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The Horrible Hundred 2016: A Sampling of Problem Puppy Mills in the United States

The Humane Society of the United States

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The Horrible Hundred 2016

A Sampling of Problem Puppy Mills in the United States

May 2016

Underweight dogs, dogs with open wounds and patches of missing fur, dogs with feces in their food bowls and puppies found outdoors in frigid temperatures are just a few of the unacceptable conditions exposed in this document, our fourth annual report on problem puppy mills.

Missouri continues to have the greatest number of problem dealers in our report for the fourth year in a row (30), but this year Iowa has the second greatest number for the first time (15), followed by Kansas (14), Ohio (9) and Nebraska and Pennsylvania (5 each). Last year, Kansas had the second greatest number of dealers in our report (16) followed by Nebraska (14), Iowa (11) and Arkansas (7). Some of these changes are due to the greater availability of records in some states.

The violations, recorded by federal and/or state inspectors, reveal widespread problems in the puppy breeding industry, yet at the same time they demonstrate that some agencies are doing a more thorough job of identifying and warning problem puppy sellers. While this report identifies several states with a large number of problem breeders, perhaps a far more troubling problem is that many puppy mills are never inspected at all, and some are even protected by inspectors who fail to accurately record violations. The HSUS provides this update annually, not as a comprehensive list, but as an effort to inform the public about problems common at puppy mills before buyers inadvertently support an inhumane breeding operation¹.

The list includes numerous “repeat offenders,” dealers who have been exposed in one or more of our prior reports, yet whose inspection records continue to show a failure to meet basic standards of care.



A dog with an open leg wound standing on inhumane wire flooring was one of approximately 20 sick or injured animals found at Stonehenge Kennel in Iowa within the past 12 months. The USDA inspector failed to list any of the dogs' injuries or illnesses as “Direct.” Direct violations trigger faster follow-up by the agency. / USDA 2015

¹ The information in this report is based on the most current available public information as of April 20, 2016.

The USDA has made progress in revoking some licenses of dealers who have appeared in the HSUS’s reports in the past. The licenses of Linda Thorp/ Sky Blue Ranch, in Winterset, IA; Sheryl Tietz/ Heavens Blessings Kennel in Bancroft, NE; and Mary Carpenter/ Blue Moon Kennels in Melvern, KS were all revoked between August 2015 and February 2016, after demonstrating repeated animal welfare problems. However, such revocations are rare. The USDA enforces only the minimum care standards required under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations. The AWA standards are not optimal standards but survival standards, which are so low that licensed puppy dealers can still legally keep hundreds of dogs in small, stacked cages for their entire lives, with little or no exercise, enrichment or human attention, as long as they are provided with basic provisions such as food, water and rudimentary shelter.

The inadequate care standards codified under the AWA regulations are a significant concern of the HSUS. In September 2015, the HSUS and partner groups [filed a legal petition](#) with the USDA, urging the agency to improve its minimal care standards by requiring more space for dogs, regular exercise, better veterinary care and the removal of harmful wire flooring in dog cages, among other improvements. As of the date of this report, the USDA has not taken any action on the petition.

Despite the lag in USDA action, some progress has been made. It appears that more than two dozen of the problem puppy mills identified in our last few reports have closed their doors. But our new report shows that there is still no shortage of substandard puppy mills, and many of them continue to be relicensed year after year, despite ongoing problems. In fact, approximately half of the dealers in this report are “repeat offenders” who have appeared in one or more of our past reports.

This report includes puppy mills from 16 states, but because most of the dealers sell online or to pet stores, their puppies could be available to unwary consumers in all 50 states and beyond. The HSUS recommends never purchasing a puppy from a pet store or over the Internet, because they commonly are sourced from puppy mills. The only way for a potential buyer to know if they are purchasing from a humane and responsible breeder is to visit the breeder in person and see how and where the puppy was raised, and where the breeding dogs are kept.

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

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The Puppy Mills

ARKANSAS

- **Barbara Gullett, Gullett Kennel, Russellville, AR (REPEAT OFFENDER) – DOGS STOOD IN CAGES FILLED WITH STANDING WATER AND FECES.** The year 2016 marks the fourth year that Gullett Kennel has appeared in The HSUS’s annual puppy mills reports. After appearing in last year’s report, Gullett Kennel was cited for additional violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations in July 2015, for an English bulldog with “crusty green matter” around his left eye, standing water in some of the outdoor enclosures that left the dogs “wet and muddy,” and a French bulldog found in “lone enclosures attached to a trailer” whose cage was filled with feces and had not been cleaned in at least four days. In prior years, Gullett Kennel has been cited for many dogs in need of vet care, accumulations of dead insects, dirty conditions and contaminated food. USDA violations at this kennel date back to at least 2006. USDA #71-A-0748. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Anita Gustin, Kings River Kennel, Berryville, AR (REPEAT OFFENDER) – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR SEVEN DOGS FOUND IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE AND FILTHY CONDITIONS.** In August 2015, the USDA gave Anita Gustin an official warning regarding dogs found at Kings River Kennel in need of veterinary care in July 2015 and February 2015. The issues included a pomeranian with green discharge coming from his mouth; three dogs with bloody stools, and other dogs with dental issues or overgrown nails. Sanitation and safety issues were also cited in the official warning. During the July 2015 USDA inspection, the inspector noted that food receptacles “need to be cleaned and sanitized to remove the fly specs, excreta, dark matter, spiders, webs, egg sacs and or mold on the interior and exterior,” a violation that affected 193 adult dogs and 60 puppies. Violations have been found at Kings River Kennel repeatedly since at least 2013. Gustin has supplied puppies to one of the largest brokers (resellers) that provides puppies to pet stores, Pinnacle Pet. USDA # 71-B-0123.
- **Bill Nored, Dryfork Kennel, Prim, AR (REPEAT OFFENDER) –REPEATED VIOLATIONS; DOG HAD “DREAD LOCK SHAPED MATTS” AND BALLS OF MATTED WASTE MATERIAL HANGING FROM HER BODY.** Even after appearing in our 2014 and 2015 reports due to repeated animal care issues, including a dead puppy who had not received proper veterinary care, Dryfork Kennel continued to be cited for significant Animal Welfare Act violations by the USDA at subsequent inspections. During its most recent inspection in November 2015, a dachshund was found with a walnut-sized growth on its abdominal area, and four additional dogs were found with patches of hair loss. The licensee could not provide records to show that he had consulted a vet about the dogs’ medical issues. During the same inspection, dogs were found in cages that were too small, another repeat violation. In June 2015, a dog was so badly matted that she had “golf ball size matts of hair and waste material” and “dread lock shaped matts” hanging from her body, and a shih tzu was found with a combination of hair loss, hanging matts and “sores and drainage.” During the same inspection, the inspector noted filthy conditions and puppies with their feet hanging through wire floors. USDA violations noted in the HSUS’s previous reports include: stacked cages that allowed wastes from the top enclosures to rain down on dogs in the lower enclosures (February 2015); and multiple dogs in need of vet care, including a dog with her paw stuck in the wire flooring, a dog with red scabs, a limping dog and a dog with “green discharge” around the eye (June 2014). In August 2014, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Nored for inadequate veterinary care and unsafe and unsanitary conditions. Issues at the kennel stretch back at least as far as May 2011, when a USDA inspector noted numerous “hunting dogs” running loose, nine of whom were “extremely thin to the point of ribs, hips and spinal column protruding.” USDA # 71-B-0170. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Leon Walthall and Peggy Van Huss, Wagging Tails Kennel, Siloam Springs, AR (REPEAT OFFENDER) – “EXTREMELY THIN” DOGS FOUND DURING USDA INSPECTIONS.** In March 2016, the USDA gave Walthall and Van Huss an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for a failure to get adequate veterinary care for their animals. The warning stemmed from a January 2016 inspection, during which a

USDA inspector found two emaciated dogs at Wagging Tails Kennel. Both of the dogs were “extremely thin with clearly visible ribs, spine and hip bones,” and appeared to have muscle wasting, according to the report. The dogs were also surrounded by “liquid feces,” yet had not been treated by a vet for either the emaciation or diarrhea. A third dog was found at the same inspection with excessive matting and dental disease, and several parts of the animal housing were found to be rusty, cracked or damaged. The two dogs found in January 2016 were not the first emaciated dogs found at Wagging Tails Kennel. The kennel appeared in our 2014 report due to an additional extremely underweight dog and repeated problems with unsanitary conditions. In May 2013, USDA inspectors found three dogs in need of veterinary care at Wagging Tails Kennel, including yet another “extremely underweight” dog, a Chihuahua whose spine and ribs were clearly visible. A second dog had hair loss and crusted lesions on the ears and a third had an eye that was discolored and bulging. The kennel was also cited for unsanitary conditions in 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010, and 2008. USDA # 71-A-1134. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

ILLINOIS

- **Christie Hardt, B & C Kennels, Clare, IL– FINED \$1,000 BY STATE FOR PUPPY WITH PARVOVIRUS AND DOGS WITH BRUCELLOSIS.** In early 2016, Christie Hardt was issued two \$500 fines by the state of Illinois. One was for failing to test breeding dogs for Brucellosis, a contagious disease that can cross the species barrier. Two Boston Terriers sold by the facility tested positive for the disease, according to a state Bureau of Animal Welfare report dated January 27, 2016. The other \$500 fine was for selling a puppy with Parvovirus, a virus that is highly contagious and often deadly in puppies. According to the latter citation (Docket # 2016-0046), the “respondent admitted during the investigation [that] she noticed the puppy in question was ill” on 12/24/15 when she sold the puppy. A Docket Findings Report acquired from state records shows that when an inspector went to investigate the sick puppy complaint, the seller admitted that several other puppies had also come down with Parvovirus. Per the inspector’s notes: “She said they sold a puppy in early December to a family that returned the puppy after two weeks. The puppy was then sold to another customer and diagnosed with Parvo. [...] She also told me they have two Teddy Bear puppies at the Cortland Animal Hospital being treated for Parvo at the time of my inspection (1/25/16).” The licensee also admitted that many of the puppies she sells come from out-of-state dealers in Mississippi and Tennessee. B & C Kennels is online at www.bandcpups.com. IL #13876.

INDIANA

- **Kevin Wittmer, Loogootee, IN – THREE DOGS HAD PROTRUDING HIP BONES AND RIBS SHOWING, OTHERS HAD INJURIES TO THE FACE AND LEG.** Kevin Wittmer has only been USDA licensed since July 2015, but his December 2015 inspection already uncovered evidence of very poor conditions. On December 21, 2015, a USDA inspector found three mastiffs at Wittmer’s kennel who had “protruding hip bones, with all ribs showing and concave appearance in the muscle on the hind quarters, and bony shoulder bones.” One of the mastiffs also had a “2 inch hard lump on her left hind quarter,” and a puppy was found with abnormal-appearing, cloudy eyes. When these issues were pointed out by the USDA inspector, the licensee claimed that he had not noticed any of these clearly observable problems, according to the report. During the same visit, two dogs were found with injuries to their faces after fighting, and one of them also had “injuries to her right front foot that prevented her from being able to walk on it.” Despite the health conditions affecting all six dogs, the USDA inspector did not cite any of the issues as “Direct.” Direct violations typically flag a violation for faster follow-up by the agency. USDA records show that after the underweight Mastiffs were discovered in December 2015, the kennel was not reinspected until March 22, 2016, at which time the animals were found to be recovered. USDA #32-A-0514.

IOWA

- **Lindy and Kevin Aschinger, K & L Kennels, Westside, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER)– SIX NONCOMPLIANT INSPECTIONS IN 2015; REPEATED PROBLEMS WITH INJURED DOGS.** Violations for issues such as injured dogs, mouse feces and filthy conditions were found at many different inspections at K & L Kennel within the last year, according to public records obtained from the USDA. At the kennel’s most recent inspection in November 2015, a poodle was found with open wounds on her legs. And in June 2015, a pomeranian was seen scratching repeatedly and had hair loss and blotchy, reddened and thickened skin as well as signs of dental disease, including a pus-like substance along the gums. In June 2015, an inspector noted that a building housing dogs had “excessive buildup of ammonia and odor,” and the facility was strewn with trash and mouse feces. In addition, the licensee failed to let inspectors into the kennel at least five times between 2014 and 2016, a significant violation because inspectors were prevented from checking on the welfare of the animals. Many dogs in need of veterinary care were also found during several inspections in 2014, including dogs who were limping or had open wounds, dogs with signs of dental or eye infections, and many severely matted dogs, including some who were so matted that they seemed to be having trouble seeing and/or moving about normally. USDA #42-A-0446.
- **Carla Couchman, C & L Puppies, Weldon, IA – C-SECTIONS PERFORMED ON DOGS IN DIRTY SHED ON PROPERTY; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA.** In December 2015, a USDA inspector found a macabre scene in a cluttered, shed-like building at C & L Puppies. A large, plastic table was sitting up on blocks in the center of the cluttered room. The inspector noted that “nearly the entire top of the surgical table” was “dirty and covered and/or stained with dried blood. Half of the table has surgical equipment, multiple bottles of medications (including several bottles of expired medications) and a small tub of dog food.” On this table, according to the inspection report, “the licensee states that [her] attending veterinarian does major surgical procedures, including Caesarean Sections, on the licensee’s property.” The inspector went on to add that “this is not an appropriate facility/area for conducting major surgical procedures” and “does not provide a sterile environment.” Additional violations found at the facility in December 2015 included medications stored in the “operating room” which had expired in 2003 and 2006, and ammonia (urine) odors so strong that they gave one of the inspectors a “burning sensation in her eyes.” Violations found in August 2015 included two English bulldogs who had “yellowish green discharge from both eyes” who were squinting, a puppy with a “fleshy growth with blood vessels visible” in the corner of her eye, and dirty conditions. In January 2016, the USDA issued Couchman an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations due to veterinary issues found in August 2015. An inspection in February 2016 found enclosures with sharp points that could injure the dogs. An inspection in March 2016 was compliant. USDA #42-A-1263.
- **Doug and Wendie Dettbarn, Purple Heart Kennel, Strawberry Point, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER) – REPEATEDLY FAILED TO PROTECT DOGS FROM THE BITTER COLD WHEN TEMPERATURES HAD BEEN AS LOW AS -2 DEGREES.** In February 2016, the USDA cited the Dettbarns with a “Repeat, Direct NCI,” the most severe type of violation, for 26 dogs who were found outside with “little or no bedding material” in the bitter cold. The temperature at the time of inspection was 17 degrees Fahrenheit and it had been as low as -2 degrees the previous night. The Dettbarns had been warned about the same issue just a few months prior, in December 2015, yet still failed to protect the dogs from these dangerously frigid conditions, inspection reports show. During the February 2016 inspection, the licensees were also cited for an “excessive accumulation of frozen animal waste.” In June 2015, USDA inspectors found four violations, including a matted dog, housekeeping and maintenance issues, and a lack of adequate wind and rain protection for the outside dogs. Three of the four issues noted were repeat violations. USDA #42-A-1328; IA #9654. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Gary Felts, Black Diamond Kennel, Kingsley, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER) – REPEATEDLY FOUND WITH MATTED AND INJURED DOGS, EXCESSIVE FECES AND FILTH.** Even after appearing in The HSUS’s puppy mills reports for three years in a row, Black Diamond Kennel continued to be cited for severe Animal Welfare Act violations as recently as September 2015, when USDA inspectors found several dogs in need

of veterinary care, dogs confined to rusty and deteriorating cages, dogs without shelter from the wind and rain, broken, dangerous wire flooring, mouse feces in the dogs' food, and filthy, pest-ridden conditions. The USDA found similar conditions during multiple inspections earlier in 2015 and in 2014, including lethargic dogs (2/17/15), dogs with bloody wounds (2/17/15), feces piled "several inches high" (2/17/15), and dogs in outdoor runs with no wind or rain protection and/or no bedding material when temperatures had recently been below zero (USDA, 11/18/14). There were about 250 dogs and puppies at the facility as of September 23, 2015. An attempted inspection in February 2016 resulted in no access, which is a violation. "No access" violations are a significant concern because inspectors can go many months with no ability to check on the welfare of the dogs that they are required to monitor by law. The inspector noted, "the hired help said that they had not seen Gary yet that day." USDA #42-A-0757; IA #8968. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Lucille Godfrey, Bussey, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER)– DOGS FOUND IN FECES-ENCRUSTED, DILAPIDATED CAGES IN BASEMENT.** During a February 2016 visit, USDA inspectors found dogs in a basement area at Godfrey's kennel in cages that were coming apart and/or covered with feces. According to the inspection report, some of the cages had wire sides that had "broken into large holes, gaps and sharp points" large enough to injure the dogs, and "sharp points from the broken wires are located at the level of the dogs." Perhaps as a result of these unsafe conditions, one dog was found with "a round, raised area protruding from the skin under her left eye" and the licensee was directed to get veterinary care for her. Another dog was found with nails so long that "they have developed a severe curve and [...] lay sideways from the toes when the dog stands." In addition, some cages in the basement were so filthy that the flooring area was "impacted" with feces to the extent that it was mashed and flattened all over the wire flooring, according to the February 2016 USDA report.

On March 29, 2016, USDA inspectors returned to check on the above conditions. They found that some of the problems had been corrected, but at least one of the dogs was still living in filth: "In the 'Basement' there is one enclosure, housing one adult cocker spaniel and eight puppies, whose flooring is covered by newspapers. The newspapers covering nearly the entire floor space outside of the whelping box have become saturated with liquid and feces leaving very little clean area for the adult dog. Some piles of feces have been stepped on by the dog and smeared across the newspaper."

Prior violations noted in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report include: dogs without adequate protection from the cold when temperatures were 28 degrees and had recently been 4 degrees overnight (Nov. 2014); and dogs outside in enclosures with "an excessive build-up of snow, feces and/or urine" that covered nearly the entire floor surface of some of the enclosures (Nov. 2014). In January 2015, the USDA gave Godfrey an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for four different violations related to failure to protect dogs from filthy conditions and inclement weather. USDA #42-A-0913; IA #9516.

- **Martin and Barbara Hammen, S R K Kennel, Jolley, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER)– USDA FILED OFFICIAL COMPLAINT AFTER LICENSEE ADMITTED INTENTION TO SHOOT DOGS AND INTERFERED WITH INSPECTOR.** In an order dated March 18, 2016, Martin and Barbara Hammen's USDA license was suspended for at least two weeks beginning on March 15, 2016, and they were fined \$5,000 for multiple violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act regulations (AWA dockets 15-0157, 15-0158, 15-0159), including failing to provide proper veterinary care to multiple dogs, failure to clean excessive feces and urine build-up, a failure to adequately maintain the animals' housing, and interference with an APHIS (USDA) inspector.

SRK Kennel appeared in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report largely because of an egregious incident, involving one of the licensees admitting to her USDA inspector "6 to 7 dogs were scheduled to be euthanized by gunshot next week due to mammary tumors, old age or failure to produce." The inspector notified the licensees that gunshot is not an acceptable method of routine euthanasia. When the inspector tried to get a camera out to document the condition of the dogs, the licensee refused to allow the photos. USDA records show that the two licensees then began to intimidate the inspector and refused to let her use her camera, at which point they were cited for interfering with government

officials. Yet even after receiving this warning, SRK Kennel's owners continued to violate the Animal Welfare Act in April, May and August 2015, and in January 2016. On January 19, 2016, USDA staff who attempted to inspect the kennel were refused access at the door. USDA #42-A-1048. IA #9710.

- **Helene Hamrick, Wolf Point Kennel, Ackworth, IA – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR REPEATED FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE AND FAILURE TO GIVE ACCESS TO USDA INSPECTORS**. On January 14, 2016, the USDA gave Hamrick an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations related to a repeated failure to let inspectors in the kennel and veterinary care violations. Inspectors visited Wolf Point Kennel nine times between December 2013 and December 2015, but were only given access to the kennel four times out of the nine visits, a significant repeat violation of the Animal Welfare Act. "No access" violations are a significant concern because inspectors can go many months or even years with no ability to check on the welfare of the dogs that they are required to monitor by law. During most of the visits that inspectors were able to complete, violations were found. Issues found in 2015 included a shih tzu with eye and dental issues and a "red lumpy swelling" in his mouth (July 2015), a bichon with signs of advanced dental disease (July 2015), a bichon with "thick, dense areas of matted hair" along his body and "green discharge" on his eye, and two other dogs who were so severely matted that they had balls of densely matted hair dangling off their bodies (Feb 2015). In February 2016, four dogs were found in need of medical care, according to inspection reports. USDA #42-A-0124; IA #149.
- **Connie and Harold Johnson, CW's Quaint Critters, Melvin, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER) – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR REPEAT, DIRECT VIOLATIONS FOR DOGS IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE**. "Repeat, Direct NCI" violations, the most severe type of citation, were found at CW's Quaint Critters during USDA inspections in both July 2015 and October 2015. The violations were related to five dogs in need of veterinary care, including a dachshund who was seen squinting with "yellow/green discharge around her eyes," another dachshund who had patches of hair loss and crusty lesions on his skin as well as signs of severe dental disease, a Boston terrier with symptoms of ocular and periodontal disease, a poodle with such advanced dental disease that some of his teeth moved when touched, and a Chihuahua who was squinting and had cloudy and crusting eyes. In February 2016, the USDA gave Connie and Harold Johnson an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for repeatedly violating the Animal Welfare Act regulations due to the veterinary problems listed above, and other issues. Additional violations noted during the October 2015 inspection included excessively rusty cages, unsafe and dirty conditions, and an ammonia (urine) odor so strong that "one inspector felt a burning sensation in her eyes and the other inspector felt a burning sensation in her throat." In January 2016, the licensee failed to give USDA inspectors access to the kennel to conduct an inspection, which is a significant violation due to the inability of inspectors to check on the welfare of the animals. On March 30, 2016, the facility did pass one USDA inspection, however, the HSUS continues to have concerns about the kennel due to its history of recurring violations.

Records obtained by the HSUS from the state of Oklahoma in April 2016 show that in May 2014, the Johnsons were linked to a potential outbreak of canine brucellosis after buying an infected dog from Southwest Kennel Auction. The infected dog had been sent to auction by another repeat offender on our Horrible Hundred list, Dwayne Hurliman. An investigation of the Johnsons' facility that was conducted as part of the disease investigation found that the Johnsons' isolation area "was not 30 ft away from other dogs" and was separated only by a curtain. In addition, the Johnsons were not using gloves, boots or coveralls dedicated to the isolation area. [Canine brucellosis](#) is a disease that can be transferred from dogs to humans and can cause miscarriage and organ damage. USDA #42-B-0226; IA #4660. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Steve Kruse, Stonehenge Kennel, West Point, IA– TWENTY DOGS FOUND IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE, SOME WITH FRESH BLOOD AND OPEN WOUNDS, YET DEALER WAS NOT CITED FOR A SINGLE 'DIRECT' VIOLATION.** During several different inspections within less than a year, no fewer than 20 dogs have been found in need of veterinary care at Stonehenge Kennel. The most recent violations occurred in March 2016, when a bulldog was found with a 1 ½ inch long neck wound and a golden retriever was found with a problem affecting his back legs. The golden retriever was “periodically carrying its left rear leg and trying to put as little pressure as possible on it,” while also hopping on the rear right leg in an abnormal manner, as if in pain. Two other dogs were found with overgrown nails during the same inspection, and two dogs were found on dangerous wire flooring that was rusty, with holes and sharp points that could injure the dogs.



A mastiff in a cramped kennel at Stonehenge Kennel in Iowa did not even have enough room to wag her tail, and appeared to have no items in her cage to add comfort or enrichment. More than a dozen animals were found in need of veterinary care at Stonehenge Kennel in 2015. / USDA 2015

Similar issues were found at two other inspections at Stonehenge Kennel in 2015. In July 2015, a USDA inspector, accompanied by an Iowa state trooper, found no fewer than thirteen dogs with visible veterinary issues at the facility, including some with open, bleeding wounds. The sick or injured dogs included a bulldog who was shaking her head and had “a ¼ inch diameter area at the base of [her] left ear that had fresh blood, and a yellowish colored moist discharge around the edges” as well as

patches of hair loss; a mastiff with a 2 ½ inch sore that had fresh blood on it; a poodle with a 2 inch long laceration; and several dogs with greenish-yellow, crusty material around their eyes, among other problems. In addition, at least three feeders were found with feces mixed in with the food.

In December 2015, the inspector and state trooper visited Stonehenge Kennel once again and found a number of new problems, including a King Charles Cavalier spaniel with a bloody wound on her tail and a shiba inu who couldn’t bear weight on one leg. Another shiba inu was found with nails so long that they curled over one another, and many dogs were found in unsafe, rusty and broken cages which had sharp points that could further injure the dogs. (The December 2015 report was listed as “redacted” on the USDA website as of April 21, 2016.)

Kruse was not cited for a single “Direct” violation for the many dogs in need of medical care at any of his recent USDA inspections. When problems are identified as Direct, they typically flag a violation for faster follow-up by the agency.

The kennel’s license was listed as “suspended” on the USDA’s website during a short period of time in January 2016, but is currently listed as active (as of April 15, 2016). USDA #42-B-0182.

- Lora Lampe, Salem, IA – DOG WITH GROWTH THE SIZE OF A PING PONG BALL; RUSTED AND BROKEN WIRE FLOORING; LARGE AREAS OF STANDING WATER MIXED WITH FECES.** During an inspection on January 13, 2016, federal inspectors found a number of unsafe and unsanitary conditions at Lampe’s kennel, including broken, rusty wire flooring, and large areas of standing water mixed with feces and food wastes. The standing water puddles mixed with waste material were a repeat violation and presented “unsanitary living conditions” that could “lead to potential disease, contamination or health risks,” according to the inspection report. During the same inspection, a dog was found who seemed to be in distress. The male Maltese was found “shaking its head and pawing at its left ear” and had wet and discolored fur “around the left side of its head.” Upon closer inspection, the inspector found that the dog had abnormal growths outside of both ear canals; one of them was the size of a ping pong ball and the other was slightly smaller. The dog was flinching as if in discomfort, and had an “excessive accumulation of dark brown and black waxy material” around the affected area. When questioned about the dog’s condition, the licensee stated that she knew about the growths, but seemed unaware of the dirty condition of the ears and the signs of the dog’s discomfort, according to the inspection report. She was ordered to get treatment for the dog. Treatment was verified in a follow-up focused inspection (1/25/16). Other issues found during the January 13, 2016 inspection included a wooden board with sharp screws sticking out of it that was found in a whelping area with puppies who could be injured by it, and 51 enclosures with rusty wire flooring. USDA # 42-A-0733.
- Bob and Leslie Loutsch, Remsen, IA – NURSING MOTHER DOG WAS FOUND EMACIATED AND LETHARGIC; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM THE USDA, YET VIOLATIONS CONTINUED.** In April 2015, The USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Bob and Leslie Loutsch for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to at least six dogs found during a March 2015 inspection. One of the dogs was a nursing mother shih tzu who was found “lying in her enclosure with four two week old puppies.” The USDA inspector noted the mother dog was “very thin with a pronounced backbone and hip bones and is extremely lethargic and depressed.” Despite the USDA warning in April 2015, the Loutsches continued to violate the Animal Welfare Act regulations during two subsequent inspections. In August 2015, USDA inspectors found many additional violations at the kennel, including six dogs in need of veterinary care for issues such as eye disorders, nasal discharge, crusty material around the eyes and ears, matting and hair loss. Additional violations included rusty and unsafe enclosures, a “build up of dirt and grime,” and pest control problems. Following the August 12, 2015 inspection, the USDA tried to visit the facility three more times between August and December 2015; one visit was compliant, but on two other visits, the licensee failed to allow the inspectors in as required by law (October 2015 and December 2015). Inspectors finally accessed the kennel in March 2016. At that time, the inspector asked to review the kennel’s veterinary plan, and found out that the veterinarian listed had retired. USDA #42-A-1129.
- John Nisley, Edgewood, IA – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM THE USDA FOR REPEATED FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE; DID NOT GET SICK DOG TREATED EVEN AFTER REPEATEDLY INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.** John Nisley has only been licensed since July 8, 2014, but significant animal care problems have been found at all of his inspections since that date. One of the most troubling violations involved a poodle with loose, bloody stools who was first identified by a USDA inspector in November 2015, at which time the licensee admitted that the dog had had the problem for “the last couple days,” but had not been taken to a vet. During two additional follow-ups in December 2015, the inspector found that there was still no record that the dog had been treated by a veterinarian, and in December 29, 2015, the licensee claimed he had given away the dog, which still had not received the appropriate treatment as of the date he disposed of the dog, according to the USDA report. Additional dogs in need of veterinary care were also found at these inspections, including a King Charles Spaniel with “greenish colored discharge covering more than half of the surface of each eye” (12/29/15), a severely matted lhasa apso mix (12/29/15), very young puppies kept outside in the cold (12/10/15); and a Chihuahua who was missing an eye and whose other eye appeared damaged (9/2/14). In January 2016, the USDA gave John Nisley an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for five

different deficiencies in proper animal care, including the animals found in need of veterinary care on four different dates (Dec. 29, 2015, Dec. 10, 2015, Nov. 30, 2015 and Sept. 2, 2014), and problems related to animal cages that were rusty, dilapidated and dangerous for the animals. Inspectors also repeatedly found filthy conditions, including animal runs that were “completely wet with animal waste, water and mud.” USDA #42-A-1491, IA #10665.

- **Henry Sommers, Cincinnati, IA – ODORS SO STRONG THEY CAUSED BURNING SENSATION IN INSPECTORS’ EYES AND THROAT; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR IMPROPER VETERINARY CARE.** In March 2016, USDA inspectors found many significant problems at Henry Sommers’ kennel, including a very thin Yorkshire terrier whose “shoulder blades, ribs, hip bones and spinal column were easily felt with little body fat covering them,” and who also had significant dental disease and loose teeth; another Yorkshire terrier with “red abrasions/wounds along her side” and dried blood stuck in her fur; moldy food; and filthy and unsafe conditions.
These violations were not the first ones found in 2016 by USDA inspectors. In January 2016, USDA inspectors found multiple safety, sanitation and structural violations at Henry Sommers’s kennel, including a “strong animal waste odor” so pungent that “one inspector felt a burning sensation in her eyes and the other inspector felt a burning sensation in her throat.” In addition to the unsafe and unsound conditions, multiple dogs were found at the kennel in need of vet care during 2015, including a Yorkie who was holding up one back foot; the inspector noted the foot was swollen and abraded and that one of the nails had curled all the way around and into the toe pad (Nov. 2015). Other violations included several dogs with such advanced dental disease that they had missing teeth and/or could no longer hold their tongues inside their mouths (Oct. 2015); and a dog with “mucus accumulating below both eyes” and discolorations on the eyes (Oct. 2015). During the October 2015 inspection, it was also noted that many of the enclosures were coated with a “brown greasy residue” and there was no exercise plan for the dogs. In January 2016, the USDA gave Sommers an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for the repeated lack of adequate veterinary care found on three different dates in the fall of 2015. In September 2014, a USDA inspector found that a vet hadn’t visited the facility since 2012, and a Boston terrier was limping; photographs from the USDA show filthy cages and excessive feces. USDA #42-A-1329.
- **Cathy Speer, Milton, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER)–RECEIVED OFFICIAL USDA WARNING FOR REPEATED FAILURE TO PROVIDE VETERINARY CARE TO WOUNDED DOGS.** During a February 2016 USDA inspection, a Rottweiler was found at Cathy Speer’s facility with “green/brown discharge around both eyes” and “brown crusty material around the eyes,” according to the inspection report, but there was no documentation to show that a veterinarian had been consulted about the dog’s condition. This was not the first time that Speer was found with dogs in need of veterinary care. In July 2015, Cathy Speer received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to several dogs, including a Samoyed with a wounded foot, another Samoyed who was limping and had a leg injury, and two pugs with abnormal-appearing eyes. In addition, the USDA warned Speer about unsanitary housing conditions and a “repeated failure to provide for regular and frequent collection, removal, and disposal of animal and food wastes, bedding debris, garbage, water and other fluids and wastes, and dead animals, in a manner that minimizes contamination and disease risk.” Despite appearing in The HSUS’s May 2015 Horrible Hundred report, Speer continued to have repeat violations at three more USDA inspections: in June and August 2015, and in February 2016. One inspection in November 2015 was compliant. USDA #42-A-1238.
- **Randy Stoen, Dows, IA (REPEAT OFFENDER)–SHOT AND KILLED A DOG; REPEATEDLY THREATENED USDA INSPECTORS.** In May 2015, Stoen admitted to a USDA inspector that he shot and killed “Squirrely,” an adult, female Japanese Chin /poodle cross, with a handgun as his girlfriend held the dog down on the ground. The USDA inspector notified the licensee that “gunshot is not an appropriate humane method of routine euthanasia for dogs according to the AVMA guidelines” and that “inappropriate methods of euthanasia can result in distress and/or pain,” yet did not cite the licensee with a “Direct” violation, which is the most severe type of violation that inspectors can apply. The

licensee was also cited for repeatedly threatening USDA inspectors and refusing to allow inspections. On May 12, 2015, Stoen was cited for “a direct verbal threat of sticking a needle and syringe into the neck of an APHIS [USDA] official.” Stoen also stated that “if he was put on a list of supposedly bad dog breeders [possibly referring to the Horrible Hundred report] the APHIS official would have to bring a gun back when returning to the facility.” Stoen followed these threats with additional verbal abuse as noted in a June 2015 inspection, telling an inspector that he wanted to find out where he lived and stated “that’s how people get killed,” according to the USDA report (6/29/15). In 2015 and in 2014, USDA inspectors found multiple animals in need of veterinary care at Stoen’s breeding operation, including dogs with matted fur, eye disorders and open wounds. USDA # 42-A-0895; IA #9256.

KANSAS

- **Roger and Debra Deters, De Jas Kennel, Centralia, KS – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR DOGS FOUND IN NEED OF VET CARE AND REPEATED FAILURE TO LET INSPECTORS IN THE KENNEL.**
In January 2016, the USDA gave Roger and Debra Deters an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations. The warning was related to several dogs found in need of veterinary care during a March 2015 inspection, and at least two failed access attempts (July 2015 and November 2015) following the discovery of the dogs who were in need of care. The dogs found in the March 2015 visit included a shih tzu whose entire eye was red in color, a cocker spaniel with a suspicious growth, and another shih tzu who appeared to be unable to put weight on her leg. However, even after the warning was issued on January 14, 2016, yet another shih tzu was found in need of veterinary care less than two weeks later. During an inspector’s visit on January 26, 2016, a shih tzu was found with a “greenish yellow discharge on the cornea and around the eyelids of the left eye;” the white part of the dog’s eye was reddened, and there was a circular area on the cornea that was white in color. Numerous housing and sanitation issues were also found during inspections in 2016, 2015 and 2014. USDA # 48-A-1058.
- **Dianne Dick, Puppie [SIC] Trails Kennels, Rossville, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER) – REPEATEDLY FOUND WITH INJURED DOGS EVEN AFTER FINE AND WARNINGS.** Even after appearing in our 2015 Horrible Hundred report for veterinary issues, and being fined \$500 by the USDA in May 2014, Dick was found with animals in need of veterinary care at her most recent USDA inspections, in November 2015, December 2015 and February 2016. In February 2016, a USDA inspector found three dogs so matted that “the matted hair was balled and ropey in appearance and was tightly adhered to the skin,” and two dogs with signs of advanced dental disease, including loose teeth and receding gums. In November 2015, a USDA inspector found five dogs in need of veterinary care, including several who had signs of advanced dental disease, a greyhound who had difficulty walking and whose back knees seemed to stay bent at a 90 degree angle, another greyhound with red eyes that seemed to have an abnormal “milky-white, thickened opaque area,” and a severely matted schnauzer with “heavily clumped and corded” fur. In addition, a dachshund was found with ear injuries that the licensee admitted had occurred after an attack by another dog about two weeks prior, yet he had not been treated by a vet. The licensee was ordered to get veterinary care for the dogs in need, yet when an inspector arrived to re-inspect on December 8, 2015, he found that two of the dogs still had not been treated. Issues at the kennel stretch back many years. In 2013, USDA inspectors cited the kennel for issues with sick and emaciated dogs, and in 2012, the kennel was sent a warning letter by the state for repeatedly failing inspections. Issues go back at least as far as 2011, when the facility received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from USDA for multiple Animal Welfare Act violations. USDA #48-A-1237; KS #CB0009MX. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Virginia Hinderer, Dusty Road Kennel, Wakarusa, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER) – USDA VIOLATIONS FOR FIVE YEARS IN A ROW; SUPPLIED PUPPIES TO THE HUNTE CORPORATION.** In April 2016, a USDA inspector found a repeat violation for filthy conditions at Hinderer’s kennel, with excessive feces that covered 40 to 50 percent of some of the enclosures, and soiled at least two of the dogs with fecal residue on their legs and bellies. The inspection report noted that “unsanitary living conditions exist.” In

addition, the year 2016 marked the fifth year in a row that veterinary care violations were found at Hinderer's facility. A January 2016 violation was related to medicated shampoos that were more than 12 years past their expiration date, an issue (expired medications) which Hinderer has been cited for repeatedly in the past. In addition, the January 2016 USDA inspection found two dog feeders that were rusty or contained molded food, and excessive feces in some of the enclosures that covered 50 to 60 percent of the flooring. In January 2015, a USDA inspector documented Direct violations on three dogs for dental issues, found numerous questionable medications stored for use on the dogs, and noted that two enclosures had "dried, caked fecal residue" that covered up to 75 percent of the floor space. During a pre-license inspection in May 2012, inspectors found medications stored for use on the dogs that expired in the 1990s and early 2000s. Despite being warned that the effectiveness of expired drugs can be drastically diminished, inspectors once again found similar violations in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. State records obtained by the HSUS show that Hinderer claims to sell puppies to the Hunte Corporation, one of the largest brokers that provides puppies to pet stores across the United States. USDA #48-A-2139; KS #CB000ALV.

- **Izene Hynes, Hays, KS –EMACIATED MOTHER DOG FOUND WITH ONLY FIVE SURVIVING PUPPIES OUT OF ELEVEN; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR FAILURE TO PROTECT DOGS.** In January 2016, USDA inspectors found an emaciated golden retriever at Izene Hynes's kennel. The dog was nursing five puppies, but Hynes told the inspector that eleven puppies had been born in the litter, and the rest had died shortly after birth. The mother dog's ribs were "easily palpable" with no fat covering them, and her vertebra and hip bones were prominent, according to the inspection report. There was no indication that a vet had been consulted about the mother dog's condition. The January incident was certainly not the first time that poor conditions were found at Hynes's kennel. In August 2015, the USDA gave Hynes an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for three different violations, including a failure to properly care for a male Yorkie who had such significant dental issues that some of his teeth were loose, a repeated failure to provide structurally safe enclosures, and a failure to adequately protect the dogs from the cold in February 2015 when the temperature was approximately 26.5 degrees. Despite this warning, Hynes was once again cited for violations of the Animal Welfare Act in October 2015, when USDA inspectors found holes in the enclosures, bare wire flooring and dirty conditions. During the January 2016 visit, excessive feces and dirty water bowls were also noted. Additional violations were found in 2014 and 2013. USDA #48-A-1279.
- **Justin and La Nae Jackson, Jackson Kennel, Clifton, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER)- UNDERWEIGHT DOGS HAD RIBS AND BACKBONES VISIBLE; INJURED OR SKINNY DOGS FOUND FOUR YEARS IN A ROW.** On January 6, 2016, USDA inspectors found three underweight Vizslas at Jackson Kennel. They noted that "the ribs and backbone were visible from a lack of fat cover on all three dogs," yet the Jacksons had not consulted a veterinarian about the dogs' condition. "When the body condition shows a loss in weight to the point that the backbone or ribs are visible, this is a sign of potential health problems," according to the report. Other problems found during the same inspection included portions of the cages that were rusty, sharp or broken and thus dangerous for the dogs. Unhealthy or injured dogs have been found multiple times at Jackson Kennel. In April 2015, a state inspector found four dogs who were very thin, and dogs didn't have enough bedding to protect them from the cold. In September 2014, four dogs were found with foot or leg injuries and a fifth dog was found with a large open wound, according to USDA inspection reports. In June 2014, two other dogs were found with injuries to their paws or legs, and in June 2013, two dogs were found with wounds on their ears; one dog's wounds were bloody and scabbed. USDA #48-A-1849; KS #CB000BAC. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Judy Koehn, Bow-Wow Mound, Burns, KS – UNDERWEIGHT DOG HAD RIBS, BACKBONE AND HIPS PROTRUDING; FAILED FIVE TIMES TO LET INSPECTORS IN KENNEL.** In June 2015, a USDA inspector found an underweight female poodle at Bow-Wow Mound. He noted that, "the ribs, backbone and hip bones could be easily felt" and instructed the licensee to have the dog examined by a licensed vet. Despite the warning about the underweight poodle, additional animals were found in need of veterinary care at the next inspection, in September 2015. The animals included a Chihuahua with symptoms of

advanced periodontal problems (loose and missing teeth), a shih tzu who was so matted that “the entire back, top of the rump, and all four limbs have mats that are tight against the skin,” and another Chihuahua with such overgrown nails that “the nails are starting to curl outward as they contact the ground.” Both inspections also found issues with unsafe housing. Between March 2014 and February 2016, there were five different “attempted inspection” violations, due to the licensee not making the facility available for inspection. Attempted inspections are a significant violation due the inspectors’ inability to check on the welfare of dogs for months at a time. USDA #48-A-1503.

- **Darlene and Charlene Koster, Rainbow Ranch Kennel, Minneapolis, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER) – INJURED ANIMALS FOUND FIVE YEARS IN A ROW.** Even after appearing in three of our prior reports, Rainbow Ranch Kennel has been found with repeated veterinary issues since the release of our last report. Additional sick and injured dogs were found in June 2015, when USDA inspectors cited the kennel for a “Repeat, Direct NCI,” its most serious violation category, for a terrier with skin lesions, a husky mix with lesions and bloody scabs, and a Yorkie with an eye disorder. During the same visit, the inspector noted excessive feces, large numbers of flies, and “a strong odor.” In March 2015, a USDA inspector found a shih tzu with a wound on her leg that was “moist with a discharge and red,” and the licensee admitted the dog had been injured “a few days ago,” but had not been taken to a vet. In December 2014, a state inspector found a Yorkie who had reportedly been injured in a fight but had not been treated by a vet; the dog died overnight, according to the inspection report. In August 2014, USDA inspectors found puppies with their legs falling through openings in the flooring, which is a serious injury and entrapment risk; cattle medicines being used on the dogs without written veterinary approval; and unsafe conditions. The facility has also been cited repeatedly for failing to protect the dogs from extreme weather conditions, dangerous housing, dirty conditions, and failing to make the facility available for inspections. In 2011, the facility received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA for numerous violations that occurred between 2009 and 2011.

A USDA inspection of Rainbow Ranch in November 2015 was compliant, but the HSUS remains concerned about conditions at the kennel due to its history of regularly falling out of compliance. USDA #48-B-0271, KS #CB000CQD. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Michelle Miller, Plum Crazy Kennel, Elk City, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER)– FINED, FORCED TO DOWNSIZE AND SIGNED OVER SOME DOGS TO THE STATE AFTER REPEATED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH KANSAS PET ANIMAL ACT, YET STILL RE-LICENSED BY THE STATE IN 2016.** After Michelle Miller failed three consecutive state inspections between January 2013 and June 2014, the state of Kansas took her to court in early 2015 (case #15 AH 10698). As part of a 2015 consent agreement, Miller agreed to reduce her numbers to 25 dogs total. State records show that the kennel gave up five adult dogs to the state in June 2015, perhaps as part of the downsizing agreement. However, there has been only one successful inspection by the state since the consent order was signed. On two different occasions between December 2015 and January 2016, state inspectors tried to inspect the kennel after Miller failed to renew her license, according to Kansas Department of Agriculture records. Miller did not allow inspectors in or renew her license at either of those visits. In February 2016, according to the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Miller finally renewed her license, however there is no record of an inspection being performed to check on the numbers of dogs or the welfare of the dogs at Plum Crazy Kennel. Issues found at previous inspections included: unsanitary conditions; dogs and puppies who did not have an adequate amount of space; strong odors; infestations of flies, mice and fleas; dogs housed in rusty cages; dogs without enough protection from the cold and wind; and six dogs in need of veterinary care, including some who were underweight with prominent hip bones and ribs. KS # CB000U5L. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Keith and Lila Ratzlaff, Canton, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER) – DOG HAD NAILS SO LONG THEY CURLED INTO HIS FOOT PAD; FOURTH TIME IN HSUS REPORT.** This is the Ratzlaffs’ fourth appearance in our annual reports on problem kennels. In September 2015, a USDA inspector cited Ratzlaff for a “Repeat, Direct NCI,” its most critical category, for a male Bulldog whose nails were so long that they curled backwards toward the footpad, and one nail had in fact grown into the pad of his foot. When inspectors went back

to check the facility again in December 2015, no one was available to let them in, a violation of the Animal Welfare Act. But the USDA returned again in February 2016, and again found a dog with overgrown nails; the dog's nails were so long that they were "starting to curl to the side." Additional violations found in February 2016 included the purchase of puppies from an unlicensed breeder, unsafe housing and dirty conditions. The December 2015 attempted inspection was Ratzlaff's fifth attempted inspection since March 2013; five of the last eleven visits by USDA inspectors have resulted in no access. Previous problems found at the facility included pens with such excessive feces that the dogs had smeared it throughout and were "unable to get out of contamination" (state inspection, Feb 2015), another bulldog who was found with such long nails that they were "curving backwards toward the foot pad" (USDA, Nov. 2014); a dog with hair loss and scabs across his entire head; a puppy with a sprained leg; lack of bedding in shelters and accumulated feces. In July 2012, a USDA inspector noted that at least nine dogs didn't have any water, and "when water was offered during the inspection, many of the dogs drank voraciously in a manner that indicated that they were extremely thirsty. One dog was timed drinking for a total of 2 minutes and 15 seconds. The temperature at the time of inspection was over 90 degrees [Fahrenheit]." USDA #48-A-1793; KS #CB000ARK. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Moses Schrock, Thayer, KS – FAILED TO GET ELECTRICITY TO ADEQUATELY COOL OR HEAT DOG HOUSING EVEN AFTER YEAR AFTER YEAR OF WARNINGS; SUPPLIED PUPPIES TO THE HUNTE CORPORATION.** Since at least 2013, Moses Schrock has been warned year after year by both state and federal inspectors that buildings housing dogs under the animal welfare laws are required to have adequate electricity for heating, light, ventilation and cooling. However, Schrock had still failed to get adequate power or temperature control as of his most recent USDA inspection in August 2015. Additional violations found by state inspectors in the summer of 2015 include: dirty water with algae floating in it, unsanitary conditions and an expired program of veterinary care. A July 2013 state inspection noted that barrels were being used as dog houses and they were not large enough to allow dogs to make normal postural adjustments. Some barrels also had open bottoms and/or no substrate (such as straw or wood chips). A barrel with an open bottom housed a mother dog with young puppies, which is substandard housing for any dog. State records obtained by the HSUS show that Schrock claims to sell puppies to the Hunte Corporation, one of the largest brokers that provides puppies to pet stores across the United States. USDA #48-A-2011; KS #CB0011ZX.
- **Peter and Mary J. K. Schrock, Thayer, KS – FAILED AT LEAST THREE STATE INSPECTIONS; MATTED DOGS FOUND IN 90 DEGREE HEAT; SUPPLIED PUPPIES TO HUNTE CORPORATION.** Peter and Mary Schrock have failed at least three different Kansas state inspections, including inspections in July 2015, June 2015, and July 2013. The June 2015 state inspection found dogs in over-90 degree heat who were severely matted with a "thick 'blanket' of hair." The inspector wrote, "These matts pull and irritate the skin on the dogs – [it] is painful and unhealthy." Other issues found in 2015 by state inspectors included dirty water receptacles, dogs without adequate shade in the summer heat, and an expired program of vet care. As of the most recent state inspection report available (7/22/15), Peter and Mary Schrock were still failing to get the electricity needed to properly heat and cool their kennel buildings, even after repeated warnings by both state and federal inspectors since at least July 2013. For some reason, the state allowed the Schrocks to pass their 7/22/15 inspection even though they had still not acquired electric power and had no temperature control.

State records obtained by the HSUS show that Peter and Mary Schrock claim to sell puppies to the Hunte Corporation, one of the largest brokers that provides puppies to pet stores across the United States. USDA #48-A-1997; KS #CB000CWI.
- **Helen Shelly, Shadyhill Kennel, Hiawatha, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER)– STATE INSPECTOR OPENLY STATED THAT DOGS WERE AT RISK; OWNER WAS FORCED TO RELINQUISH MANY DOGS TO THE STATE DUE TO POOR CONDITIONS, YET STILL IN BUSINESS WITH REMAINING DOGS.** Shadyhill Kennel is no longer USDA licensed, but a 2016 Kansas state inspection was so outrageous that the state's Department of Agriculture made the kennel relinquish most of its dogs a week later, according to a settlement agreement. The operator is still in business with a reduced number of 4-5 breeding dogs

left. During a 2016 inspection, the licensee openly stated that she was incapable of walking 30 yards to the kennel building to check on and care for the animals, and at the end, the inspectors bluntly stated that they thought the animals were at risk living at the facility. The state report includes numerous pages describing terrible conditions. Shadyhill Kennel's record of poor conditions goes back many years. In 2011, Helen Shelly cancelled her USDA license after receiving an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA, and after being cited for many repeat violations for animals in need of veterinary care and filthy conditions. KS # CB0012WZ.

- **Krystal Tangeman (formerly Krystal Rottinghaus), Seneca, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER) – DOGS WITH OBVIOUS, PAINFUL INJURIES, INCLUDING DOG WITH MISSING EAR AND DOG WITH INJURED JAW, HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** In June 2015, a USDA inspector found two dogs at Tangeman's kennel with obvious, painful injuries who had not been treated by a vet. Both dogs were displaying signs of soreness and distress, yet for some reason, the USDA inspector did not cite the issues as "Direct." One of the dogs was a Papillion who could place no weight at all on his right front foot. He was seen holding the foot up and it was swollen and had a visible wound. The second dog in need of medical care was a bichon who had "a crusted surface with a cream colored fluid discharge on the right side area where the ear would be located." This same dog had an upper muzzle that was "offset to the left of the lower jaw" and the dog was seen "repeatedly licking the side of its mouth." The dog "displayed signs of pain by being non cooperative, head-shy and refused or was unable to open its mouth when the inspector and owner tried to examine the mouth," according to the inspection report. Tangeman (formerly Rottinghaus) appeared in our Horrible Hundred reports in 2013 and in 2014 for issues related to dogs in need of medical care and unsafe housing. In 2013, the USDA issued a Citation and Notice of Penalty to the licensee for many violations, including seven different dogs who were found in need of medical care for issues such as lame and limping dogs, a shih tzu who was so thin that her "backbone and hip bones were protruding," and a pug with lesions on the surface of her eyes. Similar issues at the kennel stretch back many years, but the kennel does sometimes pass inspections. A USDA inspection in February 2016 was compliant, but the HSUS remains concerned about conditions at the kennel due to its history of regularly falling out of compliance. USDA #48-A-2120. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Darryl and Larry Wilson, D & L Kennels, El Dorado, KS (REPEAT OFFENDER) – PUPPY DIED OF PARVOVIRUS; REPEATED SANITATION AND HOUSING ISSUES.** In February 2016, the Kansas Division of Animal Health visited D & L Kennel to investigate a complaint about a puppy sold by the kennel who died of Parvovirus a few days after sale. State records showed the inspectors were told that other puppies from the same litter had died shortly after birth, but inspectors did not see any "obvious signs" of illness in the dogs at the facility. They warned the licensee about avoiding cross-contamination. Sanitation and housing issues have been a recurring problem at the facility. In September 2015, state inspectors found green algae in the outdoor water pans and a clogged drain that was "leaving standing water and waste directly under the dogs" on one side of the whelping building, deteriorating wire flooring, and number of other housing problems. The licensee claimed to be constructing a new whelping building in March 2015 according to state records, but still had not completed the building as of December 2015.

As noted in our previous reports, the Wilsons have received at least two Official Warnings for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA. In June 2014, the USDA gave Darryl and Larry Wilson a warning for "failure to establish and maintain programs of veterinar[y] care that use appropriate methods to [prevent, control and treat] diseases and injuries." The warning came after an inspector found a pug with symptoms of eye and dental disease who had not been treated by a vet, as well as a Havanese who was so badly matted that approximately 75% of the animal's body was covered in tightly matted hair. In February 2014, the USDA gave D & L Kennels a warning for dogs without bedding in freezing temperatures. Similar problems were noted in prior years as well; in December 2013, USDA inspectors found 41 dogs in outdoor enclosures at D & L Kennels who didn't have enough protection from the cold when the temperatures were only 17.5 degrees Fahrenheit. USDA # 48-B-0276; KS #CB0012MJ. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

KENTUCKY

- **Larry Yoder, Whistling Pine Kennels, Crofton, KY – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE TO TEN DOGS.** In September 2015, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Larry Yoder for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to ten different dogs on various dates in 2014 and 2015. The animals included dogs with suspicious masses, dogs with evidence of eye disorders or dental disease, and a Yorkie with “a permanent tremor and difficulty walking.” Despite this warning, two additional dogs were found in need of veterinary care by a USDA inspector on October 27, 2015. The French bulldogs both had swellings and ulcerations between the toes, a common problem in dogs forced to stand on painful wire flooring in puppy mills. Additionally, one of the dogs had advanced dental disease “with complete exposure of the root and a possible perforation.” A USDA inspection in January 2016 was compliant, but the HSUS remains concerned about conditions at the kennel due to its history of regularly falling out of compliance. USDA #61-A-0131.

MINNESOTA

- **S Glenice Viken, S G Kennels, Roseau, MN –DOGS WENT SEVEN MONTHS WITHOUT MEDICAL CARE EVEN AFTER LICENSEE WAS TOLD REPEATEDLY BY FEDERAL INSPECTOR TO TAKE THEM TO A VET; FAILED EIGHT USDA INSPECTIONS IN A ROW.** S G Kennels has been found in violation of the Animal Welfare Act at every one of their USDA inspections between November 2013 and February 2016, and the violations seem to be getting worse with each passing year. At its most recent inspection on February 10, 2016, S G Kennels was cited for failing to get adequate medical care for two dogs, even after the inspector instructed the licensee again and again in writing to take them to a veterinarian. One of the dogs was first identified on June 15, 2015, with an abnormal eye. The inspector noted that the dog, who was only 16 weeks of age when first identified, “squints the eye and drainage is observed.” The inspector notified the owner that the condition could be painful and he must take the dog to the vet. Yet, three more inspections occurred and the dog was still not taken to a vet as of the February 10, 2016 inspection, even though almost seven months had passed. The second dog who was repeatedly denied medical care was a pomeranian with signs of advanced dental disease and who also developed symptoms of a severe ear infection. This animal had discharge on the gums and a “thick brown discharge” matted into the hair near the ear, according to the inspection report. This dog also received no veterinary treatment even after repeated warnings. Many other repeat violations were documented at recent inspections, including the lack of proper veterinary care, rust and sharp points that could hurt the dogs, and filthy conditions. USDA #41-A-0298.

MISSOURI

- **Pamela L. Baldwin, Samples Creek Kennel, Edgar Springs, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – SEVERELY MATTED DOGS, INJURED DOGS, WALLS SMEARED WITH FECES AND EXTREMELY FILTHY CONDITIONS.** After three different visits in a row during which they were not given access to inspect Samples Creek Kennel, USDA inspectors finally got into the facility on March 9, 2016. At that time, they found five pages of animal welfare violations, including many severely matted dogs, two dogs with abnormal eye conditions, and a dog who appeared to have a prolapsed rectum. The latter had “a large pink mass of moist tissue protruding from the rectal area.” The mass had “bumps and folds over the entire surface area,” according to the inspection report, which noted that the dog needed to be taken to a veterinarian. When inspectors returned on March 16, 2016 to check on the condition of the injured dogs and make sure they had been treated by a vet (known as a focused inspection), they found that three of them had been treated, but an additional animal was found in need of care. That dog was basset hound named Reba who had “thick creamy green discharge surrounding both eyes.”

Extremely filthy conditions were also found during the March 9, 2016 visit, with enclosures that had “an accumulation of blackish brown grime, food, feces and shredded paper bedding material that

was damp with urine and water.” The inspector noted that the walls and doors were smeared with feces, the whelping building smelled so bad that “the inspector felt a burning and stinging sensation to the eyes and nasal cavity upon entering,” and that the food and water bowls were also grimy and dirty with “a dark, green, algae-like growth” on the inside of the water bowls.

Between April 2013 and March 2016, USDA inspectors tried eight different times to visit Baldwin’s kennel, and were only given access during four of the visits. When inspectors were able to gain access, they found violations at every visit. It is a significant violation of the Animal Welfare Act to fail to let inspectors check on the welfare of dogs in a licensed kennel because all licensees are required to open their facilities to inspectors during normal business hours. In past years, both USDA and MO state inspectors found multiple additional violations at Samples Creek Kennel. In 2013, state violations included dirty conditions, contaminated water, and many dogs who appeared sick or injured, including a female dachshund who was unable to walk on her back legs (5/16/13) and a jack russell terrier who had leg and foot injuries so severe that the open wound exposed muscle and bone (10/01/13). USDA #43-A-4762; MO #AC000EGW. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Kevin Beauchamp, Beauchamp’s Puppy World, Lebanon, MO – USDA FILED AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT AFTER LICENSEE REPEATEDLY FAILED TO ALLOW INSPECTORS IN, FAILED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE TO DOGS.** In February 2016, the USDA filed an official complaint (Docket #16-0062) against Kevin Beauchamp for failing to give access to inspectors on four different occasions between July 2014 and December 2015. Despite the complaint, Beauchamp again failed to let inspectors into the kennel on March 1, 2016. As part of the complaint, the USDA also alleged that, even after receiving an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations in 2014 for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to his dogs, Beauchamp continued to fail to meet that obligation at four more inspections between April 14, 2014 and December 15, 2015. Issues found at those inspections included a dog with “thick, green discharge covering both eyes,” a dog with a reddened, swollen cyst, a dog that had a large amount of fecal matter trapped in his matted hair, and dogs with excessively long nails. The complaint also noted that Beauchamp failed on three different occasions between April 2014 and November 2014 to provide minimum care standards, such as adequate bedding to protect dogs from the cold, adequate cleaning of fecal material, and safe enclosures. USDA #43-B-3707; MO #AC000EXZ.
- **Craig and Angela Burns, Burns Cuddly Canines, Exeter, MO – PUPPIES WERE MATTED WITH FECES; UNDERWEIGHT DOGS HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** During a January 2016 state inspection, many problems were found at Burns Cuddly Canines, including: two puppies who had “a significant amount of fecal material matted into the fur” around their rear ends; two adult dogs with “various medical issues” whom the licensee claimed to be treating himself, but had no records of consultation with a vet; a cocker spaniel with “ocular discharge and crusting from her left eye,” and unsafe flooring that was coming apart. In addition, the inspector found that several dogs whom the licensee had been told to get veterinary care for during a previous inspection in December 2015 had still not been evaluated and treated by a vet as of the January 2016 inspection. These dogs included a cocker spaniel with “crusting around both eyes and on the upper lip” and three dogs who appeared to be thin with easily palpable spine, ribs and hips. The body condition of the thin dogs had improved by January, according to the inspection report, but there was no evidence that the licensee had consulted with a vet about their underlying condition as he had been instructed to. It also appears that the January issues with feces-encrusted puppies and sick dogs were not the first offenses; in December, state inspectors found ten poodle mix puppies who “were straining to defecate and had a significant amount of fecal material matted over their rectum[s].” The inspector also found several severely matted dogs and unsafe and unsanitary conditions during the December visit. The Burns’s class B USDA license was cancelled in March 2016 for unknown reasons, and a new Class A license was opened under Craig Burns only. Current USDA #43-A-6057 and 43-H-0053 (Craig Burns only); Former USDA #43-B-3738 (Craig and Angela Burns); MO # AC000HP4.
- **Kay Butler, High Point Kennel, Montgomery City, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – DOGS WITH BLOODY LESIONS, UNDERWEIGHT DOG, PUPPIES WITH LOOSE STOOLS.** Violations were found repeatedly by

state inspectors at High Point Kennel throughout 2014 and 2015, and as recently as March 2016. Violations found during a March 2016 state inspection included two dogs who did not have adequate shelter and a repeated problem with unsafe enclosures that could injure the dogs. During a December 2015 state inspection, several dogs were found in need of veterinary care, including an underweight Labrador who had a body condition score of 3 out of 9 (5 is ideal); three German Shepherds who had been found with “bloody lesions on the tips of the ears” during an August 2015 inspection and who still had not been treated by a vet; acting as a dealer (reseller) without the required dealer license, and pest control issues. Violations documented earlier in 2015 included: failure to have a documented program of veterinary care; failure to fecal test puppies with loose stool even after instructed to do so by both the attending veterinarian and the state inspector; improper vaccination of puppies; and two dogs with no water. Violations found in 2014 included: the use of “castration bands” to dock the tails of puppies; dogs in 27 degree temperatures without adequate protection from the cold; strong odors (noted on four inspections); unsafe conditions and sharp points (noted on four inspections); some adult dogs without rabies vaccinations; dogs with bloody or loose stools; a Weimaraner puppy who “was walking with a stiff gait” and seemed reluctant to raise her head; and dogs with matted coats and overgrown nails. In April 2016, Butler was also found [selling puppies online](#) via www.NextDayPets.com, and offering to ship them for about \$300, even though she is not licensed by the USDA to sell animals sight-unseen. The HSUS has reported this issue to the USDA (4/22/16). MO #AC0004PP.

- **Kimberly Coleman, TLC Kennels, Clinton, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – PUPPY FOUND ENTRAPPED IN WIRE FLOORING; WHITE DOGS APPEARED BROWN DUE TO SOILING WITH MUD AND FECES.** Problems have been ongoing at TLC’s Kennel for several years in a row. USDA inspectors visited TLC’s Kennel five times between March 2015 and January 2016, and problems were found at every visit. During its most recent inspection in January 2016, conditions in some of the kennels were so wet and dirty that many of the dogs could not “sit or lay down in a clean, dry area,” and several white dogs appeared brown due to excessive soiling with mud and feces, according to the USDA report. During the same visit, a puppy was found with its hind legs dangling all the way through the wire flooring; the inspector noted that the puppy appeared to have been “stuck for some time.” During three of the visits, the licensee failed to let inspectors in at all, a significant violation due to officials’ inability to check on the welfare of the animals. Significant violations have been recurring at the kennel since at least March 2014, when an inspector found a dog who was “extremely thin with minimal muscle mass so that nearly all her bones (shoulders, spine, ribs, hips, legs, etc) were prominent,” among other issues. During a January 2014 state inspection, inspectors noted that several dogs had a body condition score of only 2 or 3 out of 9 (5 is ideal), indicating that they were seriously underweight. USDA #43-A-4973; MO #AC000JRV. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Leroy Detweiler, Sunset Ridge Kennel, Princeton, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – EMACIATED DOG AND DOGS WITH OPEN LESIONS FOUND; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM THE USDA.** In February 2016, the USDA gave Leroy Detweiler an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for providing inadequate veterinary care to his dogs. The warning stemmed from several injured dogs who were found at a November 2015 inspection. These animals included an extremely thin Burnese Mountain Dog whose “vertebra, front shoulder and leg bones, hip bones and ribs [were] easily palpable and very prominent.” The dog also had a wound on her head. The licensee admitted that he noticed the dog was thin “a few weeks ago,” but had not taken the dog to a vet. Inspectors also found two female French bulldogs who had open wounds near their eyes, and crusted, reddened and/or inflamed areas on their skin.

The November 2015 inspection was not the first one at which emaciated or injured animals were found at Sunset Ridge Kennel. Leroy Detweiler appeared in the HSUS’s first Horrible Hundred report in 2013 for many violations, including a gravely ill dog found by a Missouri state inspector in May 2012. Wrote the inspector: “there is a King Charles Cavalier, dog number 406 that is thin and listless [...] This dog is not trying to stand up.” The inspector updated the report five days later, noting that the dog had died after the licensee was required to take him to the vet.

Prior to becoming licensed under #43-A-5786, Leroy Detweiler held a joint license with a Joseph Detweiler. Under that license (#43-A-5447), the facility received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations in 2012. Violations from the latter license number include a lethargic and shivering mother Chihuahua with only one surviving puppy, sick and lethargic puppies lacking veterinary care, a “high death rate” in puppy litters (July 2010), repeated problems with excessive accumulations of feces, dogs kept in unsafe temperatures, including a heat index of 114.1 degrees F in one of the buildings, and many other problems.

Detweiler cancelled his USDA license (#43-A-5786) in March 2016, but may still be operating in the state and selling directly to the public. MO #AC000LDC. **THIRD TIME IN AN HSUS REPORT.**

- **Caryl Freeman, Freeman Frenchies, Seneca, MO – NINE PUPPIES FOUND “LETHARGIC, SQUINTING;” OFFERS PUPPIES FOR SALE ON FACEBOOK AND PUPPYFIND.COM BUT HAS NO FEDERAL LICENSE.** In December 2015, state inspectors found nine French Bulldog puppies at Freeman Frenchies who were “lethargic, squinting and [had] the third eye lid partially extended.” The inspector wrote that the licensee claimed the puppies had recently finished treatment for an upper respiratory infection, but there was no record of any recent consultation with a vet about their current condition. Previous problems identified at the kennel by state inspectors included: an underweight female French bulldog with a body condition score of only 2 out of 9 [5 is ideal] (Sept. 2014); another French bulldog whose ear was “red and swollen shut” (Aug. 2014); a failure to have proof of individual health exams on the dogs (June 2014); and a repeated failure to “achieve tax compliance requirements” over the course of three different inspections (Jan. 2015, Dec. 2014, Sept. 2014). In addition, HSUS researchers found that Freeman Frenchies was offering puppies and dogs for sale online on PuppyFind.com and Facebook.com in April 2016; breeders who sell puppies online sight-unseen are required to be licensed and inspected by the USDA, but HSUS researchers could find no evidence on the USDA’s online license database to indicate that Caryl Freeman or Freeman Frenchies has a USDA license. The HSUS has reported the issue to the USDA. MO #AC0006QD.
- **Mary Foster and Cathy Griesbauer, Country Pets, Montgomery City, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – MASSIVE PUPPY MILL WITH MORE THAN 900 DOGS HAD LICENSE FOR ONE PROPERTY, BUT FOUND OPERATING SECOND UNLICENSED FACILITY.** Country Pets has been cited by both state and federal inspectors for multiple problems over the years, including unsafe conditions and injured dogs. After appearing in our last Horrible Hundred report in May 2015, the kennel was cited for many additional violations. The kennel did pass one USDA inspection in February 2016, but three violations were found at the facility’s Missouri state inspection that same month, including puppies in cages without enough solid resting area for them all to fit, an adult dog whose head almost touched the top of her enclosure, and twelve puppies who were missing from the facility because each one had either “been lost, died or sold,” but there was incomplete information about when these incidents had occurred.

Country Pets is one of the largest puppy mills in the country, with more than 900 dogs found at its most recent USDA inspection (Feb. 2016). In October 2015, a state inspector found that the licensee was operating an additional facility at an adjacent property that had not been licensed. In September 2015, a USDA inspector found sharp wires protruding into the cages and pest control problems. When the USDA tried to re-inspect on 12/14/15, the licensee failed to give them access, a repeated problem at the facility and a serious violation when the safety of so many dogs could be at risk. In December 2014, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Cathy Griesbauer and Mary Foster for failure to provide adequate medical care to ten different dogs. Violations found by state inspectors in 2014 included: underweight dogs with their spines, hips and ribs protruding; dogs with bleeding wounds; dogs who were limping or could not bear weight on their legs; 88 dogs without rabies vaccinations, and strong odors and filthy conditions. USDA #43-A-1843; MO#AC000PPD. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Jeffrey and Judy Gray, G & P Kennel, Rothville, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – MULTIPLE SICK OR INJURED DOGS; FINED \$9,500 BY USDA FOR REPEAT VIOLATIONS.** Even after G & P Kennel appeared in our May 2015 Horrible Hundred report for repeated veterinary care deficiencies, USDA inspectors continued to

find additional sick or injured dogs there in June 2015 and October 2015. The facility was fined \$9,500.00 by the USDA in November 2015 for a number of violations that occurred in 2015 and 2014, including 12 different dogs who were found with issues such as injured legs, skin lesions, hair loss, damaged eyes, and dental disease so advanced that some of their teeth were loose or missing. This fine came after the facility received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA in January 2014 for repeated problems with inadequate veterinary care and sanitation, yet continued to be cited for the same problems again and again. The Grays were also cited for eight different repeat violations in 2013. Photos taken by USDA (2014/2012) show dogs in rusty, small enclosures and puppies with their feet falling through wire flooring, which is a dangerous entrapment risk. An inspection in February 2016 was compliant but the HSUS remains concerned about conditions at the kennel due to its recent history. USDA #43-A-4052; MO #AC0005F2. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Beverly Hargis, Hargis' Sunshines Kennel, Hallsville, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – SO MANY FECES THAT THE DOGS HAD TROUBLE WALKING WITHOUT STEPPING IN IT.** During a January 2016 inspection, USDA inspectors found two dogs with such advanced dental disease at Hargis' Sunshines Kennel that one of them had teeth missing and his gums were receded, red and inflamed; the other had his tongue hanging outside of his mouth, which is common in dogs who are missing numerous teeth. The inspector wrote, "These conditions could negatively impact these dogs' ability to eat normally and their overall well-being." In addition, the inspector found most of the outside enclosures so filled with feces that it "made it difficult for the animals to avoid walking in it." Hargis' Sunshines Kennel has been cited for multiple USDA violations in previous years, including numerous dogs who were matted and dirty and in need of medical care, dogs who were limping due to untreated injuries, dogs without adequate protection from the cold, a "strong ammonia odor," and housing and sanitation problems. In January 2012, Hargis' Sunshines Kennel received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA. Nevertheless, serious issues continue. In addition to being licensed to sell to pet stores, the kennel also sells puppies online via puppyfind.com. USDA # 43-A-0209; MO# AC00Q2J. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**
- **Wilma Jinson, Jinson Kennel, Stella, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – SICK AND DYING PUPPIES FOUND YEAR AFTER YEAR; WOUNDED AND SUFFERING ANIMALS DID NOT HAVE ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE; FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT FOR GROSSLY INADEQUATE CARE.** Of all the puppy mills watched by The HSUS, Jinson Kennel has had one of the longest-standing records of wretched conditions and inadequate animal care, with violations found again and again by both state and federal inspectors. During her most recent USDA inspections on March 14, 2016 and March 24, 2016, inspectors found sick and injured animals and evidence of dead or dying puppies. For example, the inspector wrote:

There were 5 un-weaned pug puppies that were born 2/11/2016. The cage card on the outside of the enclosure listed that the dam had given birth to 7 puppies and 3 of the puppies were noted to be deceased. While the licensee had not recorded the dates the puppies had died she stated that they were at least two weeks of age when they died. She described the puppies as being smaller in size than the rest of the litter but was unsure [of] the reason for death as they were never evaluated by a veterinarian or provided additional care. One of the 5 remaining puppies was ½ the size of its litter mates and appeared lethargic and weak. Its litter mates chewed on its ears and repeatedly climbed over its body rolling the smaller puppy around while it remained motionless. When the inspector asked the licensee why there were 7 puppies listed on the cage card, 3 of which were marked as deceased and there were 5 puppies remaining, the licensee and staff explained that they 'expected the small puppy to die soon.' The licensee and staff were not providing any individualized or veterinary care to the puppy. – USDA inspection report, March 14, 2016

A bulldog also met with a terrible fate after receiving inadequate veterinary care at Jinson Kennel:

On 3/2/2016 an adult English bulldog named 'Casper' was taken to the attending veterinarian for a lack of appetite. The veterinarian documented the animal as having a body condition score of a 3/9 [5 is ideal] and confirmed the dog was positive for whipworms. The licensee was instructed to provide Fenbendazole, clean and feed a high protein diet. The licensee stated she provided

Fenbendazole for 6 days, as well as feeding the dog raw hamburger on the 6th day. On the 7th day, the dog was found dead with blood draining from its rectum. Upon further inspection it was discovered that the licensee had been mixing her own Fenbendazole wormer by using a large tube of [cattle wormer] and diluting it with tap water. The licensee had no formal instructions for adding water to the worming mixture and the attending veterinarian had not authorized its use. Mixing or diluting medications can alter their desired effect and potency. – USDA inspection report, March 14, 2016

And when inspectors returned ten days later, they found two more animals in need of veterinary care, including a bulldog with such a bad injury that he couldn't use his leg as he walked, and a sick puppy left outside in the cold:

A weaned English bulldog puppy [...] had intermittent coughing and wheezing. This puppy had been removed from the heated whelping building the previous week and put into an outdoor enclosure without any bedding even though the ambient temperature had fallen below 50 degrees F during the day and below 40 degrees F at night.” - USDA inspection report, March 24, 2016

Additional violations found by USDA inspectors since the publication of our last report include: puppies repeatedly found with no water, who drank voraciously when the inspector insisted that water be provided; conditions so filthy that puppies could not walk in some parts of the enclosures without walking through feces; dogs with thick discharge around their eyes; five dogs with missing fur, reddened skin and/or lesions on their skin; and puppies found living in almost total darkness in a building without indoor lighting. Issues pointed out in our previous report include: a dead schnauzer puppy and a second puppy who “appeared to be dying as evidenced by lack of normal movement, thin appearance, and an inability to right itself” (USDA, May 2014); five pug puppies “huddled on top of each other” as if cold, with no supplemental heat source (USDA, May 2014); and a bulldog who died of an apparent uterine infection after not being taken to a vet when the licensee first noticed the condition (USDA, Aug. 2014). USDA #43-A-2656; MO #AC000RYN. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Toni and Wendy Jones, TJ’s Kennel, Alton, MO– FAILED TO GET SICK OR INJURED ANIMALS TREATED PROMPTLY BY A VET; SICK OR INJURED DOGS FOUND BY STATE INSPECTORS THREE YEARS IN A ROW.** TJ’s Kennel’s last two USDA inspection reports listed no noncompliant issues (June 2015, Nov. 2014), yet its history of more frequent state inspections tells a far different story. Many animal care deficiencies were uncovered during state inspections in Feb. 2016, Jan. 2016, Sept. 2015, Aug. 2015, and Feb. 2014. In February 2016, a district veterinarian found a “direct” veterinary care violation for a Yorkshire terrier with significant eye abnormality and a mammary mass. The inspector also noted that the licensee was unable to prove with medical records that some of the dogs identified during prior visits as being in need of veterinary care had been treated. The state inspector also noted that there were excessive feces in the primary enclosures; the licensee admitted the enclosures had not been cleaned of feces in about six days. Additional dogs found in need of medical care on previous dates included: a Yorkshire terrier with a prolapsed uterus (Jan. 2016); two pugs who were coughing and were not under the care of a vet (Jan 2016); two Pekingese dogs who appeared to have eye injuries (Aug. 2015); an underweight Boston terrier found nursing puppies (Aug. 2015), and a pug with a swollen eye and dried green discharge around the eye (Feb. 2014). USDA #43-A-4241; MO #AC 000SN3.
- **Monta Lou and Mural Beckett, Soo Big Kennel, Joplin, MO –PUPPIES FOUND LIVING IN DARKNESS; BICHON HAD MASS THE SIZE OF A GOLF BALL; MALTESE WAS FOUND “LETHARGIC AND UNSTABLE;” ANOTHER WAS MATTED WITH FECES.** Soo Big Kennel has a history of repeatedly failing to correct animal care and safety problems, even when instructed to do so by state inspectors. In July 2015, several sick or injured dogs were found at Soo Big Kennel, including a male Maltese who “appeared lethargic and unstable with his legs/feet falling through the [wire] flooring;” the dog also had pale gums and symptoms of dehydration, which indicate he may have been trapped in the wire for a long time and may have been unable to reach food or water. Other dogs found in need of vet care during the inspection included a bichon who was squinting and had eye discharge, a bichon with a mammary mass the size of a golf ball, and a female dog with signs of a possible vaginal infection. During an August 2015

state inspection, the inspector found that Soo Big Kennel had failed to correct at least two conditions that were unsafe or inhumane for puppies that were first identified the previous month, including the fact that puppies were kept in a totally dark building and on dangerous wire flooring. A December 2015 state inspection found that the building was still dark and the flooring was still unsafe for puppies, but since there were no puppies at the facility that day, it was not listed as a noncompliance. However, several other issues that had been found during previous inspections, such as unsanitary conditions, had still not been corrected. Issues at the kennel go back to at least October 2014, when two dogs were found with “large masses in their mammary area” that were hard and “approximately the size of a golf ball,” according to the inspection report. Yet during the next inspection in July 2015, the licensee could not prove that the dogs were ever examined by a veterinarian for the problems. MO # AC000EZV.

- **Eva and Isaac Martin, Cedar Line Kennel, Fortuna, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER)– 5-WEEK-OLD PUPPIES FOUND IN OUTDOOR PEN SURROUNDED BY FLIES AND FECES.** During an August 2015 visit, a USDA inspector found several violations at Cedar Line Kennel, including a litter of five, 5-week-old puppies who were in an outdoor enclosure “with several areas of excreta which were attracting flies and odors.” When questioned about the conditions, the licensee admitted he had not cleaned the enclosure since placing the puppies outside five days prior. In addition, it is a violation to place very young or infirm animals in outdoor enclosures without specific approval from a veterinarian, because “the potential for stress and discomfort exists if puppies cannot tolerate outside temperatures for an extended period of time,” according to the report. Additional violations found at Cedar Line Kennel since our last report was published include expired medications and medications with illegible labels kept for use on the dogs (USDA, Aug. 2015). Issues noted in our prior report included: a 7-week-old Yorkie puppy who appeared to be very ill and was “unsteady when walking and was shivering” (USDA, March 2015). When asked about the puppy, the licensee admitted that she thought he may have had a seizure that morning, but said she had not contacted a veterinarian about the puppy’s condition. Issues also included citations for three years in a row for cages that were so rusty and in disrepair that there were holes rusted through the flooring, and/or the flooring of the cages was becoming detached, leaving dangerous gaps that could entrap a dog’s foot or leg (March 2015, Nov. 2014, April 2013). Dogs with leg injuries that could be related to the dilapidated flooring were found during at least two USDA inspections in January and April 2013, yet even after the USDA notified the Martins about the issue in writing, similar dangerous conditions were still found during inspections in 2014 and 2015.

In January 2013, one of the owners displayed a shocking lack of concern when a USDA inspector spotted a Yorkie in the kennel who seemed to be having trouble using her left front leg. According to the USDA inspection report, when asked about this dog, the licensee stated that “he first noticed the dog’s ‘broken leg’ about three months ago,” yet she had not been taken to a vet (USDA, Jan. 2013). Other injured dogs found in 2013 included a Maltese with a lump the size of a golf ball on her leg and another Maltese who was limping (April 2013). The Martins’ former USDA license, # 43-A-4303, was cancelled in December 2015. However, an Eva Martin opened a new license under #43-A-6033 at the property next door. No new violations have been listed under the new license number in 2016 as of the date of this report. MO#AC0007WY.

- **Catherine Mast, C and C Kennel, Bogard, MO – EMACIATED DOG AND DOG WITH EXPLOSIVE DIARRHEA FOR 3 WEEKS HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** Catherine Mast has only been USDA licensed since March 2014, but recent conditions are cause for concern. During a February 2016 inspection, two dogs were found in need of veterinary care: a sheltie who was thin with “the ridges on the spine and the ribs” easily palpable, and a husky with “significant, explosive creamy to tan-colored loose stool.” The licensee admitted that the husky had had loose stools for approximately three weeks, but she had not consulted a veterinarian about the dog’s condition, according to the USDA inspection report. Other violations found at the same inspection included flooring that was coming apart, an “extreme amount of hair, dirt, grime and fecal build-up hanging on the underside” of the enclosures in the whelping room, and dogs without adequate protection from the sun and wind. In August 2014, the USDA found that six huskies were kept in enclosures that were too small; the enclosures were only 26

inches high, which was the same height as some of the dogs. State inspection reports indicate that, about a month later, a state inspector found six more dogs, three German shepherds and three Chihuahuas, in cages that were too small (9/24/14). USDA #43-A-5842; MO #CB-8928.

- **Janice and Kenneth Nelson, Exeter, MO – DOG HAD “GOLF BALL SIZED MASS,” FOUR OTHER DOGS HAD LUMPS OR MASSES, 42 DOGS IN NEED OF DENTAL CARE.** In August 2015, Kenneth Nelson received an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations from the USDA for a failure to obtain adequate veterinary care for five dogs found suffering from masses during a March 2015 inspection. These animals included a beagle with a “golf ball size mass” on her back, two beagles with large hernias on their stomach areas, a Yorkie with a mammary mass and another Yorkie with a large hernia. Four of these animals had been previously diagnosed by a veterinarian in April 2014, yet even though their conditions were diagnosed, the licensee failed to obtain proper care for the animals at the time of the March 2015 inspection, according to USDA records. At around the same time the warning was issued, a USDA inspector also found dogs with evidence of hair loss, dental disease and extremely long toenails. One of the dogs with dental issues had such advanced disease that a molar fell out of her mouth during the inspection (8/3/15). During the same inspection, the licensee admitted that he had not obtained dental care for his dogs in two years even though his veterinarian had noted that 42 dogs were in need of dental cleanings. A USDA inspection in December 2015 was compliant, but the HSUS remains concerned about the kennel due to its history of regularly falling out of compliance. USDA #43-A-5769; MO #AC000WHO.
- **Barbara Neubert, Barb’s Pups (Formerly Neubert Kennel and Farms), Vienna, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER)– LIMPING BOXER WITH SWOLLEN LEG HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET; UNSANITARY CONDITIONS; USDA VIOLATIONS FOR SIX YEARS IN A ROW.** Barb’s Pups has had USDA violations for at least six years in a row. Violations documented by USDA inspectors at Barb’s Pups since our last report was published in May 2015 include: a repeat veterinary violation for a boxer who was limping and had evidence of swelling and scar tissue on his leg (Nov. 2015); dirty and smelly enclosures (Feb. 2016); and outdoor housing without shade (Feb. 2016). Violations noted in our previous reports include: a mother boxer who “was nursing eight puppies approximately 3 ½ weeks of age, who was very thin. The dog’s ribs, spine and hip bones were easily visualized from a distance” (USDA, Aug 2014); another dog with several piles of loose, abnormal-looking stools around his enclosure (USDA, Aug. 2014); and “bones with small pieces of meat and bone marrow still attached” littering the floor of many of the dogs’ enclosures (USDA, Aug 2014).

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

A USDA inspection in March 2016 was compliant. Previously licensed with Carl Neubert under #43-A-5339; current USDA #43-A-5777; MO #AC000X6H. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Jimmy Doyle Powell, Jimmy’s Hilltop Kennels, West Plains, MO – NURSING MOTHER DOGS WERE UNDERWEIGHT WITH HIP AND RIB BONES PROTRUDING; OTHERS HAD FLEAS AND LESIONS.** Although Jimmy’s Hilltop Kennels passed its 2014 and 2015 USDA inspections, its state kennel records tell a far different story. Missouri state inspectors have found underweight dogs and dogs in need of medical care multiple times at Jimmy’s Hilltop Kennel in recent years. In December 2015, a state kennel inspector documented, “only two primary enclosures were noted to contain food and several dogs were noted to be thin.” The inspection report stated that a beagle with five nursing puppies “was noted to have bony prominences, an obvious waist, and loss of muscle mass” with a body score of only 2 out of 9 (5 is ideal).

There was no indication that the dog was under treatment for her condition (state inspection, 12/1/15). During the same inspection, a pregnant Maltese was found to be oozing a bloody liquid, possibly from the vaginal area, and two shih tzus were also thin with evidence of fleas and skin lesions. Similar problems were found in December 2014, when another female beagle, nursing nine puppies, and a cocker spaniel, nursing six puppies, were both found to be “overly thin” with “hip and rib bones protruding.” In addition, a Maltese nursing four puppies was found with excessive hair loss, and a litter of cocker spaniel puppies was found “wet from urine and feces” (state inspection, Dec. 2014). In January 2014, state inspectors found a Yorkie and a dachshund who both had hair loss and thickened areas of skin where the hair was missing, and a cairn terrier was found with “poor body condition” and “an abnormal hair coat.” USDA #43-A-4942; MO #AC0011TK.

- **Mikhail Raylyanu, Marshfield, MO – RECEIVED OFFICIAL USDA WARNING FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE VETERINARY CARE TO UNDERWEIGHT DOGS, DOGS WITH WOUNDS AND HAIR LOSS.** In July 2015, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Mikhail Raylyanu for a failure to provide adequate veterinary care to nine dogs and a failure to provide uncontaminated food, after mold and bugs were found in the dogs’ food. The veterinary issues identified in the warning were found on various dates between November 2012 and July 2015 and included issues such as dogs with hair loss, scabs and missing teeth. Additional USDA violations found in 2015 included: puppies on 1 X 1” wire flooring that posed a dangerous risk of entrapment or injury; a rusted-through enclosure with sharp points that could injure the dogs; and dogs without enough protection from the cold. The underweight dogs were found in August 2014. An inspection in November 2015 was compliant, but when an attempt was made to inspect the kennel again in February 2016, no one was available to provide access to inspectors, which is a violation. Licensed dealers are required to make someone available for unannounced inspections during normal business hours. The February 2016 attempted inspection was Raylyanu’s third attempted inspection violation since April 2014. USDA #43-A-3911; MO #AC0011AL.
- **John and Linda Reichel, Reichel Farms, McGirk, MO – DOGS HAD FECES IN THEIR FOOD AND WATER; INJURED DOGS FOUND; PUPPIES KEPT OUTSIDE IN THE COLD.** Multiple violations were found at Reichel Farms during state inspections in December 2015, April 2015, February 2015, and multiple dates in 2014, 2013 and 2012 as well. The most recent inspection record available at the time of this report (12/11/15) noted: a matted toy shepherd who was limping and had feet that were “moist, inflamed and sore;” an Aussie named Luna who had “bite wounds on her head and legs;” several dogs who were matted despite warnings at two previous inspections to correct the issue; and unsanitary conditions. In addition, issues for dogs or puppies who did not have adequate space and/or protection from the weather were noted during four different state inspections between March 2014 and February 2015 at Reichel Farms. Violations included: four-week-old puppies kept outside in February 2015 when the temperature was in the 30s, a repeated failure to provide wind and rain protection, and repeated issues with matted dogs. In February 2015, inspectors also found feces in the food bowls and water receptacles, all the outside dogs had frozen water, and flooring was so filthy with feces and urine that some of the dogs had no “ability to escape their own excrement,” according to the inspection report. In fact, the inspector noted that several of the dogs were seen standing on their doghouses, possibly because it was the only way to avoid standing in the filth. Similar housing and sanitation deficiencies were also noted by state inspectors in 2014, 2013 and 2012. MO # AC0003TK.
- **Debra Ritter, Cornerstone Farms, Curryville, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – PUPPIES WITH BLOODY STOOLS; EXCESSIVE FECES AND UNDERWEIGHT/ SICK DOGS FOUND YEAR AFTER YEAR.** Violations have been documented year after year at Cornerstone Farms by Missouri state inspectors. During the most recent state inspection available at the time of this report (dated January 21, 2016), violations included: four puppies with bright red blood in their stools; additional dogs with “loose stool” and others with “dark, bloody stool;” a persistent strong ammonia (urine) odor; and excessive feces. Some of the issues found between February and December 2015 included: two dogs who were underweight and had a body score of 3 out of 9 (5 is ideal); “many dogs” found scratching with fleas; several dogs who had patches of missing fur, eye disorders, diarrhea, and/or were coughing; a strong ammonia (urine) odor in

one building that “can have detrimental effects to the health and well-being of the dogs;” inadequate bedding provided to dogs when the temperature was only 33 degrees; a puppy found with all four feet passing through the wire flooring (a significant risk of entrapment and injury); “numerous dogs” with matted hair; dogs with bloody, mucoid stools; expired medications kept for use on the dogs; dogs kept in buildings in temperatures over 90 degrees in the summer with no cooling mechanism in place; enclosures for some dogs that were too small according to minimal guidelines; a cocker spaniel who was found repeatedly shaking her head and who had “a build-up of a dark substance and a creamy-colored discharge in and around the ear canal;” and cages that were dirty, rusty, or coming apart. Although many of the violations were corrected at subsequent state inspections, new violations were regularly found. Cornerstone Farms appeared in a previous Horrible Hundred report (2014), at which time we noted that it was selling puppies online without a USDA license. In August 2015, the USDA finally issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Cornerstone Farms for conducting regulated activity without a USDA license on at least 11 different dates. The facility is now licensed under USDA #43-A-6000; MO #AC00122Y.

- **Ellen Roberts, Rocky Top K-9s, West Plains, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) –SICK OR INJURED DOGS FOUND FOUR YEARS IN A ROW**. USDA inspectors have found repeated animal care problems at Rocky Top K-9s over a period of several years. Violations found since the release of our May 2015 report include: an underweight boxer with ribs and backbone visible (March 2016); a boxer found with numerous ticks on her chest, neck and back (March 2016); two Boston Terriers with eye injuries (Nov. 2015); and an Olde English Bulldog who was squinting her eyes and rubbing her face, and had swollen tissue around her eyes and ears that was “dark red” with brown discharge (Nov. 2015). Violations noted in our previous report include: an Olde English bulldog with “reddened skin and hair loss” and a boxer who was thin with easily visible ribs (USDA, Oct. 2014); four 10-week-old English bulldog puppies who were coughing and seemed to be sick, but had not been treated by a vet, and a boxer with signs of mange (USDA, Feb 2014); nursing mothers with puppies who looked “very thin” with ribs and spinal arches prominent, four boxers with symptoms of mange, and two dogs who were squinting, with swollen skin around their eyes and discharge coming from their eyes (USDA, June 2013). In March 2013, a USDA inspector noticed a boxer puppy who was “very thin and had a hunched posture when she moved about. The hip bones, vertebrae and ribs were easily observed.” USDA #43-A-5445, MO #AC0012AU.
- **Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel, Edina, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) – VIOLATIONS HAVE SPANNED TWO DECADES**. During a March 2016 inspection, several noncompliant issues were found by a USDA inspector at Rabbit Ridge Kennel. They included a dog with a “1 ¼ inch long fluid-filled” mass on the ear and green discharge near the eye, grimy and unsanitary conditions, and a veterinary care program which wasn’t being followed correctly.

These violations were nothing new for Rabbit Ridge Kennel. Animal care problems at Rabbit Ridge Kennel date back to at least 1996, when the USDA filed its first official complaint against Schrage for repeated violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Another complaint was filed in February 2015; the 24-page complaint by USDA documented more than 90 dogs and puppies found in need of medical attention over a four-year period, including emaciated, bleeding and injured dogs who had not received veterinary care. Yet despite dramatically downsizing after the 2015 complaint, Rabbit Ridge Kennel has continued to violate the basic animal care regulations of the Animal Welfare Act. In November 2015, an inspector found a lhasa apso at Rabbit Ridge Kennel whose eye was “partially crusted closed,” and unsafe enclosures with sharp points that could injure the dogs. In June 2015, a USDA inspector noted that 44 dogs were missing from the kennel with no explanation for their whereabouts. The USDA inspector counted 23 dogs on hand during the June inspection, although there were only records for 11 of them. Yet just a few months later, in October 2015, Missouri state inspectors visited the kennel and found 68 adult dogs and 19 puppies, and in December, state inspectors found 74 adult dogs and 38 puppies. It appears that after briefly downsizing to satisfy USDA inspectors, the owner either quickly “found” the missing dogs, or purchased more dogs to again start increasing his kennel’s size. This is of significant concern due to the ongoing animal care problems at the kennel. The HSUS has contacted the

USDA repeatedly to express concerns about why this kennel is still in business when it has repeatedly failed to meet its most basic animal care responsibilities.

The USDA's 24-page February 2015 complaint can be downloaded at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/foia/enforcement_actions//2015/February/AWA/Complaints/MO10023_AC_Complaint%20for%20Donald%20Schrage_Redacted.pdf. USDA #43-A-1957; MO #AC00131W. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Angela L. Smith, Family Lane Pets, Elkland, MO – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR BULLDOG WITH OPEN WOUNDS, PUPPIES WITH LOOSE STOOLS AND VOMITING BULLDOG.** In May 2015, the USDA issued an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations to Angela L. Smith for several animals who had not received adequate veterinary care. The animals included an English bulldog with a large open wound on her head. The wound was so long that it “extended from the top of the head to the bottom of the ear close to the jaw,” and so deep that it exposed the tissue beneath the skin. During the same inspection, four puppies were found with loose stools, and a French bulldog was found vomiting. Despite the warning, additional animals in need of veterinary care were found again in November 2015, when a USDA inspector found an English bulldog with “thick yellowish matter” in her eye and two dogs with excessively long toenails. The inspector also noted unsafe enclosures with sharp protruding points that could injure the dogs in both January and November 2015. In March 2016, Smith cancelled her USDA license, which means that she can no longer lawfully sell puppies to brokers, pet stores or online sight-unseen, but she can still sell puppies face-to-face to the public under her state license. Former USDA #43-A-5845; MO #AC0013X3.

- **Josh L. Souza, Chevorlet Ranch [SIC], Phillipsburg, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER)– DOG WENT MONTHS WITHOUT VET CARE EVEN AFTER OWNER WAS ADVISED TO GET HER TREATMENT; VIOLATIONS FOUND AT 22 DIFFERENT USDA INSPECTIONS.** Between May 2012 and November 2015, USDA inspectors found violations at 22 different inspections at Josh Souza's kennel, and found acceptable conditions only a handful of times. Since the publication of our 2015 report, additional USDA violations found at the kennel have included a dog with such advanced dental issues that some of her teeth were encased in tartar and “the top gum lines were rough, reddened and receded with a yellowish/white substance in the receded area.” The licensee had been advised to get the dog dental care during a previous veterinary visit in February 2015, but apparently had not done so as of November 2015.

Souza was also cited on at least five different dates in 2015 alone for puppies he acquired or sold without the required documentation or that weren't properly identified, an issue he was also warned about in previous years and which could indicate that he was selling animals from unlicensed puppy mills (Nov. 2015, July 2015, Feb. 18, 2015, Feb 10, 2015, Jan 22, 2015). Souza was cited for the undocumented puppies repeatedly in 2014 and 2013 as well; in all, he was cited for the issue on ten different dates between 2013 and 2015.

Violations documented in our previous reports include: sickly and underweight dogs who were not treated by a vet even after the licensee was instructed to get them medical care by the inspector; dogs so severely matted that at least one of them had difficulty moving around; dogs without enough protection from the bitter cold when the wind chill was just 16.2 degrees Fahrenheit; dogs forced to walk in their own feces because it covered 85% of their floor space (all in Feb. 2015 per USDA); and many other filthy and unsafe conditions. In November 2013, The USDA gave Souza an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for six different violations found on six different inspections in 2012 and 2013, including a repeated failure to provide adequate veterinary care.

Souza's most recent USDA inspection in March 2016 was compliant, but the HSUS continues to have concerns about this kennel due to its record of regularly falling out of compliance. USDA #43-B-3620. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Allen Strenke and Jerry McClure, Jerrens Kennel, Grant City, MO (REPEAT OFFENDER) –SMALL DOG DIED AFTER DILAPIDATED CAGES ALLOWED DOGS TO MIX AND FIGHT.** After the publication of our May 2015 Horrible Hundred report, additional severe violations were found at Jerrens Kennel in June 2015, including the death of a small dog due to a gap between cages that allowed the dogs to enter one

another's cages and fight; a Chihuahua with such a bad ear injury that part of the ear was dangling; a shih tzu who was repeatedly shaking her head and whose ear "felt hot to the touch" with "black discharge in the ear canal," and a pomeranian with patches of matted fur, according to USDA records. The licensees also repeatedly failed to make their kennel available for USDA inspections, resulting in "no access" violations on four different occasions in 2015 alone. Violations documented by Missouri state inspectors in 2015 included: rusty cages that were not fixed even after the licensee was warned that they were unsafe and unsanitary, a boxer with eye discharge, a dachshund with scaly dermatitis, injured dogs and dogs with excessively long nails. Violations noted in our previous report include: a terrier nursing two puppies who was "very thin with easily palpable ribs and defined vertebrae" (USDA, June 2014); a Pekingese with an eye disorder, a boxer with a "dangling mass on the left side of her abdomen," three dogs who were severely matted, and a Chihuahua whose nails were so long that they "bend to the side when the animal is standing" (USDA, March 2014); an underweight Maltese and shih tzu (Nov. 2013); a boxer with a mammary mass (March 2014); a Chihuahua with dermatitis on all four feet (Nov. 2013); and excessively matted dogs (multiple dates in 2014).

The facility's most recent USDA inspection in August 2015 was compliant, but the HSUS continues to have concerns about this kennel due to its record of recurring violations. USDA #43-A-4362; MO #AC00063N.

- **Donna Taber, Jet Kennels, Wasola, MO – UNDERWEIGHT BICHON HAD "EASILY PALPABLE" RIBS, OTHER DOGS HAD PAW INJURY, DENTAL AND EYE DISEASE.** Both state and federal inspectors identified a number of animals in need of veterinary care or grooming at Jet Kennels in 2014 and 2015. Problems found by a MO state inspector in August 2015 included: an underweight bichon with "easily palpable ribs" who also appeared to be suffering from "severe periodontal disease" and had greenish eye discharge; a shih tzu with a suspicious growth and a matted coat, several other dogs who had matted hair even though the licensee had been warned about the problem on at least two prior occasions; and dirty conditions. Issues found by state inspectors in 2014 included: a Maltese with "excessive hair loss on her tail and open sores," which had not been given the recommended treatment by a vet; dogs with inadequate space; and dogs with matted hair and overgrown nails. In addition to the issues identified by state inspectors, USDA inspectors documented violations at the kennel in 2016, 2015 and 2014. In January 2016, a USDA inspector found that dogs did not have adequate protection from the cold when overnight temperatures had been in the 30s. In August 2015, USDA inspectors found two dogs in need of veterinary care: one with a paw injury, and another with signs of painful dental disease. In April 2015, a USDA inspector found a Yorkie with an injured foot who was repeatedly holding up his paw. USDA 43-A-5497; MO #AC0015LH.
- **Joyce Walters, Select Pets, Anderson, MO – DOG WITHOUT WATER STOOD ON HIND LEGS AND PAWED AT ENCLOSURE DOOR AS WATER WAS CARRIED OVER, THEN DRANK PROFUSELY.** In August 2015, USDA inspectors found two dogs without water at Select Pets. When the inspector requested that the licensee provide water, she then witnessed the following heartbreaking scene: "at the sight of the licensee approaching the enclosure with the water bowl one of the dogs stood on its hind legs and pawed at the enclosure door anxiously." The inspector added that, "when provided water both dogs drank continuously for an extended period of time." Both state and federal inspectors found a number of additional problems at Select Pets. Issues noted by USDA inspectors in 2015 included: dogs with hair loss and scabs; an odor of ammonia (from bodily wastes) in the whelping building; three litters of puppies housed on wire flooring whose legs were falling through the wire, a dangerous risk for entrapment or injury; matted dogs and dogs with overgrown toenails; and dogs standing in filthy, wet enclosures. Similar issues were found during state inspections. Select Pets has a Class B license with the USDA, which means it can operate as a broker (reseller) in addition to a commercial breeder. USDA #43-B-0178; MO #AC0017P3.
- **Deborah Warren, Misty Dew Kennels, Pierce City, MO –ONE PUPPY FOUND MOTIONLESS AND ONE DECEASED; RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM USDA FOR LACK OF ADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.** In February 2016, the USDA gave Deborah Warren an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations

for a failure to provide adequate veterinary care to her animals. The warning stemmed from two USDA inspections that occurred in late 2015. In October 2015, a USDA inspector found a puppy who was “unresponsive and lying curled up in its enclosure.” When asked about this puppy, the licensee indicated that the puppy and its three littermates had been seen by a vet about eight days earlier, but could not provide documentation showing that the puppies had received medication for about three days. The inspector noted that one of the puppies had died prior to the inspection, and “the licensee did not consult with a veterinarian concerning the change in health, resulting in death of this puppy or the shared symptoms and deterioration in condition of the second puppy which was observed in distress during the inspection.” Despite the violations found in October, additional animals were found in need of veterinary care when inspectors returned in November 2015. The animals included several dogs with nails so long that some of them were curling to the side, and a dog with a leg injury who could not put full weight on her leg, a condition the inspector noted “can be painful and may be the indication of a serious medical condition.” The licensee also twice failed to let inspectors access the kennel (Feb. 2016, May 2015), which is a serious violation due to inspector’s inability to check on the welfare of the animals. A March 2016 inspection was compliant. USDA #43-A-3278; MO # AC000DQJ.

- **Marilyn Williams (aka Marilyn Shepard), Williams Kennel, Ava, MO – UNDERWEIGHT, SICK AND/OR INJURED DOGS FOUND BY STATE INSPECTORS FOR FOUR YEARS IN A ROW.** In 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2013, state inspectors found sick or injured dogs at Williams Kennel. Dogs found in need of medical care have included: an underweight dachshund with “prominent vertebrae, ribs, and loss of muscle mass” who was nursing five puppies (Jan. 2016); a fox terrier with a skin lesion that extended across its abdomen (Jan. 2016); a miniature schnauzer with hair loss around the eye (Jan. 2016); a lhasa apso with “bilateral mucopurulent discharge and pigmentation of the eyes” (Nov. 2015); a Brussels Griffon with ocular discharge, dental disease and overgrown nails (Sept. 2015); a Bearded Collie who was limping and had a “wide strip of hair loss on his back” who was not taken to a veterinarian even though the licensee was instructed to have him treated (March 2015); a miniature poodle with eye discharge and gum disease who was not treated by a veterinarian even after the inspector requested it (March 2015), a Brussels Griffon with an eye disorder and a lump (Aug. 2014); a shih tzu with eye discharge and crusty skin (Aug. 2014), a Welsh Terrier who could not walk normally (Oct 2014), an Affenpinscher with patches of hair loss (Aug 2014), several dogs with bloody wounds or hair loss (March 2014), and a puppy with a gaping laceration on its head (March 2014). Repeated problems have also been found with dogs who didn’t have sufficient protection from the cold, and puppies with their feet passing through the wire flooring, which poses a significant risk of entrapment or injury. Williams has an active website at www.pup4u.com and also has many [online ads](#) for puppies on PuppyFind, a website that HSUS researchers have linked repeatedly to puppy mill operators and unlicensed breeders. Former MO #AC0002DJ.

NEBRASKA

- **Heath D. Francke, Sand Creek Kennels & Sporting Dogs, Newport, NE – RECEIVED OFFICIAL WARNING FROM THE STATE FOR PUPPIES FOUND SHIVERING IN THE COLD, NO VETERINARY PLAN, POOR HOUSING.** In February 2016, a state inspector found a number of unacceptable conditions at Sand Creek Kennels. Nine puppies who were less than four weeks old were found in an outdoor shelter on a 46 degree day, and the inspector noted, “puppies got out of shelter and some were shivering huddled [sic] together in a corner.” The inspector had to request that the licensee return the puppies to the shelter, because the shelter had “a drop off [so] that puppies would not be able to get back into [the sheltered area] on their own.” There was also inadequate bedding in the outside shelters to protect dogs and puppies from the cold. During the same visit, the inspector found a total of 11 violations, including unsanitary conditions and inadequate pest control, and the lack of a veterinary care plan. The conditions were rated unacceptable according to the state’s scoring mechanism. The HSUS found that Sand Creek Kennels was offering to sell puppies online in March 2016

<http://www.sandcreekkennelsandsportingdogs.com> yet it did not become USDA licensed until April 2016. USDA #47-A-0615. NE #KN1240.

- **Linda Hager and Edward Ruyle, Crab Orchard Kennel, Crab Orchard, NE (REPEAT OFFENDER) –USDA FILED COMPLAINT IN COURT AFTER PAIR CONTINUED TO SELL HUNDREDS OF PUPPIES TO PET STORES AFTER DROPPING USDA LICENSE.** Linda Hager first appeared in The HSUS’s Horrible Hundred report in 2013, after being “unavailable” six times in a row when the USDA tried to inspect her kennel. When the USDA finally gained access for an inspection in March 2014, no fewer than 54 dogs were found in need of veterinary care. A puppy died during the USDA’s inspection, and other dogs were found to be underweight or suffering from lumps, swellings, injuries, eye and skin disorders and infections.

After news of the horrific violations reached the public, Hager cancelled her USDA license in May 2014, but remained state licensed and continued to be found with substandard conditions by state inspectors.

Without a USDA license, Hager could still legally sell puppies directly to the public, but not to brokers, pet stores or online sight-unseen. However, the HSUS received evidence that Hager’s kennel was continuing to sell puppies to pet stores under the kennel’s co-owner’s name, Edward Ruyle. Ruyle also did not hold a USDA license. This information was provided to the USDA by both the HSUS and private citizens.

On February 5, 2016, the USDA filed a complaint alleging that Hager and Ruyle had “in commerce, offered for sale, delivered for transportation, or transported, and/or sold 224 puppies” unlawfully without the required license (AWA Docket #16-0049).

Despite their disgraceful history, Hager and Ruyle are still licensed by the state of Nebraska in 2016, and state records show that the kennel was found to have noncompliant issues at every one of its state inspections since our last Horrible Hundred report was published, including incomplete health records on the dogs (Dec. 2015), unwholesome food that was infested with insects (Aug. 2015), unsanitary conditions and high ammonia (urine odor) levels in the whelping room (Aug. 2015), and inadequate pest control (June 2015). The facility had 75 dogs and puppies at its most recently available state inspection on December 10, 2015. Former USDA #47-A-0410; NE #0315162 or KN162. **FOURTH TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Mitch and Alisa (Alica) Pesek, Swanton, NE (REPEAT OFFENDER) – AKC “BREEDER OF MERIT” HAD UNDERWEIGHT DOG, WOUNDED DOG, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS.** Even after appearing in our May 2015 Horrible Hundred report for underweight dogs and other significant animal care issues, AKC Breeder of Merit Alisa Pesek and co-licensee Mitch Pesek were found with yet another underweight dog and an injured dog during a state inspection in June 2015. This was a repeated issue at the kennel; in March 2015, the inspector noted that “3-4 dogs do appear to be underweight.” In addition, a dog named Dazzle was found limping with an injured foot during the June 15, 2015 inspection. During a February 2016 inspection, the inspector did not identify any underweight dogs, but noted excessive feces, improper waste disposal, and inadequate protection from the wind and rain. Photos obtained by the HSUS in 2015 show similar problems at the kennel in years past; dogs were outside in the cold and snow without adequate indoor shelter, and at least one had a visible injury to the leg. As noted in our 2015 report, in March 2014 and again in November 2014, the Peseks received official warnings from the state of Nebraska for severe animal care issues. The November warning alone outlined five different issues, including failure to provide “enough nutritious food to maintain body weight,” failure to have enough employees to properly care for dogs and failure to maintain a current veterinary plan. According to the warning, “at least 15% of the adult dogs were reported to be very thin and underweight,” and “dogs were reported to have serious and severe levels of internal parasites (whipworms and hookworms).” Despite these violations and the many other violations found, as of April 25, 2016, Alisa Pesek was still listed on the AKC’s website as an esteemed Breeder of Merit - one of many indications that The AKC, which repeatedly fights laws designed to crack down on puppy mills, has not only failed to protect dogs from bad breeders, but actively promotes them (www.humanesociety.org/AKCreport). NE #03131115.
- **Daniel and Jaynell Schaaf, Kuddly Kritters Kennel, Atkinson, NE (REPEAT OFFENDER) – FINED BY USDA FOR DOGS WITH VETERINARY PROBLEMS, UNSANITARY CONDITIONS, FAILURE TO HAVE ENOUGH EMPLOYEES.** In November 2015, the USDA fined Daniel and Jaynell Schaaf \$821 for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act that transpired in 2014 and 2015, including the failure to provide adequate veterinary care,

maintain sanitary conditions, or hire enough employees to adequately care for the animals. The most recent significant problem found at the kennel was a shih tzu found with advanced dental disease in August 2015. Another shih tzu had been identified during a January 2015 inspection as needing dental treatment; the buildup of hard grey/brown material on her teeth was so significant that it had built up into a pea-sized mass on one of the teeth and completely covered other teeth. In 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012, USDA inspectors found additional dogs in need of veterinary attention at Kuddly Kritters Kennel. These issues included a dog with a four-inch long abnormal growth (July 2014), a dog with a “red and oozing” open wound on her foot (July 2014), and a dog with dental disease and “green-colored mucus covering about 75 percent” of his eye (Nov. 2014). In both July 2014 and November 2014, USDA inspectors warned the Schaafs that their kennel facility “does not have enough employees to adequately in a timely manner take care of the maintenance and daily routines that a kennel of this size requires,” yet violations continued into the following year.

Records obtained by the HSUS show that the Schaafs sold at least 18 puppies to The Hunte Corporation, a massive pet store broker in Missouri, on various dates in 2015. A February 2016 USDA inspection was compliant, but the HSUS continues to have concerns about this kennel due to its history of recurring noncompliant issues. USDA #47-A-0146, NE #021416.

- **Paul Urbanec, Pender, NE (REPEAT OFFENDER) – FINED \$3,536 BY USDA FOR REPEAT VIOLATIONS; STILL FAILED TO PASS INSPECTIONS.** In August 2015, the USDA fined Paul Urbanec \$3,536 for multiple violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations that occurred during three visits in 2014. The issues included injured dogs who had not been treated by a vet, failure to maintain sanitary conditions, failure to protect dogs from extreme temperatures, and failure to make the facility available for inspection on two occasions. Urbanec continued to violate the Animal Welfare Act regulations even after the fine, as evidenced by his November 2015 and December 2015 inspections. The November 2015 inspection resulted in yet another “no access” violation, and at the December 2015 inspection, unsafe housing conditions were found. Problems recorded at the kennel in 2014 (as noted in our 2015 report) included a mastiff with open wounds on both ears that were “moist and bright red” and had “numerous flies” on them. When questioned about whether the dog was being treated for the wounds, the licensee produced an ointment which had expired almost a decade previously. During the same inspection, two dogs were found with signs of dental disease so severe that a pus-like substance could be seen along their gums, and two German Shepherds were found with hair loss and “bare skin was exposed” on the tips of the ears, which also had flies crawling on them. When questioned about the treatment these dogs were receiving, the licensee again pulled out the ten-year-old ointment, according to the inspection report (7/29/14). Additional problems found at the same inspection included excessive feces, unsafe housing, and other unsanitary conditions. USDA #47-A-0540.

NEW YORK

- **Jolene Martin, Seneca Falls, NY – MATTED DOGS, INJURED DOG, AND DOGS WITH FECES IN THEIR FOOD BOWLS; USDA NOTED “NOT ENOUGH EMPLOYEES” TO CARE FOR SEVERAL HUNDRED DOGS.** Several dogs were found in need of veterinary care at Jolene Martin’s March 2016 USDA inspection, including several excessively matted dogs. One of the matted dogs had feces trapped in the matted fur, and another had no teeth. Another dog was found to have “pressure sores developing on the back legs,” and several others had signs of dental disease, such as receding gums and missing teeth. In addition, at least twenty enclosures were found to have feces in the dogs’ food receptacles. When questioned about this, the licensee blamed the dogs. According to the inspection report, “The facility [representative] states that the dogs defecate and then carry the feces to the feeders. This is not a normal behavior for dogs and could be indicative of stress or other health or behavioral issues.” The inspector added that “one dog was retching in the enclosure” during the visit, and noted several other issues with sanitation and housing. The inspector also noted that the facility did not have enough employees to take care of the dogs: “The facility has several hundred adult dogs and only two adults working at the facility. Based on the number of non-compliant items in this report there is evidence to support that the facility does

not have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required for this many animals. This needs to be addressed for the welfare of the dogs.” Multiple violations for unsanitary conditions were found at the kennel’s last three inspections in March 2016, March 2015, and March 2014. USDA #21-A-0147.

- **Nathan Zimmerman, Penn Yan, NY (REPEAT OFFENDER)– BOSTON TERRIER KEPT ON WIRE FLOORING HAD PRESSURE SORES; MALTESE WAS “VERY THIN;” YORKIE WAS SOILED WITH FECES.** Several animals were found in need of veterinary care during Nathan Zimmerman’s most recent USDA inspection in December 2015. The USDA inspector wrote: “A Boston [terrier] had pressure sores on her hindquarters that were healing but there [were] no mats or way for her to get off the wire to assist with healing. A Yorkie [sic] that had recently been groomed had feces stuck to the anal region that needed to be removed. Another Yorkie [sic] had matted fur around the eyes that needs to be removed.” The inspector added, “One female Maltese was very thin and housed with a fat female pug. It is highly possible the pug is not allowing the Maltese to have access to the food.” The inspector added that the licensees were clearly not putting enough effort into “daily observation” of the animals to ensure their welfare. Excessive feces were also noted both during the December 2015 visit and in prior years. Nathan Zimmerman appeared in a previous Horrible Hundred report in 2013 for repeatedly housing puppies on dangerous wire flooring that allowed their legs to fall through and potentially become entrapped. USDA #21-A-0103.

OHIO

- **Marvin Burkholder, Berlin Kennel, Millersburg, OH (REPEAT OFFENDER) – CONTINUED REPEAT VIOLATIONS; EXCESSIVE FECES.** Even after appearing in our last report for repeat violations of the Animal Welfare Act regulations, Burkholder continued to accumulate repeat USDA violations. During a September 2015 inspection, two repeat violations were found: a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel was found with “signs of significant dental disease” and conditions were unsanitary with excessive feces. Problems found at Berlin Kennel in prior years included a Yorkie with a severe eye injury (9/18/14), a Boston terrier with a “right eye that is cloudy and blue, with green thick discharge” (1/15/15) and repeated issues with unsanitary conditions. In September 2014, a USDA inspector found that Marvin Burkholder sold at least two litters of underage puppies. One of the litters was only 46 days old, which is about 6 ½ weeks; USDA requirements and many state laws require puppies to be at least 8 weeks of age prior to sale for their health and safety. According to the USDA, sale of underage puppies “can cause additional stress, social anxieties, and lead to disease problems since immune systems have not [been] fully developed.” A November 2015 inspection was compliant. USDA #31-A-0224; OH #CB0003HW.
- **Susan Fitzgerald, Canton, OH – ADMITTED TO NEUTERING PUPPIES WITHOUT A VET AND WITHOUT ANESTHESIA PER NEWS REPORTS; UNLICENSED DEALER SELLS ONLINE AT PUPPYFIND.COM AND NEXTDAYPETS.COM.** According to [news reports](#), in January 2016 the Ohio Department of Agriculture revoked Susan Fitzgerald’s High Volume Breeder License after numerous violations were found. Perhaps the most egregious violation was Fitzgerald’s admission that she neutered puppies herself, without anesthesia, according to the news report. Other violations documented in Fitzgerald’s state inspection reports include a lack of veterinary care, the sale of underage puppies, a lack of ventilation and a significant odor. Even though the operator’s state license is revoked, she is still breeding dogs, according to news reports. A commercial breeder who breeds more than 9 dogs or sells more than 60 puppies in a calendar year is required to obtain a state kennel license in Ohio, and although the exact number of dogs at Fitzgerald’s facility is unknown, [photographs](#) that accompanied a March 1, 2016 ABC news report showed at least six different breeds.

In February 2016, Ohio state agents seized a 1,000 pound black bear from the property after the Fitzgeralds were repeatedly warned about putting him in a more secure enclosure and failed to do so.

Photographs posted by the local ABC5 website show Labradors, poodles, Old English Sheepdogs, and other breeds in feces-strewn chain-link runs: <http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/oh-stark/state-agents-reveal-dog-breeding-concerns-at-plain-township-home-where-black-bear-was-seized>

The HSUS has reported Fitzgerald to the USDA due to the belief that she is selling puppies online, sight-unseen, without the required USDA license. Her ads offer to ship puppies “worldwide” on national websites, such as NextDayPets and PuppyFind, which the HSUS has linked to unlicensed puppy mills. Fitzgerald offers puppies for sale on these pages:

<http://www.hoobly.com/kvLNO/beautiful-standard-poodles.htm>;

<http://www.nextdaypets.com/directory/dogs/uid/659819.aspx>;

http://www.puppyfind.com/l/?acct_id=268216&sid=s0so8q05m4la7o1tporhogpvv1

Former OH #CB0008HA.

- **Abe Miller, Quail Creek Kennel, LLC, Charm, OH – BOUGHT MORE THAN 100 PUPPIES FROM UNLICENSED BREEDERS; SUPPLIES PUPPIES TO PETLAND STORES.** – In January 2016, The USDA cited Quail Creek Kennel for buying at least 104 puppies from three different unlicensed suppliers. The USDA’s investigation took place between 11/19/2015 and 1/21/2016, indicating that if records had been reviewed over a longer period of time, it is possible that hundreds of additional puppies from unlicensed breeders may have been found. The USDA inspector wrote, “The records obtained from the licensee clearly establishes [sic] that they knowingly acquired puppies from unlicensed sources [...] which makes it impossible for APHIS to regulate those animals and undermines a working relationship.” Quail Creek Kennel sells many puppies to Petland stores across the country. An investigation of a Petland store in Rome, GA by the state’s Department of Agriculture on 10/30/15 found that a puppy with Parvovirus who had been sick enough to require hospitalization had been supplied to the store by Quail Creek Kennel. Some of Petland’s stores, such as the one in Fairfax, Virginia, use Quail Creek Kennel as their primary supplier. USDA # 31-B-0168.
- **James A. Miller, Millersburg, OH – “EXTREMELY LETHARGIC, WEAK” SPANIEL FOUND; DOGS REPEATEDLY FOUND WITHOUT SOLID FLOORING OR ADEQUATE SPACE IN VIOLATION OF STATE REQUIREMENTS.** During an inspection in September 2015, an Ohio state inspector found a male King Charles Cavalier Spaniel at James Miller’s facility who was “extremely lethargic, weak and uncoordinated.” The dog required immediate veterinary care and was taken to a veterinarian at the insistence of the inspector. Many additional problems were found at the same inspection, including dogs and puppies who were in cages that were too small, no solid flooring or resting area in some of the enclosures, dirty conditions, no record of a health plan in place, and a failure to properly identify dogs or keep track of sales (which could make tracking veterinary treatments or disease outbreaks nearly impossible). In November 2015, a state inspector returned for a re-inspection and found that some of the issues had been corrected, but many problems still remained. Repeated problems included multiple primary enclosures that still did not provide enough space for the dogs or puppies, there was still no record of a health plan in place, and although identification had been placed on the puppies, the majority of the adult dogs were still not properly identified, making any health care or disease control measures very difficult to track. The licensee also failed to make the facility available for inspection during at least two attempted state inspections in 2015. One follow-up inspection in December 2015 was compliant. OH # CB000NDU.
- **Merle Miller, Holmesville, OH – UNSANITARY CONDITIONS; SEVERELY MATTED DOGS FOUND REPEATEDLY; MANY NEEDED VET CARE.** In March 2016, a USDA inspector found three severely matted dogs and a dog with signs of an ear infection at Merle Miller’s kennel, as well as excessive feces and unsanitary conditions; all repeated issues that the dealer had been cited for in the past. In July 2015, a USDA inspector found eight dogs in need of veterinary care and many dogs who were

severely matted during an inspection of the kennel. The dogs in need of veterinary care included a Havanese with a large mass on her mammary gland, a Maltese who was matted over 90 percent of her body, another Maltese who was matted over at least 80 percent of the dog's body, dogs with "egg sized" mats hanging off them, and many others who had signs of advanced dental disease. In addition, there was no documentation of a veterinarian visit to the facility in more than a year, and numerous deficiencies in housing and sanitation were documented, including a rodent infestation and excessive flies. When inspectors returned to check on the facility on August 12, 2015, they were not given access to check on the dogs. A second return visit on August 24, 2015 found that the animals in need of vet care had been taken to a vet – however, four of the dogs were "no longer at the facility;" there is no information in the inspection report about what happened to the dogs. USDA #31-A-0463.

- **John J. Nisley, Loudonville, OH – DOGS FOUND LETHARGIC AND IN PAIN DURING STATE INSPECTION HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET.** In September 2015, a state inspector found a number of violations at Nisley's kennel, including a poodle who was "limping excessively on her front left leg." The owner "verbally confirmed that the dog was being 'sold in a day,' but made no affirmation that the dog was in pain until acknowledgement by the animal health inspector," according to the inspection report. The inspector also noted that two boxers at the facility "appeared to be very lethargic" and were in need of immediate veterinary care. There was no documentation to show that a veterinarian had been to the facility or treated the dogs, according to the report.

During the same visit (9/1/2015), the inspector also found that "the majority of the dogs that are housed in the outside facilities are not provided with a sufficient amount of clean, drinkable water on a continual basis [but were] checked once a day or every few days," according to the report. In

addition, more than 75% of the food and water receptacles were unclean and many were filled with "inadequate and filthy water" or with "mud, feces and other undesirable materials lacking any type of sanitation." The sick dogs were taken to a vet at the insistence of



Several dogs at John Nisley's breeding operation in Loudonville, OH appeared to have no food or water. /OH Dept of Agriculture. 2015.

the inspector, and the food and water receptacles were cleaned for a follow-up inspection, but in November 2015, Nisley was cited again, this time for selling underage puppies. OH #CB000927.

- Atlee Shetler, Millersburg, OH – DOGS HAD RED, INFLAMED LESIONS**. Dogs in need of veterinary care were found at Atlee Shetler’s facility during two different USDA visits in October 2015. On October 1, 2015, a shih tzu was found with large patches of hair loss accompanied by crusting and scabbing of the skin. The dog also had dental issues and one of her eyes appeared red and irritated, according to the inspection report. The eye had a white spot in the center and there was some crusting around the eye. The same dog also had overgrown nails. When the inspector returned for a follow-up inspection on October 21, 2015, he found that some of the shih tzu’s problems had been treated, but the shih tzu still had not been treated for the dental disease. Additionally, he found more dogs in need of veterinary care – two dogs with reddened and inflamed open lesions on their feet. More deficiencies found in October 2015 included expired medications kept for use on the dogs, rusty metal doors on the cages, and unsanitary conditions. Problems found during a December 2013 inspection included two dogs with dental disease, one dog with lesions and scabs, and one dog whose nails were so overgrown that the back dewclaws were



“coiled.” USDA #31-A-0101.

- Andy Yoder, Yoder Backroad Kennel, Millersburg, OH (REPEAT OFFENDER)– PUPPY FOUND WITH**

A puppy was found with untreated head injuries at Andy Yoder’s Yoder Backroad Kennel, in Millersburg, Ohio, according to a November 2015 state inspection report. Andy Yoder is a “repeat offender” who appeared in a previous HSUS report due to seven dead puppies found at his kennel during a USDA inspection. / Ohio Dept. of Agriculture, 2015

SEVERE HEAD WOUND HAD NOT BEEN TREATED BY A VET; CONTINUED TO FAIL TO GIVE ACCESS TO USDA INSPECTORS EVEN AFTER \$7,714 PENALTY. Andy Yoder appeared in our 2015 report for a number of severe violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including seven dead puppies found on his property, and a dog with a severely embedded chain collar. In April 2015, the USDA issued an official citation and notice of penalty (\$7,714) to Yoder for the dog with the embedded collar and several other animals found in need of veterinary care. He was also cited for repeatedly failing to make his property available for inspection. Despite this warning, Yoder again failed to grant access to inspectors during an attempted inspection in November 2015. Due to his failure to comply with the law, Yoder’s kennel has not been inspected by the USDA since July 2014 despite the agency’s attempts. But Ohio state inspectors were able to access the property on November 30, 2015, at which time they found a Scottish terrier puppy with an obvious open wound on the top of its head;

inspectors ordered the licensee to have the puppy treated by a vet. Yoder's USDA license (#31-A-0396) was cancelled in March 2016, but he may still be licensed by the state. OH # CB000102.

- **Owen R. Yoder, Millersburg, OH – FAILED TO GET VETERINARY CARE FOR 33 DOGS WITH ADVANCED DENTAL DISEASE, MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER BEING DIRECTED TO HAVE THEM TREATED.** In November 2015, a USDA inspector found that Owen Yoder had failed to obtain dental care for 33 dogs who were identified more than six months prior as being in need of dental treatment. Some of the dogs had such advanced periodontal disease that they had loose or missing teeth, or had a pus-like substance along the gumline. In addition, the inspector found that Yoder had inadequate housing and an inadequate exercise area for the dogs. The flooring in many areas was comprised of rusty, uncoated wire. State inspectors also cited Yoder for the bare wire flooring. A USDA inspection on March 1, 2016 was compliant. USDA # 31-A-0198; OH #CB00024R.

OKLAHOMA

- **Brett Bonham, Calvary Creek Kennels, Cordell, OK (REPEAT OFFENDER) – DOGS' FACES AND EARS WERE COVERED IN TICKS; OTHERS HAD FOOT OR EYE INJURIES.** In July 2015, a USDA inspector found several dogs in need of medical treatment at Calvary Creek Kennels: two pugs with swellings on their feet, and three shiba inus so "heavily infested with ticks" that the ticks were all over their faces and ears and between their toes. When inspectors went back to the facility on September 28, 2015, they were not given access to the facility, which is a violation. The facility was not re-inspected until October 6, 2015, at which time the animals mentioned in the July report had been treated. But when inspectors returned again in January 2016, another dog, a pug, was found in need of veterinary care. The pug's eye was "cloudy and blue in appearance, and the pupil [was] barely visible," according to the inspection report. The inspector noted that "the attending veterinarian had not been consulted nor had any treatment been provided" for the potentially painful condition. Violations listed in our previous report included: seven dogs who had "open wounds on the tops of their ears from flies biting them" (USDA, June 2014); no full-time veterinarian and "no written program of veterinary care available" (USDA, June 2014); and instances in 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012 when the owner failed to make the facility available for an inspection, which is a significant violation due to the inability of inspectors to check on the welfare of the animals. USDA #73-A-2637.
- **Dwayne Hurliman, Cordell, OK (REPEAT OFFENDER) – UNDERCOVER HSUS INVESTIGATORS FOUND DEAD PUPPY, DOGS WITH FROZEN WATER.** Until recently, Dwayne Hurliman operated one of the largest puppy mills in the country, with more than 700 dogs and puppies documented at its most recent USDA inspection (September 2015). The kennel had received at least two official USDA warnings in 2014 for failing to provide adequate veterinary care to a number of dogs, yet continued to accumulate violations. In both April 2015 and September 2015, additional veterinary violations were found at Hurliman's facility by USDA inspectors, including a dog whose eye was matted shut, and another with eye and dental disorders. In December 2015, Hurliman's license was cancelled for unknown reasons, but HSUS investigators who visited in early 2016 found that the kennel still had at least 200 dogs, many of them in cramped, wire cages, and many had only frozen water on a cold winter day. HSUS undercover investigators also noticed a dead puppy dumped carelessly next to an outbuilding. The scene was filmed and the footage was provided to local authorities.

Records obtained by the HSUS from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF) show that Hurliman's kennel had a Canine Brucellosis (*b. canis*) outbreak in 2014 that wasn't fully resolved until June 2015. Canine Brucellosis is "a disease that can transfer from dogs to humans and [...] can cause recurring fevers, and permanent damage to the joints, liver, kidneys and heart in humans."² The disease was first found in a dog that Hurliman sold to Southwest Auction Services in May 2014, and it was later determined that other animals in his possession were

² Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, 2014

infected, and that potentially infected puppies carrying the zoonotic disease had likely been sold to other pet dealers and the public. State records indicate that Hurliman failed to comply with an agreement that he would have all of his dogs tested for the disease in a timely manner, and continued to “sell or otherwise transfer ownership of dogs that are potentially infected with canine brucellosis after June 19, 2014 in violation of his prior agreement with ODAFF.” The disease was finally eradicated from the kennel over a period of time in 2015, according to the ODAFF records.

Although Hurliman has dropped his USDA license and thus can no longer lawfully sell to pet stores or online sight-unseen, he is still state-licensed in Oklahoma, and can legally sell puppies directly to the public. Former USDA #73-A-2621; OK #206.

- **Holly Kellogg, Atoka, OK – CAGES SO RUSTY THEY WERE COMING APART.** In July 2015, a USDA inspector found shockingly dilapidated cages at Kellogg’s facility, including corroded or broken wires and supports that were so decrepit they were affecting the structural strength of the housing, rusty wire flooring that was corroded and breaking away from the base, and holes in the rusty wire that could allow the dogs to become entrapped or injured. Kellogg was warned about similar issues in August 2014, but apparently did little to fix the deplorable conditions until after the July 2015 warning. Sanitation issues were also found at an August 2015 inspection. When an inspector returned in November 2015 to revisit the kennel, she was not given access, a significant violation since repeated and direct issues had recently been documented. An inspection in January 2016 was compliant, but the HSUS continues to have concerns about this kennel due to its recent record. USDA #73-A-2614.
- **Ray Range, D & B Kennel, Arnett, OK (REPEAT OFFENDER)– PUPPIES REPEATEDLY FOUND WITH THEIR FEET HANGING THROUGH WIRE FLOORING DESPITE REPEATED CITATIONS BY USDA.** After D & B Kennel appeared in two other HSUS reports for repeated Animal Welfare Act violations, USDA inspectors again found a “repeat Direct NCI” at the kennel in November 2015, when Chihuahua puppies were found with their feet and legs passing through openings in the wire flooring, which is a significant entrapment and injury risk. The licensee had been previously warned about the same issue during multiple USDA inspections. Additional issues found at the kennel and noted in our previous reports include: a Chihuahua named Spanky who appeared to be blind and never left the back corner of his enclosure, and another Chihuahua, named Boop, who had a tumor the size of a ping pong ball, which the owner admitted had been there for “quite a while,” yet the dog had not been taken to a vet (USDA, Oct. 2014); a shar-pei named Sissy who had greenish eye discharge, and a schnauzer named Heidi who was so badly matted that the matted fur covered approximately 80 percent of her body. The USDA gave Range an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations in February 2015 for veterinary and housing violations.

Records obtained by the HSUS show that Ray Range sold numerous puppies to The Hunte Corporation, a massive pet store broker in Missouri, on several dates in late 2015. A USDA inspection in December 2015 was compliant, but the HSUS continues to have concerns about this kennel due to its record of regularly falling out of compliance. Former USDA #73-A-2298; current USDA #73-A-2676. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

PENNSYLVANIA

- **Celtic Farms and Kennels, Inc., Mohrsville, PA - STATE OF PA REPEATEDLY ORDERED VET CHECKS ON DOGS.** The year 2015 was at least the fourth year on record that a PA dog warden ordered veterinary examinations on dogs at Celtic Farms and Kennels, Inc. All in all, more than a dozen dogs were sent in for veterinary examinations on these dates: November 2015 (4 dogs), June 2014 (2 dogs), May 2014 (“multiple” dogs, with a cruelty referral made to a local humane organization), May 2013 (multiple dogs with no exact number specified); and September 2009 (7 dogs). No 2016 inspections were available at the time of this report. PA #01225.

- **Garden Spot Puppy Haven, Parkesburg, PA (REPEAT OFFENDER) – STATE REPEATEDLY ORDERED VET CHECKS ON DOGS; CITED FOR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS, POOR MAINTENANCE.** In our 2015 Horrible Hundred report, we noted that Pennsylvania’s Dog Law Enforcement Office had cited Garden Spot Puppy Haven for selling underage puppies in March 2015. Yet even after our 2015 report was published, state inspectors found problems during three additional inspections of Garden Spot Puppy Haven. The kennel was cited again in May 2015 for numerous issues, including unsatisfactory sanitation, maintenance problems and excessive feces. During the same inspection, veterinary checks were ordered on dogs, and a water analysis was ordered to determine if the water being given to the dogs was potable. Vet checks were ordered on dogs again during the next two inspections in July 2015 and November 2015. No 2016 inspection reports were available at the time of this publication.

Issues noted in our prior report include: a citation in October 2014 for two dogs without rabies vaccinations, and another vet check ordered in March 2013; in 2012, the facility received three verbal and written warnings from the state for many issues, including dogs in need of veterinary care, dirty conditions, dogs not protected from extreme temperature and poor air quality. The facility also received a citation in July 2012 for not using the required ventilation system, resulting in poor air quality. In 2010, the facility received a citation for a variety of issues, ranging from unsafe housing, puppies with their feet falling through the wire flooring, two dogs without current rabies vaccinations, and a verbal warning for unsatisfactory maintenance. PA # 06301.

- **Hill Top Farm Kennel, Honey Brook, PA (REPEAT OFFENDER) – NINE WARNINGS OR CITATIONS FROM THE STATE SINCE 2010.** Between January 2010 and January 2016, Hill Top Farm Kennel received six written warnings, three citations and a cruelty referral from the state Office of Dog Law. The most recent issues were documented in January 2016, when the citation included “Interference with Officer” after “the owner’s son ran ahead of wardens to turn on fan(s) in the kennel building, impeding the warden’s ability to inspect the kennel as is.” This violation was particularly problematic because the kennel had been previously warned about not running the required fans, thus depriving the dogs of adequate air circulation, humidity control and ventilation, according to a September 2015 inspection. In addition, vet checks were ordered on dogs in September 2015. The January 2016 inspection also found issues with inadequate ventilation, in addition to rodent droppings in the kennel. The cruelty referral took place in September 2012, when dog wardens “observed two dogs in the kennel that exhibited signs of poor health.” Issues at the kennel go back at least as far as January 2010, when wardens found dogs, including a mother dog with puppies, in a barn with broken windows and no heat when the temperature was only 28 degrees. During the same inspection, a newborn puppy was found “screaming in pain, with a limp back leg” and fresh blood on the floor. The inspector wrote, “kennel [owner] thought maybe puppy with injured leg had been stepped on and that a bitch had miscarried that morning, this warden observed both dogs to be in need of immediate veterinarian care.” The puppy later died, according to the inspection report. PA # 04370.
- **Stoney Brook Kennel, Coatesville, PA – RECEIVED MULTIPLE CITATIONS, VERBAL AND WRITTEN WARNINGS FROM THE STATE FOR POOR CONDITIONS.** Stoney Brook Kennel has been repeatedly cited and warned by the Pennsylvania Office of Dog Law for issues such as dogs in need of veterinary care, unsanitary conditions and inadequate housing. The most recent written and verbal warning was issued in September 2015, when an inspector found animals in need of veterinary attention, rusty cages, and inadequate repair and maintenance of the kennels. Between June 2010 and September 2015, Stoney Brook Kennel was instructed nine times to get veterinary attention for one or more dogs. The kennel has also been cited repeatedly (March 2015, May 2014) for failing to properly vaccinate dogs for rabies, and for poor air quality (March 2015, April 2013). Problems at the kennel stretch back about a decade; in 2007 the kennel received a warning for dogs with frozen water and not enough protection from the cold; in 2006, the kennel failed inspection in the areas of cleanliness, excreta, sanitation, shade, bedding and housekeeping/pests. An inspection in March 2016 was compliant. PA #01734.
- **Weaver’s Kennel, Lewisburg, PA – WARDENS REPEATEDLY ORDERED VET CHECKS ON DOGS; TEN YEAR HISTORY OF VIOLATIONS.** Violations have been documented off and on at Weaver Kennel since at least

June 2006. Recurring issues include: animals in need of veterinary care, dangerous uncoated wire flooring, dogs without rabies vaccinations, and poor sanitation and housekeeping. Three times in 2015, the kennel was ordered to get veterinary checks of dogs after wardens visited the kennel (August 2015, April 2015 and March 2015). During the August 2015 inspection, the dog warden noted, "There were three (3) dogs that vet checks were ordered on. Two (2) dogs were Jack Russell types with dental issues and wounds on their cheeks. The third dog was a lhasa apso type with dental issues and a 'rubber jaw,' loose lower jaw. The kennel owner did not have proof of adequate veterinary care for any of the dogs." During the same inspection, additional dogs were found in need of grooming and nail trims, and decrepit wire flooring was found to be broken in areas and sagging under the weight of the dogs. In addition, the kennel was warned three times in 2015 to get dogs vaccinated for rabies (August 2015, April 2015 and March 2015). An inspection in March 2016 was compliant. PA # 03232.

SOUTH DAKOTA

- **Dan De Boer, Corsica, SD – DOGS FOUND LIVING IN A DARK SHED WITHOUT ANY LIGHT; FILTHY CONDITIONS; REPEATED FAILURE TO LET INSPECTORS IN THE KENNEL.** In January 2016, the USDA gave De Boer an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for many different repeat violations of the Animal Welfare Act. On three separate occasions in 2015, De Boer failed to let inspectors in the kennel as required by law under the Animal Welfare Act. During the two occasions when inspectors were given access (October 2015 and July 2015), numerous violations were found. Violations included dogs who were excessively matted, dogs living in a dark shed without natural or artificial light, kennels that were in dangerous disrepair, filthy conditions including grimy food and water bowls, and inadequate veterinary care. De Boer cancelled his USDA license in November 2015, but may still be operating in the state and selling directly to the public, because South Dakota has no laws requiring kennel oversight. Public records show he still owns the same property. Former USDA #46-A-0301.
- **Joette Peterson, Freeman, SD– DOGS IN THE COLD DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER.** Even after many violations were found at Peterson's kennel by USDA inspectors in August 2014, including two injured dogs with open wounds that were buzzing with flies, unsanitary and unsafe housing and a lack of pest control, the USDA did not inspect the kennel again until January 2016. One USDA visit was made between the August 2014 inspection and the January 2016 inspection; it was an attempted inspection in December 2014 that resulted in no access, which is a violation. For some reason, it appears that Peterson's kennel then fell under the USDA's radar for more than a year, with no recorded attempts at additional inspections until 2016. During the January 13, 2016 inspection, seven of the facility's dogs were found outside in the cold when the daytime temperature was 35.9 degrees. The dogs had no bedding in their dog houses nor any additional heat source, according to the USDA inspection report. According to Weather.com, the weather in that part of the country reached lows of approximately zero degrees at night on January 12, 2016, the night before the inspection. During the January 2016 inspection, an enclosure housing an adult dog and three puppies had "an accumulation of dog hair and fecal waste," which "indicate[d] that daily spot-cleaning and sanitization is not happening," according to the USDA report.

Records obtained by the HSUS show that Joette Peterson sold at least four puppies to The Hunte Corporation, a massive pet store broker in Missouri, in October 2015. A history of problems at the kennel goes back to at least May 2013, when a Mr. Peterson actively refused to let an inspector take photographs of a noncompliant issue during an inspection in which multiple violations were found; that inspection was never completed due to Mr. Peterson's refusal. USDA #46-A-0377.

TEXAS

- **Melva Langford, Broken Spoke Kennels, Whitewright, TX (REPEAT OFFENDER)– DEAD GREYHOUND FOUND IN KENNEL DURING INSPECTION; OTHERS APPEARED "EXTREMELY THIN."** In August 2015, the USDA gave Melva Langford an Official Warning for Violation of Federal Regulations for multiple sick or

underweight dogs and one dead Italian greyhound who was found lying in a kennel during a May 2015 inspection. In addition to the dead greyhound, inspectors found “a couple” of young greyhounds who appeared “extremely thin,” a lhasa apso with an “extremely cloudy” cornea and “severe discharge” around the eye, several other dogs with health problems, and ten dogs with severely matted fur, during two inspections in May 2015. In addition, a USDA inspector noted that “several of the dog enclosures were muddy swamps” where, outside of a small dog house, the dogs had no outside area where they could “stand, lie down, or urinate and defecate without getting in the mud,” resulting in the animals living in “a mix of mud, feces and urine,” which in some cases covered half their bodies. USDA inspections in July 2015 and January 2016 were compliant; however, state inspectors found violations in November 2015, including puppies housed on wire flooring that allowed their paws to fall through, which is a significant entrapment/injury risk, and openings in the wire that were large enough for the adult dogs to stick their heads through. USDA #74-A-1230; TX #100. **THIRD TIME IN THIS REPORT.**

- **Larry Rummel, STP Kennel, LaRue, TX – CRUELTY COMPLAINT FILED AFTER EMACIATED DOGS FOUND; FINED \$4,375 BY THE STATE.** In October 2015, a state kennel inspector filed a cruelty complaint after finding two emaciated Labradors, one of whom was injured and bleeding, at STP Kennel. The inspector also found three full-sized, pregnant Labradors housed in plastic “pet taxi” carriers as their primary enclosure, and found that a veterinarian had not examined the dogs at the kennel in more than two years. Photographs taken by a state inspector at STP Kennel show Labradors so thin that their hip bones, ribs and spines are prominently visible, even in the small black-and-white photographs provided to the HSUS as a result of an open public records request.

Larry Rummel was subsequently fined \$4,375 as part of a settlement agreement with the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Rummel is still licensed by the state of Texas as of April 15, 2016, according to the state’s online list of licensed breeders. TX #224.

- **Grace and Robert Smith, Huckleberry Hollow Kennel, Pilot Point, TX – UNDERWEIGHT DOG HAD RIBS SHOWING; REPEAT ISSUES WITH INADEQUATE VETERINARY CARE.** In November 2015, a state inspector found a very underweight Doberman named Reggie at Huckleberry Hollow Kennel. Photos taken by the inspector show that Reggie had very pronounced ribs and a narrow waist. When asked if the dog had been seen by a vet for his condition, the licensee produced a veterinary form from January 2015 that showed the dog had been identified as “thin” some ten months prior, but no recent treatment records were



Noticeably underweight dogs were found at Larry Rummel’s STP Kennel by state inspectors. / Texas Dept. of Agriculture, 2015

available and the dog was still very thin. According to the inspection report, “the Smiths indicated [Reggie] was suffering from a bacterial infection, but had not brought [him] to a veterinarian in the months preceding the inspection.” In addition, the inspector noted that for the second visit in a row, a complete healthcare protocol was not available as required by the state. The inspector also “observed jagged and sharp points” in the dogs’ enclosures, and puppies with their feet and legs falling through the wire flooring, which presents a significant danger to the puppies. The Smiths may be in violation of federal law as well; HSUS staff could find no records indicating that any breeders by the name of Smith are licensed by the USDA in Pilot Point, Texas; dog breeders are required to be licensed and inspected by the USDA (not just the state) if they have five or more breeding females and sell puppies online sight-unseen. The HSUS reported this issue to the USDA in April 2016.

Huckleberry Hollow offers puppies for sale online at www.huckleberryyhollowkennel.com. The kennel also uses the name Great Heart European Dobermans, www.gedobermans.com. As of November 2015, state records show that there were 60 breeding dogs at the kennel. TX #213.

WISCONSIN

- **Mose Bontrager, Hillsboro, WI (REPEAT OFFENDER) –SUBJECT OF CIVIL COMPLAINT BY STATE OF WISCONSIN FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE TIMELY VETERINARY CARE FOR DOGS AND UNSAFE CONDITIONS FOR PUPPIES; FINED \$2,692.** According to a consent order signed in February 2016 (Docket #15-C-56), Mose Bontrager was fined \$2,692 by the state of Wisconsin for a number of violations found during state kennel inspections, including denying access to a state inspector during an attempted inspection (10/6/15); failure to provide timely veterinary care to dogs with signs of ear and eye disorders (10/21/15); puppies found on unsafe wire flooring with 1” by 1” openings that could entrap their legs (10/21/15, 8/11/15 and 4/9/15); dog and puppies kept in a dark building without enough light (8/11/15 and 4/9/15); and a strong odor of urine (8/11/15). Certain conditions were required of Bontrager for two years as a result of the order, but his license was not revoked.
Violations noted in our previous report included the following issues found at a February 2015 state inspection: kennel had not been cleaned in a week; the inspector saw “lice nits in the fur of several dogs,” and the licensee claimed he had spoken with his veterinarian about the lice, but his vet said she had no record of being consulted about the lice problem; dogs who were matted or had fur “dirtied with excrement due to unsanitary conditions;” a dog with nails so overgrown that the dog could not walk normally; and a “significant and unacceptable accumulation of excrement in whelping enclosures.” In addition, a Siberian husky with three puppies was kept in an outdoor enclosure with only a cracked igloo-type shelter, and other puppies were found housed in a corncrib without any other protection from the elements. The inspector also noted that Bontrager was selling puppies wholesale without the required USDA license during the 2015 visit; a search of the USDA’s database on April 26, 2016 by HSUS staff could find no evidence that Mose Bontrager has since become federally licensed. WI #402544.
- **Harvey Kurtz, Kurtz Kennel, Augusta, WI – FILTHY CONDITIONS, SEVERELY MATTED DOGS, AND EXCESSIVE FECES; FINED \$3,089 BY WI DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DUE TO NONCOMPLIANCE.** In January 2016, Wisconsin’s Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection entered into a consent order with Harvey Kurtz, placing conditions on his license to breed dogs for two years. The order (Docket #15-C-44) was a result of multiple violations that were found during inspections in March 2015 and/or September 2015, including dogs with severely matted hair or untreated medical issues; a failure to “maintain clean, dry and sanitary surfaces” and a failure to clean up excessive feces. According to state inspection reports, some of the dogs were noted to have no “clean resting surface due to the poor sanitation of the enclosures,” and small breed dogs who were not acclimated to harsh temperatures were being kept outside when temperatures at night were “routinely below freezing” and in some cases had been below zero; their only shelter was a hutch in an unheated cargo trailer that had no bedding (March 2015). Photos taken by state inspectors of the outdoor runs at the kennel show swamp-like masses of wet mud or feces. Kurtz was fined \$3,089.50. WI #270450.

- **Alvin Martin, Pine Hollow Farm, LLC, Withee, WI (REPEAT OFFENDER) – ‘EXTREMELY THIN’ NURSING MOTHER DOG HAD VISIBLE RIBS; OTHER DOGS WERE NOT TAKEN TO VET EVEN AFTER INSPECTOR ORDERED IT.** In January 2016, a USDA inspector found six dogs in need of veterinary care at Pine Hollow Farm. One of them was a Boston Terrier who had six 3-day-old puppies. The mother dog appeared “extremely thin” with “ribs and hip bones [that] were easily visible.” The inspector noted “bloody discharge” on the floor of the nursing mother’s cage. In addition, five other dogs were found with eye problems during the same inspection, including dogs with cloudy, watering or weeping eyes. These veterinary violations were nothing new to Pine Hollow Farm. In September 2015, the operation was notified about a repeat violation for failing to acquire medical care for two dogs with signs of advanced dental disease, even after the inspector had instructed the licensee to have them treated the previous April. Inadequate veterinary care was also found by USDA inspectors during prior visits in 2014, 2013 and 2012, including a Boston Terrier with a “cloudy film over its left eye,” a dog with hair loss, and dogs with dental problems and missing teeth. Pine Hollow Farm may be one of the largest puppy mills in the state, with over 600 dogs and puppies counted during a recent USDA inspection (1/13/16). USDA #35-B-0205; WI #403491.
- **John Zeiset, Lone Pine Kennels, Thorp, WI (REPEAT OFFENDER) – DOGS IN NEED OF VETERINARY CARE; DOG AND PUPPY FEEDERS HAD MOLD AND COBWEBS IN THEM.** In January 2016, the USDA cited John Zeiset for mold and cobwebs in some of his facility’s dog and puppy feeders, noting “unsanitary feeders can result in the dogs eating contaminated food and becoming sick. Correct immediately.” In October 2015, Zeiset entered into a stipulated agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection due to multiple noncompliances, including excessive feces, a dog in need of vet care, and puppies kept on dangerous wire flooring which could entrap their feet and legs.

Many of these issues were nothing new for Lone Pine Kennel. Violations noted in our prior Horrible Hundred report included: in August 2013, a state kennel inspector noted that several adult dogs at Lone Pine Kennels were in need of care, including some who were so badly matted that the matted hair “covered the entire length of their back,” one dog who was so badly matted that it seemed to be impairing her ability to see, and another who had dried feces adhered to the matted fur (Aug. 2013); multiple other dogs with signs of advanced dental disease, including missing teeth (Aug. 2013); and unsanitary and unsafe conditions (Aug. 2013). A follow-up state inspection in November 2013 found a number of issues that still had not been corrected, including repeatedly housing puppies on 1” by 1” wire flooring, and a failure to demonstrate that animals were being properly vaccinated and treated. USDA # 35-A-0224; WI #268212.

Methodology

It is not possible to list all of the problematic puppy mills in the country in a single report. Due to the patchwork of laws across the U.S. and spotty enforcement, many puppy mills are not licensed or regulated and very little information on them is available to the public. The facilities listed in this report were selected to demonstrate common problems and conditions at puppy mills and puppy mill brokers across the United States. The sellers listed in this year’s report were selected based upon a number of factors, which included, but were not limited to:

- The availability of state and/or federal kennel inspection reports showing violations, or related documents received via public records requests;
- USDA Official Warnings for Violation of Federal Regulations or other enforcement actions or fines;
- The quantity of violations found on those reports and/or the severity of violations, especially those affecting animal safety and health, and how recently the violations occurred;

- Whether the dealer was listed in one of the HSUS's prior reports and has continued to accumulate violations since then;
- The availability of consumer complaints, photographs and news articles; and
- Indications that the facility appeared to be in business at the time of publication.

Some puppy mills were not listed because they are under active investigation.

If a breeding facility is not listed in this report, it may be due to a lack of available records and/or a lack of information or space, not necessarily a lack of significant problems.

Some brokers (re-sellers) were included because many brokers are also breeders.

Throughout the report, the notation "**Repeat Offender**" means that the facility or operator has appeared in one or more prior HSUS puppy mills reports, including *Missouri's Dirty Dozen* (2010); *Update Report: Missouri's Dirty Dozen* (2011), *The Horrible Hundred* (2013 or 2015) and/or *101 Puppy Mills* (2014).

DEFINITION OF A PUPPY MILL

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

BUYER BEWARE

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