



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

## Missouri's Dirty Dozen

### *A report on some of the worst puppy mills in Missouri*

*October 5, 2010*

Researchers at The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have spent weeks poring over state and federal inspection reports, investigators' photographs, and enforcement records received via the Freedom of Information Act to compile a list of some of the worst puppy mills in Missouri, known as "Missouri's Dirty Dozen."

The purpose of the report is to demonstrate current problems that could be addressed by the passage of Proposition B, which Missouri citizens will vote on in November. Under Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act, many of these dealers' horrific violations would be backed by stronger enforcement opportunities.

All of the puppy mills on the Dirty Dozen list are licensed by the USDA, the state, or both, according to the most recently available records reviewed by HSUS researchers. Some sell puppies to pet stores and others over the Internet. One thing they have in common is atrocious violations of basic humane standards for the dogs in their care.



*A matted, filthy poodle at S & S Family Puppies in Milan, Mo. 2008/USDA*

### **How we selected some of the worst kennels in Missouri**

Missouri's Dirty Dozen were selected as examples of some of the worst licensed kennels in the state, based upon the number and severity of state and/or federal animal welfare violations. Availability of photographs to verify the conditions was also a factor in some cases.

Some of the violations described in federal and state kennel inspection reports include thin-coated breeds like Italian greyhounds shivering in the cold in temperatures as low as 9 degrees, dogs with open oozing or bleeding sores, underweight dogs with their entire skeletal structures showing, and sick or dying puppies who had not been treated by a vet.

One kennel made the list because it noted on a proposed USDA program of veterinary care that the owner intended to dispose of unwanted dogs “by clubbing the dogs,” while others were cited repeatedly for failing to discover and dispose of animals who had died. A few of the operators have been suspended, fined or had their licenses revoked by The USDA for repeatedly violating the Animal Welfare Act, yet they remain state-licensed.

At least one violator has more than 500 pages of Animal Welfare Act violations and enforcement records on file with the USDA, yet she remains licensed. Some repeat violators have stayed in business despite more than a decade of repeated citations. Even among puppy mills that have dropped their USDA licenses, many continue to advertise puppies for sale on websites like [www.PuppyFind.com](http://www.PuppyFind.com), [www.BreedersClub.net](http://www.BreedersClub.net), and local online classified ad sites. Puppy mills that sell directly to consumers are not required to be federally licensed.



*Dogs in stacked cages at the “Tiny Tails” facility in Edgar Spring, 2010/The HSUS*

At least two of the breeders (Fields, Cox) on the Dirty Dozen list are contributors to MoFed PAC, an organization which actively opposed Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act.

## By the numbers

- **134:** average number of adult breeding dogs at each of the Dirty Dozen kennels
- **172:** average number of dogs and puppies at each of the Dirty Dozen kennels
- **156:** Total number of MO state violations among the Dirty Dozen (data was only received for six of the top twelve dealers)
- **830:** Pages of recent USDA inspection report violations and enforcement records among the Dirty Dozen

## How would Proposition B help?

Under Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act, many of these dealers' horrific violations would be backed by stronger enforcement opportunities. Conditions leading to distress and suffering in dogs, such as painful wire flooring, lack of proper vet care, overcrowded cages, and scant protection from the elements will also be more clearly addressed by Prop B than they are under current law. Certain conditions such as wire flooring and stacked cages would be banned under Prop B for large-scale commercial breeders. Proposition B would not affect small, hobby breeders with fewer than 10 intact female dogs, or sportsmen.

Read on for further details on Missouri's Dirty Dozen and numerous dishonorable mentions.

## CONTENTS

### THE DIRTY DOZEN

---

• Brandi Cheney and Diana Stephenson, linked to several business names including S & S Family Puppies, Milan	5
• Beverly Fields, B&B Kennel, Galt	7
• Shannon Plymell, Windsong Kennels, Pattonsburg	8
• Diana and Floyd Miller, Bar M Ranch Kennel, Spickard	10
• Paul and Pollie Gingerich - Gingerich Farms, Bogard	11
• Mary Ann Smith, Smith's Kennel, Salem	13
• Cox, Marsha - Mar-Don Kennel, Chillicothe	14
• Peggy Ryan, For Heaven's Sake Kennel, Reeds Spring	15
• Robert Dukes and Robin Dollins, Tiny Tails, Edgar Springs	16
• Bill and Sandra Sackrey, S K's Kennel, Brookfield	17
• Brenda Walter, Hidden Valley Farms, Greencastle	18
• Jesse and Sonja Miller – Walnut Creek Kennel, La Monte	19

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### DISHONORABLE MENTIONS

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• Bonnie and Herman Schindler – Mettoville Kennels, aka Teacher's Pets, Mexico	20
• Sharon Owen, Poodles Plus, Auxvasse	21
• Wendy Laymon aka Wendy Faith Layman, Shadow Mountain Kennel, aka Shadow Mountain Ranch, Rogersville	22
• John and Sharlette Tidwell, Ramblin' Spring Kennel, West Plains	24
• Jerri Vestal, Vestals Kennel, Livonia	24
• Joyce Young, Young's Ozark Kennel, Pottersville	25
• Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel, Edina	26
• Barbara McCoy, Gone to the Dogs, Thayer	27

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## *More than 500 Pages of Enforcement Records, Yet Still Licensed?*

### **Brandi Cheney and Diana Stephenson, S & S Family Puppies and other facilities:**

- **S&S Family Puppies:** Milan, MO; USDA license: 43-B-0435 – USDA licensed from July 2001 through July 2011, MDA license #: 397 – MDA licensed through 2010
- **CC Family Puppies (Cheney):** Huntsville, MO USDA license: 43-B-3656– USDA licensed from Aug. 2008 through Sept. 2009. MDA license #: 3736 – MDA licensed through 2010

After receiving consumer complaints about S &S Family Puppies and CC Family Puppies, The Humane Society of the United States submitted a Freedom of Information Act request to The USDA, and received more than 500 pages of recent federal enforcement records, yet according to the most recent information available, S & S Family Puppies remains both state and federally licensed in 2010.

The USDA enforcement records for these dealers include photos of dogs with oozing or encrusted eyes , dogs with bleeding lacerations, puppies attempting to stand on wide-spaced wire flooring, an underweight and “unresponsive” poodle, and some dogs so badly matted with feces-encrusted hair that it was difficult to determine what gender or breed they were.



*A photo from USDA enforcement records shows a thin, “unresponsive” poodle lying listlessly in her cage at S&S Family Puppies. 2008/ USDA*

Recent investigations found the duo selling puppies over the Internet using vague names and locations. Several pages of puppy ads linked to email addresses used by Cheney and/or her mother, Diana Stephenson, were found on PuppyFind.com. [[http://www.buysellpuppy.com/mini-bulldogs-525\\_23961\\_PD.html](http://www.buysellpuppy.com/mini-bulldogs-525_23961_PD.html)]

Dozens of pages of USDA inspection reports detail repeated Animal Welfare Act violations for dogs exposed to the cold without adequate weather protection, problems with seriously ill,

injured or malnourished dogs not being treated by a vet, housing problems, filthy, feces-laden conditions and more. Direct quotes from the reports include:

*“In the outdoor enclosures, the shelters do not have any bedding remaining in them. The owner stated that they put some in ‘about a week ago but the dogs drag it out’. The temperatures have been less than 35F during the daytime and close to 0F at night”. (Feb. 2010)*

*“In all outdoor enclosures and many of the inside part of the shelter buildings, there is an excessive amount of feces. Many of the dogs cannot avoid walking in the feces because it is matted throughout the surfaces.” (Feb. 2010)*

*“Maltese (chip 096589372) had fecal material caked over its anus. The block of fecal material had a dried appearance and measured approximately 4” by 4” and was completely covering the dog’s bottom. When the licensee trimmed off the fecal block, the skin underneath was red, raw, and inflamed around the anus and on the back aspects of the animal’s thighs.” (March 2008)*

*“A female white poodle (Avid 086\*543\*359) was observed with severe matting covering approximately 80% of its body. Some mats were approximately 4 inches long. The dog had areas of exposed bare skin. The dog was shivering.” (Nov. 2007)*

*“Outside this pen was noted a dead adult female boxer, covered with a feed sack, that had died the day before. This dog appeared very thin. Owner stated she had been treating this dog but no medical records were available.” (July 2004)*

Brandi Cheney and her mother, Diana Stephenson, have owned breeding facilities



ABOVE: A small Sheltie in an outdoor pen appears to have no protection from the cold and snow at S&S Family Puppies. 2010/The HSUS

BELOW: A Beagle was found with multiple untreated lacerations at S & S Family Puppies. 2008/USDA



under several different names. S & S Family Puppies is licensed by the USDA under both women's names at the Milan address. A business of the same name is licensed by the Missouri Department of Agriculture under the names "Charles and Diana Stephenson" at the Milan address, while CC Family Puppies, which is now only state licensed, is under the name of Brandi Cheney and Clif Cheney at the Huntsville address. Meanwhile, a new business, Circle B Farms LLC, has been licensed by the USDA using the same Huntsville address as CC Family Puppies and is active through June 2011, according to the USDA's website.

### ***Dogs in the Freezing Cold; Repeat Animal Welfare Act Violations, Contributed to Group that Opposes Puppy Mill Reform***

#### **Beverly Fields - B&B Kennel**

- Galt MO
- USDA license: 43-A-1235 – USDA licensed from Jan. 1995 through Jan. 2011 (34 pages of USDA violations since July 2008)
- MDA license #: 72 – MDA licensed through 2010 (19 MDA violations since 2007)



Fields, an early contributor to MoFed PAC, a group that opposed Prop B, has good reason to fear better oversight of the kennel industry. Her record includes a long list of

violations for inadequate veterinary care and dogs with inadequate protection from the cold, according to federal and state inspection reports. Serious care violations include improper identification of dogs, refusal to allow access, repeat noncompliant items, and many violations for sanitation problems.

At last count, the USDA found more than 150 adult breeding dogs living- not very comfortably, on Fields' property. Quotes from some of the facility's most recent USDA inspection reports include:

*Crooked, rusty cages at B & B Kennel appear to be propped up with PVC pipe. 2010/The HSUS*

*“A male Pekingese, microchip #083808383, had a cloudy appearance to the surface of the left eye. This dog also had generalized hair loss on the right side of his rib area. The cloudy eye could be a sign of injury or disease.” (June 2010)*

*“A female Westie, microchip #083809072, was observed to be limping and non weight bearing on her right front leg. Upon examination of this dog it was noted that the area between his toes were red, inflamed and oozing.” (Dec. 2009)*

*“A female Japanese Chin, microchip #033811283, had excessive feces adhered to her back legs and anal area. “ (Dec. 2009)*

*“Throughout the outdoor housing facilities there was either no bedding or some but not enough bedding provided. The temperature at the time of inspection was 9 degrees F. This item was also non-compliant on 12 Nov. 2008.” (Dec. 2009)*

*“15 dogs housed in a outdoor barn did not have sufficient space in the shelters provided, four dogs in one shelter, 5 dogs in one shelter, 3 dogs in one shelter and 3 dogs in one shelter. The shelter measured 2 feet by 2 feet, equaling a total of 4 square feet...”(Nov. 2008)*

*“A female chocolate poodle housed in the whelping facility had a piece of shredded towel, approximately 1 foot in length, entangled and wrapped on the right hind foot. The licensee could not catch the dog due to aggressiveness but had stated that it had been there for ‘at least two days’.” ( July 2008)*

Fields has a demonstrated lack of concern for the animals she keeps, but she’s quite concerned about her rights as an animal owner. Beverly Fields donated money to the Missouri Federation of Animal Owners PAC, a political action committee campaigning against Proposition B.

Proposition B would ban cages with wire flooring, would require outdoor runs to be ground level, and would require more spacious enclosures for dogs.

## ***Urine and Feces Raining Down on the Dogs, Thin Dogs***

### **Shannon Plymell - Windsong Kennels**

- Pattonsburg, MO
- USDA license: 43-A-4928 - USDA licensed from Aug. 2006 through Aug. 2011 (21 pages of USDA violations since July 2008)
- MDA license #: 1587 – MDA licensed through 2010

Windsong Kennels has been cited for violations as recently as January 2010 for dogs found in frigid temperatures without adequate protection from the cold, inadequate shelter and temperature control, and housing in disrepair. The licensee has multiple prior violations for underweight dogs, dogs requiring vet care, dogs without adequate space to turn around and



move freely, and sanitation and housing issues, incurring 21 pages of USDA violations since July 2008.

Excerpts of Windsong's recent USDA violations include:

*"REPEAT: Three dogs were identified that were underweight. Jester, [...] a male Welsh Corgi was very thin with ribs prominent and tucked abdomen. Flower [...] a female Welsh Corgi was very thin. Thunder, a male Sheltie [...] was very thin with ribs prominent, tucked abdomen, and palpable hip bones and vertebrae.*



*Dogs in wire cages at Windsong Kennel. 2010/The HSUS*

*[...] Lemonade, a Japanese Chin, [...] had raw and inflamed areas of skin around and in between both eyes." (Nov 2008)*

*"REPEAT: A Japanese Chin 'Lemonade' chip # 065061305 had raw and inflamed areas of skin around and in between both eyes. This could be due to bacterial, fungal infection, other disease or medical conditions. This dog was also cited on the [November] inspection report for the same condition." (May 2009)*

*"A female papillion 'Checkers' had discharge from both eyes. This could be due to a bacterial or fungal infection, other disease or medical condition." (May 2009)*

*"A female Coton, chip # 065316377, had matting with generalized hair loss on and around the tail and also on the abdomen. Matting of the hair coat can be painful, can lead to development of skin infections, and reduces the ability of the coat to insulate the animal. Hair loss could be sign of disease, parasite or other medical condition. The licensee stated that she "had just groomed these dogs", upon checking it was written that she had groomed 6 cotons on April 14, 2009." (May 2009)*

*"A Papillon 'Checkers' housed in a transportation crate did not have sufficient space. The calculated space requirement for 'Checkers' is 3.67 square feet. The measured square feet of the enclosure was 2.91 square feet which does not meet the required 3.67 square feet for the affected dog." (May 2009)*

*"In 3 lower enclosures situated directly underneath 3 upper enclosures there was no barrier to prevent the urine and feces from the dogs in the upper enclosures from contaminating the dogs in the lower enclosures." (May 2009)*

In addition to selling puppies to pet stores, this facility also sells puppies online. A poster with the same phone number as Windsong Kennel recently advertised numerous puppies for sale on a local online classifieds site and the Kansas City Star Classifieds requesting "cash only."

### ***"Prominent Rib Cage and Vertebrae," Dogs Shivering in the Cold***

#### **Diana and Floyd Miller – Bar M Ranch Kennel**

- Spickard MO
- USDA license under Diana Miller: 43-A-4989 – USDA licensed from Oct. 2006 through Aug. 2010 (Cancelled – after accumulating 42 pages of USDA violations since December 2007)
- MDA license #: 7834 – MDA licensed through 2010 (16 state violations since 2009)

Bar M Ranch Kennel is one of several examples of a facility that dropped its USDA license after amassing dozens of pages of Animal Welfare Act violations, yet the kennel remains state licensed and can continue to legally sell as many puppies as it can churn out every year directly to the public. Severe, repeat violations were recorded in 2009 for sick animals not receiving proper care, sanitation violations, animals in below-freezing conditions with inadequate shelter, an underweight dachshund "very thin with prominent ribcage and vertebrae," and other underweight or sick animals who had not been treated by a vet. Recent USDA inspections noted:

*"There was a thin male black Pomeranian, with no ID, with hips, backbone and ribs that are easily palpable. This dog also had matting on his back, sides, and back legs with feces adhered to the hair on the back legs." (July 2010)*

*"In one outdoor enclosure housing a female German Shepherd and 9 puppies there were many ants*



*Dogs at Bar M Ranch Kennel exposed to the cold during a snowfall.  
2010/The HSUS*

*observed crawling into the shelter and flies were present inside the shelter and on the puppies.” (July 2010)*

*“A female Sheltie, ‘Diamond,’ was observed to be very thin. Her vertebrae, hip bones and ribs were easily palpable and prominent.” (March 16, 2010 – the report notes that “this item was also non compliant” on 5 other dates going back to 2007)*

*“A female Pomeranian, with no ID, was observed to be scratching excessively. Upon examination of this dog it was noted that she also had only two teeth left and both of those were covered with a thick brownish material. Her toenails were also observed to be excessively long.”*

*“A female Shih tzu, tag #061, was observed to be lethargic with a black discharge coming from her vulva and adhered to her back legs, and abdomen area.” (Nov. 2009)*

*“A female gray poodle, tag #067, was observed to be thin. Upon examination of this dog it was noted that she had severe dental issues. Her bottom jaw appeared to be recessed and missing teeth on both the upper and lower jaw. This dog’s ribs and vertebrae were palpable and prominent.” (Nov. 2009)*

*“In three enclosures housing 5 puppies, the temperature was below 50 degrees F. One enclosure housing 1 puppy was measured at 28 degrees F, the other two enclosures housing 4 puppies was measured at 39 degrees F.” (March 2009)*

Missouri state kennel reports in 2009 documented a cocker spaniel with “an open wound” and hair loss who had not been treated by a vet, among numerous other problems.

## ***Dogs Licking at Frozen Water Bowls; Thin Shivering Dogs, Dying Puppies***

### **Paul and Pollie Gingerich - Gingerich Farms**

- Bogard, MO
- USDA license (# 43-A-3766) cancelled – was licensed from Jan. 2003 through Aug. 2010. (62 pages of violations)
- MDA license #: 5601 – MDA licensed through 2010
- 250 adult breeding dogs at last USDA count

While USDA licensed, the Gingerich facility was cited by inspectors dozens of times for grave repeat violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including filthy conditions, dogs needing vet care, dogs without adequate protection from the cold, and underweight dogs whom inspectors described as shivering in the cold. In addition, they were cited by the USDA for repeat AWA violations for sick and dying puppies who had not been treated by a vet; severely matted dogs, housing issues, and veterinary issues. There were repeated "attempted inspection" violations in which federal inspectors were denied access to the facility. Before losing or dropping their USDA license just recently, the Gingeriches had amassed 62 pages of USDA violations since

April 2008. Yet even though they are no longer federally licensed, they still hold a Missouri state kennel license in 2010. Excerpts from their USDA reports speak for themselves:

*“Two adult Italian greyhounds were housed in an outdoor enclosure. The temperature, at the time of inspection, was approximately 29 degrees F. These dogs had no bedding in their shelter structure and were observed shivering and had prominent ribs, hip bones and vertebrae.” (Dec. 2009)*

*“There were two concrete water receptacles, with frozen water. One of the dogs was observed trying to break the ice with its paw and another dog was trying to lick the ice. ” (Dec. 2009)*

*“There were at least 5 dogs that had excessively long nails. These nails had approximately ½ an inch of overgrowth. These nails were inhibiting the dogs’ ability to stand and walk in a normal manner. The toes of these dogs were splayed while walking and standing and the angle of the foot was abnormal.” (Dec. 2009)*



*A dog at the Gingerich facility. 2010/The HSUS*

*“In at least 7 enclosures, there was an excessive accumulation of feces. These feces covered approximately 75 percent of the total outdoor floor space. One dog was observed circling around the pile of fecal material.” (Dec. 2009)*

*“A puppy, approximately 6 weeks old was observed to have prominent ribs, dull eyes and hair coat and appeared to be weak, as it had difficulty walking. Upon closer observation, the puppy had a brownish colored substance along the muzzle. When the licensee placed the puppy back in the enclosure, the puppy started to retch with abdominal effort. According to the licensee the puppy had been this way for approximately three days.” (April 22, 2008)*

*“An unweaned, female ‘yorkie-poo’ puppy, born 10-11-08, was not moving. Upon closer observation, the puppy had dry, crusty, yellow exudates around both eyes. There was also a thick, moist, yellow to brown colored exudate around the nose and muzzle. The gums were extremely pale and the hair coat was in poor condition. This puppy had not been seen by a veterinarian and at the time of inspection the licensee was verbally instructed to have the dog*

*examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible. During the inspection, the licensee informed the inspectors that before a veterinarian could be found, the puppy had died.” (USDA inspection on Nov. 2008)*

## ***A Decade of Problems***

### **Mary Ann Smith - Smith’s Kennel**

- Salem, MO
- USDA license: 43-A-2296 – USDA licensed from Aug. 1996 through August 2011
- MDA license #: 3258 – MDA licensed through 2010

Smith’s Kennel has a history of repeat USDA violations stretching back more than a decade, including citations for unsanitary conditions; dogs exposed to below-freezing temperatures or excessive heat without adequate shelter from the weather; dogs without enough cage space to turn and move around freely; pest and rodent infestations; injured and bleeding dogs, dogs with loose, bloody stools who had not been treated by a vet, and much more.

Quotations from federal inspection reports include:

*“In the big dog barn there is one dog that had a cherry eye on the right eye. There was one other dog that was noted to have multiple large interdigital cysts bilaterally in front paws and on the hind left paw.” (USDA inspection June 2010)*

[Note: interdigital cysts are a common malady in dogs who are forced to stand continually on wire flooring. The cysts are painful and can lead to disabling infections -- HSUS]

*“In the adult building there are approximately 14 dogs with extremely long toenails. It is noted that some of these nails are turning the toes sideways as the dogs walk and hanging down through the wire flooring.” (June 2009)*

*“There is 1 bull terrier in a primary enclosure where bright red blood is noted in the feces [...] there are three English Bulldogs that have green matter in their eyes [...] There are five English Bulldogs that are noted to have hair loss.” (USDA inspection March 2009)*

*“In the outdoor housing facility, the housing units have very little bedding. The temperature the past 2 nights have below freezing.” (USDA inspection March 2009)*

*“There are 3 outdoor pens that have igloos for housing units that have no bedding material in them. The weather has been reaching temperatures of 20-30 degrees F at night for approximately the past week.” (USDA inspection Nov. 2008)*

*“The owner has issues with this facility that remain consistent with each inspection and more issues have surfaced since the last inspection.” (2008)*

## ***“Entire Floor Surface” Covered in Feces***

### **Marsha Cox - Mar-Don Kennel**

- Chillicothe, MO
- USDA License: 43-A-0841 – USDA licensed from Nov. 1992 through Nov. 2010 (11 pages of USDA violations since June 2008)
- MDA license #: 907 – MDA licensed through 2010

Some of Cox’s most recent Animal Welfare Act violations (June 2010) include a seriously underweight Maltese with skin lesions, expired medications in "puppy house," dogs in the heat without shade, housing problems, and more. In November 2009 a USDA inspector found 396 dogs present at the facility, while 456 dogs were listed on the facility’s required inventory list; 59 dogs were missing with no record of where they had gone or how they had been disposed of. In April 2007 the inspector found 444 dogs at the facility but 498 were listed on the inventory. In Nov. 2009 an inspector noted there was no bedding found in 55 outdoor enclosures despite a temperature of 44 degrees and recent temperatures below 35 degrees. Instead of bedding, the inspectors noted something else:



*Dogs in overcrowded cages at the Cox facility. Prop B would increase the required cage space for dogs. 2010/The HSUS*

*“In one enclosure the entire floor surface of the enclosure and the shelter was covered with wet feces. There was no floor surface area available for the animals within this enclosure to remain clean and dry.” (Nov. 2009)*

During another recent inspection the inspector noted:

*A male Maltese, microchip #4534731A1F, was thin with prominent backbone, hipbones, and a tucked abdomen. This dog also had a 2cm x 2 cm wound with crusted dried blood.” (June 2010)*

Should Marsha Cox ever lose her license, she appears to have backup nearby. A relative, Lou Cox, owns a second puppy mill at an adjacent address. He too has multiple Animal Welfare Act violations on file with USDA.

Like Beverly Fields, Cox too wants voters to protect her “right” to continue to keep animals as she pleases. She’s a contributor to the MOFed PAC campaign, which lobbied heavily against Proposition B.

## ***Sick Puppies, Dogs Exposed to Extremes of Heat and Cold***

### **Peggy Ryan - For Heaven’s Sake Kennel**

- Reeds Spring, MO
- USDA license: 43-B-3651 – USDA licensed from July 2008 through July 2011 (19 pages of USDA violations on file since June 2008)
- MDA license #: 5091 – MDA licensed through 2010
- According to the most recent USDA records available, at last count this facility housed 100 breeding adult dogs.

This USDA licensee has amassed nineteen (19) pages of Animal Welfare Act violations over the past two years. A June 2010 USDA inspection noted repeated veterinary issues with two Chows, one of whom had “mats hanging down” while another had patches of untreated hair loss. In February 2010 the kennel was cited for severely matted dogs, dogs with “very loose, greenish brown colored stool” who had not been treated by a veterinarian, animals in 36 degree temperatures who did not have enough protection from the cold, stacked wire cages where “puppies



*Dogs in outdoor pens at For Heaven’s Sake Kennel. 2010/The HSUS*

that were attempting to move around” were seen “falling through the openings in the wire”, dirty conditions, and more.

Previous federal inspections noted a severe flea infestation throughout the facility, dogs in 93-degree buildings without adequate climate control, and puppies who were underweight and lethargic:

*“There is a heavy flea infestation at the facility. There were live adult and larval fleas seen on the dogs.” (Aug. 2009)*

*“During the inspection the ambient temperature was measured in both the Chihuahua and Frenchie buildings. The ambient air temperature measured to be 92.6 degrees and 93.6 degrees F. The dealer stated the buildings did not have any electricity for approximately a week.” (July 2009)*

*“In the whelping building there was one nine week old cock-a-poo puppy, no ID, which was lethargic and lying with its limbs stiffly distended” (Oct. 2008)*

## ***Dogs without Food and Water***

### **Robert Dukes and Robin Dollens - Tiny Tails**

- Edgar Springs, MO
- USDA license: 43-A-4542 – USDA licensed from June 2005 through May 2010 (License was cancelled after 22 pages of recent violations since 2007)
- MDA license #: 6195 – MDA licensed through 2010 (20 state violations since 2007)

Before dropping his USDA license, this MO commercial breeder accumulated multiple repeat Animal Welfare Act violations from at least 2006-2009, including citations for dogs without food and water in Oct. 2008, injured dogs who were not being treated by a vet, sanitation issues and serious care issues. In

February 2009 there were two attempted USDA inspections during which the licensee did not show up or permit access to allow his facility to be viewed.

At its most recent visit, the USDA counted 148 breeding dogs at the Dukes property.



*A pug at the Dukes facility in an enclosure so high that the licensee placed a ladder nearby to reach it. Prop B would prohibit cage stacking to allow breeders to easily check on the wellbeing of their dogs. 2010/The HSUS*



David Dukes cancelled his USDA license in May 2010, but Wilma Dukes, same address, has a valid license through November 2010. Robert Dukes, Robin Dollens, and Wilma Dukes are all on the MO state kennel license list for 2010.

## ***Failure to Provide Veterinary Care to Suffering Dogs***

### **Bill and Sandra Sackrey – S K’s Kennel**

- Brookfield, MO
- USDA license: 43-A-3865 – USDA licensed from May 2003 through May 2011 (31 pages of violations since May 2008)
- MDA license #: 1273 – MDA licensed through 2010
- 75 adult breeding dogs on site at last count

SK’s Kennel has accumulated repeat Animal Welfare Act violations as recent as May 2010 for failure to provide adequate veterinary care for numerous animals, including dogs with missing teeth or jaws, and sick or dying puppies. Several underweight dogs "thin in appearance with visible hip bones and vertebrae" were found in April 2010, as well as dogs with matting so severe that urinary/ anal openings were blocked. According to USDA reports, it was recommended by the attending vet in March 2010 that the licensee bring a dog in for euthanasia, but when the vet did not have the correct solution on hand the licensee reportedly did not reschedule or treat the dog, and the dog was found in even worse condition on April 6, 2010. The dog in question was extremely thin, wobbly on his feet, one eye was crusted shut, part of his jaw was missing and he had no teeth. Sadly, rather than removing the dog, USDA inspectors repeated their request that the licensee take the dog in for euthanasia.

Numerous dogs with multiple health care issues (sick, thin, open/ untreated wounds, etc.), as well as numerous facility (filthy, in disrepair), and pest control issues (evidence of rodent/ insect infestation) were also noted, as well as dogs with severe matting, excessively long nails, and severe dental issues. A rusty scalpel and scissors were found at the facility in May 2010 - the licensee admitted to using these dirty instruments on his dogs.

Among the dozens of violations, inspectors noted:

*“Adult male Yorkshire Terrier ID 06031600 had a solid, urine soaked mat of hair around the penis. It was matted to the point the urination was blocked.” (April 27, 2010)*

*“Adult female dachshund ID unavailable. Thin in appearance with visible hip bones and vertebrae and an obvious abdominal tuck. This dog could not be handled due to aggressive behavior.” (April 27, 2010)*

*“Adult female Maltese ID unavailable, was lethargic and reluctant to rise.” (April 27, 2010)*

*“Adult female Yorkshire Terrier, ID unavailable, was thin in appearance with visible hip bones and vertebrae and an obvious abdominal tuck.” (April 27, 2010)*

*“Adult male Yorkshire terrier, ID unavailable, was thin in appearance with visible hip bones and vertebrae and an obvious abdominal tuck.” (April 27, 2010)*

*“A male yorkie, microchip 052810594, was observed with no teeth and missing part of its lower jaw.” (March 23, 2010)*

## ***Ninety-Four (94) State Kennel Violations, Yet Still Licensed***

### **Brenda Walter – Hidden Valley Farms**

- Greencastle, MO
- USDA license: 43-B-0425 – USDA licensed from Jan. 2001 through Jan. 2011
- MDA license #: 4660 – MDA licensed through 2010 (94 state kennel violations in recent years)

Hidden Valley Farms had a history of severe state and federal welfare violations as recently as March 2010. An inspection in February 2010 identified two underweight dogs with "very prominent" backbones and "easily visible" ribcages. The USDA revisited in March 22, 2010 to check on the dogs, which would have been too late if they had been left to starve.

Additional inspections of this breeder's facility speak for themselves:

*“In the ‘Broker building’, a Boxer puppy (#4) was observed to have a very prominent back bone, an easily visible rib cage, easily visible hip bones, visible leg bone outline, an extremely tucked abdomen and no discernible body fat. The puppy was lethargic, and appeared to have an unthrifty hair coat. In the ‘driveway runs’ a female, tricolor Shetland Sheepdog (Microchip #011618000) was observed to have very prominent back bone, an easily visible rib cage, easily visible hip bones, visible leg bone outline with an obvious loss of muscle mass, an extremely tucked abdomen and no discernible body fat.” (USDA inspection Feb. 2010)*

*“There are wires sticking in the cages at the eye level of the puppies.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection, 2009)*

*“There is very minimal bedding in the outdoor housing units. The outside temperature is 17 degrees.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection, 2009)*

*“In the nursery there was a female Dachshund that appeared thin with its backbone protruding. This female had 5 puppies nursing her.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection, 2009)*

*“There are two (2) Pekingese dogs that have one eye missing and the other eye has matting and a cloudy film over it.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection, 2008)*

*“A puppy (golden) had fallen out of the primary enclosure about two feet off the ground and could not get back in the primary enclosure. The puppy was about three (3) weeks old.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection, 2008)*

*“The nursery had puppies with feces on the fur and walking in feces.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection, 2007)*

*“2 dogs had matted coats caked with hair, grime and fecal matter. Neither of the dogs’ skin could be visualized under the matts. 1 dogs’ eyesight was restricted due to the heavy matting. The other dog had excessive matted hair and stool that appeared to be pulling on the skin as the dog was continually attempting to bite at.” (USDA inspection Sept. 2007)*

## **Euthanasia Plan: Club the Dogs**

### **Jesse and Sonja Miller - Walnut Creek Kennel**

- La Monte, MO
- USDA license: 43-A-5398 – USDA licensed from Sept. 2008 through Sept. 2010 (Cancelled)
- MDA license #: 700146 – MDA licensed through 2010

Advertising via their own website as well as through online “breeder club” classified advertising sites such as BreedersClub.net, the Millers claim on their website, “We are a family who enjoys raising puppies on our farm. We specialize in raising well-socialized, well-loved, and well-cared for puppies!” “Well-loved?” “Well cared for?” Here’s what a USDA inspector noted during a pre-license visit to Walnut Creek Kennel in August 2008:

*“The Program of Veterinary Care stated that the applicant would be euthanizing the dogs at the facility, by clubbing the dogs. In accordance with the report of the AVMA panel on euthanasia, this is not an acceptable method of routine euthanasia.”*

The Millers were also cited in 2010 and 2009 for “attempted inspection” violations – instances when they were not available during stated business hours to allow inspectors to conduct their visits. While the Millers do not have as many violations on file as some of the other dealers on this list, the stated intention of clubbing unwanted dogs earned them a place in the dirty dozen.

Proposition B would prohibit the euthanasia of unwanted dogs by anyone other than a licensed veterinarian.

## **DISHONORABLE MENTIONS:**

### ***“Emaciated” Dogs and “Raw Wounds” at What May be Missouri’s Largest Puppy Mill***

#### **Bonnie and Herman Schindler – Mettoville Kennels/ Teacher’s Pets**

- Mexico MO
- USDA license: 43-B-0091 – USDA licensed from May 1993 through May 2011 (36 pages of USDA violations since November 2007)
- MDA license #: 952 – MDA licensed through 2010 (133 state kennel violations in recent years)
- The Schindlers are also owners of “Puppy Expo,” a retail puppy-selling operation
- This facility claims to be in the process of shutting down as of October 2010, yet at press time it remained both federally and state licensed.

The Schindlers may own one of the largest licensed dog breeding operations in the country, with almost 1,000 breeding dogs on site at recent count, according to USDA records. The Schindlers’ facility has racked up more than 35 pages of USDA violations in recent years and more than 133 Missouri Department of Agriculture violations, yet they remain both federally and state licensed.

During a July 2010 USDA inspection, federal inspectors found many sick and injured dogs, including an “emaciated” lab with protruding ribs and hips, muscle wasting and wounds on her foot; a “very thin” Golden Retriever with a fresh, bleeding puncture wound; a poodle who had difficulty standing up and had not been seen by a vet; a newborn Husky puppy with a raw wound where his tail should be; a silky terrier with hair loss and scabs across his back; a Shih Tzu who was limping and had “small holes and discharge” on her foot; a Lhasa apso who was limping and had yellow and green discharge crusting around her eyes, and swollen masses on her foot; a Westie with a raw, open wound on his paw; and many more.

During previous inspections, many dogs were found by USDA to be heavily matted and many had masses on their bodies and “open and oozing areas on the skin”. On March 10, 2010 a USDA inspector noted: “Numerous non-compliant items concerning maintenance, cleaning and animal health are present at the facility. The health and well-being of the animals must be assessed on a daily basis in order to ensure that their health and other needs are being met in a timely manner.” Interestingly, USDA also notes the following: “A high degree of non-compliance is present at the facility concerning maintenance, cleaning and animal health. The facility currently has approximately 1,000 dogs and 10 employees. Given the degree of noncompliance present at this facility, this number of employees may not be sufficient.” The Schindlers’ federal and state kennel inspection reports are not reading for the faint of heart. Excerpts include:

*“Labrador retriever (female, ID 101-305-493, Run 13 in the mastiff high Rise): The dog is emaciated with readily visible rib cage, backbone, shoulders, hips, and thigh bones. There is no palpable fat on the ribcage, or backbone, and muscle wasting is present in the thighs and front legs. She has a very exaggerated waist when viewed from above, and a very prominent*

*abdominal tuck when viewed from the side. Circular wounds are present on her right front foot.” (USDA inspection July 2010)*

*“Upon entering the buildings, the inspectors noted the strong odor and felt a burning sensation in their eyes.” (Nov. 2009)*

*“Wheaten terrier (male, ID 082-895-780, Run 15 in the Golden High Rise): The dog has a depressed appearance, with his head hanging down, and his lower jaw dropped down. All 4 of his canine teeth are broken off, and the front part of his jaw is thickened and painful upon palpation.” (USDA inspection, July 2010)*

*“There was a pen of 4 Dalmatians, one of which had been killed. The male was being very possessive of this female. To correct: need to make sure dogs are compatible before housing them together.” (MO Department of Agriculture inspection Sept 2009)*

**UPDATE: At press time, The HSUS was informed that the Schindlers are scheduled to sell all their remaining dogs at auction on October 29 and 30, 2010. However, they remain licensed with the potential of going back into business at any time. A veterinarian’s report on the auction flyer describes the Schindlers as follows:**

*“I have been professionally associated with Herman & Bonnie Schindler of Teacher’s Pets since May, 1990. I began working on premise at their facility March of ‘95, and have continued to provide weekly veterinary care for their animals to present. This is a professional breeding facility that has high standards, not only for the quality of their breeding stock and the care and well-being of their animals, but also for the living standards of the animals. Herman & Bonnie are **responsible breeders** that continue to strive to provide adequate care and maintain reasonable health and wellness standards. All health issues are addressed in a timely and prompt manner.*

*Sincerely, Dr. Sue Sculley, DVM”*

## ***Deplorable Lack of Veterinary Care, 68 state kennel violations***

### **Sharon Owen – Poodles Plus**

- Auxvasse, MO
- USDA license cancelled (43-B-0398)
- MO state licensed in 2010 (68 violations)

The facility has been cited for severe repeat violations for sickly dogs who had not been seen by a vet, matted dogs, fecal buildup, dogs kept in below-freezing temperatures without adequate heat or bedding, housing violations, and more. In April 2007 an inspector noted that no vet had been to the facility since August 10, 2005. The breeder is still on state licensee lists for 2010. Excerpts from her Missouri state kennel inspection reports include:

*“There was a year-old male Chi that was very thin. Ms. Owen stated that he just never gains any weight. This male is not what a breeding program needs, as there is definitely something wrong with the dog. This dog needs to be seen by a vet for further diagnosis or eliminated from the breeding kennel. Corrected on Inspection Date: 1/23/2009.”*

The inspector then noted that “this dog has been removed from the premise [sic].” It is unclear if the dog was ever treated for the condition.

Proposition B would require that breeding dogs receive prompt veterinary care for any illness or injury, and would make it illegal to “euthanize” a dog without a veterinarian.

Other violations documented by state kennel inspectors include:

*Re-inspection 04/22/08: “There was a dog with rectal prolapse, and this dog has been this way for some time [...] During the inspection, a gentleman came to get (the dog) to take her to the vet to be euthanized.”*

*“There is a pen in the whelping building with a mother and her pups, and the pups feet were falling through the 1x1 openings in the floor.”*

*“Water receptacles throughout the kennel had a build-up of green algae stuff, and the tube waterer had a brown film in the bottom of it.”*

*“There was a build-up of dirt, hair, and feces throughout the kennel.”*

*“There continues to be pens with dirty water receptacles and two pens that were entirely without water. With the temperature in the 80 degree Fahrenheit range, clean water needs to be provided on a continuous basis.”*

*Re-inspection 12/17/08 “There were 2 pens that the houses didn’t have adequate bedding for the below freezing temperatures outside.”*

## ***Banned from USDA, Yet Still Licensed in Missouri after 38 State Violations***

### **Wendy Laymon/ Layman aka Faith Laymon/Layman**

#### **Shadow Mountain Kennel (Shadow Mountain Ranch), MO**

- Rogersville MO
- USDA license (Shadow Mountain Kennel) revoked
- MDA licensed as Shadow Mountain Ranch, #5866 – MDA licensed through 2010 (36 violations on file)

Wendy Laymon (aka Faith Layman and other names) sells puppies, primarily French Bulldogs, over the Internet from MO to customers across the country for about \$2,000 each. The Humane Society of the United States has received complaints about sick puppies sold by this individual, who was once licensed in Washington state and was considered notorious in Snohomish County Washington before losing her WA kennel license and then moving to Missouri.

In Snohomish County, Washington, Layman reportedly lost her kennel license and was sued in small claims court approximately 15 times for charges related to selling sick puppies and misrepresentation issues. The majority of the cases were in the late 1990s and in 2000. Reportedly, she was convicted and sentenced to jail time in Washington state and was restricted from owning any animals as part of her release. She then moved to Missouri.

Most recently, on March 27, 2009 the USDA levied action against her (dba Shadow Mountain Kennel) under docket #08-0089: [http://www.da.usda.gov/oaljdecisions/090403\\_AWA-08-0089.pdf](http://www.da.usda.gov/oaljdecisions/090403_AWA-08-0089.pdf). She was fined \$7,125 (held in abeyance) and banned from holding a USDA license for three years.

Although Laymon has been banned from holding a USDA license until at least 2012, while previously licensed as a B dealer she was cited for numerous violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including excessively matted dogs, dirty conditions, inadequate housing and records violations.

Despite her dishonorable history, Laymon currently holds a MO state kennel license. She has some of the most numerous MO Department of Agriculture ACFA violations of all state-licensed sellers (at least 36 violations since 2008).

HSUS investigators found that Laymon sells puppies (or has done business) under many business names, none of which are registered as fictitious business names in the state of MO as of April 2010, including:

- Shadow Mountain Ranch (name used on her current MO license)
- The Bulldog Connection ([www.thebulldogconnecion.com/](http://www.thebulldogconnecion.com/))
- Frenchie Babies ([www.frenchiebabies.com/](http://www.frenchiebabies.com/))
- Web Frenchies ([www.webfrenchies.com/](http://www.webfrenchies.com/))
- Love My Bullie ([www.k-designco.com/lovemybullie/](http://www.k-designco.com/lovemybullie/))
- A French Bulldog ([www.afrenchbulldog.com/](http://www.afrenchbulldog.com/))

During a routine state kennel inspection on 02/10/10, the Animal Health Officer inspecting Laymon's kennel noted that "the last inspection conducted by the attending veterinarian was January 2008," more than two years before.

### ***Admitted Performing Invasive Surgeries without a Vet***

## **John and Sharlette Tidwell, Ramblin' Spring Kennel**

**West Plains, MO**

**USDA # 43-B-0441; also MO state licensed**

In December 2009, Tidwell, a USDA-licensed breeder, admitted to her inspector that she essentially practices veterinary medicine without a license, performing surgeries on her own and brokered animals on her property, including surgical births and spay/neuter surgeries.\* Other USDA violations include keeping an adult female Rottweiler with two puppies in a wire crate with only half the required space, and in 2007 a USDA inspection found 25 under-age puppies being sold to pet stores.

*“The licensee stated that she performs surgeries on the brokered puppies and her own animals. Records indicate that she has performed surgeries such as ear crops, umbilical hernia repairs, inguinal hernia repairs, “nares snipped”, neuters, dew claw removals, ovariohysterectomies, and Caesarian sections. The licensee is not a veterinarian and could not provide the inspectors with documentation indicating that she has received adequate training to be qualified to perform invasive surgical procedures in a manner that meets professional veterinary standards. The room that the licensee stated is being utilized to conduct invasive surgical procedures does not meet the generally accepted veterinary professional standards for surgical rooms. The floor has areas of bare wood that can not be effectively cleaned and sanitized, the licensee stated that surgical tools are soaked with alcohol between patients, and extraneous materials are present in the surgical room including a vacuum, animal enclosures, pictures on the walls, and boards.” (Dec. 2009)*

## **Sick dogs, Dirty Conditions, Repeatedly Denies Access to Inspectors**

### **Jerri Vestal, Vestals Kennel**

**Livonia, MO**

**USDA license # 43-A-4931; MO State licensed in 2010**

Vestal’s facility has been cited as recently as March 2010 with violations for filthy conditions and sick animals. In March 2010 it was noted that no vet had visited the facility since Dec. 2008. There were three "attempted inspection" violations between March and June of 2009. An inspector noted that no one would come to the door on the third attempt despite three cars being parked at the facility. The most recent inspection prior to the attempted inspections was in Dec. 2008, in which many problems were found, including sickly and underweight animals and severely matted dogs. In 2008 there were also three "attempted inspection" violations, and in 2007 there were four "attempted inspection" violations. Directly before the 2008 violations a USDA inspector was noted on Nov. 9, 2007 that there was no record of a vet having been to the facility since March of 2006. It was noted that the same issue was noncompliant on May 16, 2007, demonstrating that the licensee had been aware of the problem for months and still had not had a vet visit the facility.



Recent violations include:

*“A female Bichon was observed to be non weight bearing on her left front leg. Upon examination it was noted that the dog had a swollen area of tissue approx in size from ¼ inch diameter to ½ inch diameter that had a reddened appearance to it. The toes were observed being displayed in an unnatural manner. This was also in non compliance on 8 Dec. 2008 and 10 July 2009.” (March 2010)*

*“At least 8 animals were noted with hair coat maintenance problems. A female Maltese/Bichon, chip # 102327850 was approximately 70% matted with feces stuck around the peranal area. This item was also non-compliant on Dec 8, 2008.” (July 2009)*



## ***Puppies with Feet Falling Through the Wire Floors, Repeated Violations for Underweight Dogs***

### **Joyce Young, Young’s Ozark Kennel**

**Pottersville, MO**

**USDA License # 43-A-4644; MO state licensed**

Young has been cited repeatedly by USDA inspectors for excessively thin dogs, matted dogs, housing violations, and unsafe conditions such as wire flooring that allows the puppies' feet to pass through the floor and dirty food and water. At recent visits, USDA inspectors noted:

*“There are 4 dogs with excessively matted hair. The hair is matted around the legs, belly, chest and sides of the dogs. The temperatures at this time are in the 90’s with high humidity.” (July 2010)*

*“There are 2 lactating female dogs that are very thin. There is a Beagle with 6 pups and a Miniature Pinscher with 3 pups. Their spine and hips are prominent and their coats are dull.” (July 2010)*

*“In the outdoor enclosures is a female Beagle named Kelly that is very thin. Her hip bones, back bones and ribs are prominent and her coat is dull. Her litter of pups was weaned recently (about 2 weeks previously) but she is still very thin. (Dec. 2009)*

*“In the outdoor enclosures is a poodle that has excessively matted hair. There are huge mats hanging off her body and the hair is so thick that the underlying skin can not be observed for injuries, parasites or other skin problems.” (Aug. 2009)*

*“There were no food receptacles in the enclosures and the food was on the ground. The husband stated that he took out the chewed buckets but did not replace them so the dogs were being fed off the ground. Eating off the ground can cause ingestion of parasite eggs that can cause infestation in the dogs. This item was noncompliant on the March 6, 2009 inspection.” (Aug. 2009)*

## ***Sick and Injured Dogs in Filthy Conditions***

### **Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel**

**Edina, MO**

**USDA # 43-A-1957, MO state licensed in 2010**

Serious repeat Animal Welfare Act violations for lack of veterinary oversight, housing issues, records issues and more. An April 2010 inspection noted multiple repeat/direct care violations for sick and injured dogs, excessive feces, and housing violations.

Recent violations include:

*“The building used as a whelping facility does not have an air conditioning system. At the time of the inspection outside air temperatures were in the high 90 F range. Surface temperatures within the building were in the range of 84 to 86 degrees F. The air in this building was very humid and an exchange of air from the outside was not being performed at an effective rate. Puppies and adults were observed panting while in this area. Affect 50 adult dogs and 115 puppies.” (Aug. 2010)*

*“In the outside ground runs excessive accumulations of feces were noted that were indicative of several days of not spot cleaning. The owner stated that he had last spot cleaned the pens at least two days prior to the time of inspection.” (Aug. 2010)*

*“A female Lhasa apso was observed in the “courtyard” area hutches with excessive greenish ocular discharge from both eyes. Upon closer examination an abdominal tumor of approximately 2 inches in diameter was noticed. This dog has not been evaluated by the attending veterinarian for either condition and has not been placed under a treatment program.” (May 2010)*

*“Throughout the entire facility, there were non-compliant items documented on grooming techniques, cleaning, sanitation, medication expiration dates, pest control, ventilation, and lighting. All of these items are animal husbandry issues.” (Nov. 2009)*

*“In the outdoor hutch facility, most of the water receptacles were crock pots and the ones that did have water, also had leaves, grass, and dirt in them with a film across the top of the water. The outside of the receptacles had dirt and black coloring from the coating on the wire used to hold them in place.” (Nov. 2009)*

*“Throughout the facility, there were multiple places noted that had dirt, grime, organic material and mineral buildup. The owner states that the facility sanitized ‘about every 3 weeks.’ It is*

*obvious that proper sanitation is not being performed correctly or frequently enough to be effective. All areas of this facility lack in appropriate maintenance, cleaning and husbandry practices. The owner states that there is one full time employee and one part time employee. Affects 279 adults and 66 puppies.” (Nov. 2009)*

## ***Truth in Advertising***

### **Barbara McCoy, Gone to the Dogs**

**Thayer, MO**

**USDA license # 43-A-2807, MO state licensed in 2010**

This dealer’s kennel is aptly named. She has accumulated multiple USDA violations for sanitation issues, odor and housing problems, inadequate space, puppies’ feet passing through wire flooring, and other serious care issues. A January 2010 USDA inspection found water supply frozen for 4 days per owner’s admission, dogs in freezing temperatures with inadequate protection, no program of veterinary care, and more. Excerpts:

*“The interior portion of the sheltered double decker kennel building was found to have an ambient temperature of approx. 37 degrees F. No bedding or solid resting areas were provided to the dogs in this area.” (Jan. 2010)*

*“The wire mesh floors and wash-downs of the double decker kennel building contained several days accumulations of fecal waste.” (Jan. 2010)*

## ***In Conclusion***

Approximately 200,000 dogs are confined for life in small wire cages in puppy mills in Missouri, many of them in conditions like those described above. This is simply unacceptable.

Proposition B requires access to nutritious food daily and continuous access to drinkable water, veterinary care for illness or injury, and adequate space and exercise. Proposition B will increase enforcement in general, and specifically increase and facilitate local law enforcement as compared to the existing vague and highly technical puppy mill regulations. The measure not only provides new, easily understandable criminal penalties for mistreatment, it does so without wiping out or eliminating the existing laws and penalties.

Proposition B will apply to all large-scale commercial dog dealers whether the owner is licensed or not, and ensures that dogs in such large-scale breeding facilities receive basic humane care. Dogs in Missouri deserve no less than these basic protections.

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Paid for by Missourians for the Protection of Dogs/YES! on Prop B, Judy Peil, Treasurer

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