



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

# **The Horrible Hundred 2024**

One hundred problem puppy mills and puppy sellers in the United States

The 2024 Horrible Hundred report lists 100 problem puppy breeders and dealers in the United States. The Humane Society of the United States publishes the report annually to educate consumers about common problems at puppy mills, and to promote enhanced laws and stronger humane law enforcement.

## ABOUT THIS YEAR'S REPORT

- **For the 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row, Missouri has the highest number of dealers in the report** (23), followed this year by Ohio (20), Iowa (15) and Wisconsin (10).
- **At least nine of the dealers have sold to Petland**, the only national chain of pet stores in the United States that still sells puppies. Petland claims to purchase only from top-tier breeders, but our research and investigations have proven otherwise.
- **About half of the breeders discussed are repeat offenders** who have appeared in one or more prior reports. The HSUS urges enforcement authorities to take a very close look at these dealers.
- **More than 20 of the breeders in this report are linked to the American Kennel Club (AKC)**, a dog registry group that frequently lobbies against stronger humane laws.
- **Some states, such as Indiana and Oklahoma**, are underrepresented this year because they did not respond to our requests under state public record laws in a timely manner or claimed that none of the dealers in their state had any recent violations. Poor enforcement and a lack of transparency with public records means some states that have large numbers of puppy mills are not represented as fully as they should be.



A dog at Steve Kruse's Stonehenge Kennel, where USDA has found more than 140 sick and injured animals over the years. *Photo by United States Department of Agriculture, 2022*

## Some prior Horrible Hundred dealers have been taken to court or have closed down.

After we published our 2023 report, some dealers listed closed voluntarily and others have been charged with animal cruelty or neglect. Our Animal Rescue Team assisted in removing 110 cats from Virginia breeders Elena and Andrey Mikirticheva, who were included in the last report after incurring dozens of U.S. Department of Agriculture violations tied to ailing dogs and cats; the USDA has now [permanently revoked](#) their license and fined them up to \$300,000. Mary Ann Smith (Smith's Kennel) of Missouri dropped both her state and USDA licenses reportedly after pressure from local authorities. Clem Disterhaupt, Jr. (Ponca Creek Kennel) in Nebraska and Loren Yoder (Sunset Valley Farm) in Iowa also closed after many appearances on the Horrible Hundred list; Yoder relinquished about 130 dogs to shelters and was charged with 41 counts of animal neglect. One of the

Kansas dealers who closed in 2022 (Samuel Roman, Tree of Life Kennels) was sentenced to serve jail time in 2023. These are just a few of many repeat offenders who are now out of the breeding business.

Since we published our first report in 2013, at least 2,000 dogs have been rescued from Horrible Hundred dealers who downsized or shut down their operations, and about 250 puppy mills from the reports have closed. But at least 16 dealers who have been in the report five, six or even more times remain in business despite recurring and egregious animal care violations. The HSUS urges authorities to take stronger action against repeat offenders and to enact tougher policies to prevent poor conditions from escalating into animal cruelty.

The HSUS supports two federal bills that would improve the safety and conditions of dogs in commercial breeding operations: the Puppy Protection Act (PPA) and the Better Collaboration, Accountability, and Enforcement (CARE) for Animals Act. The PPA would enhance the standards of care at USDA-licensed dog breeding operations, while the Better CARE Act would give the United States Department of Justice more tools to step in and shut down problematic USDA-licensed breeders. More than half of the dealers in this report are USDA-licensed.

The USDA is the only agency that has the authority to regulate pet breeders in all 50 states under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), but only if the breeders have five or more breeding females and sell to pet stores, brokers or online, sight-unseen. The USDA does not license or inspect breeders who only sell to the public in person, even if those breeders have hundreds of dogs. The Animal Welfare Act standards are minimal, and enforcement continues to be spotty, with the agency rarely shutting down problem breeders. USDA enforcement improved in 2023, with the USDA issuing administrative complaints at quadruple the rate compared to the prior four years. Unfortunately, most of the USDA's actions were official warnings, which bear no penalty.

In addition to the AWA, [some state laws](#) apply to commercial breeders. In states that do inspect kennels, such as Missouri, we have 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 USDA inspectors. On the other hand, many states have breeder laws that they rarely enforce, such as Oklahoma, which, when we submitted an open records request for dog breeder violations from May 2023 to February 2024, claimed to have absolutely nothing to report—despite the fact that the HSUS Animal Rescue Team assisted with two puppy mill closures in the state in March 2024, involving about 250 dogs. Finally, 16 of the 50 states have no breeder regulations at all, leaving thousands of dogs at large-scale breeding operations completely unregulated 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, since many breeders are never inspected, and documentation of poor 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, court documents and/or photographs.

While some of these businesses may have passed recent inspections or attempted to address violations noted in recent inspection reports, concerns remain because of the severe or recurring nature of the violations. Our Methodology section [describes](#) more about how we select dealers for inclusion in the report, how we define a puppy mill and other information.

The public can do its part to stop supporting puppy mills like the ones in this report by choosing adoption first when getting a pet, or buying pets only from carefully screened breeders they meet in person.

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Dogs at Elisa Brandvik's facility were repeatedly found in unsanitary conditions; Brandvik sold at least one puppy to Petland. *Photo by United States Department of Agriculture, 2022*

## ARKANSAS

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

**[Elisa Brandvik, Ozark, Arkansas: Breeder received two Critical violations for refusing inspections and verbally abusing her inspector; the USDA filed an administrative complaint.](#)** In February 2024, Brandvik received a repeat, Critical violation from the USDA for being hostile to an inspector and refusing an inspection. Allegedly, she refused to let the inspector investigate an issue regarding a dog with sutures, and inspectors had to leave the property. It was the second time she was cited for a similar issue. In August 2023, she had another Critical violation for abusing an inspector, allegedly yelling and cursing and then refusing the inspection. In October 2023, the USDA issued an administrative complaint due to violations found at five inspections between 2022 and 2023; the complaint was amended in 2024 after the incident in February. Earlier in 2023, inspectors had cited the licensee for issues with poor housing, puppies who had no water and filthy conditions. Photographs taken during USDA inspections show dogs in dismal, dim and dirty conditions, with greenish water and piles of feces. Brandvik sold at least one puppy to a Petland store in 2016, which was revealed [in the media](#) because the puppy was so thin that visitors to the store took photos and notified a news outlet. Brandvik has also sold puppies to Pinnacle Pet, a broker that supplies puppies to Petland and other pet stores nationwide. USDA #71-A-1423. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Misty Means, Ash Flat, Arkansas: Received an official warning from the USDA for a dog with extensive hair loss and red skin, and a dog with swollen, red eyes.](#)** In June 2023, a USDA inspector cited Means for a Direct violation, which is a violation indicating current and present harm or risk of harm to an animal, due to a French bulldog who was found with “multiple areas of patchy or partial hair loss and red skin—to include all four legs and feet, belly, face, and neck.” In addition, a female English bulldog was squinting, with “thick white-yellow discharge on the surface of the eye and surrounding fur and the tissue around both eyes was red and swollen.” The inspector added, “licensee has not consulted a veterinarian about either dog even though the problems had been noted prior.” In July, the USDA gave Means an official warning related to the violation, but an inspector who returned in August 2023 found additional violations, including three dogs who had no water, and no proof of Parvovirus/distemper vaccinations for any of the adult dogs. USDA #71-A-1415.

**[Lyndal Swartzentruber, Pocahontas, Arkansas: The USDA found dogs with matted and twisted hair and others with patches of hair loss, and excessive feces in many of the dog enclosures.](#)** In February 2024, USDA inspectors found dogs at Swartzentruber’s facility who were badly matted, with several of them so bad that their fur was excessively matted and twisted on their faces, heads, bodies, legs and feet. The violation was especially egregious, given that the breeder had been warned just months prior about similar concerns. In August 2023, USDA inspectors noted a dog with matted hair and patches of “missing or very thin hair,” another dog with hair loss around both eyes, a grimy water bowl, and excessive feces in many of the enclosures. The inspector noted that “the owner hosed off the washdowns under the wire floor, but had not removed the feces from the suspended wire floor for several days. Some of the feces has white areas, indicating that they are dry and have been there for more than a day. The amount of feces makes it difficult for the enclosed dogs to avoid stepping in it and becoming soiled.” The facility had about 68 dogs and puppies at the 2024 inspection. USDA #71-A-1412.

## ILLINOIS

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

**Christie Hardt/B and C Kennels, Clare, Illinois: Breeder was found selling puppies from unknown and possibly unlicensed breeders without a broker license; has had complaints about sick puppies.** State inspectors visited B and C Kennels in August 2023 after receiving a complaint from a buyer about unsanitary conditions and “health concerns for animals.” They issued a violation for unsanitary conditions, and also discovered Hardt had puppies for sale from another breeder, which was clear because the puppies were a different breed from the breeding dogs she had on site. Hardt was not licensed to resell puppies from other breeders, a significant concern because it is unknown if the real breeder was licensed or had humane conditions. Hardt was already warned about a similar issue in the past, as we documented in our 2016 report. The buyer also reported getting a sick puppy, which was a recurring issue for the kennel. The complainant alleged that their puppy had been diagnosed with giardia and was underweight and malnourished, and that the kennel had “a strong smell of urine and appeared to be unsanitary.” Additional complaints about sick puppies purchased at B and C Kennels have been reported online via Yelp and other sites.

The issues found in 2023 echoed earlier concerns about the kennel. In 2016, Hardt was issued two \$500 state fines. One was for failing to test breeding dogs for Brucellosis, a contagious, zoonotic disease. Two dogs sold by the facility had tested positive for brucellosis. The other fine was for selling a puppy with parvovirus. Hardt also admitted in 2016 that many of the puppies she sold came from out-of-state dealers in Mississippi and Tennessee. Hardt did not obtain a dealer (broker) license until November 2023. B & C Kennels offers puppies online at [www.bandcpups.com](http://www.bandcpups.com). IL #022-79 and #029-15027. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## INDIANA

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

**Wayne and Karen Kaye Miller/Rowe Eden Kennels, Middlebury, Indiana: Received a Critical violation for refusing a USDA inspection; USDA license is now listed in their database as revoked; breeder sold to Petland.** In November 2023, Wayne and Karen Kaye Miller received a Critical violation from the USDA for refusing an inspection. The USDA inspector reported that they arrived during the licensee’s optimal business hours, but the man who answered the door, and who identified himself as Karen’s husband, refused to let inspectors in the kennel to see the dogs. Prior issues at the kennel included a Direct violation, one of the most serious citations the USDA can give, in 2019, for a wheaten terrier with an obviously painful condition that, records show, the licensee knew about for about six weeks but hadn’t treated, likely leaving the dog in pain for a prolonged period. The inspector wrote, “A prolapse is a painful condition which left untreated can cause additional suffering, infection and/or death.” In 2018, Wayne Miller sold puppies to the Olathe, Kansas, Petland store. Shortly after getting the Direct violation, he cancelled his USDA license, but the family picked up a new license with a new number at the same address, essentially hiding past violations that were linked to the prior license. The newer USDA license number under Karen’s name at the same address is listed as “revoked” on the USDA’s database as of February 2024, but the breeders may still be selling under their state license. Former USDA #32-A-0787 (revoked) and #32-A-0479 (cancelled), IN #CB0003RE. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## IOWA

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

### **Larry Albrecht/Coldwater Kennel, Greene, Iowa: Huge breeder who sold to Petland had USDA violations for at least four years in a row; his 2024 license renewal was delayed due to unsanitary and unsafe conditions.**

In April 2024, state inspectors found a Yorkie at Coldwater Kennel who had hair loss on his tail, hind end and all four feet; they required Albrecht to have the dog examined by a veterinarian. In addition, the USDA found violations at Coldwater Kennel for four years in a row. At a relicensure inspection in January 2024, the USDA found three violations related to unsafe housing and unsanitary conditions. Albrecht was required to pass another inspection before obtaining a new license, which happened about a week later. The facility had 280 dogs at the time. In June 2023, USDA inspectors found several other violations, including an issue with dogs needing dental care, which Albrecht had received an official warning about in the past. As we noted in our 2022 report, Albrecht received an official warning from the USDA in 2021 for leaving a dog in poor dental health, with issues such as loose teeth and bleeding gums. He was also cited for a similar issue in 2017. Albrecht has sold puppies to many pet stores, including at least one Petland store. USDA #42-A-1212, IA #2691. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

### **Helene Hamrick/Wolf Point Kennel, Ackworth, Iowa: The USDA found veterinary care violations at four different inspections between 2023 and early 2024, including dogs with signs of injuries and infections.**

**Ailing dogs have been found at the kennel on and off for about a decade.** Even after appearing in our 2023 Horrible Hundred report for a lack of adequate veterinary care, Hamrick continued to receive violations, including repeat violations for dogs in need of veterinary care, at two more USDA inspections at the end of 2023 and one in early 2024. Issues found during the late-2023 inspections included a dog with an injured toe pad; a dog with a head tilt and signs of an ear infection; a puppy with an eye condition; and another dog with significant “hot spots,” a skin condition. Inspectors also found unsafe and dirty conditions, with at least one dog with feces adhered to the fur. In February 2024, a USDA inspector found some dogs who were so badly matted that they had fecal material “twisted into the matts” and were at risk of “pain and discomfort” due to the twisted and matted hair coats. Issues at Wolf Point Kennel have been recurring for a decade. USDA #42-A-0124, IA #149.

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

### **Freeman P. Helmuth/Sunrise Kennels, Corydon, Iowa: Inspectors found a puppy with discharge around her eyes and nose, in such poor condition that one eye was sealed shut, yet she had not been taken to a veterinarian; breeder sold to Petland stores.**

Inspectors found problems with Sunrise Kennels during a state inspection and two USDA inspections in 2023. In late April 2023, the USDA found a pug puppy suffering from “poor eye health and nasal discharge.” The puppy’s condition was so dire that her left eye was “sealed shut by dry yellow colored discharge.” The puppy also had discharge around the nostrils, and her right eye was “completely cloudy.” The USDA noted that the puppy had not been evaluated by a veterinarian and was not receiving any treatment. There were about 90 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. When the USDA returned in November 2023, it found a hole chewed in the side of a bag of dog food, with evidence of rodent feces nearby. Sunrise Kennels has sold puppies to at least two Petland stores in recent years. After incurring the violations in 2023, it appears that a Freeman P. Helmuth obtained a new license at an adjacent address. Former USDA #42-A-1705, new USDA #42-A-1724, former IA #12181.

### **Bruce Hooyer/JKLM Farm aka Shaggy Hill Farm, Sioux Center, Iowa: Kennel had a strong odor and excessive feces; facility has had recurring issues since at least 2017.**

State inspectors who visited JKLM Farm in March 2024 found a variety of violations that indicate ongoing sanitation issues at the kennel. They noted a strong smell

in the whelping building, a buildup of feces underneath the flooring in some of the whelping kennels, excessive rust and a lack of an updated veterinary inspection, with the last veterinary inspection form signed in 2022. In March 2023, state inspectors noted concerns about the number of dogs at the kennel, stating it “is a tremendous amount of work for two people” to take care of 125 dogs, and that “the number of dogs has increased.” (As of March 2024, the number of dogs was down only slightly, at 109.) Some of the dogs were matted or missing their vaccines. Similar issues have been noted repeatedly at the kennel as far back as 2017. Inspectors have also noted that several dogs and puppies had died at the operation between 2017 and 2018. IA #11102. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Connie and Harold Johnson/Furbabies Forever, formerly CW’s Quaint Critters, Melvin, Iowa: Kennel has had recurring sanitation and housing concerns for over a decade.** During a September 2023 state inspection, Furbabies Forever was found to have rust peeling and flaking from some of the kennels, as well as chewed areas in the kennels and a buildup of hair at the bottom of some of the enclosures. Similar issues were observed at the facility off and on for more than a decade. When inspectors came back later that month, they weren’t granted access to the kennel, another repeated issue.

As we noted in some of our previous Horrible Hundred reports, Furbabies Forever/CW’s Quaint Critters also has a long history of evading state and/or federal inspections, and when inspectors do get in, they usually find violations. For example, before a completed inspection in February 2019, the property had not been inspected since 2016, when USDA inspectors found violations for a strong odor, puppies on dangerous wire flooring, and inadequate identification. The operation cancelled its USDA license in September 2019, when, according to the USDA inspection report in February, “The licensee surrendered their license before the inspection could be conducted” and “no exit briefing was conducted.” The kennel is still licensed by the state, but still often dodges inspections. Being only state-licensed, but not USDA-licensed, the breeders can legally sell directly to buyers but cannot ship puppies sight-unseen or sell to pet stores or brokers. Former USDA #42-B-0226, IA #4660. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SEVENTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Linda, Stanley and Bethany Korver, Orange City, Iowa: Two back-to-back inspections uncovered 22 violations, including nine repeat violations, for dirty and unsafe conditions and inadequate veterinary care.** During two separate USDA inspections, in February and May 2023, USDA inspectors found a total of 22 violations at the Korver kennel. Nine of the violations found in May 2023 were repeat violations that had not been corrected from the previous inspection, including dirty and unsafe conditions, poor record-keeping on puppies, and accumulations of cobwebs, dust, debris and feces. All 27 adult dogs were lacking proof of veterinary examinations, rabies vaccines and other preventative tests, according to the federal inspection report. Prior issues at the facility included a lethargic and thin dog found in 2016 who was so malnourished that inspectors could see her ribs and hip bones, and dirty conditions. The licensees did pass two inspections in late 2023. USDA #42-A-1448, IA #499.

**Patti Kowitz/Tannin Border Collies, aka Wapsi River Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Calamus, Iowa: State inspectors found strong odor of feces at three inspections in a row of AKC-linked breeder; only one individual was caring for almost 60 dogs.** Within less than 12 months, Tannin Border Collies dodged two state inspections in a row, and then failed four more inspections in a row. The noncompliant inspections occurred between October 2023 and January 2024. At all four inspections, inspectors noticed an odor, which they described as a strong or excessive odor three times, and other issues. During one of the visits, inspectors found a dog with a paw injury or growth that needed to be treated; it was later noted that it was a cancerous growth. At a visit in January 2024, six different noncompliances were found related to issues such as dirty, cluttered and smelly conditions, and the inspector noted that “The conditions of facility indicate current number of dogs may

be too high for one individual to care for.” There were almost 60 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. In November 2023, inspectors found a shivering dog without sufficient shelter from the cold. Kowitz registers dogs with the American Kennel Club, and, as of April 2024, she had puppies for sale on the AKC [Marketplace website](#). IA #11520.

**Steve Kruse/Stonehenge Kennel, West Point, Iowa: Massive puppy mill that has been found with over 140 sick or injured dogs since 2015 continues to operate with huge numbers of dogs after USDA suspension was lifted.** Even after it appeared in six prior Horrible Hundred reports for issues with sick and injured dogs, USDA inspectors continued to find ill or wounded dogs at Stonehenge Kennel at two more inspections in 2023. Kruse received a 21-day suspension from the USDA in March 2023, but records show the USDA continued to find more ailing dogs even during the suspension period. In addition to the USDA violations, state inspectors also found violations in the second half of 2023 for issues such as a strong odor, no solid resting surfaces and unsanitary conditions. While Kruse did pass some inspections later in the year, a September 2023 state inspection found a limping dog and noted that dogs were not being removed from their enclosures during pressure washing. As noted in our prior report, at least 199 dogs were euthanized at the facility in 2021, after Kruse exchanged dogs with a notorious puppy mill operator, Daniel Gingerich, whose license was revoked that same year. Some of Kruse’s recent inspections have been compliant, but because of his history of failing to stay in compliance, the HSUS continues to have grave concerns about the dogs in Stonehenge Kennel. USDA #42-B-0182, IA #4576. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SEVENTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Heath “Rex” Meyers/Century Farm Puppies, Grundy Center, Iowa: Breeder with more than 230 dogs failed state and USDA inspections repeatedly; when asked about 26 dogs crossed off the records, owner said they were “likely euthanized.”** Inspectors found numerous violations at Century Farm Puppies again and again in 2023 and early 2024, including sick dogs and poor conditions. In January 2024, a USDA inspector found 240 dogs at the facility and issued two repeat violations, one for a veterinary care issue and one for unsanitary conditions. In August 2023, USDA inspectors asked about the use of a controlled substance that had been provided by the licensee’s veterinarian, but which apparently wasn’t being properly documented and monitored. It seems that the substance may have been used to kill dogs, because when USDA inspectors asked the licensee what had happened to 26 adult dogs whose names were crossed off the records with no other explanation. The licensee said they were “likely euthanized.” Additionally, inspectors noted that the facility was performing its own dental cleanings and some types of extractions with permission from their veterinarian; however, “the facility [was] not completing effective dental cleanings or following their dental procedure plan” and “the facility is having new employees conduct these dental cleanings that may not be appropriately [trained] by other senior staff.” Other issues found at the facility in 2023 included many dogs in need of veterinary care, wire flooring that could trap the dogs’ paws, poorly groomed dogs, and an inspector said the entire adult population of dogs did not have enough space for exercise or access to exercise. USDA #42-A-1672, former USDA #42-B-0142, IA #8739. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Joel Paris/Paris Puppies Paradise, Ogden, Iowa: Puppy mill is still operating even after nearly 100 dogs were rescued from the property in late 2023, reportedly underweight and living in feces; breeder was fined and pled guilty to “animal neglect resulting in death” and injury, but still has dogs for sale online.** Even after nearly [100 dogs were removed](#) from the property in September 2023, and it was presumed that the operation was closing down, Paris Puppies Paradise continued to operate in 2024. At the time that the 100 dogs, mostly goldendoodles, were removed, witnesses described the dogs as “underweight and living in their own feces,” according to a news report. What’s more, the kennel continued to accumulate violations at a dozen more inspections even after the dogs were removed, state records show. Examples of some of the recent violations

included a dog with severe hair loss, dogs with matting, filthy conditions and other significant concerns. Some of the violations were for attempted inspections, a frequent violation at the kennel, which has failed to give access to inspectors at 23 different visits since 2014. In April 2024, Paris was fined over \$2,600 after pleading guilty to “animal neglect resulting in death” and “animal neglect resulting in injury,” but it appears the kennel is still in business. As of April 16, 2024, the operation still had dogs listed for sale on [its website and Facebook page](#). IA #10276. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Wuanita Swedlund, Cantril, Iowa: Dealer was forced to downsize after multiple puppies died in the cold; one puppy had to be euthanized after his leg was chewed off; dealer was exchanging dogs with repeat offender Steve Kruse.** In the winter of 2023-2024, Iowa officials worked with Wuanita Swedlund to reduce the size of her kennel from about 159 dogs to 30 dogs, after multiple dogs died in the cold and she failed numerous inspections, according to the *Iowa Capital Dispatch*. Swedlund had failed at least six inspections in a row (some federal and some state) in late 2023 and early 2024 due to many severe issues, including injured, limping dogs, puppies with leg deformities, and at least six puppies who had died in cold and drafty conditions. In one case, a dog in an enclosure had been able to access a neighboring enclosure and partially ate a puppy, resulting in the loss of the puppy’s leg; the puppy 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 had eaten the puppy. The inspector noted that “maternal cannibalistic behavior is abnormal and may be a sign of behavioral stress.” 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.” The association with licensee Steve Kruse is a grave concern because of Kruse’s long history of similar violations. As a footnote to that inspection, the state inspector indicated that Swedlund didn’t have an Iowa permit to sell dogs and that it must be addressed immediately.

Swedlund received an official warning from the USDA in January 2024. Even after that warning, Swedlund had several repeat violations at her February 2024 state inspection. The USDA and state inspectors both reported that Swedlund did not have enough employees to properly care for so many dogs. She signed the kennel reduction agreement later in February but will only be held to those requirements for one year, according to the *Dispatch*. USDA #42-B-0340, IA #12343.

**Ed Van Doorn/Squaw Creek Kennels, Barnes City, Iowa: The USDA found breeder performed do-it-yourself “major surgery” on puppies without veterinary supervision and provided false information on health certificates; the USDA imposed no significant penalty.** In November 2023, the [USDA found egregious violations](#) at Squaw Creek Kennels but failed to penalize the breeder in any significant way. Inspectors found Ed Van Doorn was performing major do-it-yourself veterinary procedures on puppies, yet categorized the violation as “non-critical,” stating: “The licensee gives buyers the option of having a puppy neutered before it ships and the licensee says he performs most of these neuters at his facility without veterinary supervision. The surgeries are done in a multi-use room used for grooming, surgeries, and other procedures using the licensee’s own equipment and instruments.” The USDA did mark a Critical violation having to do with falsifying health certificates, stating, “Dogs requiring a health certificate for transport are examined by the attending veterinarian, but the licensee fills out and prints the health certificates, changing the consignor information on some.”

At the same visit, the USDA noted that the breeder used strong prescription medications on dogs without properly documenting their use. The USDA marked the violation as “non-critical” even though misuse of such drugs could be deadly. The inspector wrote, “licensee uses xylazine and torbugesic when doing neuters, hernia repairs, and dentals at his facility, but there are no records of their use. The licensee did have a bottle of each of these medications that had labels indicating they were from his veterinarian.” Xylazine is a potentially dangerous tranquilizer that the [Centers for Disease Control](#) says “is increasingly being found in the US illegal drug supply

and linked to overdose deaths.” In December 2023, the USDA gave the breeder an official warning for the falsified health certificates, but as of April 2024, it appears he received no fines, warnings or other penalties for the do-it-yourself surgeries. In January 2024, state and USDA inspectors found additional violations. There were 126 dogs on the property. Shortly after that, Van Doorn canceled his USDA license, but as of April 16, 2024, he was still licensed by the state, and still had puppies advertised on [his website](#). Former USDA #42-B-0090, IA #2504.

**Dennis and Donna Van Wyk/Prairie Lane Kennel, New Sharon, Iowa: Dogs and puppies were sitting and standing in feces; three puppies had no water; dogs were exposed to the cold; recurring issues date back to at least 2015.** Even after appearing in four of our prior Horrible Hundred reports, Prairie Lane Kennel continued to accumulate violations as recently as January 2024, when inspectors found some of the dogs did not have adequate protection from the cold, and found a repeat violation for excessive feces, with so much filth that the dogs had trampled it. The licensee admitted the enclosures had not been cleaned in three days. In December 2023, USDA inspectors had also seen dogs and puppies exposed to “an excessive buildup of feces,” and some adult dogs were stepping in the feces and had feces on their paws, while an enclosure with three puppies in it had so much feces that it covered about 50% of the floor space, and some of the puppies were seen sitting in the wastes. In addition, three puppies had no access to water. USDA #42-A-0331, IA #10071. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FIFTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Charles Vogl/SCW Frenchies, Atlantic, Iowa: State inspector found a strong odor of ammonia and feces inside the whelping building; clutter around building harbored dirt and vermin.** Even after appearing in two of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for issues such as dogs left in the freezing cold with only frozen water, excessive feces and foul odors in the kennel, state inspectors once again found a strong odor of ammonia and waste and excessive feces at SCW Frenchies in December 2023. During the same visit, inspectors also found unsafe structures, trash and clutter. The inspector noted that it seemed “several days” were passing without feces being removed from some areas. Inspectors found similar issues in prior years (2021 and 2020). IA #11155. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Terry Yoder/BR’s Dobermans, Riverside, Iowa: Holes in the floor allowed dogs “to fall through to the outside”; dogs’ indoor living spaces were covered in dirt, hair, feces and grime; mouse feces were “on all surfaces throughout the facility.”** During a January 2024 inspection, state inspectors found several very troubling violations at BR’s Dobermans, including holes in the wood floor of one building that allowed “animals to fall through to the outside,” excessive trash and clutter, and mouse feces “present on all surfaces throughout the facility.” Inspectors reported that all the indoor enclosures were “coated in dirt, hair, feces and grime” and “have not been sanitized for an extended period of time.” Veterinary records were not complete, with no proof of distemper or parvovirus vaccines for many of the adult dogs. When state inspectors returned in February 2024 to reinspect, they documented that the owner refused the inspection, stating that he still had not repaired the buildings and that “he had not cleaned in at least 36 hours,” leaving grave concerns for the welfare of the dogs. When they returned yet again in late February 2024 and in March 2024, there were still numerous violations present, including clutter, grime, bad odors and a lack of a written disease control and prevention program. IA #11955.

## KANSAS

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

**Raymond and Marlene Aurand/Aurand's Kennel, Salina, Kansas: Received official warning from the USDA; a cat had hair loss, scabs and sores; the USDA also found insufficient veterinary treatment for puppies and lack of vaccine proof for dogs.** Aurand's Kennel breeds both puppies and kittens. In February 2024, the kennel received five different USDA violations, and four of them were for issues related to the veterinary care of dogs and cats. A Direct violation was issued for a cat with hair loss "on her entire back, from her shoulders [and] including the top of her tail." The cat had scabs and pink sores; the licensee told the inspector that the cat had been examined by two veterinarians, but the inspector found out a veterinarian had not examined the cat for the problem since 2021. In addition to the issue with the cat, the licensees were cited for three different veterinary care issues related to dogs at the same February 2024 inspection, including an incomplete vet care plan, inappropriate worming medications being given to the puppies, and dogs without adequate proof of vaccinations. The facility was given an official USDA warning in March 2024. Between 2014 and 2024, the kennel had more than 40 USDA and state violations. USDA #48-A-1602, KS #CB000B8G.

**Judy Koehn/ Bow-Wow Mound Kennels, Burns, Kansas: State inspectors received complaint; found issues with insects, rust and accumulations of cobwebs and hair; massive facility has over 300 dogs and sold to Petland.** State inspectors who visited Bow-Wow Mound in August 2023 found issues with rusty fencing, accumulations of cobwebs and hair in some of the kennels, and excessive flying insects in the puppy building. The inspectors had arrived at the property to investigate a complaint about dogs in the heat with no water, but they deemed the complaint unfounded because the dogs had water at the time they arrived.

Prior issues at the kennel included two 2022 USDA violations for 60 dogs who had no official identification and approximately 46 puppies who had no inventory records (a repeat violation), which could make it difficult to match them with individual veterinary records and other vital data. There were 380 dogs on site at the time. In 2016, the USDA gave Koehn notice of a "repeat, direct NCI," the most serious type of violation issued by the USDA, for a lethargic male Pekingese who was found with piles of "loose, reddish-brown colored feces with mucus" in his enclosure; the dog also had fecal matter built up around his rear and tail, according to the USDA report. Issues at the kennel have been intermittent and stretch back to March 2014. In June 2015, a USDA inspector found an underweight female poodle at the kennel and instructed the licensee to have her examined by a licensed vet. Despite that warning, additional animals were found in need of veterinary care at the next inspection, in September 2015. Koehn has sold puppies to Petland. USDA #48-A-1503, KS #CB000ANR. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Krista LaRocque/Kansas Doodles and FasDogs, Bazine, Kansas: Inspectors found dogs in enclosed areas with temperatures over 87 degrees, and dirty conditions at breeder linked to AKC.** Kansas state inspectors found multiple violations at visits to Kansas Doodles in August 2023 and December 2023. In August, they found dogs kept in buildings with temperatures over 87 degrees and no air conditioning or other acceptable way to cool the kennel down. They also noted some issues with dirty conditions and enclosures that were in disrepair and could hurt the dogs. At a reinspection in December 2023, inspectors found that some surfaces still needed repairs and cleaning. As we noted in our prior report, the state investigated a complaint "about the welfare and living conditions of the dogs" at Kansas Doodles in June 2022 and found a strong odor, piles of feces, and many other issues. The facility offers dogs for sale [online](#). The owner of Kansas Doodles recently obtained a new hobby breeder license for a business called FasDogs, which also had some violations in December. The breeder

registers some of her dogs with the AKC, according to her Facebook. KS #CB002329 (Kansas Doodles) and #CB0028EZ (FasDogs). **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Kristal A. Stevens/Creekwell Shepherds, Rose Hill, Kansas: AKC breeder failed to safely fix kennel after large tree fell on it; housing for dogs was in poor repair; breeder advertised on AKC Marketplace.** State inspectors who visited Creekwell Shepherds in August 2023 found that a tree had fallen in the kennel yard and damaged areas so that dogs could possibly jump out and escape. Even though the tree had apparently been down for a long time, the licensee had not removed it but had put hotwire around it instead. Inspectors informed her this was not a safe way to keep dogs enclosed. Inspectors also found several other concerns regarding disrepair in the kennel. As we noted in our prior report, previous issues included eight different violations found in June 2022, including a dog with very noticeable hair loss who had been in that condition for about a year. Inspectors also noticed excessive flies, with some of the dogs having salve on their ears for flystrike, among other issues. The breeder has advertised on [AKC Marketplace](#). KS #CB0012LL. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Jennifer Walker/Walker's Family Kennel, McLouth, Kansas: Breeder sent dogs to Minnesota who tested positive for canine brucellosis and euthanized the remaining dogs on the premises.** In November 2023, state inspectors went to Walker's Family Kennel after being informed that the kennel had sent some dogs to Minnesota who tested positive for canine brucellosis, a [reportable zoonotic disease](#). The breeders stated that they intended to have their veterinarian euthanize the remaining dogs in their kennel, and the state confirmed that the remaining dogs did in fact get euthanized on Nov. 10, 2023. But as of April 16, 2024, the kennel's website was offering several breeds of puppies and was taking \$200 deposits on them, indicating the kennel is back in business. Prior violations at the kennel included state violations in 2022 for grime, excessive flies and feces accumulation. The state investigated a complaint in October 2022 about "dogs possibly having worms and unsanitary conditions," and rated the complaint "founded due to the unsanitary conditions." KS #CB001R1Y.

## MINNESOTA

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

**Rebecca and Tim Stille/Aria's Friends, Faribault, Minnesota: AKC breeder had recurring violations for mother dogs with nursing puppies who did not have adequate space, and veterinary care concerns.** USDA inspectors found veterinary care violations at three different visits to Aria's Friends in 2023 alone, along with other issues. In September 2023, a mother dog with four nursing puppies was found in an enclosure that was too small. USDA inspectors had noted similar violations in 2016, 2017 and 2018; each time, inspectors told the breeder that one or more dogs did not have enough space. There were also violations for veterinary care issues in earlier years, indicating the breeder was aware of the rules but repeatedly chose not to follow them. Issues go back to at least 2016, when inspectors said there was so much feces in some of the enclosures that the dogs had difficulty walking without getting soiled by feces. The breeder's [website](#) indicates she registers puppies with the American Kennel Club, which has repeatedly lobbied against laws that would require better conditions at commercial breeding facilities and help stop puppy mills. USDA #41-A-0489, MN #998693.

**Ada and Andy Yoder, Utica, Minnesota: Even after receiving an official warning about puppies who were too hot, facility was found again with excessive heat in the kennel, leaving puppies at risk; after getting a second Direct violation, Ada Yoder canceled her license, and a new USDA license was issued to Andy Yoder of the same address; facility sold to Petland.** In May 2023, Ada Yoder, a breeder who sold to Petland stores, received

an official warning from the USDA about puppies who had been found in an excessively hot kennel and appeared to be visibly uncomfortable. Even after receiving the warning, the exact same Direct violation was noted again just a few months later, in August 2023. The USDA somehow failed to cite it as a repeat violation, but both violations were listed as Direct, meaning they had a present, visible effect on the animals. At both inspections, veterinary care issues were also noted. Shortly after the August violation, in January 2024, Ada Yoder dropped her USDA license. The USDA then gave a new license number to a person at the same address named Andy D. Yoder, indicating that the same family is likely still operating on the same property, but may have switched license numbers to obscure their history of violations. The facility has sold to Petland, which claims it will not buy from breeders with multiple Direct violations. Former USDA #41-A-0506, current USDA #41-A-0515.

## MISSOURI

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

**[Steve and Sharon Allmon/S&S Kennel, Ava, Missouri: Puppy mill that had failed prelicense inspections in 2023 was found to be selling puppies in a parking lot without a license; state officials gave the puppy mill three more chances to pass.](#)** In October 2023, Missouri state officials received a complaint about a breeder selling puppies in a parking lot in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The complainant claimed that she and her friend had both purchased puppies who were “underweight and suffering from vomiting and diarrhea.” Inspectors found that the kennel was indeed selling puppies and did not have a license to do so. Allmon had not told the inspectors the truth when asked, according to the state’s report, but the inspectors confirmed the breeders were still selling puppies after finding the Allmons’ puppy ads on social media. Officials did not appear to fine or penalize the kennel, other than requiring the kennel to try to pass inspection yet again, stating that it would get three more chances. The state eventually gave the breeders a license despite their problematic history. As we noted in our 2023 Horrible Hundred report, concerns found during at least two failed prelicense inspections 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, no proof of a veterinary visit to the kennel since 2021, and more. MO #AC003JU0. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Dawn Boyles/ATBAY Kennels, Chula, Missouri: “All reasonable efforts to bring Ms. Boyles into compliance have been exhausted”; repeat offender was referred for legal action after acquiring more dogs instead of reducing her kennel size.](#)** In July 2023, state inspectors found that Dawn Boyles was continuing to add dogs to her kennel, despite the fact that she had agreed to downsize her kennel and had allegedly sold her dogs at an auction to reduce her numbers. Authorities wrote, “The evidence we have gathered indicates that Ms. Boyles has not reduced her inventory to three or less intact females. Further, she continues to violate the ACFA [Animal Care Facilities Act] by conducting activity as a commercial breeder while avoiding inspection. Finally, she is actually acquiring dogs rather than reducing her inventory. All reasonable efforts to bring Ms. Boyles into compliance have been exhausted. Ms. Boyles has shown the same disregard for our agreement as she has the ACFA. We respectfully request that Ms. Boyles be considered for legal referral, including injunctive relief and civil penalties.” As we noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report, state officials had found repeat violations at her kennel for issues such as dogs so badly matted that “mud balls” were starting to form on the matted areas, excessive feces, and dogs without enough space or shelter from the weather. Although Boyles no longer has an active license, she still had puppies offered on social media as of April 2024. Former USDA #43-T-0253, current USDA #43-T-0280, former MO #AC0037HY. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**[Vickie L. Burden/B&H Kennels, Dora, Missouri: Dodged five state inspections in a row; received official letter of warning from Missouri in 2023 and from the USDA in 2022.](#)** Vickie Burden received a warning letter from

the state of Missouri in August 2023. In addition, Burden dodged five separate inspection attempts in a row, and state officials noted that Burden had given no reason for not being available. Both before and after the five inspection attempts, inspectors found multiple concerns at the kennel related to sanitation and missing or incomplete records. It was not the first year that multiple concerns were found at B&H Kennels. In late May 2022, the USDA gave Vickie Burden an official warning letter after a French bulldog had been found with obvious ear issues that were not being adequately treated. Both of the dog's ears had a "rough, crusty, thickened appearance," and the inside of one ear was swollen and red. When asked about the dog, the breeder admitted she had been in that condition for about a year. After receiving the USDA warning, B&H Kennels had more violations during at least three more USDA inspections (September 2023, December 2023, March 2024) and four more state inspections (July 2022, January 2023, and two in August 2023), in addition to the many missed inspections. USDA #43-A-6034, MO #AC001UZ2.

**Maureen Butler/PugPekinPoo-Tzu, West Plains, Missouri: State and USDA inspectors repeatedly cited Butler for lacking hands-on veterinary examinations of dogs; kennel has a decade-long history of sick and injured dogs.** Despite a long history of sick and injured dogs at Pugpekinpoo-Tzu kennel, both USDA and state inspectors who visited the kennel in October 2023 found there was still a lack of adequate care. The USDA inspector noted that one shih tzu had a visible eye disorder, and no veterinarian had done a hands-on examination of the dogs in the kennel since March of 2022. This meant that the 180 adult dogs in the kennel missed their required annual veterinary examinations; there were also more than 30 puppies on-site. State inspectors also twice instructed Butler to get a veterinarian to visit the kennel in 2023, but when they visited in February 2024, they found that "the licensee [still] has not had a licensed veterinarian conduct the annual hands-on examinations," and noted it was the second repeat violation for the same issue. State inspectors also found a poodle who looked like she had been in a fight, an Australian shepherd with a large growth, a group of dogs who didn't have enough space, and other issues. Prior violations at the kennel included dogs who died after being injured in fights, dogs who had crusty ears, dogs with visible wounds or hair loss, and more. Issues stretch back to at least 2013, when state inspectors found dogs in below-freezing temperatures with water that was frozen solid and noted that dogs were visibly shivering in the cold. Butler registers some of her dogs with the AKC. Former USDA #43-A-5702, MO #AC0002EG. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Marty Clinton/Twin Springs Kennel, Vanzant, Missouri: State inspectors measured a temperature in the puppy building that was as high as 97 degrees; breeder had prior USDA warning for an "almost nonresponsive" puppy.** State inspectors who visited Twin Springs Kennel in July 2023 found unacceptable temperatures in the puppy building, with measurements of up to 97 degrees Fahrenheit. There were over 150 dogs and puppies on the property at the time. The kennel has also had prior violations with both the USDA and the state. As we wrote in our 2023 report, Clinton received an official warning from the USDA in January 2023 for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. During a December 2022 visit, inspectors had found an ailing Chihuahua puppy who was "almost nonresponsive" and only about half the size of his littermates; the USDA gave the breeder a Direct violation for the issue. A Direct violation is defined as "having a serious or severe adverse effect on the health and well-being of the animal" at the time of inspection. Yet it appears that the USDA did not confiscate the ailing puppy, and it is unknown if he survived. USDA #43-A-6452, MO #AC002RBD. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Beverly Hargis/Hargis' Sunshines Kennel, Hallsville, Missouri: USDA inspectors found many more issues at kennel where violations have recurred for almost a dozen years, including a strong odor, unsafe conditions and poor veterinary care; breeder has links to the AKC.** USDA inspectors found even more violations in late 2023 and early 2024 at Hargis' Sunshines Kennel, where the history of USDA violations stretches back to at least

2012. In January 2024, USDA inspectors found a buildup of feces in some of the outdoor enclosures. Violations found in June 2023 included a strong odor, unsafe conditions, and veterinary care concerns. In December 2023, the USDA was not given access to the kennel when they arrived for an inspection. Issues at the kennel go back to at least 2012, when Hargis received an official warning from USDA for a list of noncompliances, including a repeated failure to provide sufficient space, adequate veterinary care, safe and sanitary conditions, and more. The breeder registers some of her dogs with the AKC, according to her advertisement on Puppies.com. USDA #43-A-0209, MO #AC000Q2J. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SIXTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Sondra Jenkins/Jenkins Kennel, West Plains, Missouri: Recurring issues with matted dogs and inadequate housing.** State inspectors tried to visit Jenkins Kennel on two consecutive occasions, one in May 2023 and one in July 2023, but they were denied access both times. The first time, Jenkins was home but said she “was unable to conduct an inspection,” leaving the wellbeing of all her animals unknown. The second time, she was reached by phone and also claimed to be unavailable. Inspectors gained access on their third attempt in late July. At that visit, they found matted dogs and an issue with unsafe housing, with one dog who seemed to regularly escape their enclosure and travel to other enclosures. They also found a complete lack of disposition records for 2023, which would indicate why animals left the kennel, whether by death or sale. Inspectors noted that the “matting may cause discomfort and veterinary care issues.” The inspectors had also warned the licensee about matted dogs and other violations in prior years. In July 2023, USDA cited Jenkins for having some dogs in outside enclosures who didn’t have sufficient shelter space to get out of the weather. USDA #43-A-5031, MO #AC000RXQ.

**Raymond Lawson/The Silver Spur, Clifton Hill, Missouri: State inspectors found ten violations at a single visit and issued a letter of warning; USDA inspectors failed to document any issues that same month; breeder sold to Petland.** During a state inspection in September 2023, inspectors found ten different violations at The Silver Spur, and later issued an official warning letter. The violations included one dog who was continuously scratching his ear, with no proof that he had been treated by a veterinarian; puppies on dangerous flooring that could entrap their legs (a repeat violation), poor housing, inappropriate veterinary care, some dogs lacking proof of rabies vaccines, and more. Shockingly, USDA inspectors had visited the kennel just a few weeks before but did not document any issues. As we noted in our 2020 Horrible Hundred report, prior state violations at the kennel included some dogs who were in enclosures that were too small, a French bulldog who was recently treated for an ear issue, but there was no proof that the licensee had provided the treatment prescribed by the vet (similar to the problem found in 2023); and a shepherd who had an “abnormal gait in its back legs and was intermittently limping.” The USDA did not cite the kennel for any violations that year, either (2019). In fact, despite multiple issues found at state inspections, the USDA has not cited the licensee for a single violation for many years. This follows a pattern at USDA of weak enforcement and low standards. Lawson sold puppies to at least two Petland stores between 2021 and 2022. USDA #43-A-5385, MO #AC000BFB. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Charles and Debbi McGinnis/Monarchs Kennel, Bolivar, Missouri: Puppies at AKC-linked kennel were in such dirty enclosures that they could not avoid stepping in feces; some dogs had scant protection from the cold; a dog without water showed signs of “intense thirst.”** Even after appearing in our May 2023 report for a Direct violation involving an “extremely thin” and ailing dog, McGinnis continued to be found with more violations at three different USDA inspections in the fall of 2023. More than once, inspectors found dogs surrounded by excessive urine and/or feces, including a dog and some puppies in such dirty enclosures that they could not avoid stepping in feces (October 2023). Inspectors also found some dogs who did not have enough protection from the cold when nighttime temperatures had been in the 30s, and one dog who had no water and showed signs of “intense thirst.” USDA #43-A-5563, MO #AC000D8F. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Eli A. Miller/Hill Top Kennel, Madison \(formerly Clark\), Missouri: Repeat offender had dogs outside without adequate protection from the cold; dealer was previously fined and suspended by the USDA and then changed his USDA number.](#) During a December 2023 inspection, state inspectors found five different violations at Hill Top Kennel. The issues included dogs kept outside without adequate weather protection when nighttime temperatures had been in the 30s, some puppies who did not have enough space, and other concerns. Prior issues at the kennel included USDA violations in 2022 for nine puppies with a raspy cough who had not been treated by a veterinarian and excessive feces under some of the dog enclosures, with some accumulations several inches deep. Miller also had 2020 state violations that included puppies who were kept outside in the cold, a rat infestation, some dogs with matted hair, and other issues. In August 2019, state inspectors found that dogs in one entire building did not have any water on a hot summer day, and several dogs had signs of injury or illness, including a shih tzu with a ghastly wound on her tail that was “open, exposing the underlying tissue.”

As we noted in our 2017 report, in August 2016, the USDA fined Eli A. Miller \$1,920 (Docket #16-0027) and suspended his license for four weeks. Although an August 2016 consent decision stipulated that Miller must not be found with any additional repeat or Direct violations for three years, more issues were found just months later, according to USDA inspection reports. Miller then partly evaded his history of violations by obtaining a new USDA license number in 2017. Current USDA #43-A-6250, former USDA #43-A-5541, current MO #AC003DWF, former MO #AC000VSJ. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[John J. Miller/TLC Kennels, Sturgeon, Missouri: Inspectors found unsanitary conditions, even after prior state warning for similar problems, at puppy mill that sold puppies to Petland stores.](#) State inspectors who visited TLC Kennels in February 2024 found several violations at the facility, which has sold puppies to Petland stores. They noted a buildup of fecal matter outside the whelping enclosures and found that disposition records were missing for nine dogs, with no explanation for why those dogs were no longer in the kennel. When asked about some missing records, Miller said he “had thrown the records away.” John J. Miller had also been cited for sanitation issues in prior years. In November 2022, state inspectors sent a warning letter to TLC Kennels due to repeated issues with unsanitary conditions. Prior state violations at the kennel go back to at least 2019, and included dogs exposed to extreme temperatures or who did not have enough space, dogs who were not getting tested for a contagious disease, excessive feces, and more. Despite the many issues found by state inspectors, USDA inspectors have not cited the kennel for any violations in the past seven years. USDA #43-A-6036, MO #AC0020VB. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Joe Overlease/C&J’s Cockers, Miller, Missouri: Sold a sick dog with multiple health concerns; breeder’s history of allegedly selling sick dogs stretches back more than a decade despite passing recent USDA inspections.](#) In July 2023, Missouri’s Department of Agriculture received a complaint about a sick dog sold to an out-of-state buyer. Allegedly the buyer had been promised a healthy pet, and the dog came with a health certificate, but within two days of arrival, the dog was diagnosed with a “buphthalmic eye, severe dental disease, a mammary tumor, and severe ear infections.” The findings were substantiated by the buyer’s veterinarian. State records indicate that inspectors visited Overlease in July and instructed him to get care for another dog by the name of Dove, who also had an eye problem. Overlease has a long history as a producer of cocker spaniels and has been accused multiple times over the years of selling sick puppies online. As we noted in our 2013 report, Overlease had over 300 dogs at one time, with violations for overcrowded, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Shockingly, despite concerns found by state inspectors, the USDA has not cited Overlease for any violations in a decade. USDA #43-A-5844, MO #AC000YQC. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

[Kris Peterson/Peterson Puppy Works, Hurdland, Missouri: Recurring issue with some dogs who had no water or only debris-filled water; decrepit housing and excessive feces.](#) State inspectors found multiple issues

at Peterson Puppy Works in February 2024, including an enclosure without any water and some enclosures with only debris-filled water; this issue was documented in prior years as well. In addition, there were sharp points that could injure the dogs, deteriorating wooden dog boxes that were “coming apart at the seams,” and several enclosures with a buildup of fecal matter in them or under them. Inspectors also noted that there were no individual medical records on the dogs as required under the rules; the licensee’s son simply stated verbally that “they vaccinate and deworm the dogs,” without providing the required proof of treatment. MO #AC000ZVX.

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

**Marjorie Walker Price/Price’s Pets, Niangua, Missouri: Failed a relicense inspection due to very thin mother dog whose spine and ribs could be easily felt by inspector; another dog had scabby skin; some were in rusty, stacked cages.** In February 2024, Walker failed a USDA relicense inspection due to two dogs who were in poor condition, among other violations. One of the ailing dogs was a mother poodle mix with two puppies; the mother was so thin that the inspector could feel her spine, ribs and other bone structures easily. Another poodle mix had “scabby bumps on her neck, back, hips and ears.” Both dogs were visibly unwell and yet had not been evaluated by a veterinarian for their ailments. The USDA gave Walker a Direct violation for the two ailing dogs, indicating that there was a current and present risk to the animals. Inspectors also found four other violations for issues such as keeping dogs in rusty, stacked cages, and lack of an exercise plan for the physical and mental health of the dogs. Walker had more than 100 dogs on her property at the time. Prior state violations (2022) included dogs in a hot building that was over 85 degrees and some dogs without potable water. USDA #43-A-6295, MO #AC00132U. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Teresa Rauch/Ratepa Kennels, Bolivar, Missouri: USDA inspectors repeatedly found dogs who were wet and dirty in cold weather; several dogs were matted or soiled with feces.** Rauch failed at least three USDA inspections in 2023 and one in 2024; at all four inspections, dogs were found to be either wet and dirty, matted or soiled with feces. In June 2023, two dogs had dried fecal matter stuck to them, and in February 2024, the USDA found a repeat violation for another dog with very matted fur. In November 2023, Rauch received a repeat violation for dogs in wet enclosures who were “wet and dirty from walking on the wet ground.” The inspector noted that wet and dirty dogs can be uncomfortable and may have difficulty staying warm; historical weather data indicates that the temperatures in the area that day were in the 40s. A similar issue had also been found in March 2023. USDA #43-A-6768, former MO #AC002K0S.

**Ellen Roberts/Rocky Top K-9s, West Plains, Missouri: Area was coated in waste and grime, making it “difficult for the dogs to avoid stepping in the feces”; significant problems at the kennel have persisted since at least 2013; breeder is linked to AKC.** Even after appearing in eight of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for repeated state and federal violations, Rocky Top K-9s had many more violations in recent months. In October 2023, USDA inspectors noted six more violations for issues such as dangerous and filthy conditions, including so much feces in one area that puppies had difficulty moving without stepping in it, excessive flies surrounding a mother dog with young puppies, and a bulldog in an outdoor enclosure without adequate protection from the cold. Issues found in prior years included underweight nursing mother dogs with their ribs showing, sick or injured dogs, and dogs exposed to the bitter cold. Roberts registers some of her puppies with the AKC. USDA #43-A-5445, MO #AC00124U. **REPEAT OFFENDER; NINTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Robert Schneider/Cardinal Hill Terriers, Fulton, Missouri: State inspectors found a prominent odor at property of AKC-linked breeder who failed five state inspections in one year.** Robert Schneider failed five different state inspections between January 2023 and January 2024. During the same time frame, he dodged four other inspections, sometimes claiming to be ill or on the way to an appointment. Some of the violations found in late 2023 included: puppies exposed to an accumulation of feces and soiled newspaper; a puppy room

with a prevalent odor; at least three dogs had masses of excreta clumped around their rear ends; and documentation was lacking on vaccinations or worming of the dogs. Schneider offers puppies [online](#) and on a [Facebook page](#); on his website, he claims to be a seller of AKC-registered and champion-sired dogs. MO #AC002KMH.

**[Aaron N. M. Schwartz/Schwartz's Kennel, Tunas, Missouri: State investigated kennel after a puppy died and found numerous other puppies had died, and two who had been sold to a broker were euthanized due to parvovirus; the USDA did not note any violations despite many state findings.](#)** In June 2023, the Missouri Department of Agriculture investigated Aaron Schwartz after receiving a complaint from a person who received a sickly puppy who died shortly after being picked up. Reportedly, the puppy had been diagnosed with hypoglycemia, dehydration, coccidia, whipworms and roundworms by the complainant's veterinarian. When questioned about the health of other puppies in his kennel, Aaron Schwartz reportedly admitted that his broker, QD Kennels, told him two puppies he had sent to the broker had tested positive for parvovirus and had been euthanized. The state also found that two entire litters of puppies had died, and the breeder had not documented any treatments given to the puppies who died. Investigators also found a number of violations at the facility, including dogs who were kept in a 95-degree building because allegedly the breeder, being Amish, had no electricity. Shockingly, even though Aaron Schwartz also holds a USDA license, it appears that the USDA has not cited him for any violations at all in recent years, despite the gravely concerning issues found by state inspectors. USDA #43-A-6282, MO #AC002GMV.

**[Sammy S. Schwartz/S-N-S Kennel, Seymour, Missouri: State inspectors cited breeder after a dog died from a lice infestation; at least four other dogs died after fighting; puppies died of hypoglycemia, and many dogs were thin or injured or had crusted skin; the USDA did not cite breeder for any violations.](#)** State inspectors found a long list of egregious violations at S-N-S Kennel in February 2024, including a dead dog who was seen in a hole during an attempted inspection; upon looking into it later, the licensee admitted the dog had died from "a lice infestation." Inspectors also noted that a number of other dogs and puppies had died in unknown circumstances or in circumstances that were preventable, including at least four adult dogs who died from fight wounds, and at least four puppies who died from hypoglycemia. In addition, inspectors found many dogs and young puppies who were kept outside in the winter cold without adequate shelter, and there were a number of ailing dogs, including some who were thin or had wounds. Inspectors noted that the "majority of the dogs at the kennel exhibited dull hair coats with varying degrees of hair loss and matting." Shockingly, despite the many grave issues found by state inspectors, USDA inspectors have not documented any issues at the kennel since it became USDA-licensed in summer 2023. USDA #43-A-6816, MO #AC003P4T.

**[Jon Stolarz/Shamrock Hill, Canton, Missouri: Young puppies were housed outdoors in extreme conditions; inspectors saw puppies shivering in the cold.](#)** State inspectors who visited Shamrock Hill in December 2023 found a number of distressing issues, and some of them still had not been fixed almost two months later, in February 2024, state records show. During the December prelicense inspection, inspectors found 10 violations, including puppies who were outside in freezing weather, some of whom were seen visibly shivering. Most of the dogs had only frozen water, and some puppies were unable to reach their water. After that visit, there were two attempted inspections during which the breeder did not make the property available for review. When inspectors accessed the kennel again in February 2024 for another prelicense inspection, the breeder had still not obtained approval from a veterinarian to keep young dogs outdoors in extreme weather. In addition, some of the dogs still had no water or only dirty water, among other issues. Missouri eventually gave Stolarz a license. MO #AC002SNQ.

**Donna Taber/Jet Kennels, Wasola, Missouri: Received official warning letters from the state in 2023 and 2024; several dogs were thin, matted or had untreated dental disease; breeder's history of sick or injured dogs goes back to at least 2014.** Even after Jet Kennels appeared in three of our prior reports for issues related to sick and badly injured dogs and other significant humane concerns, more issues were found there within the past year by both state and federal inspectors. In early 2024, state inspectors noted that two dogs who were supposed to be “under treatment for thin body condition” had no records to show they were being treated or observed, and there were no vaccination records on any of the adult male dogs. In addition, a poodle was significantly matted, and there was evidence of an ongoing mouse problem in the building, among other issues. In the latter half of 2023, state inspectors also noted many violations, including a very prominent odor, a dog with fleas and a hairless patch, multiple matted dogs, and more. State inspectors gave the kennel warnings and fines (reinspection fees) four different times between June 2023 and January 2024. In November, Taber received a Direct violation, one of the most serious types of violations USDA can issue, related to two dachshunds who USDA inspectors found with signs of severe dental disease. One of the dogs also had excessive matting, and some parts of the kennel had excessive dirt and grime. Prior issues at the kennel included a dog found dragging both back legs, and other dogs who were out in the frigid cold with hardly any bedding in January 2023; the breeder's history of sick or injured dogs goes back to at least 2014. USDA #43-A-5497, MO #AC0015LH. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Elmer and Edna Troyer/Timber View Kennel, Clark, Missouri: Kennel that sold puppies to six Petland stores had a dog placed under a rabies quarantine; state inspectors also found dogs without enough living space and rusty and dirty conditions.** In January 2024, Missouri inspectors placed a shih tzu at Timber View Kennel under a rabies quarantine after the Troyers brought the dog into the kennel from Indiana with no proof of vaccination. The Troyers should have been well aware of the rules, having been licensed for many years. Additional issues found at the kennel in 2023 included rusty and dirty areas in the kennel, and some dogs who didn't have enough space. The Troyers were also cited for many issues in prior years by both state and federal inspectors. For example, a 2022 USDA inspection found excessive feces in 12 enclosures, with some areas “at least 50% covered in smeared feces.” Inspectors noted that some of the enclosures housing 34 dogs “had packed, smeared feces covering 60-80% of the outside flooring,” making it “difficult for the animals to move around without getting into feces.” In addition, the inspector found that some of the dogs in outdoor housing facilities did not have adequate protection from the weather in the deep of winter, and some of the dogs had no water. Within the last several years, the Troyers sold puppies to at least six Petland stores, including stores in Texas and Florida. USDA #43-A-5917, MO #AC001VYZ. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Joyce Walters/Select Pets aka Walters Ozark Kennel, Anderson, Missouri: The USDA found dogs who were “completely soiled with mud” and debris covering their entire bodies; inspectors smelled a strong odor of rodent urine; issues at the kennel stretch back at least a decade.** In December 2023, USDA inspectors found dogs at Select Pets who were “completely soiled with mud and organic debris covering the entirety of their bodies.” The licensee admitted “the facility has not had the fecal matter removed for approximately a week.” In addition, inspectors noted a “significant accumulation of rodent feces” and the “smell of rodent urine was very pronounced upon entering and walking throughout the indoor portion of the sheltered facility.” When inspectors returned in January 2024, they were not given access to the kennel, which was a repeat violation. Select Pets has been cited for significant problems, including ailing dogs, filthy conditions or strong odors, off and on since at least 2014. USDA #43-A-6665, former USDA #43-B-0178, MO #AC0017P3. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## NEBRASKA

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

**Larry and Debra Dauel/L&D Farms, Malmo, Nebraska: Breeder described as “routinely noncompliant” continued to be cited for not having enough staff to properly care for dogs and failed to downsize kennel in violation of agreement with state.** Even after L&D Farms appeared in our May 2023 report due to being found “routinely noncompliant” by state inspectors, with violations for unsanitary conditions, poor ventilation, and two dead dogs, state records show that inspectors found several more violations at the property later in 2023 and again in January and February 2024. As of Sept. 6, 2023, the breeders still did not have enough staff to properly care for the dogs, according to the state’s report, and they had 65 adult dogs and 62 puppies on site, despite having promised state authorities through a compliance agreement that they would reduce the kennel to 50 adult dogs by Sept. 1. In January 2024, inspectors found the kennel had even more adult dogs (93) and marked it “unacceptable” due to the ongoing issues. Issues noted at the January 2024 visit included poor sanitation, poor ventilation with an ammonia [urine] odor, lack of a veterinary care plan, and many other issues. In February 2024, inspectors found more violations, and there were a total of 93 dogs and nine puppies on the property—still far above the threshold the breeders had agreed upon. NE #KN877. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Peggy Shaw and Nathan Zahourek/ Shaw Chinese Crested and Miniature Pinschers, Wilber, Nebraska: The USDA found Direct violations at two visits in a row at AKC “Breeder of Merit”; puppies’ feet were passing through gaps in the flooring; two dogs were found with eye issues.** USDA inspectors found Direct violations, one of the most serious types of violations they can issue because they indicate a visible risk to an animal, at two visits in a row to a breeder that the American Kennel Club has identified as a “Breeder of Merit.” During the first visit, in June 2023, the USDA noted a Direct violation for 32 puppies who were kept in dangerous conditions with gaps in the flooring that could entrap them. The USDA also found a dog “constantly squinting” with discharge around the eye, and sharp edges that could hurt the dogs. In July 2023, the licensee received another Direct violation, this time for another dog who was also squinting and appeared to have an eye injury that had not been treated by a veterinarian. In addition, the dog had such long nails that it was causing their toes to splay while walking. There were more than 160 dogs and puppies on the property. USDA #47-A-0571, NE #KN1076.

## NEW YORK

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

**Helen Camlakides/Sportsman’s Kennels, Manorville, New York: Repeated issues with lack of rabies vaccines or expired rabies vaccinations at large puppy mill with over 280 dogs; issues at the kennel have been recurring since at least 2019.** In October 2023, state officials cited Sportsman’s Kennels for selling dogs over 4 months of age without proof of rabies vaccines. It was a troubling violation because the breeder had already been warned about the issue the year before. In November 2022, inspectors had cited Camlakides for two Critical issues—a dog who was limping and three dogs who had expired rabies vaccines. There was also a question about drugs at the kennel that apparently were not a part of the approved veterinary care plan. Inspectors have found recurring issues with veterinary care at Sportsman’s Kennels since at least 2019, when four dogs were found in need of treatment. Sportsman’s Kennels registers dogs with the American Kennel Club, a group that regularly lobbies against dog protection laws. NY #30. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**David Cortland/Hidden Pond Kennel, Waverly, New York: AKC-linked breeder received more than a dozen Critical violations within less than two months for issues such as dogs who had no water or only dirty water, and strong odors/fumes that burned the inspectors' eyes or nose.** Hidden Pond Kennel received dozens of state violations in 2023, including at least 18 Critical violations, for issues such as strong odors “that burn [the] eyes or nose,” mold on the floor in the main dog room, excessive wastes, dogs with no water or only dirty water, and some dogs who had no protection from the elements or who were not enclosed at all. The kennel breeds dogs who are registered with the American Kennel Club, according to its website. The AKC has repeatedly opposed laws that would help stop puppy mills. The facility had two additional inspections in September 2023; one resulted in no access, and the other was compliant. NY #1024.

**Dorene and Marie Duffy/Lotta Spots Ranch, Livonia, New York: Breeder had at least nineteen more problematic inspections after our last report was published; is linked to AKC.** State inspectors tried three times in November 2023 to inspect Lotta Spots Ranch and gained entry only on their fourth attempt. At that inspection, they found a list of violations, including odors, structural issues and dogs with incorrect information on their health certificates. A health certificate had been signed two months before the puppies listed on it had been born, indicating that the veterinarian could not have actually examined the puppies. Many of the dogs lacked proof of vaccines. When a state inspector came back in mid-December, they were once again not given access to the kennel. In January 2024, inspectors visited yet again, and found many of the same issues they had found in November, including odors and invalid health certificates. In February, March and April 2024, the facility dodged more attempted inspections, for a total of eight attempted inspections within about six months. The issues mirror similar problems that were found at the kennel in prior years. NY #1149. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Iris Dog Farm Corp, Pine Bush, New York: State inspectors found problems at 16 different visits in less than a year at AKC breeder that supplied Yale University's former bulldog mascot.** On its website, Iris Dog Farm claims to be the breeder of one of Yale University's mascot bulldogs, Handsome Dan XVI (retired). But the care Iris Dog Farm provides does not seem befitting for its reputation. Between September 2023 and March 2024, state records show that inspectors visited Iris Dog Farm Corp at least 19 times. At all but two visits, they were either unable to access the kennel or found issues with veterinary care or records, many of which were labeled Critical. The issues included many dogs who did not have health certificates or rabies vaccinations, an outdated veterinary plan, some dogs who were not examined by a veterinarian, and at least one puppy who was sold without proof that they were at least 8 weeks old as required by law (January 2024), among other issues. The facility had almost 40 dogs and puppies on site during its late March 2024 inspection. On its website, the kennel claims its dogs are “certified by AKC.” NY #1218.

**Kelly Jamil/Gray's Doberman, Ellenville, New York: A state inspector found a limping dog who had not received veterinary care; animals “coated with waste” and dog food contaminated with dirt and feces at AKC breeder.** State inspectors found issues at seven out of nine visits at Gray's Doberman between January 2023 and January 2024. At each of the seven visits, inspectors were either unable to access the kennel, or found multiple violations. In December 2023, inspectors found rusty and dangerous conditions, a noticeable odor, and animals who were unable to keep dry or avoid their own wastes. The inspector also noted a Critical issue with “conditions detrimental to animal health” and stated that “animals are coated with waste.” The animals' food was also “contaminated with dirt and feces,” and their water was mixed with debris. In addition, a Great Dane was found limping and had not been provided with proper veterinary care. The facility advertises AKC puppies and had more than 100 dogs and puppies at a recent inspection. NY #1198.

**Carolyn Manaher/H&C's Dachshunds and Retrievers, West Valley, New York: Some dogs did not have enough room in their kennels "to make normal postural adjustments"; four litters of puppies were "coated with waste."** During a late-May 2023 state inspection, just a few weeks after the kennel appeared in our 2023 Horrible Hundred report, inspectors found even more issues at H&C's. They found four litters of puppies who were "coated with waste," and the 18 puppies were in enclosures so small that they did not "allow all dogs the freedom of movement to make normal postural adjustments." There was also an accumulation of wastes in the outdoor area. There were more than 70 dogs on the property at the time. Manaher had been warned about similar issues in the past. State inspectors found some dogs in such cramped conditions in 2022 that some of their heads were touching the tops of their cages; others did not have space to fully outstretch their legs. The breeder is linked to the AKC. NY #1019. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Kathy Smucker, Warsaw, New York: Facility had not been disinfected in more than two weeks; inspectors noticed a strong odor of urine and excessive feces in puppy areas.** In December 2023, state inspectors gave Smucker's kennel three Critical violations for issues that had been documented at a prior inspection more than a month earlier, but that still had not been addressed. The violations included sanitation problems, with areas that had not been disinfected in more than two weeks, feces built up on wire floors in the puppy kennels, and other concerns. In addition, the inspector noted there was a strong odor of urine. The previous month, the licensee received multiple violations for many of the same issues, as well as other issues such as selling puppies under the age of 8 weeks. NY #578.

**Nathan Zimmerman, Penn Yan, New York: Puppy was found keeping her eye closed, indicating possible pain; dogs were unable to easily reach their feeders, and some dogs had no water.** When USDA inspectors visited Zimmerman's kennel in late September 2023, they found a puppy who was keeping her eye closed. They noted that her right eye seemed smaller than the left eye, and the puppy was very reluctant to open it even when handled. The puppy had not been taken to a veterinarian for her condition. In addition, the feeders for the dogs were hung so high that the dogs had to stand on their back legs to reach the food, and some dogs had no water. When water was provided, "the two dogs identified as 'Licorice' and 'Fredrick' drank continuously for over two minutes and Fredrick drank continuously for up to four minutes." Prior issues found at the kennel, and mentioned in our earlier reports, included a very thin dog, a dog with pressure sores, a dog who was soiled with feces, and other issues. USDA #21-A-0103. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## NORTH CAROLINA

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

**Lois Baker, Andrews, North Carolina: Inspector found a "very thin" dachshund with her vertebrae and ribs palpable and her gums reddened and swollen, plus excessive trash and wastes.** In December 2023, a USDA inspector found a "very thin" dachshund whose "vertebrae and ribs are easily palpated with very little fat observed around her abdomen." The dog was also showing signs of dental disease, which may have made it difficult for her to eat and drink, according to the inspection report. The USDA also found accumulations of trash and more. At a previous inspection in May 2023, the USDA found two other dogs in need of veterinary care and one dog who was about to jump out of her enclosure, as well as other housing violations. Prior issues at the kennel included a 2021 USDA warning for failure to provide adequate veterinary care for dogs and a March 2020 issue with whelping enclosures that had newspapers in them that were soaked and soiled, leaving the dogs and

puppies wet. Baker also failed at least five times since 2015 to make the kennel available for inspection. USDA #55-A-0165. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## OHIO

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

**Atlee A. Barkman/Barkman's Country Kennel, Baltic, Ohio: State officials sent eight of the breeder's violations for legal referral in 2023 and 2022 "due to the repetitive occurrence" of the issue.** During a state inspection in September 2023, inspectors referred several of Atlee Barkman's violations to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's legal counsel "due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation and the licensee being put on previous notice." The violations were related to a dog with a cloudy eye, a Shiba Inu with toenails that were "excessively long," and some incomplete records. In 2022, at least five other violations were referred to legal counsel. The issues were related to dogs who were not deemed healthy prior to breeding, dogs who didn't have adequate flooring, and dogs entering or leaving the kennel without proper documentation. Even after the state notified Barkman about keeping records on dogs leaving or entering the kennel, Barkman also had a USDA violation in May 2023 for the same issue. USDA #31-A-0689, OH #CB001A5J and #CB001A6G.

**John R. Garman, Plymouth, Ohio: Breeder received an official USDA warning for a dog in need of veterinary care, then dropped his USDA license but still has an Ohio license.** Garman had multiple USDA violations at two different inspections in the second half of 2023, one in August and one in October. At the August inspection, enclosures were grimy, some areas were in disrepair, and USDA inspectors noted that the kennel didn't have a plan for parasite testing. In October, despite receiving the same violation in August, the kennel still had no parasite testing plan, and Garman also received a Direct violation, one of the most serious that USDA can give, for a dog with noticeable dental disease. The dog had bright red, swollen gums and "severe gum recession." There were more than 160 dogs and puppies on the property. In November, the USDA sent Garman an official warning letter for failing to provide adequate veterinary care. Shortly thereafter, Garman cancelled his USDA license, but as of April 2024, he is still licensed in the state of Ohio, which means he can still sell puppies directly to the public. Former USDA #31-A-0194, OH #CB0004YV and #CB000WU0.

**Alvin H. Hershberger/ Walnut Lane LAH, Dundee, Ohio: Inspectors found 14 violations at one visit, including dirty conditions and puppies on dangerous flooring.** During one December 2023 inspection, state inspectors documented 14 violations for issues such as dirty conditions, puppies kept on dangerous gapped flooring that could entrap their feet, lack of outdoor access for the dogs, and other issues. The inspectors also noted that the licensee had "incorrect tools" kept for tail docking and dewclaw removal. The issue of incorrect tools kept for use on puppies' tails and dewclaws is especially concerning because using the improper tools could cause pain and suffering for the animals. Ideally, these procedures should be performed by a licensed veterinarian, but Ohio law permits breeders to do the procedures if they have adequate tools and training, which Hershberger apparently did not. USDA #31-A-0859 (under Laura Hershberger), OH #CB001JRC and #CB002JNA.

**Rudy L. Lee/ Lee Family Kennel, Kinsman, Ohio: Breeder failed to have kennel tested for a contagious zoonotic disease and was ordered to have dogs with eye disorders examined.** In June 2023, state inspectors noted that Rudy Lee's kennel needed documentation to prove "that a whole kennel *B. canis* test was performed the first year of licensing" and the breeder needed a complete written plan for monitoring *B. canis* in the facility. *B. canis* is a contagious zoonotic disease. Despite being notified of these requirements, at least one more inspection that same year found that Lee still did not have a complete annual plan for some requirements. In August, a state inspector noted that "despite an extension on the deadline for the licensee to correct this issue,

and the inspector reaching out to the licensee and the licensee's veterinarian several times, the licensee has not corrected this issue. This matter is being referred to ODA's Legal [Counsel]." In addition, the inspectors also found two dogs in June who were in need of eye treatment, and one dog with feces matted in her hair. OH #CB002WMY and #CB002WNW.

**William Mathias, Dover, Ohio: Breeder had recurring violations at five different inspections between December 2022 and December 2023.** During at least five separate inspections between December 2022 and December 2023, state inspectors found Mathias' kennel noncompliant for issues such as missing records, failure to have female dogs examined before breeding them or provide proof, keeping dogs and puppies on dangerous wire flooring, and lack of a proper disease monitoring program. In fact, as of the end of 2023, the breeder still had not produced records from 2022 showing that the dogs in the kennel had received their annual veterinary examinations, despite multiple warnings that it was required by state law. Prior photos taken by state inspectors show numerous dogs in wire or metal cages and gridded flooring. OH #CB002CL5. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Atlee M. Miller, Sugarcreek, Ohio: State inspectors found breeder was cutting dewclaws off puppies with an unapproved tool and at inappropriate ages; breeder also had two prior legal referrals.** In October 2023, state inspectors cited Miller for using an unapproved tool to remove dewclaws from puppies and stated he was cutting the dewclaws off of puppies aged 4 to 10 days. The licensee was notified that dewclaws should only be removed by licensees from puppies 2 to 5 days of age per state law. Cutting dewclaws off puppies who are more than a few days old is recommended only with the use of sedation or local anesthesia due to the risk of pain, according to a Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association [publication](#). Other issues found at the kennel included many dogs without adequate flooring and poor record-keeping. In 2022, the state referred two violations to legal counsel "due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation and the licensee being put on previous notice." OH #CB001EGD and #CB0004C1.

**David A. Miller, Millersburg, Ohio: Licensee was repeatedly warned about brokering (wholesaling) puppies without a license; some puppies were found without adequate solid flooring.** During an October 2023 state inspection, Ohio authorities noted that David Miller "was warned in 2021 about needing a broker license if they continue to wholesale puppies, during this inspection additional records were found for 2023." Miller is licensed by the USDA and by the state of Ohio to sell only puppies he has raised on his property; selling puppies bred by others (brokering) is a significant violation because it indicates that puppies could be sold from unlicensed breeders as if they were from an inspected dealer. Authorities also noted that "upon inspection two litters of puppies lacked adequate solid flooring. One enclosure with four 10 inch puppies required 7.12 square feet and had 6.33 square feet. Enclosure two had three 12 inch puppies and one 13 inch puppy, they required 9.26 square feet of solid and had 6.33 square feet." Despite the concerning violations found by state inspectors, the USDA has not cited Miller for any recent violations. USDA #31-A-0792, OH #CB002BZJ.

**Eli J. Miller, Millersburg, Ohio: Breeder who was previously referred to state's legal counsel due to an injured dog with lacerations was found keeping inappropriate cutting tool for use on puppies' tails.** During a December 2023 state inspection at one of his locations, Eli Miller was found to be "using an instrument not covered as an acceptable instrument to be used for tail docking and dew claw removal." The report included a photo of a utility knife, sometimes referred to as a box cutter, which presumably had been used to cut puppies' tails and dewclaws. Just a year before, Miller had received a violation for a badly injured dog. During a June 2022 visit to one of his many kennel locations, state inspectors found an injured cavapoo who had had "her collar slip from her neck becoming lodged between her maxilla and mandible. Lacerations along with wound and odor are present." Due to "the egregious nature of the violation," the matter was referred to ODA's Legal Counsel. Miller has been cited for many other violations as well, including keeping a dog in an enclosure with dangerous gapped

flooring. In July 2022, inspectors found a dog with both hind legs extended through dangerous wire flooring, yet the issue with dangerous flooring was again noted at a state inspection in December 2023. Many other veterinary problems and safety and sanitation issues have been documented over the past few years at visits to Miller's many properties. The breeder is linked to multiple state license numbers, including OH #CB002CZE, #CB002CYG and other numbers. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Melvin A. Miller, Baltic, Ohio: Violations were sent to legal counsel due to AKC breeder repeatedly breeding dogs without health examinations; some dogs were kept in a cage with less than half of the required solid floor space.** During an October 2023 state inspection, inspectors discovered that Miller had bred at least three litters of puppies without having the mother dogs examined prior to breeding to ensure that they were healthy. The inspectors informed the breeder that "This matter is being referred to ODA's Legal Counsel due to the repetitive occurrence of the violation and the licensee being put on previous notice." Other violations found at the same inspection included some dogs who were kept in enclosures with only about half of the required solid flooring spaces. Miller has advertised on the [AKC Marketplace](#) website; the American Kennel Club regularly lobbies against laws that would protect dogs in puppy mills. On the AKC website, Miller offers to ship puppies, even though it appears he does not have a USDA license, which would be required to ship puppies sight-unseen to buyers or pet stores. OH #CB000QDL and #CB00104R.

**Mose A. Miller/Maple View Kennel, Baltic, Ohio: The USDA documented inadequate veterinary care at three visits in a row; breeder received official USDA warning in June 2023.** In June 2023, Miller received a USDA warning for a failure to maintain an adequate program of veterinary care. Issues with inadequate veterinary care had been found at three inspections between September 2022 and May 2023. The June warning was linked to several issues found in May, including a Direct violation for a golden retriever whose ears were so inflamed that the left ear canal could not be seen; it was filled with a "large amount of dark discharge." Both ears had scabs and were reddened. Another dog had a similar condition, with reddened ears and dark discharge and scabs in the ears. There was also a failure to keep records of treatments for dogs needing medication, including a dog who had had a cesarean section. Earlier violations at the kennel included dirty conditions and excessive feces (April 2023) and dogs who were missing rabies vaccinations and parasite testing. USDA #31-A-0636, OH #CB0015YH and #CB0015ZF.

**Wayne E. Miller /Pine Creek Puppies, Millersburg, Ohio: Violations were sent to legal counsel after breeder failed to have dogs declared healthy prior to mating, including breeding a dog with a known heart murmur.** State inspectors documented almost a dozen violations at Pine Creek Puppies between two inspections in December 2023, mostly related to dogs who were not receiving the required medical examinations prior to breeding and whelping puppies, as required by Ohio law. One of these dogs was an Australian shepherd with a known heart murmur, a condition that could be passed on to her puppies. She whelped a litter of puppies in November despite the breeder being warned in May that the dog needed to be examined and determined healthy for breeding before producing puppies. Inspectors referred two violations to legal counsel in December 2023. Miller also had several USDA violations in 2023. USDA #31-A-0659 (under Pine Creek Puppies LLC), OH #CB0018LV.

**Andy Nisley/Nunda Valley Kennels, Howard, Ohio: A poodle had a cloudy eye; licensee failed to follow heartworm prevention program for years; prior issues included 45 puppies lacking vaccination records.** In October 2023, state inspectors found a poodle with a cloudy eye at Nunda Valley Kennels who was not receiving veterinary treatment; they required Nisley to have the dog evaluated. In May 2023, USDA inspectors found Nisley was not giving monthly heartworm preventative to his dogs; despite having an agreement with his veterinarian to provide monthly prevention, Nisley admitted that he had not given it to the dogs "in a few years." The matter was concerning because of Nisley's past history of inadequate veterinary care. As we noted in our last Horrible

Hundred report, in 2022, USDA inspectors found that Nisley had no vaccination or deworming records on puppies; he had 45 puppies and 57 adults on the premises at the time. Inspectors also noted excessive feces. Past issues at the kennel have included exposing wet and/or muddy dogs to the cold, skipped inspections and dilapidated conditions in the kennel. USDA #31-A-0436, OH #CB000PEN and #CB000XP5. **REPEAT OFFENDER; THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Daniel J. Schlabach, Apple Creek, Ohio: Cited for using hoof trimmers to cut puppies' tails; three violations were sent for legal referral.** During a state inspection in November 2023, inspectors found eight violations at Schlabach's kennel. The most concerning issue was that the "licensee [was] using small metal hoof trimmers for tail docking." Tail docking is a potentially painful and dangerous procedure that should normally be performed by a veterinarian, but Ohio's kennel law allows some breeders to perform the procedure if they have adequate veterinary guidance, which Schlabach apparently did not have at the time of the inspection. The inspection report noted that Schlabach was informed about "acceptable instruments to be used for this procedure." When inspectors returned again in December 2023, the licensee still had not corrected other issues, and a total of three issues were referred to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's legal counsel. Other issues at the kennel included breeding young dogs without certifying that they were healthy first and failing to have a proper disease control plan. OH #CB002HJN.

**Enos and/or Mary Shetler/Woodside Kennel, aka County Line Kennel LLC, Fredericktown, Ohio: Received an official USDA warning in June 2023 after four young puppies died; breeder had not notified their veterinarian of concerns.** In June 2023, Enos Shetler received an official USDA warning for failure to provide adequate veterinary care. The warning stemmed from an issue that the USDA documented in May 2023, noting that the "licensee failed to communicate that a litter of newborn puppies were not gaining weight as expected to the Attending Veterinarian. Records indicate that four out of the eight Yorkshire Terrier puppies born on 3/19/2023 died in close proximity to one another. The licensee stated that they had observed that this litter of puppies was nursing well, but were failing to gain weight. The licensee stated that they felt it was an issue with the mother's milk so they gave Amoxicillin to the mother." In addition, "The licensee also did not report the deaths of these puppies to the Attending veterinarian even after finding the first three puppies had died." The USDA also gave Shetler a violation for inappropriately documenting medical records. Shortly after receiving the warning, Enos Shetler cancelled his USDA license, but a new license at almost the same street address was opened the very same month under the name of County Line Kennel LLC (31-A-0983). Shetler still has the same state licenses now under the name of Mary Shetler/County Line Kennel LLC. Former USDA #31-A-0867, OH #CB001SPH and #CB002KSX.

**Laverne D. Troyer, Mount Gilead, Ohio: About 70 dogs died in a fire after apparently being left alone with a woodburning stove; state inspectors found violations just weeks prior but did not take any enforcement action before or after the fire.** [News reports](#) indicate that 70 dogs died in a tragic fire at a kennel at the same address as Laverne Troyer on March 19, 2024. A woodburning stove was suspected to be the cause of the horrific fire, which broke out in the kennel building overnight, indicating that the dogs may have been left alone with the stove unattended. Firefighters responded to the fire at about 1 a.m., but only a few dogs could be saved, according to news reports. Reporter Nathan Hart with the [Columbus Dispatch](#) indicated that several violations were found at that inspection, just weeks before the fire. Troyer currently has a USDA license, which is his third USDA license in recent years. Violations found under his recent license numbers within the past five years included a Yorkshire terrier mix with scabs and wounds, and "no access" attempts in which inspectors were unable to enter the kennel. Prior state inspections also found violations. One report from 2020 shows that Troyer was cited for basic care issues such as dogs lacking proper grooming, dogs kept on uncoated wire floors

that could hurt their feet, and dogs kept in cramped cages that did not meet size requirements. Current USDA #31-A-0969, former USDA #31-B-0215 and #31-A-0639, OH #CB0016GC and #CB0016HA.

**Reuben H. Troyer, Baltic, Ohio: State inspectors warned breeder to stop using toenail trimmers to dock puppies' tails.** During a September 2023 inspection, state inspectors found out Troyer “has been using toe nail trimmers to perform tail docking,” and added that “a discussion was had with the licensee about approved instruments to be used for this procedure.” (The horrific use of nail trimmers to cut tails on dogs was also documented in at least two other Ohio-licensed breeders reports, Joseph R. Miller of Fredericksburg, and Wyman Troyer of Fresno.) In addition, the inspectors found a male Maltese at Reuben H. Troyer’s facility who had been found to be in need of a dental procedure in March, but “corrective actions were not taken.” Troyer also had a USDA violation in 2023 for lacking documentation of fecal testing on dogs, and in 2015 for using uncoated bare wire flooring in dog enclosures. USDA #31-A-0544, OH #CB001KGS.

**Reuben M. Troyer, Millersburg, Ohio: A nursing mother dog had no water; dogs and puppies were kept in enclosures without enough space.** During an October 2023 state inspection, inspectors found 11 separate violations at Troyer’s kennel. Most of the issues were related to dogs and puppies who did not have enough space. One nursing mother dog had no water, and some of the dogs and puppies were kept on dangerous open metal flooring that is not allowed under the state’s kennel laws. USDA #31-A-0989, OH #CB0033UH and #CB0033VF.

**Andy A. Yoder/A&E Kennel, Sugarcreek, Ohio: Recurring issues with inappropriate housing and veterinary care; lack of pain control plan for tail docking and dewclaw removal.** During a state inspection in November 2023, inspectors found a dozen different violations at A&E Kennel, mostly for issues related to dogs without enough space, inappropriate housing, and a lack of proper veterinary documentation. One of the issues concerned lack of a proper plan for tail docking and dewclaw removal, including a lack of a pain control or clotting plan and lack of a plan for cleaning and disinfecting instruments. Such procedures should normally be performed by a veterinarian, but Ohio law allows breeders to do it with adequate veterinary guidance, which Yoder apparently did not have. Prior issues found by state inspectors included lack of hands-on physical examinations, with legal referrals in 2022 for repeatedly breeding dogs without certifying that they were healthy first. USDA inspectors have also noted issues at the kennel; in 2023, the USDA noted that Yoder had no record of fecal testing on 33 dogs. In 2020, the USDA found strong odors and a dog without enough space. USDA #31-A-0526, OH #CB00031T and #CB000YBR.

**Marvin H. Yoder/Willow Lot Kennel, Millersburg, Ohio: Rusty scissors were likely used to cut puppies' tails; some puppies were sold to a pet store without veterinary inspection records; licensee repeatedly bred dogs without certifying they were healthy.** State inspectors found several concerning violations at Marvin Yoder’s kennel in October 2023. The inspectors found that at least four puppies were sold to a pet store, Harbor Pet Center, without the required veterinary documentation. In addition, inspectors took a photograph of a pair of rusty scissors, which indicated it was being used for tail docking, stating that the tool was “not approved” for that purpose. Finally, the Ohio Department of Agriculture referred the breeder to legal counsel because the breeder repeatedly bred a dog without having a veterinarian ensure that they were healthy first, which is a requirement in Ohio that he had been notified about previously. Yoder has registered dogs with the American Kennel Club, a group that repeatedly lobbies against laws that would help stop puppy mills. USDA #31-A-0577, Former OH #CB000SEA and #CB0006MA.

**Myron Yoder, Baltic, Ohio: Four dogs had large patches of hair loss; a dog had an open neck wound; another had a badly injured foot that had been left untreated for two weeks.** USDA inspectors found multiple

violations at Myron Yoder's kennel in both April and May 2023. In late April, Yoder received a Direct violation for a poodle who was unable to fully bear weight on one leg. Her foot was twisted outward, and when inspectors manipulated the foot, "the foot was not stable and moved independently of the rest of the leg," and "a 'crunching' and 'popping' was felt when the foot was gently manipulated." The injured dog "had licked the area to the point that there was no hair present." The licensee informed inspectors that the injury was due to an incident that had happened two weeks prior, yet the injury had clearly been left to linger. Another dog had an open wound on her neck that also hadn't been treated by a veterinarian. In addition, some very young puppies were found on gridded flooring that could entrap their legs, the facility had excessive excreta, and none of the 124 adult dogs had had physical examinations since November 2021. When the USDA returned in late May, four dogs were found with large areas of hair loss, and the licensee admitted he had noticed the missing hair but had not contacted a veterinarian; it was noted as a repeat violation. Former USDA #31-A-0525, OH #CB000ZEF and #CB000QHC.

## OKLAHOMA

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

**[Becky and Leonard Goodman/Goodman's Good-Dog, Ringling, Oklahoma: USDA inspector found dead mice, rodent problem "throughout the entire kennel" at AKC breeder; inspector noted it was "impossible for the dogs to consume the food without also ingesting rodent feces."](#)** USDA inspectors found six violations at Goodman's kennel in July 2023. Two of the most concerning violations included an "excessive rodent problem" that existed "throughout the entire kennel building," with "a strong odor of mouse urine" and rodent feces on many different surfaces, and even in some of the dogs' food. Inspectors noted that some enclosures "had food receptacles with rodent feces mixed in with the dog food. The excessive amount of rodent feces inside the receptacles makes it impossible for the dogs to consume the food without also ingesting rodent feces." The inspector also spotted multiple dead mice in different areas. Inspectors also found several dogs with ticks, including a poodle who had several engorged ticks on her nose, and two other dogs with ticks on their ears. Shockingly, all the violations were deemed "non-critical" by USDA, giving the public a false perception that the violations were minor. Becky Goodman offers puppies for sale on the [AKC's Marketplace](#) website. USDA #73-A-2754, OK #BRD00412.

**[Sherri Taylor/Taylor Pups, Lone Grove, Oklahoma: USDA found seven dogs with noticeable veterinary issues; issues included abscesses, extensive hair loss, crusty skin and an eye condition; one dog could not walk properly due to abscesses.](#)** In July 2023, a USDA inspector found seven dogs at Taylor Pups who had very noticeable veterinary concerns, including a French bulldog who could not walk normally due to abscesses on his feet, a Chihuahua mix with hair loss and crusty skin with "bumps [that] have split open revealing raw tissue beneath," a toy poodle with very noticeable eye discharge, at least two dogs with hair loss all over their bodies, a severely matted shih tzu, and other issues. Inspectors also noted a strong odor, with ammonia levels that were "unacceptable," and dangerously sharp points that could penetrate a dog's eye. Shortly after the inspection, the licensee cancelled their USDA license; however, a family member acquired a new license shortly afterward (#73-B-1886). USDA #73-B-1886, former USDA #73-B-1867, OK #BRD00400.

**[Angela Weaver/Arrow Wind Kennels, Howe, Oklahoma: Breeder failed to give access to USDA inspectors at six attempted inspections in a row, The USDA sued to obtain access and then found ailing puppies; state claims breeder had no violations.](#)** During a USDA inspection in February 2024, inspectors found injured and ill

dogs at Angela Weaver’s kennel, including a limping corgi and a litter of six puppies with eye and nasal discharge, pale gums, and fecal crusting around their tail areas. The USDA noted, “these puppies are showing signs of multiple potential problems and must be seen by a licensed veterinarian immediately.” The conditions were especially concerning because the USDA had only been able to gain access to the kennel after several years by suing Weaver. Weaver had been approved for her USDA license in July 2021. She had [failed her first attempt](#) due to unsafe co-housing, some puppies who had no water, at least two visibly injured dogs, and other issues. After she passed her second pre-inspection and obtained her license in 2021, the USDA tried at least six more times to visit the breeder for routine inspections to check on the welfare of her dogs, which is a requirement. At each one of the six inspection attempts between December 2022 and November 2023, no one appeared to let inspectors in the kennel. In December 2023, the USDA filed an administrative complaint against Weaver, stating she “willfully violated” the Animal Welfare Act regulations because she “failed to make a responsible adult available to accompany [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service] officials during the inspection process on six attempts to inspect.” In January 2024, [a motion](#) for preliminary injunction was granted, requiring Weaver to allow U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to make unannounced visits to her kennel to check on the dogs. Since gaining access, Weaver has been cited for 21 violations in 2024. As of April 17, 2024, Weaver is still USDA-licensed. Shockingly, Weaver is also licensed by the state of Oklahoma, but the state inspectors claimed to find no violations at the kennel when they visited in December 2023, stating on the inspection report, “everything looks okay.” USDA #73-A-2819, OK #BRD00414.

## PENNSYLVANIA

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

### **Margaret/Molly Graf/Eichenluft Working German Shepherds, Newville, Pennsylvania: State inspectors issued another verbal and written warning to AKC-linked facility where animal care issues have persisted since at least 2010.**

Even after appearing in six of our prior Horrible Hundred reports for issues related to poor conditions, poor record-keeping and inadequate veterinary care, Molly Graf received yet another verbal and written warning from state inspectors in November 2023. This time it was for bringing dogs into the kennel without the required records. As we noted in our 2023 report, the kennel has violated the Pennsylvania dog laws on and off for more than a decade. Issues found in prior years included some dogs who had inadequate protection from the cold, a lack of proper vaccination records, and chronic veterinary concerns. Graf also has a history of criminal infractions, including failure to keep a kennel in sanitary and humane condition (2010, guilty plea); operating a kennel without a license (2010, guilty plea); and a 2017 guilty plea for failing to keep a kennel in sanitary and humane conditions. Graf’s [website specifies](#) that she sells AKC-registered puppies. PA #6585.

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

### **Sam and Ben Kauffman/Chester View Kennel, formerly Sunny Slope Kennels, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Dog warden regularly found dogs in need of veterinary checks at 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 violations almost every year since then. For example, in September 2012, the kennel received 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 for dirty, unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Since that time, state officials have found veterinary issues almost every year since 2013. Most recently, the dog warden ordered 72-hour veterinary checks on dogs at least twice in 2023. In total, the state has ordered the kennel to get

veterinary checks on dogs at least eight times since 2016. The kennel had more than 120 dogs at a recent inspection. PA #8642. **REPEAT OFFENDER; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Aaron and Linda King/Berry Patch Puppies LLC, aka Berry Patch Kennel, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: AKC breeder failed four inspections in 2023 alone; dogs were in a dark barn in dirty conditions.** State inspectors found issues at three different inspections of Berry Patch Puppies between May and October 2023, including dogs kept in a dark barn that was difficult to visualize even with a flashlight, dirty conditions, some dogs who did not have enough space, and excessively high humidity levels. The USDA also found at least one violation in June 2023, meaning the kennel failed four inspections in less than a year. The state issued two verbal and written warnings and one citation in 2023. Berry Patch displays puppies for sale on its [website](#) as well as on websites including [Greenfield Puppies](#), which has been repeatedly linked to puppy mills. On the website, the operation identifies itself as an AKC breeder. Berry Patch Puppies cancelled its USDA license in fall 2023 but is still licensed by the state as of April 2024, which means it cannot ship puppies sight-unseen online or to pet stores but can sell them directly to the public. Former USDA #23-A-0783, PA #17769.

**Aaron Stoltzfus/Misty Meadows Kennel, Lititz, Pennsylvania: Fifteen violations were found at a single inspection; dogs were in the cold, enclosures were rusty, and there was no program of veterinary care.** In December 2023 alone, state inspectors found 15 different violations at Misty Meadows Kennel. The issues included some dogs who did not have enough shelter from the cold, rusty enclosures, no program of veterinary care, some dogs who did not have enough space or access to the outdoors, and more. When inspectors returned in April 2024, they found 14 additional violations, including matted dogs, a dog in need of dental treatment, dogs in the cold without adequate protection, and other issues, and inspectors noted there was still no program of veterinary care on-site. Stoltzfus had a variety of violations in previous years, including multiple citations and written warnings. In 2022 and in 2019, the state issued written and verbal warnings due to Stoltzfus transporting dogs without health certificates. In 2022 and 2019, he also had citations related to a few dogs missing rabies vaccinations. Stoltzfus also received verbal and written warnings in 2019 and in 2018 for poor conditions in the kennel. PA #16445.

**Amos Stoltzfus/Woodland Puppies aka Villa Crest Puppies, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania: Wardens found recurring violations at facility that had a reportable disease outbreak last year.** Dog wardens found multiple violations at three different visits to Woodland Puppies in less than a year. In June 2023, October 2023 and February 2024, the kennel was cited for inadequacies in the dogs' floor space and exercise areas, and lack of a certified ventilation system. The licensee's apparent unwillingness to fix the problems was especially concerning because Woodland Puppies was placed under quarantine in January 2023 for an outbreak of canine brucellosis, a [reportable zoonotic disease](#) that could spread to other species. Violations in prior years were also related to enclosures that were too small as well as a lack of veterinary records. Inadequate ventilation or overcrowding could lead to additional disease outbreaks. PA #16427. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Stephen Zook/Rainbow Ridge Kennel, formerly Oak Ridge Kennel, Manheim, Pennsylvania: AKC breeder received state citations three years in a row.** In March 2024, Oak Ridge Kennel received a state citation for a having a dog in need of a rabies vaccination; that same day, the dog warden also required a 72-hour vet check on an unspecified number of dogs. It was at least the third citation in recent years. As we noted in our 2023 Horrible Hundred report, inspectors found violations at four different inspections of Oak Ridge Kennel between August 2022 and March 2023, and issued two verbal and written warnings as well as two citations on different dates. The issues included a dog with a neck lesion that looked like it had been there "for some time," repeated issues with some dogs kept in cages that were too small, and unsanitary conditions. The facility is linked to the American

Kennel Club and offers puppies for sale on [the AKC Marketplace](#) website. PA #16389. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

## WISCONSIN

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

**Michael P. Bontrager, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: A flea infestation affected more than 30 dogs; several dogs did not have drinkable water.** Bontrager failed three different USDA inspections between July and December of 2023. Issues included a recurring flea problem that affected at least 32 dogs, and that persisted longer than necessary because the licensee was not following veterinary directions or giving the recommended preventative. Other issues included outdated physical examinations on the dogs, a dog with a scab and white discharge who had not received recent veterinary care for the problem, some dogs and puppies who had no water, and cleaning issues with odors and flies. USDA #35-A-0413, WI #468282.

**Carla Brovont/Paws n Play Kennel, Elroy, Wisconsin: Numerous puppies did not have enough space; strong odors in kennel; three dogs were matted; breeder sells AKC puppies.** USDA inspectors found five violations at Paws n Play Kennel in July 2023, before the kennel canceled its USDA license; the kennel is still licensed by the state. The USDA violations were for puppies who were in an enclosure that was too small, strong odors, several matted dogs, and an incomplete program of veterinary care. There were more than 150 dogs and puppies on the property. Prior issues at the kennel that we documented in our previous report included a dog with an open sore and hair loss, and multiple dogs and puppies who didn't have enough space. Brovont advertises AKC-registered puppies on [the AKC Marketplace website](#) and Puppies.com. She canceled her USDA license in October 2023, but as of April 2024, she still appears to hold a state license. Former USDA #35-A-0389, WI #412143. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Reuben E. Graber/Creekside Kennel, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Breeder failed three USDA inspections in 2023 alone; in December, the USDA fined Graber \$9,450 for an incident in which 26 puppies died.** Even after appearing in our 2023 report after 26 puppies died in a hot building due to stove vents that had not been regulated overnight, USDA inspectors found issues at Creekside Kennel at two more inspections later in 2023. In July, inspectors found an accumulation of debris, and in November, a shih tzu was found with wet, crusted hair around his eye, and another dog had noticeable matting on her legs. In December 2023, the USDA issued a citation and penalty to Graber in relation to the February 2023 incident in which 26 puppies died in an overheated building, fining Graber \$9,450 for the failure to protect dogs and cats "from temperature or humidity extremes." USDA #35-A-0472, WI #497857. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Simeon Lapp, Darlington, Wisconsin: The USDA issued an official warning after one puppy died and another was struggling; the licensee had not consulted a veterinarian about the issue.** USDA inspectors found concerns at the Lapp facility at several visits between April 2023 and early 2024. In April 2023, inspectors documented a Direct violation, indicating a current risk to animals, after one puppy died and another seemed to be ailing. The inspector wrote, "The facility had one puppy death in a litter yesterday and another puppy was observed by the facility to not be interested in suckling but has been taking some milk replacer. The licensee was concerned this puppy's problems might be the same as the one that died but the attending veterinarian had not been contacted." In June 2023, the agency issued a warning for the violation. The facility passed two subsequent inspections in April and July, but when inspectors tried to visit again in November, they were not given access to check on the dogs. At the next inspection, in January 2024, inspectors found excessive feces in some of the

outdoor enclosures, noting that they had so much waste and excreta “that dogs could not really walk around.”  
USDA #35-A-0479, WI #489608.

**Daniel Ray Miller, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Received an official warning from the USDA after a dog suffered a deep bite wound; two puppies’ feet were passing through the openings in the floor; 23 dogs did not have their annual examinations.** USDA inspectors found violations at two visits to Daniel Ray Miller’s facility in 2023, one in May and one in September. In October 2023, Miller received an official warning from the USDA for the violation found in September, pertaining to a poodle who was badly injured in a fight; the licensee had left seven incompatible dogs together in an exercise area and did not supervise them, resulting in a significant injury to the poodle. Other violations found at the facility in 2023 included two puppies whose feet were passing through gaps in the flooring, the underage sale of a puppy, and 23 dogs who were overdue for a veterinary examination. Miller passed a subsequent inspection in December 2023. Violations have been found off and on at the facility since 2014. USDA #35-A-0342, WI #279542.

**David A. Miller, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Breeder received a Critical violation from the USDA after one dog died from injuries; breeder has sold puppies to massive Iowa pet store broker J.A.K.’s Puppies.** USDA inspectors who visited Miller’s kennel in February 2024 found two dogs in need of care who had not been treated by a veterinarian. Both of them had signs of advanced dental disease, including loose teeth and plaque. One of the dogs also had eye discharge and a hazy eye, with redness in the white part of the eye. In addition, USDA inspectors found that a male miniature poodle marked as deceased in the records had died after jumping over the enclosure wall and being injured by larger dogs. The issue highlighted why safe and appropriate enclosures are so important for animal welfare. Miller received a Critical violation for not safely containing the mini poodle. The USDA issued an official warning in March for the Critical violation. According to a previous state inspection report, Miller has supplied puppies to Jennifer Popovich, DBA Oh Puppy Love, and also sold to J.A.K.’s Puppies, an Iowa broker. USDA #35-A-0487, WI #502860.

**Ervin, Marcus and Anna May Miller/Country Road Kennel, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Inspectors found seven dogs in need of care, including dogs with reddened or hazy eyes, loose teeth and feces or burrs matted into their fur; the USDA issued an official warning in March 2024.** The Millers had 17 USDA violations between three different USDA inspections in less than a year between June 2023 and January 2024 and received an official warning from the USDA in March 2024 for one of the violations. Some of the issues found included: a shih tzu who had been tethered outside and then slipped out of his collar and was never found again, five dogs with burrs matted into their coats, and three dogs with issues such as reddened or hazy eyes or loose teeth. One of the dogs was a dam with puppies; she had loose teeth, and both of her eyes were hazy with dry crusted material around them. Inspectors also noted bad odors and unsanitary conditions. They warned the licensee multiple times about the need to have a veterinarian visit the facility for hands-on physical examinations. USDA #35-A-0500, WI #502846.

**Daniel A. Schrock, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Failed a relicense inspection due to clutter, puppy’s foot slipping through wire floors and lack of a veterinary care plan.** USDA inspectors who visited Schrock’s kennel in February 2024 for a relicense inspection (which is required to renew a three-year USDA license) notified Schrock that he would not be able to renew his USDA license until several violations were corrected and he could pass a second relicensing inspection. The issues included clutter; a small puppy whose foot was passing through the wire flooring, which is an entrapment or injury risk; and the lack of a completed and signed veterinary plan. Schrock was also in our 2022 Horrible Hundred report due to issues that included the sale of some underage puppies, some dogs who were matted, and some puppies who were sold without adequate vaccinations. USDA #35-A-0463. **REPEAT OFFENDER; SECOND TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

**Reuben Schrock/Premier Kennels, Westby, Wisconsin: Puppies were housed on broken wire flooring, risking injury and entrapment; breeder had been taken to court in 2017 and fined over \$2,000 for similar issues.**

In January 2024, USDA inspectors cited Schrock for issues with a dog in need of veterinary care and unsafe enclosures with jagged edges or broken areas. In two cages, mother dogs and puppies were housed on broken wire flooring that could entrap their feet or legs. The offenses were particularly odious given that state inspectors had fined and penalized the kennel in 2017 for similar concerns. In 2017, the state department of agriculture charged Schrock with seven offenses, including failure to maintain structurally sound enclosures, keeping a mother dog and her puppies on dangerous wire flooring, failing to remove “an extreme amount of excrement” leading to “harmful odors,” and other concerns. Schrock signed a settlement agreement with the state in September 2017 and agreed to pay \$2039.50 in fines and fees. USDA #35-A-0431, WI #411912.

**Eva and William “Junior” Yutzy, Hillsboro, Wisconsin: Breeder had seven noncompliant USDA inspections in a row in less than two years.**

Between April 2022 and November 2023, Junior Yutzy failed to be found fully compliant at seven USDA inspections in a row before finally passing an inspection later in November 2023. Some of the issues found in the second half of 2023 included dirty conditions, missing records, and exercise and veterinary programs that had not been approved by the current veterinarian. USDA #35-A-0405, WI #467389.

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

## METHODOLOGY AND RESOURCES

Visit our [Google document](#) for information about our methodology (how we select dealers for the report), how the HSUS defines a puppy mill, buyer beware information, information on how to report a puppy mill, and more.