



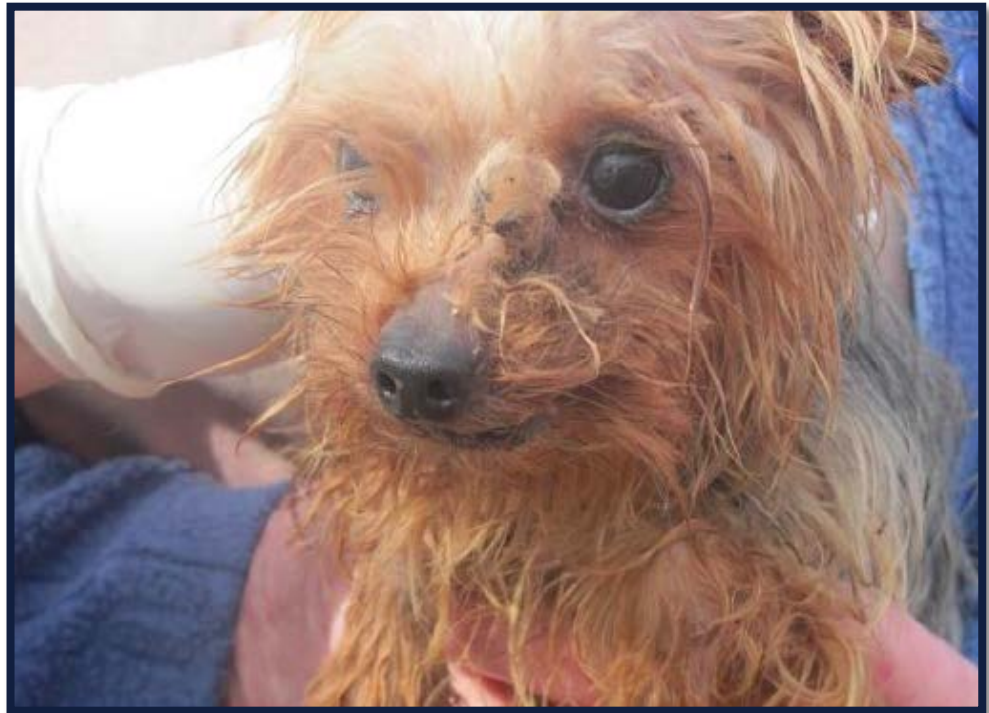
THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

The Humane Society of the United States Investigates: Georgia Puppy Stores

November 2015

HSUS investigations across the country demonstrate that it is common for pet store owners and employees to lie to consumers about the origins of the puppies for sale or refuse to provide any information at all.

Despite the claims made by puppy store sellers, most dogs sold in pet stores come from puppy mills—inhumane, commercial dog breeding facilities where puppies are bred in factory-like environments for the pet trade. The dogs are typically kept in small, wire cages for their entire lives. They are



A male Yorkie at the facility of Sarah Young, Clear Spring Kennel, was found to be “thin to the point of spine and hip bones protruding,” according to a USDA inspector. Young’s facility sold to Petland in Dunwoody. USDA, 2014

usually given little food, water or veterinary care. The female dogs are bred continuously and when they can no longer breed anymore they are discarded or killed.

The HSUS regularly receives complaints from customers who have unknowingly bought high-priced puppies who were sick and/or died shortly after purchase, from pet stores all over the country. Almost all complaints received by The HSUS from these consumers indicate that they were not told the truth about the breeders who supply to the pet stores.

Top Findings:

- 17 pet stores sell puppies in the state of Georgia. HSUS investigators visited 13 of these stores with hidden cameras during 2015.
- Documents obtained through Georgia's Open Records law show that over a period of 60 days this summer, 551 puppies were shipped from out-of-state facilities to Georgia pet stores. Many of these puppies came from Missouri breeding operations—the state with the highest concentration of some of the worst puppy mills in the country.
- Some breeders found selling to Georgia pet stores have serious Animal Welfare Act violations on their inspection reports including: dogs with untreated, open wounds, severe eye discharge, feces in food bowls and heavily matted fur¹.
- All 5 Petland stores in Georgia are supplied with puppies from Midwest puppy mills, several with violations so severe that animals were found suffering with conditions such as bleeding sores and encrusted eyes. Some of these violations were classified as “direct” on federal inspection reports. Petland claims to have a policy of not buying from breeders with direct violations.

“There are two adult dogs who need to be evaluated by the attending veterinarian. One of the animals is a male Yorkshire Terrier who is thin to the point [that his] spine and hip bones are protruding. The animal also has a large accumulation of green and gray matter on both sides of the upper gums. The other animal is a seven month old King Charles Cavalier, who has a wounded bloody tail tip.”

- Inspection of Sarah Young, Clear Springs Kennel, Feb 2014. Young sold a puppy to Petland Dunwoody

Methodology:

HSUS investigators visited 13 Georgia pet stores posing as consumers. They obtained visual information from paperwork about some of the breeders who supply to Georgia stores. Additionally, researchers examined shipping documentation for puppies shipped to Georgia stores from out-of-state during 2015, and reviewed Georgia Department of Agriculture pet dealer inspection reports. Investigators attempted to visit several of the breeders that supply to Georgia stores.

Georgia Pet Stores Visited (in alphabetical order):

19 Breeders

9775-C Medlock Bridge Road, Johns Creek, GA

<https://www.19breeders.com>

¹ Violations found at the property of Steve Kruse, Stonehenge Kennel, 42-B-0182, July 2015.

Roger Menezes and his wife, Margarita Menezes own the 19 Breeders pet store in Johns Creek, Georgia. In Hillsborough County, Florida, the Menezes owned a store called 9 Breeders. In 2009, while doing business in Florida, Roger Menezes was charged with animal cruelty and 28 other animal offenses. He was found in violation for 18 counts of improper animal confinement.

When HSUS investigators visited 19 Breeders, Margarita Menezes told investigators that the store only buys puppies from excellent local breeders. When asked for the names of the breeders an employee refused stating, "you just have to take our word."

Janine's Noah's Ark

4347 Hartley Bridge Road, Macon, GA

<http://www.noahsarkmacon.com/>

According to paperwork examined in the store on September 27, 2015, Janine's Noah's Ark buys puppies from several problematic Georgia-licensed kennels: Wald Kennel (owned by Sharon Wald according to store documents), Shady Road Kennel (owned by Norman Rewis) and Triple C Kennel (owned by James Cliett)

A February 26, 2015 Georgia Department of Agriculture inspection report for the Wald Kennel in Wrightsville, Georgia states that the owner contacted the department about having sold 2 Yorkshire terrier puppies who tested positive for the deadly parvo virus to another pet store. (See section on Puppies Galore for more about this issue.)

As of June 16, 2015, Norman Rewis, owner of Shady Road Kennel in Baconton, Georgia was 2 years behind in paying licensing fees and therefore out of compliance with Georgia state law. A June 25, 2014 Georgia Department of Agriculture inspection report states: *After numerous attempts to inspect this complaint, a Stop Order has been placed on this facility. The establishment is 2 years behind on their license fee. ... I have taken an inventory of all of the dogs that are visible outside. I informed the owner that I needed to inspect the puppy room ASAP. I will follow up in 10 days if no response is received.* The next inspection was conducted on January 21, 2015 and states: *This is a Stop Order in order to bring the establishment into licensing compliance. No fees have been paid for 2 yrs. The owner does not live at the facility and lives in another town. I called Mr. Rewis and informed him of the Stop Order, and that he needed to remit \$200.00 for the last 2 yrs. I will follow up on 2-15-15 to see if fees have been remitted. ... An inspection of the facility was not done, since the owner was not present.* The next indication of follow up on the Georgia Department of Agriculture's part is on June 16, 2015. The inspection report states: *This is an inspection for an ongoing license issue. No one was home, and a note was left again.* To HSUS's knowledge, the dogs and puppies at Shady Road Kennel have not been physically inspected for almost 3 years.

Employees at Janine's Noah's Ark told HSUS investigators that the store also purchases many of its puppies from James Cliett, owner of Triple C Kennel in Jacksonville, Georgia. According to the Georgia Department of Agriculture's latest inspection report on December 2, 2014, Cliett met all state requirements. When HSUS investigators visited the property they found dogs in stacked, wire cages amid piles of junk.



James Cliett of Jacksonville, GA, breeds puppies sold by Janine's Noah's Ark - Oct. 2015/HSUS



James Cliett of Jacksonville, GA – puppies standing in cage

Oct. 2015/HSUS

Pet Stop

1529 E. Jackson Street, Thomasville GA

When asked, the owner of this store, Cindy Beever, refused to name any breeder, except to say that she breeds some of the puppies she sells.

Petland – Columbus

5592 Whitesville Rd., Columbus, GA

www.petlandcolumbusga.com

Our review of paperwork revealed that most of the puppies coming into Georgia from the Midwest during the 60 day period of our investigation came from the Hunte Corporation – a large Midwest puppy broker. A March 12, 2015 USDA inspection of the Hunte facility in Goodman, MO, indicates a total of 1,006 puppies on site.

A Petland Columbus employee explained the Hunte Corporation to our investigator: “[Hunte is] a middleman. A lot of breeders don’t like to be open to the public so they’ll go and seek out Hunte so they don’t have to be open to the public.”

In the store, HSUS investigators examined a few Hunte Corporation documents. The paperwork identified one of the breeders who sold puppies to the Hunte Corporation, as

Brad Grotewold of Lake Mills, Iowa. In January 2014, Grotewold had 328 adult breeding dogs. Fifteen months later, in April 2015, he had 215 breeding adults – a reduction of 113 breeding dogs. HSUS was not able to determine the disposition of the 113 adult dogs.

Petland – Dalton

1349 W. Walnut Ave., Dalton, GA

www.petland-dalton.com

The Petland in Dalton, Georgia buys puppies from Hunte and two other large Midwest puppy brokers -- Pinnacle Pets in Neosho, Missouri and Brule Creek Kennels in Akron, Iowa.

Pinnacle buys pups from puppy mills, one of which is Anna Mary Reiff of Latham, MO. Reiff's USDA violations from 2015, 2014, 2013 and 2012 include failure to provide veterinary care, filthy feeders, unsafe enclosures, very young puppies left outside in 35 degree weather, inadequate bedding in outdoor structures and failure to have a responsible party on the premises to allow for USDA inspections.

Brule Creek Kennel is owned and operated by Jim and Cynthia Hayes. An August 2015 USDA inspection report noted that the Hayes had a total of 180 puppies and dogs on their premises. They were cited for chewed wooden housing that could not be sanitized properly. As of August 20, 2015, the Dalton Petland store had bought 16 puppies from Brule Creek.

Petland – Dunwoody

7433-B Ashford Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody, GA

www.petlanddunwoody.com

A store employee told our investigator that the Petland Dunwoody store regularly purchases puppies from Clear Springs Kennel owned by Sarah Young in Hardy, Arkansas. Young is a notorious breeder whose violations were documented in The HSUS Horrible Hundred Report in 2015. In Young's June 4, 2014 USDA inspection report, the inspector stated: "...*there are two adult dogs which need to be evaluated by the attending veterinarian. One is a ten year old male Pomeranian. The animal was first observed excessively salivating. Closer observation revealed the animal did not have any teeth and the jaw bone on the left side was partially missing and detached from the gums leaving the bone exposed.*" The same inspection report noted several other dogs in need of veterinary care, broken wires in cages and filth at the facility where Young keeps 200 breeding dogs.

Petland
Dunwoody, GA
store – an
employee showing
the HSUS
investigator a book
of
breeders the store
buys puppies from.
The book included
a photo of Sarah
Young, one of the
store’s puppy
suppliers but did
not show her
kennels.
Sept2015/HSUS



Petland – Kennesaw

2920 George Busbee Parkway, Kennesaw, GA

www.petlandkennesaw.com

According to documents obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, many of the puppies sold in this store come from breeders in Missouri and Iowa, including Steve Kruse of West Point, Iowa. In July 2015, the USDA inspector noted that Kruse had more than 840 adult dogs on site. The report documents multiple violations including failure to provide veterinary care to dogs with open wounds and other serious veterinary conditions, inadequate floor space and “fecal material mixed in with the feed” for several dogs.

Additionally, during our visit, a store employee told our investigator that the Kennesaw store purchases puppies from a Georgia breeder named Allen Keller of Toccoa, Georgia. In March 2014, Keller’s USDA inspection report showed serious violations for failure to provide veterinary care for an elderly female miniature pinscher with severe dermatitis which resulted in “large patches of flaking skin and several areas of reddened, moist, raw skin.” Another dog was severely matted and a Yorkie had “a build-up of a greenish grey hardened material” on his teeth. In May 2014, the USDA gave Keller an “Official Warning” letter for violating federal minimum-care veterinary regulations. According to the USDA’s Animal Welfare Act Enforcement definition, “Official letters of warning notify a licensee or registrant that further infractions can result in more stringent enforcement action.” Keller’s license was cancelled following this official warning but the Kennesaw Petland store continues to buy from him.

According to certificates of veterinary inspection we reviewed, A.G. Beukelman of J. Michael's Kennels in Orange City, Iowa has also supplied puppies to the Kennesaw Petland store. A recent USDA inspection report cited Beukelman for metal bars so rusted and pitted that they were considered a health hazard to the dogs. He was also cited for sharp wires protruding into cages and filthy feeders with built-up of dirt, hair, grime and old food on the insides and outsides of the feeders.

Petland – Rome

1600 Turner McCall Blvd, Rome, GA
www.petlandrome.com

As of September 24, 2015, this Petland store and the Dalton Petland store were both owned by the same person. According to our review of certificates of veterinary inspection, this store buys puppies from Pinnacle Pet and Brule Creek Kennel – two brokers used by the Dalton store.

Pets & Pals

2601 Dawson Road, Albany Mall, Albany GA
<https://www.facebook.com/PetsNPalsAlbanyGA?rf=132048713566622>

A Pets & Pals employee refused to name a single breeder who supplies Pets & Pals, telling our investigator “We’re not allowed to give out breeder names.”

“[A bulldog] was shaking its head and had a ¾ inch diameter area at the base of its left ear that had fresh blood and yellowish colored, moist discharge around the edges, and a roughened surface. [Another bulldog] had large patches of hair loss around the abdomen and sides of the dog covering approximately 20 percent of its body. [A poodle] had a laceration on its back right leg. The wound is approximately 2 inches long and one inch wide.”

- *USDA inspection report of Steve Kruse, Stonehenge Kennel, August 2015.
Stonehenge Kennel sells to several Petland stores across the U.S., including Petland Kennesaw.*



Pets & Pals refused to give breeder information on this ill-looking puppy.

Oct.2015 /HSUS

Puppies Galore

3130 Sugarloaf Parkway, Lawrenceville GA

<http://puppiesgaloreinc.wix.com/puppiesgaloreinc>

Puppies Galore owner Darlene Patterson repeatedly told HSUS investigators that she does not buy puppies from puppy mills. However, shipping records and documentation witnessed in the store reveal that Puppies Galore puppies come from questionable breeders and brokers.

For example, one of the store's suppliers, Colleen Harrell in Rocky Comfort, Missouri was cited by the USDA in February 2013 for broken wires in the flooring of cages that "expose sharp points and holes in the flooring which could injure the animals housed within." More than a year later, in April 2014, the USDA cited Harrell for the same violation. Store paperwork showed that Harrell sold puppies to the Hunte Corporation, who then sold the puppies to the Puppies Galore store.



Colleen Harrell – MO. USDA licensed breeder supplying to Puppies Galore Oct 2015/HSUS

Another supplier to Puppies Galore is Wald Kennel of Wrightsville, Georgia. Wald Kennel's February 26, 2015 inspection report from the Georgia Department of Agriculture reveals that Yorkshire terriers from Wald Kennel had been euthanized by Puppies Galore after they tested positive for the deadly parvo disease. From the inspection report:

The owner of this facility Mr. Wald called me on 2/25/2015 and told me that a pet shop he had sold some puppies to had told him that 2 of the puppies had Parvo. When I arrived today the owners explained the situation to me. I called the pet shop where the puppies had been sold, Puppies Galore, in Lawrenceville, GA. The owner of the pet shop stated that the 2 yorkies had not been in her shop but were taken to an employee's home. One of the puppies was diagnosed with Parvo on 1/11/15 and was euthanized and one was diagnosed on 1/13/15 and was euthanized. The owner of the pet shop told me that she did not have a vet report for the two puppies but she stated that she had taken them to 2 different vets. All of the dogs and puppies at this facility appear to be fine at this time. I do not feel that there is a need to issue a quarantine at this time. I explained to the owners to contact me if they had any problems.

Tifton Pet Center

210 Magnolia Drive, Tifton GA

A Tifton Pet Center employee told our investigator “I’d say 85 percent of our dogs come from The Hulett’s,” in Rhine, Georgia. According to the employee, “the Hulett’s” are A.J. and Catherine. Georgia Department of Agriculture records reflect A.J. Hulett as the owner of H&F Kennels in Rhine, Georgia. Under federal law, breeders who sell puppies to retail stores and have 5 or more breeding females must be licensed by the USDA. A thorough search by our investigator could not locate a federal license for A. J. Hulett or H&F Kennels.

Video Bazaar

800 South Elbert Street, Milledgeville GA

This is a video rental store that also sells puppies. Owner Karren McGhee told our investigator that she breeds many of the puppies she sells. McGhee also stated she buys puppies from “an elderly lady in South Georgia,” but refused to name this breeder.

Village Pets

1500 Browns Bridge Road, Gainesville GA

“I don’t buy from puppy mills, never have.” That’s what Village Pets owner Kenneth Neidenbach, told our investigator, but he refused to name any of the Georgia breeders from whom he claimed to buy.

Conclusion:

The Humane Society of the United States recommends that consumers adopt dogs from shelters and rescue groups. For resources, including information on finding reputable dog breeders, visit www.humanesociety.org/puppymills.