppies on Puppies.com, a website that Humane World for Animals has repeatedly tied to puppy mills. USDA #43-A-5486, MO #AC00157A.

**Robert Thogmartin/QT Kennels, Neosho, Missouri
Dogs were in the cold with only frozen water, breeder appeared to sell to pet stores without a USDA license.**

During a January 2026 inspection, state authorities found that most of the dogs at QT Kennels had only frozen water, “with none of the dogs having access to liquid water at the start of the inspection.” They also found a “drastically inaccurate” animal inventory, missing or incomplete medical records on dogs and puppies, and no proof of hands-on veterinary examinations on the dogs since 2024.

Previous violations at the kennel in 2024 included a dog who seemed to have a severe and recurring medical condition who may not have been receiving proper care. Inspectors wrote that they saw “a French bulldog that the applicant stated had a rectal prolapse for which no medical documentation could be provided. The applicant stated the dog had previously prolapsed approximately four months ago, and

the attending veterinarian surgically corrected it. The applicant stated the dog was noted to have prolapsed again on 11/22/24, and he had called his attending veterinarian and he scheduled to have the dog seen on Wednesday (11/27/24). The applicant has not maintained records of these incidents.” In addition, there were repeat violations for dogs with only dirty water and with poorly constructed enclosures.

Perhaps the most troubling concern is that the facility does not appear to have a USDA license, and yet Humane World for Animals found transportation documents showing the facility shipped puppies to pet stores, which would require a USDA license. A search of the USDA’s database in April 2026, found no licensees under the name of Thogmartin or QT Kennels. Former MO #AC003Q7K.

**Marjorie Walker-Price/ Price’s Pets, Niangua, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Fifth time in this report
Inspectors found a very thin nursing mother dog, overheated dogs and puppies in distress, and a corgi whose ear had “almost been bitten off” at breeder who appeared in four prior *Horrible Hundred* reports.**

Even after Price’s Pets appeared in our *Horrible Hundred* report for the fourth time in April 2025, USDA and state inspectors found new violations at the kennel at seven more inspections within the next 12 months. The most recent violations were in January 2026, when state inspectors found three dogs in need of veterinary care, including a Chihuahua with a skin issue, a cocker spaniel with an “inflamed eye,” and a corgi with a healing ear that had “almost been bitten off,” for which there was no record of treatment. At a USDA inspection that same month, inspectors found unsafe housing that could injure the dogs and unsanitary conditions, including “a large amount of rodent feces” near the dogs’ food.

When USDA inspected in November 2025, they found a “very thin” nursing mother dog, whose bones could be easily felt by the inspector. Walker-Price received a direct repeat violation, her second in a year. The previous direct repeat violation occurred in August 2025, when inspectors found two dogs who needed veterinary care. Walker-Price was also cited for dogs and puppies in an overheated building in apparent distress. The inspector described the overheating situation as follows: “the dogs were observed to be panting heavily with mouths wide open and skin on the face stretched back tightly. The 2 youngest puppies (approximately 6-7 weeks old) were somewhat lethargic [...] The temperature reading from the Kestrel was 92.6F degrees and the added humidity made the heat index 109.6F degrees. There were 2 fans in the front room [but] the facility representative stated that the air conditioner had not been working for ‘a while’. The ambient temperature for the past week have been 92-99F degrees.” The inspector also found caked feed with mold in it.

As we noted in our 2025 report, Walker has a long history of failing to provide proper veterinary care to dogs and puppies in her kennel. For example, during a May 2024 inspection, USDA found seven puppies with scabs and “large areas of flakey skin,” and the inspector also noticed the puppies were thin. The kennel’s representative admitted that the puppies had been in that condition for several days. It appears that the puppies were not removed by inspectors and no penalties were applied. In February 2024, Walker received a direct violation after USDA found a very thin mother dog with two puppies, noting “her spine, ribs, shoulder blades, hips are easily felt.” At the same visit, a Havanese-poodle mix “had scabby bumps on her neck, back, hips and ears. The skin was very red on her throat and chest,” according to the inspector. Many violations were documented in prior years as well. USDA #43-A-6295, MO #AC00132U.

**Brenda Walter/Hidden Valley Farms, Greencastle, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Fifth time in a
Humane World report
State inspectors found noticeably “thin” dogs, an “unresponsive” dog, a dog with sores, and a**

dog with wounds who was staggering ; breeder has had at least nine official warnings from the state since 2022, but USDA inspectors have documented nothing.

State inspectors continued to find suffering dogs again and again at Brenda Walter's facility into late 2025, even after a long history of official warnings, leading to grave concerns about the safety of all her animals. At least one dog at one of Walter's December 2025 state inspections was found to be in such dire condition that inspectors had to cut their visit short and tell the breeder to take the dog to a veterinarian right away.

The report stated, "a French bulldog named Pebbles, was found unresponsive in the indoor portion of her enclosure. The dog was still alive but listless. The licensee stated that she appeared fine the night before. We told the licensee that the inspection was concluded and she needed to take the dog to a licensed veterinarian immediately." The issue was listed as a direct violation, indicating imminent risk to the animal. At the same visit, inspectors found many other dogs in need of care, including a wounded dog named May May who was staggering, a Shiba-Inu named Sparky who was so thin that "his ribs, lumbar vertebrae, and pelvic bones were easily visible," a dog who had a reddened eye with drainage coming from it, and another with sores. Walter received two official letters of warning from the state in December 2025 for repeat violations.

It was not the first time that year that inspectors found severe concerns. At an earlier inspection, they found female Bordeaux dog who was noticeably thin, whom the licensee had been ordered to have examined by a veterinarian. When inspectors returned to the facility in August 2025, the dog was no longer there, and there was no indication that the dog was ever treated as instructed. This was at least the second time a dog in need of veterinary treatment had disappeared from the facility. As we noted in our prior *Horrible Hundred* report, in February 2025, officials said another dog who had been seen at a prior inspection, "Christy," a noticeably thin French bulldog, was "no longer at the facility." Missouri officials had noted that Christy was thin in September 2024 and had required Walter to "consult with a licensed veterinarian" about her condition but it is unclear if that ever happened or even if the dog survived.

Brenda Walter received at least four official warnings from the state in late 2025 for repeated violations of the Animal Care Facilities Act, a total of at least nine warnings in all since 2022. During that same time period, USDA did not cite Walter for any issues, and has not visited her at all since 2024. Recurring issues with ailing dogs and poor conditions stretch back to at least 2007. Walter has sold to Petland. USDA #43-B-0425, MO #AC0017N5.

Chiquita Weatherly/Weatherly Dachshunds, Hermitage, Missouri | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

State inspectors found "buckets of feces," breeder was charged a fee for repeated failed inspections, received official warning.

In May 2025, the Missouri Department of Agriculture charged Chiquita Weatherly a \$100 reinspection fee for two consecutive failed reinspections. The previous month, she also received an official warning from MDA after repeated waste disposal issues, including "multiple buckets of feces" by the kennels. It was her second official warning within a year. Other repeat violations found in April 2025 included dirty conditions, broken or decrepit parts of a structure housing dogs, and failure to follow the veterinary care plan for parasite prevention.

As we noted in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report, prior issues included a July 2024 veterinary care violation from the state after inspectors found a dog with a two-inch "open wound on her jaw/throat

region.” The breeder’s spouse reportedly said he believed the dog had been bitten by a snake “last Wednesday”—the inspector was there on a Monday. The dog apparently had not been evaluated by a veterinarian for the injury for at least five days, and the licensee only had it done after the inspector saw the dog’s injury and asked about it. Other issues found during 2024 inspections included excessive dirt, grime and mouse feces throughout the facility. Weatherly received an official letter of warning from the MDA in July 2024. As of April 2026, Weatherly’s website, weatherlydachshunds.com, was updated and still offered puppies for sale. MO #AC0007PB.

**Elizabeth, Marianna and Jonas Yutzy/Bluebird Hill Farm, Pomona, Missouri
Received official warning from USDA in November 2025 for failing to provide proper care to ailing puppy; puppy had been injected with a medication that was not formulated for dogs.**

During a June 2025 inspection, USDA found a sick Pomeranian puppy who was not receiving adequate veterinary care at Bluebird Hill Farm. The inspector noted that she “was weak and lethargic and had a clear discharge from her nostrils. She was heard to be coughing and wheezing. She would not open her right eye although no discharge was observed at the time of inspection. The licensee stated that the eye had some discharge on it on the previous day and it was cleaned and a silver-based solution placed on it (no instructions from attending veterinarian on this treatment). The licensee also stated that the puppy was coughing and not well on the previous day. A veterinarian was not consulted for evaluation and proper treatment. The puppy had been given an injection of penicillin that was formulated for livestock. She was being given a mixture of water, karo syrup and electrolytes, which was lapped up slowly.”

USDA cited the breeders for a direct violation for the issue, because the puppy was in clear distress and yet had not been examined by a veterinarian for her condition. The inspector also noted that the medication given to the puppy did not seem safe because it was formulated for livestock and not dogs, noting: “it was difficult for the licensee to know the proper dose for the dog and [they] did not consult the attending veterinarian. The licensee stated that she guessed and gave the puppy ‘a drop’ but there is no certainty in knowing if it was the proper dose...This medicine has also been improperly stored as it was not refrigerated at the recommended range of 36-46 degrees Fahrenheit. The bottle was in the kennel area where the temperature was approximately 75 degrees Fahrenheit.” When the USDA inspector returned again in July, they found that no medical record had been created for the puppy, and gave the breeder a repeat violation. The issue was followed by an official USDA warning on Nov. 19, 2025. USDA #43-A-6443, MO #AC002VA1.

Nebraska

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Courtney Hunt/Sandhills Dachshunds, Brewster, Nebraska

Dog was found dead in kennel of apparent hypothermia when temperature was 28 degrees; dogs in the frigid cold had no bedding.

During a December 2025 visit, state inspectors found 10 violations at Sandhills Dachshunds, including one especially heartbreaking scene: A dog was found dead in a kennel when the current temperature was 28 degrees, and had probably been much lower overnight. The dog had no bedding to nestle in to keep warm, and apparently, other dogs were also found without bedding. The state inspector noted that the dead dog probably died “due to hypothermia” and added that “all dogs in outdoor runs need bedding and wind breaks on dog houses right away.” The inspector noted that they “need employees to help. Facility is worse [than] the last fail[ed] inspection.” Other violations found at the same inspection included dogs who

apparently “can’t escape urine.” Similar violations found at prior inspections included waste that was attracting flies, rust and dirty outdoor runs. Former NE #KN1811.

Bobbi Nelson, Benkelman, Nebraska

Dogs had very little water on a 97-degree day, some dogs had to crawl into the tubs to access the water; outdoor dogs only had small barrels for shelter.

During a July 2025 visit to Nelson’s facility, a state inspector noted that some dogs had almost no water on the 97-degree day. The inspection report noted that, “tubs for older pups [had] low water to [the] point dogs must climb into [the tubs] to get [a] drink.” In addition, a female heeler and a puppy had no water, it appeared they had not had any water for at least an hour and a half. Some dogs were also found without proper shelter or protection from the rain. Some water bowls contained dirty water. The facility also did not have an updated veterinary care plan, and the only outdoor shelters for the dogs were barrels, which were not large enough to fully protect the animals and did not have a flat floor or a door. When an inspector returned later that same month, they found that some dogs did not have adequate space. A follow-up inspection in October 2025 was compliant, but there were noncompliant inspections in many prior years, including violations in 2020 for strong odors and in 2021 and 2023 for an outdated vet care plan, and more. NE #KN1106.

New York

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Samuel Z. Brubacker/Hilltop Country Kennels and Red Oak Canines, Dundee, New York | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

State inspectors found dogs in extreme temperatures; USDA found unsanitary conditions at four visits in a row.

State inspectors gave Red Oak Canines Critical violations in January 2026 for failing to protect dogs from “extreme temperatures” and for some dogs who had no “regular access to clean, fresh water.” It was not the first time that state or USDA inspectors found violations at the kennel. USDA inspectors found repeat violations in November, July and March 2025 for cleaning issues, issues that had recurred for four out of the last five years. USDA noted in July 2025 that there was “evidence of feces in multiple indoor boxes that need to be removed in both the whelping room and main kennel and the color and amount of feces indicated that it is not being done daily. Additionally, there were feces that is not falling through the wire mesh portion of the runs that also needs to be removed.” The inspector also noticed “a strong odor of ammonia [urine and feces] in and around the whelping room,” along with dust, debris and “an abundance of dead flies,” as well as “remnants of mouse droppings” in old food. During the November 2025 visit, USDA again issued a repeat violation for unsanitary conditions, noting again that feces was not falling through the wire mesh floors and “there is a large accumulation of feces,” among other issues.

Brubacker also had violations at an April 2024 visit, marking four different unacceptable inspections in a row between 2024 and 2025. Violations at the kennel go back to at least 2021 on a previous license. During an October 2021 visit, USDA inspectors cited Brubacker with veterinary care deficiencies for two dogs with abnormalities and found five different issues with the dogs’ primary enclosures, such as enclosures that were damaged or in disrepair, plus additional cleaning issues that were very similar to the

ones noted in more recent years. Another inspection in January 2022 had revealed three more issues, two of which were repeat violations. Former USDA #21-A-0233, Former USDA #21-A-0083, NY #1271.

Helen Camlakides/Sportsman's Kennels, Manorville, New York | Repeat Offender: Sixth time in this report

Humane World for Animals undercover cameras captured roaches, puppies in cramped conditions without enough space and some dogs with skin, eye or ear conditions.

Even after appearing in five of our prior *Horrible Hundred* reports for recurring issues such as veterinary care issues and unsanitary conditions, Sportsman's Kennels was cited again for state violations in May and December 2025.

Late last year, Humane World for Animals sent an undercover investigator to the kennel, who worked there in September and October 2025. Humane World released an undercover investigation of our findings in December 2025, and shared additional records with multiple state authorities. Despite the fact that the kennel had passed a recent inspection in August 2025, Humane World's footage taken in the fall documented numerous puppies in enclosures that were too small, with some puppies who were so large that it appeared they could easily jump out of their enclosures. Our cameras also found some mother dogs and at least one puppy missing significant amounts of fur, chewed enclosures, dirty conditions, roaches in the dogs' food, dogs with signs of eye or ear infections, and a room the investigator dubbed the "forgotten dogs room," where dogs who were not currently breeding, and puppies deemed unsellable, often languished in small enclosures for months on end, without toys or enrichment and with minimal care and attention. Humane World for Animals provided documentation and videos to local authorities for follow-up. NY #30.

Kelly Jamil/Gray's Doberman, Ellenville, New York | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report Received three critical violations from the state between 2025 and 2026 due unsanitary conditions and more.

In January 2026, state inspectors gave Gray's Doberman a critical violation for unclean conditions, noting that primary enclosures for the animals were not being cleaned daily. Jamil was also given a violation for poor ventilation that "does not minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation."

These violations were very similar to concerns that the kennel had been cited for in earlier years. For example, as we noted in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report, in January 2025, state inspectors found two critical violations for frozen water and unclean conditions. The inspector noticed "accumulated fecal material," among other concerns. When inspectors went out again in February 2025, they were not able to gain access to the kennel to check on the dogs, leading to concerns about their welfare; a similar violation reoccurred in January 2026. During a May 2024 visit, inspectors noticed a heavy odor with poor ventilation, and hay and dirt caked on some parts of the dog kennels, among other issues. Sanitation issues had been found at the kennel the prior year as well, with an inspector declaring some conditions were "detrimental to animal health." The kennel advertises puppies [online](#), where it offers a variety of breeds. An inspection in February 2026 was compliant. NY #1198.

Amos King/Paws N Pals, Fort Plain, New York

Breeder who sells dogs online had four critical violations, including unacceptable temperature control during freezing weather, with a total of eight state violations at one 2026 inspection.

During a Jan. 21, 2026, state inspection, inspectors found an unusually high number of critical violations at Paws N Pals, including violations for an unacceptable temperature that was "not compatible with the health and well-being of the animals," primary enclosures in poor repair, unsanitary conditions, and some

animals who had no rabies vaccinations. In addition, inspectors found poor ventilation, which caused odor, and other concerns.

According to Accuweather.com, the temperatures in Fort Plain that day was as low as two degrees and did not rise higher than 20 degrees. The facility failed another inspection in early February 2026 due to several dogs with expired licenses. At two attempted follow-ups in late February 2026 and early April 2026, the operator failed to provide inspectors with access to the kennel. Amos and Emma King offer puppies online on several websites, including paws-pals.com and [Greenfield Puppies](https://GreenfieldPuppies.com), a website that Humane World for Animals has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. NY #1165.

**John Kowal/Blue Ribbon Puppies, Manorville, New York
Breeder was charged with animal neglect for depriving animals of “wholesome air, food, shelter and water;” case is pending.**

In March 2026, John Kowal [was charged with animal neglect](#) after failing a state inspection in February 2026, although it appears at the time of this publication that his animals may not have been removed yet from his custody, and the case is pending completion. The charges, which could result in up to a year in prison, were announced after Kowal received seven critical violations in February 2026. He also received violations in 2025 and 2024 for dogs in need of veterinary care and other issues, including nine critical violations in 2025. Issues found at the 2026 inspection included some enclosures that were too small, dirty conditions, animals exposed to extreme temperatures, and sick or injured animals who were not receiving appropriate care. The various June 2025 critical violations included a violation for a mastiff who was not provided with necessary veterinary care, dirty conditions, reselling dogs who were not raised on the premises, selling dogs who had not been vaccinated for rabies, and more. Altogether, during three June 2025 inspections, Kowal incurred nine different critical violations.

In June 2024, Blue Ribbon Puppies failed a state inspection after a dog was found with a medical issue that was not being properly treated, another dog was in a kennel so small that he could not move freely or “make normal postural adjustments,” and state inspectors noted excessive wastes in the kennel. State inspectors did not list specific details in the inspection reports about the ailing dogs who needed veterinary care, but according to a news report in Riverhead Local, “According to the charges, which were filed by the Suffolk County District Attorney’s BEAST unit, Kowal, operator of Blue Ribbon Puppies at [street address] failed to provide impounded (confined) animals with wholesome air, food, shelter and water for more than 12 successive hours, in violation of the state law.” Despite this history, his state license was still active as of April 24, 2026, according to the state’s website. NY #1228.

Harvey E. Miller/Locust Grove Kennels, Greenwood, New York | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

Dog died of unexplained causes at kennel that had previously been found with ailing and injured dogs; USDA found mice feces in the whelping area and near the dogs’ food.

In April 2025, USDA found out that a dog had died at Locust Grove Kennels and had not been reported to the licensee’s veterinarian. USDA wrote, “on April 5th, 2025, a female adult cavalier dog, identified #021, was found deceased, but this finding was not reported to the Attending Veterinarian. As such, a necropsy or other follow-up guidance was not provided.” The death was of particular concern due to previous ailing dogs found at the kennel. When USDA visited again in March 2026, they found more violations, including a dead mouse, mice droppings all around the dogs’ food storage area and near the whelping boxes, excessive old feces that had not been cleaned that can “contribute to a smell in the kennel,” and all of the dogs were overdue for their annual veterinary examinations.

As we reported in our 2025 report, Harvey Miller also received a direct violation from USDA in June 2024, after a puppy was found with symptoms of dehydration and appeared to be unable to reach the water dispenser. When provided with water, the puppy drank for three minutes. The puppy's skin was tenting in a manner that indicated dehydration, according to the inspector. When inspectors returned in September 2024 they found more violations, including a repeated problem with inadequate veterinary records for a dog who could not use their hind legs, and two dogs who had scabs and hair loss on their faces from injuries. USDA gave Miller an official warning in September 2024 for the watering violation. USDA #21-A-0200.

**Arthur L. Schmucker, Clyde, New York | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report
Two dogs escaped their enclosures at facility where three dogs had previously died from injuries;
breeder had USDA violations for four years in a row.**

Of his last eight USDA inspections between October 2023 and February 2026, Arthur Schmucker only passed two inspections without any violations. His most recent non-compliant inspection in February 2026 found issues with housing, cleaning and two matted dogs. That inspection was a relicense inspection, and Schmucker was informed that his license would not be renewed until he corrected the issues.

Violations in earlier years included an April 2025 violation for two dogs who had escaped their enclosures. USDA wrote, "two adult dogs were seen free in the west kennel building when entered by the inspector, each having escaped from their individual primary enclosures." USDA added that, "dogs that are able to escape primary enclosures are at risk of escaping the greater housing facility or may encounter other incompatible animals in the kennel."

The reason that April violation was of particular concern was that at least three dogs had previously died of fight wounds at the kennel, as we noted in our 2025 *Horrible Hundred* report. During a June 2024 inspection, a USDA inspector noted that on three different dates, a dog had been "found deceased with injuries attributed to fighting amongst dogs in a shared exercise space." The inspector noted that, "Dogs housed in the same primary enclosures must be compatible to minimize risk of fighting, injury, and death." Schmucker was given a critical violation in 2024 for failing to keep the dogs in compatible groups. Schmucker also did not have complete vaccination records for his dogs that year. He had also received three violations in 2023. Schmucker passed one follow-up inspection in February 2026. USDA #21-A-0230.

**Chieh-en-Tsai / Tiny Cuties NYC, Astoria, New York
Apparent importer of puppies accused of selling puppies at retail in violation of New York state law.**

In October 2025, the New York Post revealed an extensive [undercover report](#) on individuals in Queens whom they found reselling puppies in potential violation of the state's ban on retail puppy sales. If true, the sales may also be a violation of federal rules, which predate the New York state law, and do not allow puppies under the age of six months to be imported from other countries for resale. Yet the seller appears to be [offering puppies online](#) as of April 2026. Some of the puppies are offered for prices of \$8,000 or more.

In addition to these concerns, which Humane World for Animals reported to the USDA, state inspectors who visited the property in October 2025 found a number of violations, including two critical violations for some dogs and/or cats who did not have annual veterinary examinations or rabies certificates, lack of an exercise plan, and an expired pet seller license. As of April 24, 2026, it appears Tiny Cuties' online ads were active and was still offering to show puppies "by appointment" and the business was still actively

state licensed, according to the state's online list of licensed dealers. Former USDA #21-B-0213, NY #1211.

Sadie and Daniel Yoder/Loper Farm Pets, Jasper, New York | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

Breeders with prior veterinary care issues had additional Direct and repeat USDA violations after appearing in two prior Horrible Hundred reports.

Even after appearing in our April 2025 Horrible Hundred report, Sadie and Daniel Yoder incurred new violations in June and September 2025, for a total of four noncompliant USDA inspections in 2025 alone. In September 2025, it appears that the licensee was not carefully monitoring newborn puppies; the inspector found that two puppies had been left outside and were not in the safety of their whelping box; the mother dog had apparently left them in the outdoor portion of the enclosure, leading to potentially dangerous exposure to the cold. Because the indoor portion of the enclosure was lacking accurate cage cards, it was not easy to see from indoors that two puppies were missing, and very young puppies often lack the mobility and eyesight to find their way back inside. In June 2025, the USDA cited the Yoders for five violations, including a repeat violation for puppies exposed to hazardous material that they could ingest, as well as a Direct violation for a female dog with three puppies who did not have water, and three additional violations for cleaning and sanitation issues.

During a March 2025 inspection, as we noted in our last report, the Yoders had received a Direct, repeat violation for a Shiba Inu with lameness and two lacerations. One of the lacerations was severe enough to expose "deeper underlying tissue." During a November 26, 2024, USDA inspection, the Yoders were instructed to seek veterinary care for a different Shiba Inu who was not bearing weight on her front leg and who had not been treated by a veterinarian for the problem. In January 2025, the USDA had given the Yoders an official warning for the violations. USDA #21-A-0204.

Ohio

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details on each dealer.

Ammon Burkholder/AB Kennel, Shiloh, Ohio

Breeder was referred to state's legal counsel after repeat violations for failing to get dental disease treated in seven dogs.

During a Sept. 3, 2025, inspection, Burkholder was referred to the state's legal counsel due to issues with seven breeding dogs who had been determined to be in need of dental treatment at a physical exam in May, and who were not yet treated as of September 3. Yet, even after that warning, when state inspectors rechecked on September 8, they found that six of the dogs had still not received the needed treatment. The agency reported that the legal referrals took place "due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation and the licensee being put on previous notice." USDA did not visit during the same 2025 time period, although it has similar dental care requirements. But USDA did cite Burkholder for multiple violations in 2024, 2023 and 2019. USDA #31-A-0740, OH #CB001JSA and CB001JT8.

Joseph D. Erb, Baltic, Ohio

Facility was unable to prove they had adequately cared for two puppies who died.

During a USDA inspection in September 2025, Joseph Erb had several violations. One of the most concerning issues was regarding two puppies who had died after reportedly experiencing diarrhea. Erb's

“facility representative” claimed they had treated the puppies according to the facility’s veterinary care plan, but when asked to provide documentation of treatments, he was unable to do so. In addition, USDA found an adult Yorkshire terrier with such long toenails that the nails curled to the side, as well as unsafe enclosures which allowed the dogs and puppies to jump out of their own enclosures and into adjoining cages. Former USDA #31-A-0498, OH #CB000SSK and CB000809.

Michael Raber, Fredericksburg, Ohio

Outside dogs had solid ice instead of water; some puppies were exposed to barbed wire; breeder was found noncompliant at eight out of last nine USDA inspections.

Michael Raber has been found with one or more USDA violations at the last eight out of nine USDA inspections between August 2024 and December 2025. During a December visit, USDA inspectors found four adult boxers outdoors without drinkable water. The inspector noted that, “the water bowl contained water but it was frozen. Failure to provide continuous access to potable water may lead to dehydration or discomfort to the animals.” During a prior visit in September 2025, USDA had warned Raber about puppies outdoors in housing that was “not impervious to moisture [and] can absorb moisture and harbor bacteria while being unable to be properly cleaned and sanitized,” and required Raber to move the puppies. USDA also noticed barbed wire that was accessible to some of the puppies and warned Raber that it could harm them. In December 2024, the licensee was questioned about a dog whom he admitted was “small in size,” and whom he claimed had been checked out by his veterinarian, but the licensee could not provide any proof of the dog’s veterinary examinations. In November 2024, the licensee had repeated violations for failure to provide access to the facility. USDA #31-A-0927, OH #CB002T1G.

Daniel Shirk, Shelby, Ohio

USDA inspectors found dogs in 87.5-degree building, plus veterinary care deficiencies.

During an August 2025 inspection, USDA inspectors noted that Shirk was not doing enough to cool off his animal housing facility. The temperature inside the building where dogs were kept was 87.5 degrees and there were indications that it had been over 90 degrees at some points during the day. The facility had fans on, but they either had only recently been turned on, or were not adequate to cool the kennel. During the same inspection, there were three other violations for veterinary care issues. For example, some of the dogs were missing vaccines or veterinary examinations. Prior to that visit, USDA had not documented any violations at the kennel, other than a lack of access violation in 2021, which occurred again in February 2026, but having four different violations at a single visit is a red flag indicating that conditions may be deteriorating. Another animal welfare group, CAPS, [released video](#) of the operation in 2024. USDA #31-A-0455; OH #CB000Z8T and CB00060H.

Andy A. and Edna Yoder/A&B Kennel (formerly A&E Kennel), Sugarcreek, Ohio | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

Breeders repeatedly switched names on licenses at same property with recurring violations, obscuring the facility’s history of noncompliance; received Official Warning and temporary license suspension from USDA.

On April 8, 2026, USDA temporarily suspended the license of Andy Yoder DBA A&B Kennel, for 21 days for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to animals. Exact details were not immediately available. However, the suspended license number is linked to a troubling history and multiple prior infractions under prior license numbers. Affiliated licensee Edna Yoder had violations as recently as June 2025 at the same property where family member Andy A. Yoder cancelled his USDA license the year before. After receiving new violations for veterinary care issues in June 2025, Edna cancelled her own USDA license after having had it only about a year (2024-2025). Shortly thereafter, Andy A. Yoder obtained a license at

the same address in July 2025 (active until 2028; currently suspended) where he had previously held a license under a different number from 2014 to 2024.

The Yoder property appeared in two prior *Horrible Hundred* reports. After changing licensee names from Andy to Edna, and changing USDA numbers, a subsequent USDA inspection in June 2025 found that issues continued. Edna Yoder received a direct violation for failing to obtain timely care for a poodle with signs of severe dental disease. The dog's issue was so advanced that the roots of his teeth were exposed and multiple teeth were missing or loose. In addition, Edna Yoder had a violation for failing to update vaccinations on all of their adult dogs. Shortly after the problematic inspection, Edna Yoder's USDA license was cancelled in June 2025.

As we documented in our prior report, state inspectors also found issues at the property where both Edna and Andy had held licenses. The Ohio Department of Agriculture inspectors referred Andy Yoder to their legal counsel after a failed inspection in July 2024, noting a repeat violation for failing to have a female dog certified as healthy prior to breeding. This issue was a concern due to previous warnings about the same problem, and other violations. And, in November 2023, inspectors found a dozen different violations at the kennel, mostly for issues related to dogs without enough space, inappropriate housing, and a lack of proper veterinary documentation. USDA violations at the kennel go back to at least 2016.

Former USDA #31-A-0526 (Andy), former USDA #31-A-1002 (Edna), current license under Andy A Yoder/A&B Kennel, USDA #31-A-1026 (suspended as of April 8, 2026), OH #CB00031T and CB000YBR.

Eli J. Yoder/Meadow Brook Kennel, Baltic, Ohio | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report Breeder has had more than 25 violations since 2022 for issues such as piles of feces “too numerous to count,” inadequate housing and pests.

Even after appearing in our 2023 report due to having more than 20 state and federal violations in prior years, Yoder incurred seven additional USDA violations in 2026 and 2025, including problems similar to those that had been noted in the past. February 2026 issues included “piles of excreta” throughout two of the dog enclosures that were “too numerous to count,” including piles that were “fresh to frozen solid,” and insufficient medical records. June 2025 issues included enclosures that were in poor condition and food receptacles that were not being kept clean or sanitized, including at least one feeder that was contaminated with ants “too numerous to count,” along with the kennel's failure to follow its own veterinary care plan. The facility passed an inspection in August 2025, but when the USDA returned in November 2025, they were not given access to the kennel or dogs by either the licensee or his wife, which was another violation. USDA #31-A-0447; OH #CB0007N4 and CB0010MS.

Owen Yoder/Maple Lane Kennel, Millersburg, Ohio | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report Breeder sold underage puppies; had been in prior report after a dog had been limping for two weeks.

Owen Yoder had a USDA violation in September 2025 after inspectors noted that he sold at least two puppies who were under 8 weeks of age. The inspector informed him that “puppies transported or sold in commerce before 8 weeks of age may cause additional stress and an increased risk of health problems.”

As we noted in last year's *Horrible Hundred* report, there were prior concerns at the kennel. During a July 2024 relicensing inspection, USDA gave Yoder a direct violation after finding a limping Pomeranian. The licensee admitted the dog had been lame for about two weeks, but he had not had the dog treated or examined by a veterinarian. The license renewal was delayed due to the failed inspection. After becoming relicensed, Yoder had another violation in October 2024, when inspectors arrived at the kennel but were

told the licensee was “not home and not available,” which is a violation. Yoder had another violation for the same issue in September 2025, and the inspector noted that failing to provide access for an inspection is “a serious violation.” USDA #31-A-0793, OH #CB0021PA and CB0021Q8.

Raymond J. Yoder/Greenridge Kennel, Fresno, Ohio | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report USDA issued “critical” violation after puppy was killed; some puppies had no water; state referred repeat violations to legal counsel, including “unacceptable instruments” used to cut tails off puppies.

In September 2025, USDA issued a critical violation to Raymond Yoder after a puppy died. The puppy had escaped through a gap in the enclosure that did not contain them securely. The puppy was apparently killed by dogs in the adjacent enclosure. The USDA inspector also noted two other violations. At a prior inspection in April 2025, USDA had found even more issues, including some puppies with no water, and repeat violations for questionable records and veterinary care deficiency.

In November 2025, Ohio Department of Agriculture state inspectors performed a visit of their own. , One of their most concerning findings was that “the licensees representative used unacceptable instruments to tail dock a litter of puppies in 2025.” The inspection report added: “the licensee failed to use the correct instruments that [are] required for tail docking. This matter will be referred to ODA’s Legal Counsel due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation” It was at least the third time that state authorities warned the licensee that his method of tail docking was not acceptable or allowable. In addition, at the same inspection it was found that several dogs had been bred without a veterinarian certifying that they were healthy first, another violation Yoder had been previously warned about.

It was at least the second year in a row during which puppies were found at significant risk. As we documented in our 2025 report, following a December 2024 inspection, state inspectors had made another legal referral due to concerns about disease prevention and inappropriate care, in addition to the warnings about improper tail dockings. Yoder was informed that failing to follow proper procedures could lead to pain, suffering or infection for the puppies. A USDA inspector also found several violations in December 2024 for similar concerns, noting that none of the adult dogs were up to date on vaccines, “nor do they have a prior history of vaccines.” USDA #31-A-0905, OH #CB002J75 and CB002A0L.

Oklahoma

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Becky and Leonard Goodman/Goodman's Good-Dog, Ringling, Oklahoma | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

USDA inspectors found a dying dog named Cookie with “agonal breathing,” and recurring severe infestations of pests at former Puppies.com breeder; breeder’s USDA license was revoked but they still have an active Facebook page.

USDA inspectors found a dying male dachshund named Cookie during a September 2025 inspection at Goodman’s Good-Dog kennel, and issued a repeat direct violation for the breeders’ failure to take care of the ailing dog. The inspector described the dog as “non-responsive and displaying an agonal breathing pattern” and paused the inspection to allow the licensee to take Cookie to the veterinarian, where he died before treatment could be started. The inspector could find no medical records for Cookie and noted that

“the facility failed to provide and document proper preventative care, and failed to note this dog’s clinical condition leading up to his death.”

In addition to the death, the inspector found several other issues at the same inspection, including 34 dogs whose water bowls contained dead roaches and other insects and a “severe infestation of roaches throughout the facility,” which was a repeat violation.

A few months earlier, inspectors had also found significant pest issues, echoing nearly identical violations found in 2023. A July 2025 inspection noted “a widespread rodent infestation problem affecting the entire facility,” with large accumulations of rodent feces in numerous enclosures and storage areas. The inspector added, “a dead mouse was found in a drain inside the kennel building,” with evidence of a rodent nest in a storage area, and rodent droppings in numerous areas. Prior to the July issues, the licensee had received an official warning in May 2025 due to other pest issues and veterinary issues found in March 2025. One of the March violations included a direct violation for a mother dog with four puppies who had been treated with a pest control dip that was not safe for nursing mothers. The same inspection also noted a “severe and widespread rodent infestation problem affecting the entire facility,” with at least one puppy found lying next to a “heavy accumulation of rodent droppings.”

After numerous additional horrific USDA inspections, the Goodmans’ USDA license was finally revoked in December 2025, but it’s unclear if they were required to surrender any of their dogs. As of March 2026, the Goodmans’ state license was also inactive, but they still have an active [Facebook](#) page that appears to be offering puppies for sale; Humane World for Animals reported the online ads to USDA in February 2026. Former USDA #73-A-2754 (revoked), Former OK #BRD00412.

Chris McGill/Chris’s Kennel, McAlester, Oklahoma | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report Breeder cited for dirty conditions in 2025 had also received official warning from USDA in 2022 after inspectors found dead puppies; breeder had sold to Petland and is listed as a “Star Breeder” with American Canine Association.

In August 2025, USDA found cleaning and records violations at Chris’s Kennel, noting that “the washdowns under the kennel enclosures had an excessive accumulation of discarded feed, fecal material, and standing contaminated water.”

Issues at the kennel were of special concern due to its prior history. Chris’s Kennel received an official warning in August 2022 after USDA inspectors who had visited in late May 2022 found terrible conditions. A litter of nursing miniature pinscher puppies were found only half alive; there were two dead puppies and one listless puppy “with shallow breathing;” the licensee was unaware of the dead puppies even though at least one of them was already decaying; she said she hadn’t checked on them in two days. There is no record to indicate that USDA inspectors confiscated the surviving puppies or notified local authorities after discovering the neglect. Inspectors also noted that roaches were crawling all over one kennel building and in the dogs’ food, and even dropping from the ceiling.

Significant issues at Chris’s Kennel have been noted off and on for over a decade; between 2013 and 2014, USDA found thin dogs and dogs with wounds and sores. The kennel did pass four consecutive USDA inspections between 2022 and 2024. McGill has sold puppies to Petland stores.

Despite the breeder’s troubling history, they were listed as a “Star Breeder” on the American Canine Association’s [website](#) as of April 2026, indicating the questionable validity of breeder “awards” online. USDA #73-A-1257, OK# BRD00004.

**Kimberly Parsons/First Class Puppies, Bluejacket, Oklahoma
USDA found many puppies in overcrowded wire cages without adequate space.**

During a July 2025 inspection, a USDA inspector found many puppies in cages that were too small, noting that “the facility is not providing adequate space to all of its dogs,” and adding, “when dogs are overcrowded, they can’t make normal postural adjustments and may fight for resources.” Photos taken by inspectors that day show puppies in barren, wire cages with wire floors and no apparent toys, bedding or solid resting areas, with feces and loose uneaten food noticeably accumulating under the raised flooring. In one photograph, four corgi puppies were photographed sharing a single wire cage about the size of a sofa cushion. Three beagle puppies were also found sharing a cage that was too small (6.35 square feet). During the same inspection, inspectors noted another violation for lack of an exercise plan and took a photograph of a poodle puppy who was measured at 20 inches long, adding, “the puppy is not currently being allowed opportunity to exercise outside of his enclosure and his enclosure does not meet twice his minimum required floor space of 9.39sqft. Dogs that are not allowed adequate opportunity to exercise can develop mental distress and abnormal behaviors.” The puppy only had 6.14 square feet of floor space. First Class Puppies is a large broker that has sold puppies to at least 17 different Petland stores between 2020 and 2025. USDA #73-B-1866, OK#BRD00462.

Pennsylvania

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Christian and Sallie Blank/Hilltop Kennel, Gap, Pennsylvania | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

Dog wardens ordered veterinary checks on dogs four years in a row; breeders had two warnings and two citations within the last three years.

State dog wardens gave Hilltop Kennel a citation in March 2026 after seeing multiple sanitary issues at the property. Issues included an “accumulation of excreta underneath primary enclosures,” “primary enclosures which housed dogs that had an accumulation of debris, grime, and dust,” “an accumulation of excreta, dirt, hair, and dust throughout the kennel building,” and areas that were “caked with dirt, dust, cobwebs, and grime.” Wardens also saw some areas where dogs did not have enough space.

Veterinary checks were also ordered on dogs for four years in a row, dating back to the kennel’s first inspection in June 2022, when the dog warden noticed “a smaller left eye” on one dog, as well as in January 2023, May 2024 and October 2025. Over the years, dog wardens also issued two written and verbal warnings (both in 2023) and two citations (2024, 2026) for issues such as inadequate space, poor sanitation and poor housekeeping and maintenance.

In 2022, the kennel was first licensed under the name of Christian E. Blank. Most of the more recent inspections have been attended by Sallie Blank, identified on the documents as owner’s wife. Last year, Christian Blank was listed as an AKC poodle breeder on the AKC’s Marketplace website. The breeders also have a presence on the [Greenfield Puppies](#) website, a marketplace that Humane World for Animals has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. PA #18100.

Jesse B. Esch/Pennsupreme Puppies, New Providence, Pennsylvania | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

Repeat offender had 21 violations in less than six months; received a verbal and written warning and two citations from state authorities for filthy conditions and other issues.

Pennsupreme Puppies had 17 state violations and two citations in the first two months of 2026 alone, and it had a written and verbal warning and four additional violations in October 2025, for a total of 21 violations in the last six-month period. The issues noted by local dog wardens included excessive feces, debris, dirt and/or hair in various parts of the kennel, primary enclosures for the dogs that were “caked with dirt, dust and grime,” poor ventilation, some dogs without enough space, and some dogs who had no access to exercise or the outdoors.

The kennel has been cited in prior years for filthy conditions as well, and in 2021, a warden also found rodent feces, noting, “Warden viewed a large build-up of mice excreta throughout the entire kennel facility indicating the kennel does not have an effective program to control pests.” Previous issues at the kennel go back to at least 2020, when the facility was issued a state citation for transferring at least seven dogs from out of the state without health certificates. PA #16521.

Elmer and Katie Fisher, Newport, Pennsylvania | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report Breeder received two verbal and written warnings within four months after many violations the previous year.

Elmer and Katie Fisher received verbal and written warnings in both September and December 2025. The December issues included poorly maintained primary enclosures, an inappropriate amount of space for some of the dogs, and dogs kept in a cold building that had a broken heater. The September issues included a variety of records deficiencies, with some dogs in the kennel who were not in the facility’s records, and questionable records on dogs leaving the kennel and where they went, which was a significant concern due to previous issues the state had found.

As we noted in last year’s report, Fisher failed three different state inspections within six months in 2024. In August 2024 alone, inspectors noted eight different violations. Fisher had a warning from the state in 2023 and another citation in 2022. The August violations were related to housing, ventilation and veterinary issues. In May 2024, the state issued a citation to Elmer Fisher for operating without the appropriate license, alleging he “sold puppies to a dealer kennel for resale and transferred over 60 dogs” during the prior license year. PA #18030.

Sam and Ben Kauffman/Chester View Kennel, formerly Sunny Slope Kennels, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania | Repeat Offender: Sixth time in this report

Puppies were found to have endured inhumane tail docking methods, warden made a cruelty referral at breeding kennel that was previously closed for enforcement reasons.

Pennsylvania authorities have a long history on Chester View Kennel, previously called Sunny Slope Kennels. The operation had such intense problems that it was closed for enforcement reasons in 2010, but it later reopened in 2012 and has had recurring issues since then. Most recently, the kennel was cited in February 2026 for an egregious violation where puppies “had their tails banded with a rubber ligature in an attempt to dock their tails.” Inspectors noted “this method of tail docking cuts off circulation to the tail and causes pain and can lead to infection.” A cruelty referral was made “given the nature of the conditions described above.”

In late 2025, the kennel also received violations for enclosures “that were caked with dirt, dust, and grime,” and two enclosures that were not large enough; it received a citation for these and other

violations. Nearly identical issues were noted in 2024. Issues in prior years included a written and verbal warning for keeping dogs in such dark buildings that it was difficult to check on the health of the dogs, and dirty, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. State officials found veterinary issues almost every year between 2013 and 2023. The operation has advertised AKC corgis and other breeds on the Lancaster Puppies website, a site that Humane World has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. PA #8642.

**Katie Keener/Brookwood Hollow Kennel aka Brookwood Collies, Danville, Pennsylvania
AKC-linked breeder was cited for a dozen violations at a single inspection; some dogs were housed in a building that had below freezing temperatures; “poor sanitary conditions.”**

During a state inspection in January 2026, dog wardens found that the indoor temperature at Brookwood Hollow Kennel was below freezing, and some dogs had no acceptable form of shelter. In addition, wardens found at least 10 other violations for issues such as dirty conditions, no smoke alarms or fire suppression, no authorized ventilation system, and some dogs who had no unfettered access to exercise runs. The kennel received a citation. The kennel had no recent violations with the state and has had no documented USDA violations as of April 2026, leading to concerns about how quickly conditions can deteriorate, even at kennels with recent compliance. As of April 2026, the breeder offers AKC collies on the [AKC Marketplace](#) website and the [Better Breeder Institute](#) website, which claims to have “certified” breeders, and other websites. USDA #23-A-0788, PA #16557.

**Sadie Riehl / Premier Pups, formerly Fill-in-the-Gap Pets aka Infinity Pups, Gap, Pennsylvania |
Repeat Offender: Third time in this report**

AKC-linked breeder had recurring violations for failure to protect dogs from the cold and unsuitable conditions; received three state citations in 2025.

Riehl received three different citations from state inspectors for failed inspections in 2025 alone, due to violations such as dogs exposed to the cold, inappropriate flooring for puppies and dogs, poor ventilation, and some dogs who did not have enough space. The history of issues at the kennel goes back almost a decade, although in some years it was in compliance and had no violations. The kennel appeared in our 2018 and 2017 *Horrible Hundred* reports due to three different citations and failed five state inspections in 2016 and 10 different unacceptable conditions in December 2017. The December 2017 inspection noted unsanitary conditions, dogs who did not have adequate protection from the cold, dogs obtained by the kennel from an unlicensed, out-of-state dealer and without the required health certificates, and incomplete records on the dogs, which could indicate that the kennel was obtaining or selling dogs from unlicensed puppy mills. Riehl offers puppies for sale online, including on Sadie’s Doodles, and offers AKC dogs on Weebly.com.

The operation was USDA licensed until 2022; violations were also documented under that license. Former USDA #23-A-0626, PA #06648 (the state violations were under this license number) and #17159.

**Levi and Rachel Smucker/Townsedge Pets, Millersburg, Pennsylvania
State inspectors found areas “riddled with feces;” breeder received two state citations in a row.**

During an inspection in October 2025, state inspectors found filthy conditions at Smucker’s Townsedge Pets, noting that the dog warden “viewed excreta throughout the kennel especially in the area where the puppies were being housed,” and “wardens viewed primary enclosures that were riddled with feces and built up with hair, dirt, debris, etc.” The state gave Smucker a citation for the violations, and it was not the first. In September 2025, Smucker also received a citation for a similar issue, and for a dog with an overdue veterinary examination. PA #18147.

**Matthew B. Stoltzfus/Millwood Puppies, Gap, Pennsylvania
Breeder received a state citation after receiving seven violations for issues such as poor**

sanitation and interfering with the inspection; breeder sells on Greenfield Puppies website.

During a January 2026 state inspection of Millwood Puppies, the licensee reportedly interfered with the inspecting dog wardens by leaving them waiting while the licensee apparently made some changes, thereby potentially concealing violations. The inspectors said they “were left waiting approximately 10 minutes upon arrival until [the] kennel owner allowed us to start the inspection. Kennel owner later admitted to entering the kennel and moving dogs before allowing wardens to enter.” Six other violations were noted at the same inspection, including enclosures that were “caked with dirt, and dust,” a buildup of spiderwebs, dust and rust on some surfaces and on dog enclosures, and issues such as rusted and chipped wire. The breeder received a citation after the inspection concluded.

Several earlier inspection reports were fully complaint, although in both February 2024 and July 2024, a veterinary inspection was ordered on some dogs “based on the warden’s observations of the condition of dogs during an inspection.” Stoltzfus sells on a variety of websites, including [Greenfield Puppies](#), a website that Humane World for Animals has linked to numerous puppy mills. PA #4240.

Stephen J. and Naomi Zook/Rainbow Ridge Kennel, Manheim, Pennsylvania | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

AKC-linked breeder received five different state citations and two verbal and written warnings within five years due to unsanitary conditions and other issues.

In January 2026, February 2025 and March 2023, Rainbow Ridge Kennel received state citations for unsanitary conditions. The kennel also had a state citation in August 2022 for an injured dog, making five citations in less than five years. During the January 2026 inspection, wardens “viewed primary enclosures and throughout the kennel building to be caked with dirt, dust, cobwebs, and grime.” They also noted that one dog was “mildly matted.” Inspectors described “a buildup of dust on multiple surfaces throughout the main kennel building which encourages pests and contributes to poor sanitary conditions.” During the February 2025 inspection, wardens also noted an accumulation of excreta in the outside kennel runs. Prior issues at the kennel included a written and verbal warning in 2022 for some dogs who did not have enough space, and in August 2022, a warden viewed a dog who had a “lesion on the underside of the neck that appeared to be there for some time” and ordered the licensee to have the dog checked by a veterinarian. The breeder is linked to the American Kennel Club and offers puppies for sale on the [AKC Marketplace](#) website under the name “Naomi’s Swissy”, on [GreenfieldPuppies.com](#), and on [LancasterPuppies.com](#), websites that Humane World for Animals has repeatedly linked to puppy mills. PA #16389.

Wisconsin

Click [here](#) to view selected documents with further details about each dealer.

Amos A. Borntreger, Jr./Happy Canine Kennel, Augusta, Wisconsin

A dog was found deceased after going missing from kennel; another was found with a severe eye injury and had to have the eye removed; breeder received official warnings from both USDA and state authorities.

Amos Borntreger Jr. received an official warning from the state of Wisconsin in January 2026, after inspectors found he failed to remove excreta daily, groom dogs adequately or sanitize enclosures as often as needed. Photos taken by the state inspector also showed a French bulldog with a severe eye injury. The dog’s eye appeared severely damaged, with a red, cloudy appearance and dried discharge around it. The inspector noted: “One dog observed during inspection on 01/20/2026 appeared to have an eye injury. Entity was following veterinary recommendations at the time of inspection. Additional

veterinary care was ordered, and the dog received adequate treatment.” An email to the inspector from the licensee’s veterinary clinic dated Jan. 22, 2026, stated “we removed the injured eye today.” It is unclear why Borntreger was not cited for failing to obtain adequate veterinary care for the dog, since he did not obtain effective follow-up treatment until ordered to do so. Additional photos taken at the kennel by state inspectors showed very filthy flooring with feces mashed into it, dirty floors in some of the enclosures, and mounds of feces that appeared to be piled up behind or beside the building.

Borntreger had also received a warning from USDA in August 2025 related to an incident where a dog went missing from his kennel and was later found dead. USDA issued a critical violation in June 2025 and the inspector wrote: “on March 20th, 2025, a 3 year old female shih tzu/chihuahua mix went missing. This was an outdoor dog that was housed in a barn, but had access to leave the barn whenever it wished. The licensee was unable to immediately find the dog. On April 11th, 2025 the dog was found deceased in a horse pasture.” The violation was categorized as a critical housing violation because licensees are required to keep dogs in housing that is safe and secure. When USDA visited in February 2026, they found eight more violations, including “the outdoor part of the sheltered enclosures hadn’t been sanitized in a month” and there was feces mashed into the grates that the dogs walk on “that has built up over the past month.” In addition, they found clutter, mouse feces, unsafe conditions and two dogs with very visible dental concerns. USDA #35-A-0526, WI #516737.

Marlin Brubacher, Thorp, Wisconsin

USDA inspector found lethargic puppy “wasn’t moving around much;” breeder admitted she noticed but had not contacted a veterinarian.

During a November 2025 USDA inspection, inspectors noticed a lethargic puppy, describing the situation as follows: “a tri-colored Dachshund named ‘Lacey’ (tag #062) is nursing a five-day old puppy. During inspection, the puppy wasn’t moving around much. When asked, the licensee stated the puppy seemed to be thriving and doing well the first four days, but she noticed that it wasn’t moving around much last night. [...] The licensee hasn’t contacted the attending veterinarian and hasn’t done anything to provide treatment to the puppy.” Prior to that issue, the licensee had not had any USDA violations in several years, but there were two “teachable moment” violations in 2019 and violations in 2016 and 2014. The licensee also had state violations in 2024 and received a warning that year. USDA # 35-A-0324, WI #268211.

EllaMae Brubaker, Thorp, Wisconsin | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

USDA suspended breeder’s license after finding a dog with “wounds covering its body” who was limping; another had an open abdominal wound and “appeared to be either extremely uncomfortable or in pain;” two more injured dogs were found months later.

During a July 2025 visit, USDA inspectors found two dogs with significant injuries at Brubaker’s kennel who had not been attended to by a veterinarian. One dog had “wounds covering its body” and “was limping on its left rear leg.” Another dog “had an open wound on its abdomen.” The inspector noted: “I originally observed the dog [with the abdominal wound] sitting in the corner with a black substance on the upper part of its left rear leg. Upon closer observation, I observed an open wound on its abdomen and a reddish/pinkish liquid oozing/dripping off of the dog. In addition, the dog appeared to have a very difficult time moving around and appeared to be either extremely uncomfortable or in pain.” At the same visit, USDA issued another violation for some dogs who had no water on a summer day. The inspector noted: “I observed a Golden Retriever trying to stick its head under the fence to lick up the water that pooled up under the watering nipple in the enclosure adjacent to its enclosure. I asked the licensee to test the watering nipple and no water was coming out when she pushed down on it. She provided the three dogs in that enclosure with a bowl of water and I observed them to be drinking out of that bowl non-stop for approximately 30-45 seconds.”

During a later visit in November 2025, USDA found two more dogs in need of treatment, including a Maltese with “hair loss on the top of its head along with an open wound and dried up blood surrounding the wound,” and a poodle mix who was limping. The injured dogs were listed as direct violations at both inspections. In February 2026, USDA suspended Brubaker’s license for 21 days, but the license is currently active again. USDA #35-A-0227, WI #268019.

Tiffany Cherewan aka Tillman aka Grohn/Rott ‘n Frenchies and Furry Friends, Centuria, Wisconsin State investigated complaints about unlicensed breeder and reseller offering numerous puppies on Facebook and GoodDog.com, including AKC puppies; seller was found to have illegally altered a rabies certificate to conceal the origins of a puppy sold online.

In December 2025, Wisconsin authorities investigated a complaint about a dealer selling large numbers of puppies and dogs on social media. Advertisements on Facebook showed many dogs offered for sale on various forums, including some that the seller claimed were AKC registered puppies. Complainants alleged Cherewan was a dog flipper who obtained puppies from other breeders and resold them as if they were her own home-bred dogs, in addition to breeding some of her own. The investigation revealed that Cherewan was indeed both an unlicensed breeder and a dog flipper.

Tiffany Cherewan also offered dogs on GoodDog.com under “Tiffany Grohn,” a profile that has since been deleted. A complainant who bought a dog via GoodDog in November 2025 said that she paid \$2,200 for a brokered dog whom she was not told came from a Missouri breeder. It appears the dog’s paperwork was altered by Cherewan to imply the dog was bred by her, and she then sent the dog to the buyer in Minnesota. The state investigation found credible evidence that Cherewan allegedly crossed out the original breeder’s name and address on the rabies certificate without their knowledge and replaced it with her own. Authorities informed Cherewan that she needed a state license whether breeding or brokering dogs, and that altering rabies certificates is illegal. The state also received a complaint about puppies running loose in the road near Cherewan’s property.

The state’s investigation concluded that “Tiffany Tillman (AKA Grohn, AKA Cherewan) was previously licensed during the 2023- 2024 (526981-DS) [year] but did not renew. Tillman breeds and rescues dogs from various facilities in Wisconsin and neighboring states. She also offers dogs for sale on behalf [of] both herself and other individuals. [...] She also states many of these dogs are not sold or transported into Wisconsin.” The investigation found “entity altered rabies certificate by removing original dog owners’ name prior to sale.” It appears that Cherewan was not penalized or fined, but at the conclusion of their investigation, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection gave her a “notice of non-compliance” on Dec. 17, 2025, and agreed to “resolve the matter” if she obtained a license and paid the \$550 license application fee. Her ads under the business name Rott’n’Frenchies are still on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), and the Facebook page still claims she is “GoodDog approved.” Former WI #561231.

Moses Glick, Stitzer, Wisconsin Breeder had 17 different USDA violations in less than two years; state agency shared no recent records to show if they inspected him.

When USDA inspectors arrived on Glick’s property in early March 2026 to conduct an inspection, the licensee failed to make a responsible adult available to accompany officials for their inspection, leaving them unable to check on the dogs, which was a violation. When USDA inspectors returned later in the month, they found six violations for issues such as unsanitary conditions, expired medications and improper veterinary care. They also found a female dog in labor who had already given birth to one puppy, and who was still in an enclosure with three other adult dogs, which endangers the newborns.

The March 2026 issues were especially troubling because of the number of violations found at previous inspections. Prior to the new violations in 2026, Moses Glick had 10 USDA violations over the course of three USDA inspections in a row, including visits in August 2025, May 2025 and August 2024. The August 2025 violations included a lack of adequate vaccination records and physical examination records on the dogs. The May inspection found a poodle with noticeably matted fur as well as a repeat violation for lacking a written program of veterinary care, and more. And in August 2024, Glick had five different violations, including the sale of some puppies who were under 8 weeks of age, as well as issues with inadequate housing and veterinary records. Humane World for Animals has not received any recent records from Wisconsin that indicate whether the state has inspected Glick's kennel during the same time period. USDA #35-A-0518, WI #517204.

**Christy Graber/Kountry Lane Kennel, Hillsboro, Wisconsin
Breeder received a Direct USDA violation for a dog with abnormal eyes that were not being treated.**

In August 2025, USDA gave Graber a direct violation for a dog with noticeable disorders of both eyes. According to the inspector, the dog's "left eye was swollen and red and dry on the surface with dry material on the surface. Her right eye had an uneven surface and was gray on the surface. These are signs of active eye problems and could cause discomfort. These eye problems have not been under treatment at the time of inspection." In addition, there was another violation for lack of an exercise plan for the dogs. The inspection was for a new site, identified as site 003. Due to the violations, the licensee was instructed that, "this site is not ready for approval to conduct activity covered under your current Animal Welfare Act License." There were already 24 adult dogs and 20 puppies on the new site.

The site was approved later that same month after a reinspection, but when USDA returned in January 2026, they found another violation for a dog with matted hair, which "can [cause] discomfort and skin problems." Previous issues linked to Christy Graber included state deficiencies at a pre-license inspection in 2018 for puppies with access to unapproved, non-solid flooring as well as concerns with ventilation and "accumulated excrement" under some raised enclosures. At that visit, the state inspector noted that Graber had sold dogs to Choice Puppies and JAK's Puppies, two large pet store brokers. Graber also had USDA violations in 2017 for a husky who was limping and had an injury on her paw, along with sanitation issues described as: "a buildup of soiled material that has a large amount of flies on it," conditions that "can cause animals to get sick and can spread sickness to other animals." USDA # 35-A-0392, WI #558610 (and previous license numbers).

**Clyde and Emma Horst/Red Barn Kennel, Stanley, Wisconsin
USDA found a dog with an open wound on his neck and an embedded chain collar; state authorities previously gave the breeder a cease and desist warning for dealing with an unlicensed broker.**

During a September 2025 inspection, USDA gave Horst a direct violation after inspectors found a dog suffering from a serious neck wound that had gone untreated and apparently undetected. As the inspector described it, "a male Cavalier King Charles (tag #0292) had an open wound on its neck. Upon closer examination, it became obvious that dog's chain had become embedded and has cut into the skin. The licensee had not observed this prior to inspection. An embedded chain that cuts into the skin can cause infection and can be painful." A few months later, in December 2025, Horst cancelled his USDA license. But Horst was still on the Wisconsin list of active state-licensed breeders as of April 2026.

Records received from the state's Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection show that the Horsts received an official warning to cease and desist from violating state rules in October 2024 after being investigated for their ties to an illegal and unlicensed dog broker, Bonnie Piskorski. State records indicate that Piskorski paid the Horsts \$27,689 for puppies between 2022 and 2024 and that multiple

sales records related to the transactions “were found to be missing or falsified.” State investigation records state: “Emma Horst stated that many of the dogs listed in the record had died and she failed to record this. I showed them examples of records that were altered, and Emma Horst again stated that Bonnie Piskorski must have crossed [off] names on the sales records but acknowledged that she knowingly copied the altered records and retained them....She stated that Bonnie Piskorski frequently came and took dogs unattended, and she did not know if records were filled out accurately.” Piskorski’s legal case is still ongoing and there is more information about her under her name in this report. Former USDA # 35-A-0348, WI #268723.

William Kurtz/Barking Valley Kennel, and Sylvia Kurtz/Valley Kennel, Augusta, Wisconsin | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

USDA found thin dogs with prominent ribs or spines, a dog who had difficulty standing and walking, and dirty and matted dogs in need of care at facility where concerns have recurred for more than a decade.

In February 2026, USDA inspectors found many dogs in need of care at Barking Valley Kennel. The ailing dogs included a nursing female teddy bear (a mixed breed) with five puppies who was “observed to be thin during examination. She had little muscle and fat covering the ribs, back, and hips. Her ribs and spine were prominent and easily felt.” They also found a Yorkie who “was observed to have a difficult time standing up and walking. The dog was stiff as she was trying to walk. Both hind legs were stiff and the inspectors observed the dog dragging the right hind leg at times and then it would be dragging the left hind left leg at times.” Inspectors also saw a shih tzu who “was matted on its front legs. In addition, fecal material was caking up on its rear end near the anus. The dog was also observed to be thin. She had little muscle and fat covering her back and her spine was prominent and easily felt.”

USDA spotted two other dogs with ear issues. It is unclear why USDA did not give Kurtz a direct violation for the dog who was barely walking and the two dogs whose bone structures were showing. USDA instructed the breeder to contact their veterinarian about the ailing dogs but did not insist that the dogs be physically examined, tested or treated by the veterinarian, even though the report stated that there could be numerous reasons for the dogs’ various ailments. At the same visit, inspectors also documented violations for unsafe conditions, outdoor enclosures that “haven’t been sanitized in 3-4 weeks,” and more.

Issues at the facility have recurred for more than a decade. As we noted in our 2025 report, in February 2025, USDA gave William Kurtz an official warning for not having an adequate program of veterinary care, and in January 2025, USDA assessed a penalty of \$1,000 to Sylvia Kurtz. The penalty stemmed from a May 2024 legal complaint against Sylvia, alleging that she operated as a breeder but did not give USDA access to her kennel to check on her dogs. Sylvia had had a critical violation in September 2023 for actively refusing an inspection; in March 2024, she dropped the Valley Kennel USDA license, but the kennel appeared to still be operating under William as Barking Valley Kennel at the same approximate location. Meanwhile, issues continued, and Barking Valley Kennel received a direct USDA violation in December 2024 for a bichon frise who had blood in her mouth. Kurtz held a previous USDA license under a different number until 2017 and had numerous violations under that license as well. Former USDA number for William Kurtz #35-A-0366; former USDA number for Sylvia Kurtz, #35-A-0394. Current USDA #35-A-0533, WI #403097.

Benjamin Lambricht/Ridgetop Kennels, Hillsboro, Wisconsin

USDA found dogs in need of veterinary care and others who were matted.

During a January 2026 visit to Lambricht’s kennel, USDA found several different violations, including four dogs with dental issues such as loose teeth and recessed gums. USDA gave Lambricht a direct violation for multiple dogs, including one dog with signs of an ear problem; the dog’s ears “had a dark buildup in them and skin was lightly reddened,” and the licensee had not consulted with a veterinarian about the

dog's condition. The inspector also found that some of the dogs were matted and there were excessive feces in the kennel. The licensee admitted that daily spot cleaning had "not been in the routine." The licensee also had prior violations in 2024, 2022 and 2021. As of April 2026, Lambright cancelled his USDA license, but his Wisconsin license still appears to be active. Former USDA # 35-A-0453, WI #484912.

Ervin, Marcus, and Anna May Miller/Country Road Kennel, Hillsboro, Wisconsin | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report

USDA found 29 violations in less than three years.

In March 2026, USDA inspectors found rodent droppings next to the stored dog food at Country Road Kennel, and a hole chewed in the bag of food. Inspectors also found no vaccination records for parvovirus and distemper, which are potentially deadly diseases, a repeat violation. The noncompliant inspection was the seventh one in under three years. Within that same time period, the facility had a total of 29 violations, and only passed two inspections. At the previous inspection in August 2025, USDA found three violations for cleaning and sanitation, veterinary care records issues and more.

As described in our prior *Horrible Hundred* report, prior violations at the facility included puppies in dirty conditions and some dogs had no water (February 2025). In 2024, USDA found a shih tzu in need of eye care, mouse droppings near the food, rusty or sharp areas, and a critical violation for a dog who went missing from the kennel and had not been seen again. Records from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection indicate that Miller was investigated in 2023 "to determine if Ervin Miller, a licensed breeder, was selling dogs to or conveying custody of dogs to Bonnie Piskorski, who is not licensed, but has knowing[ly] [met] the criteria and neglected to do so." Piskorski is listed under her own name in this report. The agency concluded that "based on this information, it appears that Ervin Miller has sold puppies to Bonnie Piskorski and Bonnie's daughter, [neither of which] is licensed as dog dealers with WDATCP." The agency "explained to Ervin that under prohibited conduct [the] department is restricting his ability to sell dogs to Bonnie Piskorski and a 'Do not sell' letter was given to him."

The agency "further explained that Bonnie has had legal trouble in the past with DATCP for operating without a license and criminal trouble in Waupaca County, Wisconsin and therefore he will no longer be able to engage in business with her." The agency also found that a sick puppy was sold by Piskorski who had originated from Miller. USDA #35-A-0500, WI #502846.

Alvin Martin / J&A Acres LLC (formerly Pine Hollow Farm, LLC), Withee, Wisconsin | Repeat Offender: Fourth time in this report

USDA inspector found a lethargic dog with labored breathing in "distress" at facility with a history of intermittent care violations going back to at least 2012.

During an August 2025 inspection, a USDA inspector found a female shih tzu who was "lethargic, had somewhat labored breathing, and had diarrhea" at Martin's J&A Acres. The licensee admitted he had "observed" the dog the previous night but had not contacted his veterinarian about her condition. The inspector noted that the dog was "in some sort of distress and is in need of medical treatment," and issued a direct violation. The next month, the inspector visited again and found another dog needing treatment.

Martin has a long history of intermittent veterinary care violations. In May 2025, Martin had several USDA veterinary care violations, including a repeat violation for many dogs who did not have updated vaccines, and two small dogs in need of ear care. The report stated that one dog "had a left ear with a large buildup of thick black material caked around the outer ear flap with a mild foul odor. The ear canal was unable to be observed due to the large amount of brown material. The ear flap skin was red." The second dog had "a mildly red outer ear with a buildup of greasy brown material. The hair in both ear canals is clumped

with brown material obstructing the view of the inner ear. The licensee did not notice the dirty ears.” Older issues that stretch back to at least 2012 include accusations of selling sick puppies, and state inspectors who found a puppy with a “corneal perforation” who was likely in “pain and discomfort,” according to a state inspector. The puppy was relinquished to an animal shelter. USDA #35-A-0425 (formerly #35-B-0205), WI #474776.

Bonnie Piskorski, Ogdensburg, Wisconsin

State took dog dealer to court repeatedly for alleged connections to illegal and unlicensed puppy sales, accusations of selling sick and dying dogs.

Bonnie Piskorski has not been a licensed dog dealer since 2022 but has been the subject of detailed state investigations for buying and selling dogs from a variety of breeders without the license to do so. State investigations also allege that Piskorski has a history of not paying the breeders for the puppies she purchased, and a history of selling sick and/or dying dogs. Individuals who received puppies from Piskorski reported to the state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection that their puppies had Giardia, coccidia and/or hypoglycemia, and some of them died, according to state records.

Piskorski also has a history of prior court cases for various charges. In 2023, explaining to a licensed breeder why he could not lawfully sell puppies to Piskorski, the DATCP stated, “Bonnie has had legal trouble in the past with DATCP for operating without a license and criminal trouble in Waupaca County, Wisconsin.” Stemming from 2023 charges, part of her bond condition was that “defendant shall not sell any dogs unless she is a licensed dog breeder.” The state, however, did find Piskorski selling dogs through or in conjunction with associates after that date. State records indicate that the unlicensed seller asked other dog dealers to lie to the department or refuse to speak to them about their dealings. Her associates include some of the other breeders in this report, Clyde and Emma Horst and Ervin Miller.

A summary of a state investigation dated January 2025 concluded that: “at all times pursuant to the timeline of this investigation, Ms. Piskorski was under bond conditions prohibiting her from selling or having possession of dogs. In response to this, Piskorski has devised new manner of concealing transactions and has recruited her daughter [whom] she is prohibited from contacting to advertise, transfer and sell dogs. Piskorski advised a co-conspirator to ignore the veterinary care needs of puppies dying from fatal parasitic infections and provided guidance on avoiding having to pay back consumer who purchased said puppies.”

Despite not having a current license to sell dogs, Piskorski appeared to advertise at least one litter of puppies [on Facebook](#) in January 2026, a fact that Humane World for Animals reported to the state in March 2026. Piskorski’s next court hearing for various charges is in May 2026. Former WI #490810.

Samuel J. Yoder, Augusta, Wisconsin | Repeat Offender: Second time in this report

USDA inspectors found a strong smell, puppies on surfaces caked with feces, and a dog with hair loss; licensee had veterinary care violations four years in a row.

During a February 2026 USDA inspection, inspectors found six violations at Yoder’s facility, including veterinary care concerns, which has been a recurring issue at the kennel. One of the most concerning violations was related to an adult male poodle who “had hair loss on its lower back. The hair loss has been there for a few months and according to the licensee, the hair loss has increased over time.” Yoder admitted he had not contacted the attending veterinarian about the issue, and the inspector stated that hair loss “can indicate underlying health issues” and “can be irritating and can potentially even be caused by something that is contagious to other dogs or even people.” In addition, a mother dog with her puppies was in an enclosure with carpeting that “was filthy and discolored from the fecal material on it.” Inspectors also noted a strong odor and added, “the puppy cages were dirty and had a good amount of fecal

material caking the grates and surfaces that the dogs were laying on.” Finally, some of the puppies were not being vaccinated or dewormed on the proper schedule, leaving them vulnerable to diseases and parasites. Yoder also had USDA violations in 2025, 2024 and 2023 for veterinary care deficiencies and other issues. USDA #35-A-0523.

Eva and William “Junior” Yutzy, Hillsboro, Wisconsin | Repeat Offender: Third time in this report Breeder had violations at 10 USDA inspections between 2022 and 2026; USDA found in January 2026 that a veterinarian had not examined each dog since 2023.

Even though current USDA regulations require all USDA-licensed breeders to have each breeding dog examined annually by their veterinarian, a USDA inspector noted in January 2026 that the last time Eva and William “Junior” Yutzy’s veterinarian had examined each of their dogs individually was in 2023. During the same inspection, the inspector found repeat violations for unclean conditions and lack of identification, and the breeder received a direct violation for a dog in need of veterinary care. It was not the first time recurring violations were found at the Yutzy facility; between April 2022 and July 2024, the Yutzys failed to be fully compliant at nine other USDA inspections, for a total of 10 noncompliant inspections in under five years. Prior intermittent issues included dirty conditions, missing records and veterinary problems. USDA #35-A-0405, WI #467389.

Methodology and resources

Purpose of the report

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

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

How the *Horrible Hundred* were chosen

It is not possible to list all of the problematic puppy mills in the country in a single report. Due to the patchwork of laws across the U.S., spotty enforcement and other restrictions in some parts of the country, many puppy mills operate largely hidden and unseen. Many are not required to be regulated or simply fail to get the required licenses, and very little information on them is available to the public. We selected the facilities listed in the report(s) to demonstrate common problems and conditions at puppy mills (and some puppy mill transporters/brokers) across the United States. The dealers listed in this year’s report were selected based upon a number of factors, which included, but were not limited to:

- The availability of state kennel inspection reports showing violations or concerns, and related documents received via public records requests.
- The availability of federal (USDA) breeder or broker inspection reports showing violations or related documents received via public records requests.
- Federal, state or county official warnings, suspensions or fines, if available.
- The quantity of violations found in inspection reports and/or the severity of violations, especially those affecting animal safety and health, and how recently the violations occurred.
- Whether a seller appears to be providing misleading or potentially fraudulent information to puppy buyers.
- Whether a facility’s violations or other issues seemed newsworthy and of interest to the public.
- Whether the dealer was listed in one of Humane World’s prior reports and has continued to accumulate violations since then.

- The availability of consumer complaints, investigation reports, photographs and/or news articles, or undercover photographs and video taken by Humane World for Animals investigators.
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business or in possession of an active license at the time of publication.

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

If a breeding facility is not listed in the report, it may be due to a lack of available records and/or a lack of information or space, not necessarily a lack of significant problems. Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation or litigation. Some brokers (resellers) and transporters were included because many brokers are also breeders or support the industry by buying from puppy mills. Pet stores were only included if the operators were also breeders/brokers.

Throughout the report, the notation "Repeat Offender" means that the facility or operator has appeared in one or more prior Humane World for Animals puppy mills reports, including *Missouri's Dirty Dozen* (2010); *Update Report: Missouri's Dirty Dozen* (2011), the *Horrible Hundred* (2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and/or 2025) and/or *101 Puppy Mills* (2014).

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

About links

Starting in 2023, Humane World for Animals began linking entries in the report directly to inspection reports and other public documents [in Airtable](#) to make the report shorter and more navigable, while still ensuring that all details are available to readers who want more information. Humane World for Animals redacted some information from the inspection reports that we received via Freedom of Information Act requests and public right-to-know laws. Personal addresses, phone numbers and other identifying information (other than owner name, kennel name and city/state) have been redacted. Photos that show a person's face may have been redacted or altered to conceal the face. In a few cases, we made redactions to inspection reports to remove the names of family members, inspectors, veterinarians, complainants and/or other private individuals.

Although we linked to recent inspection documents and other documents we used to create the report, it should be noted that Humane World for Animals researchers do not have access to all inspection reports. Some reports may have been unavailable to us due to pending investigations, administrative delays, or other reasons. The links used in this report should not be considered a complete list of each dealer's inspection report history.

Buyer beware

Humane World for Animals urges pet lovers to refuse to buy a pet from any breeder they have not met and screened in person. To avoid supporting an inhumane breeder, buyers should never purchase a puppy from a pet store, over the internet or at a third-party location such as a flea market.

Complaints about puppies purchased via social media are also on the rise. Buyers should make sure to visit any breeder and see the conditions in which their puppy was born and raised. Individuals who have purchased a sick puppy whom they believe may have come from a puppy mill may file a report with the USDA using their online [form](#) and to Humane World for Animals at humaneworld.org/puppycomplaint. Buyers of sick puppies may also consider filing a complaint with the breeder's state department of agriculture and/or their state attorney general or consumer protection division.

Potential puppy buyers who witness suspected animal cruelty at a dog breeding operation should report it to the breeder's local animal control agency or local humane organization. If no such agency exists, report details to the local police or sheriff's department. For additional help, submit a complaint to Humane World at humaneworld.org/reportapupmymill.



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