



Update Report: Missouri's Dirty Dozen

Most of the worst puppy mills in Missouri are still licensed

March 2011

Late last year, researchers at The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) spent weeks poring over state and federal inspection reports, investigators' photographs, and enforcement records to compile a list of some of the worst puppy mills in Missouri, known as "Missouri's Dirty Dozen." The report included direct quotes detailing horrific care violations documented in the facilities' federal and/or state kennel inspection reports. The violations included thin-coated breeds like Italian greyhounds found 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.

This update follows some of those kennels to see whether they are still licensed in 2011. As detailed in this report, the majority of the "Dirty Dozen" kennels are still state-licensed to this day, indicating the ongoing need for the protections that Proposition B, The Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act, will provide.



A photo obtained from USDA enforcement records shows a thin, dirty and matted dog at S&S Family Puppies in Milan, MO. 2008/ USDA

By the numbers:

- 3 out of 12 = Number of original "Dirty Dozen" kennels that are no longer USDA nor state licensed and appear to have shut down
- 9 out of 12 = Number of original "Dirty Dozen" kennels that still hold a 2011 MO state kennel license and/or a federal (USDA) license, as of February 2011.
- 9 out of 12 = Number of "Dirty Dozen" kennels that had violations listed on their most recently available USDA inspection reports.
- All = Kennels **newly** added to this report (6) that are both federally and state licensed in 2011.

CONTENTS

UPDATES ON THE DIRTY DOZEN

Brandi Cheney and/or Diana Stephenson, S & S Family Puppies, Milan and Circle B Farms, Huntsville <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>3</u>
Beverly Fields, B&B Kennel, Galt <u>STILL STATE LICENSED</u>	<u>5</u>
Shannon Plymell, Windsong Kennels, Pattonsburg <u>STILL STATE LICENSED</u>	<u>5</u>
Diana and Floyd Miller, Bar M Ranch Kennel, Spickard <u>NO LONGER LICENSED</u>	<u>6</u>
Paul and Pollie Gingerich - Gingerich Farms, Bogard <u>NO LONGER LICENSED</u>	<u>7</u>
Mary Ann Smith, Smith's Kennel, Salem <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>7</u>
Cox, Marsha - Mar-Don Kennel, Chillicothe <u>STILL STATE LICENSED</u>	<u>8</u>
Peggy Ryan, For Heaven's Sake, Reeds Spring <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>9</u>
Robert Dukes and Robin Dollins, Tiny Tails, Edgar Springs <u>NO LONGER LICENSED</u>	<u>10</u>
Bill and Sandra Sackrey, S K's Kennel, Brookfield <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>11</u>
Brenda Walter, Hidden Valley Farms, Greencastle <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>12</u>
Jesse and Sonja Miller – Walnut Creek Kennel, La Monte <u>STILL STATE LICENSED</u>	<u>13</u>

UPDATES ON THE DISHONORABLE MENTIONS

Bonnie and Herman Schindler – Mettoville Kennels, Mexico <u>NO LONGER LICENSED</u>	<u>13</u>
Sharon Owen, Poodles Plus, Auxvasse <u>NO LONGER LICENSED</u>	<u>14</u>
Wendy Laymon, Shadow Mountain Kennel, Rogersville <u>STILL STATE LICENSED</u>	<u>14</u>
John and Sharlette Tidwell, Ramblin' Spring Kennel, West Plains <u>STILL STATE LICENSED; JOHN TIDWELL NOW USDA LICENSED UNDER NEW "T" #</u>	<u>15</u>
Jerri Vestal, Vestals Kennel, Livonia <u>STILL USDA LICENSED</u>	<u>16</u>
Joyce Young, Young's Ozark Kennel, Pottersville <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>17</u>
Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel, Edina <u>STILL STATE AND FEDERALLY LICENSED</u>	<u>17</u>
Barbara McCoy, Gone to the Dogs, Thayer <u>NO LONGER LICENSED</u>	<u>17</u>

NEW CONCERNS (ALL ARE STATE LICENSED BREEDERS)

Tina Carr – Simply Puppies, Hannibal	18
Lou Cox – Lou's Country Kennel, Chillicothe	19
Joseph and LeRoy Detweiler – Sunset Ridge Kennel, Princeton	21
Rhonda Gear – Country Babies, Galt	22
Ruth Zuspahn – Zuspahn Kennel, Edina	23
Wilma Jinson – Jinson Kennel, Stella	25

I. UPDATES ON MISSOURI'S DIRTY DOZEN

More than 500 Pages of Federal Enforcement Records

Brandi Cheney in Milan, MO -- Opens New Huntsville Facility with Different License Number

Status: Retains both federal and state kennel licenses in 2011 despite ongoing animal care violations.

As detailed in our original report, Brandi Cheney and her relative and business partner, Diana Stephenson, own S & S Family puppies in Milan, MO (USDA # 43-B-0435). The facility has accumulated more than 500 pages of federal enforcement records detailing repeated, severe violations of the Animal Welfare Act over a period of several years.

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.

USDA inspection reports detail repeated Animal Welfare Act violations for dogs exposed to the freezing 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.



Above: A photo from USDA enforcement records shows a dog at S&S Family Puppies so badly matted that it's difficult to guess what breed she is. It appears difficult for the dog to see.

Below: A puppy's feet are shown from below as her paws straddle dirty, feces-laden wire floors at S&S Family Puppies. 2008/ USDA



Shortly after the initial Missouri's Dirty Dozen report was released in October 2010, former customers of Brandi Cheney filed a lawsuit in Randolph County Circuit Court, accusing Cheney and Stephenson of selling them sick and dying puppies. The lawsuit is currently making its way through the court system.

Yet despite her dismal history, Brandi Cheney has been granted a second USDA license under a different business name and license number. Both the older and newer facilities linked to Brandi Cheney continue to be cited for repeated violations of basic animal care. The new kennel, **Circle B Farms LLC**, is in Huntsville, MO and the new USDA license number is 43-B-3698.

RECENT INSPECTIONS

A January 4, 2011 USDA inspection of Circle B Farms uncovered a number of new, severe violations, including temperatures inside the kennel registering as high as 109.5 degrees F., failure to provide adequate lighting or electricity, AND failure to provide adequate cage space.

In addition, Cheney's name continues to be associated with S & S Family Puppies along with Diana Stephenson. A November 16, 2010 inspection of S & S Family Puppies resulted in seven pages of violations, including several dogs in dire need of veterinary care. These dogs include a male Husky who was "observed laying in front of a shelter and was reluctant to rise." When roused, the Husky "walked very gingerly and was reluctant to put pressure on all four paws" and inspectors observed that his paw pads were "cracked, swollen and reddened." The Husky also had open sores on both of his ears. He had not been treated by a vet. In addition, inspectors found a female French Bulldog with a large open lesion that was "reddened and oozing." The licensee reportedly stated that she had previously noticed the lesion, but had not contacted her veterinarian about it. Other violations include a Japanese Chin with a leg injury, a Shiba Inu "scratching, biting and itching almost continuously," puppies with diarrhea, dogs with matted fur, housing with broken metal and protruding wires on the cages, accumulations of dirt and grime, broken drainpipes causing waste buildup outside the kennels, strong fecal and ammonia odor, dogs with their feet passing through broken wire floors, dirty feeders, and excessive feces.

A follow-up report indicated the Husky was later euthanized due to "old age."



ABOVE: A dog with a gaping, untreated wound on her nose was photographed by federal investigators at S & S Family Puppies in 2007. Reports from inspections conducted this winter demonstrate that animal care at the two facilities linked to Brandi Cheney has not improved. 2007 /USDA

Dogs in Below-Freezing Cold; Contributed to Group that Opposed Puppy Mill Reform

Beverly Fields - B&B Kennel, Galt MO

STATUS: Her USDA license was cancelled in December 2010, but the operator still holds an active state kennel license in 2011.

Fields, an early contributor to MoFed PAC, a group that opposed Prop B, had 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, including some found outside in temperatures as low as 9 degrees, according to federal and state inspection reports. Serious care violations included dogs with untreated injuries, oozing sores, inadequate space, dogs caked in feces, and many violations for housing in severe disrepair and sanitation problems.



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

Although she cancelled her USDA license in December, Beverly Fields is still state licensed as of February 2011. Now that she no longer holds a USDA license, Fields cannot legally sell puppies to brokers or pet stores. However, as long as her Missouri state kennel license is current, Fields can resume or continue breeding and selling dogs directly to the public at any time.

Urine and Feces Raining Down on the Dogs

Shannon Plymell - Windsong Kennels, Pattonsburg

STATUS: Facility's USDA license was cancelled in January 2011, but operator still holds a 2011 state kennel license.

As detailed in our original report, federal and state authorities have cited Windsong Kennels repeatedly for severe animal welfare issues, including underweight and sick animals, dogs found in frigid temperatures without adequate protection from the cold, inadequate shelter and temperature control, and housing in disrepair. Violations also included dogs requiring vet care, dogs without adequate space to turn around and move freely, dogs in stacked cages that allowed the urine and feces from dogs in

the upper enclosures to rain down on the dogs in lower tiers, and issues with substandard housing, incurring more than 21 pages of USDA violations since July 2008.

Plymell continued to accumulate USDA violations as recently as January 2011. Even after she was listed in the HSUS's Dirty Dozen report, she was apparently unable or unwilling to raise the standard of care at her facility; federal inspectors cited the kennel in January 2011 for failure to provide adequate protection from wind and rain, failure to provide adequate bedding when temperatures had been, and were expected to be, below 35 deg. F, and excessively chewed housing.



Although she cancelled her USDA license in January, Plymell is still state licensed as of

February 2011. Now that

the facility is no longer USDA licensed, Windsong Kennels cannot legally sell puppies to brokers or pet stores. However, as long as its Missouri state kennel license is current, Plymell can resume or continue breeding and selling dogs directly to the public at any time.

Dogs in ramshackle cages at Windsong Kennels were photographed by The HSUS last year looking out over vast open spaces in which they likely never had a chance to run or play. 2010/ The HSUS

Underweight Dogs, Dogs Shivering in the Cold

Diana and Floyd Miller – Bar M Ranch Kennel, Spickard, MO

STATUS: No longer licensed by the USDA or state.

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 remained state licensed until just recently. It is now one of three kennels listed in the original Missouri's Dirty Dozen report that appears to have gone out of business.

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 who was "very thin with prominent ribcage and vertebrae," a Sheltie with "easily palpable and prominent" vertebrae, hip bones, and ribs, and other underweight or sick animals who had not been treated by a vet, and dogs with open sores.

Dogs Licking at Frozen Water; Thin Shivering Dogs, Dying Puppies

Paul and Pollie Gingerich - Gingerich Farms, Bogard, MO

STATUS: No longer licensed by the USDA or the state.

While USDA licensed, the Gingerich facility was cited by inspectors dozens of times over a period of several years for grave repeat violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including dogs with frozen water desperately trying to lick at the ice, underweight dogs whom inspectors described as shivering in the cold, filthy conditions, sick and dying puppies who had not been treated by a vet; severely matted dogs, housing issues, and more. There were also repeated "attempted inspection" violations in which federal inspectors were denied access to the facility. Before recently dropping their USDA license, the Gingeriches had amassed 62 pages of USDA violations since April 2008. Yet even though they were no longer federally licensed, they still held a Missouri state kennel license through 2010.

As of February 2011, Gingerich Farms is one of three kennels listed in the original Missouri's Dirty Dozen report that appears to be out of business.

Chronically Problematic Puppy Mill Linked to MO Lawmaker Currently Attacking Prop B

Mary Ann Smith - Smith's Kennel, Salem, MO

STATUS: Smith's Kennel remains both USDA licensed and MDA licensed through 2011 despite ongoing repeat violations

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.

Mary Ann Smith's son, now Republican Majority Whip Representative Jason Smith, was once listed in state records as a co-owner of her kennel and has been an outspoken opponent of Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act and other animal welfare bills.

A reporter for Fox 2 news recently dubbed the link a "potential conflict of interest." When Fox 2 requested permission to visit Smith's Kennel in February 2011 the reporter was denied access.

The HSUS has received complaints about sick puppies sold by Smith's Kennel, including a Bulldog (pictured) who was sold through a Petland store in 2008 and still suffers from congenital health problems that require daily care.



Above: this Bulldog's owner contacted The Humane Society of the United States in February 2011 to report that she purchased "Tessa" from a Petland store in 2008. The AKC-registered dog was supplied to the store by Mary Ann Smith of Smith's Kennel in Salem, MO, and suffers from longstanding health problems to this day.
2011/ The HSUS

The kennel's most recent USDA inspection was in June 2010, when the owner was cited for a repeat violation for two dogs that had untreated veterinary problems, a repeat violation for housing in disrepair, and sanitation problems. According to news reports, Smith's most recent Missouri state inspection also lists some recent violations. HSUS researchers were not able to obtain a copy in time for this report.

"Entire Floor Surface" Covered in Feces

Marsha Cox - Mar-Don Kennel, Chillicothe, MO

STATUS: Cancelled USDA license in March 2011; still MDA licensed through 2011 despite ongoing violations.

Despite a long history of Animal Welfare Act violations and the recent cancellation of her federal license, Marsha Cox remains state licensed in 2011. During her October 2010 USDA inspection, Cox reportedly refused to allow access to federal inspectors. When asked why, the licensee stated "Because you [USDA] had something to do with the Missouri dirty dozen." [Note: The USDA did not

work with The HSUS on the Missouri's Dirty Dozen report; The HSUS used quotes from USDA records which are publically available.]

During her most recent USDA inspection in December 2010, Cox accumulated repeat violations for animals outside in freezing temperatures without adequate protection from the cold and other serious welfare issues. The inside temperature during that inspection was 25 degrees F, according to USDA inspectors, and it had been 9 degrees F the previous day. When inspectors began to write her up for this and other infractions, Cox reportedly stated "I'm done with this crap," stomped inside the house and claimed she was giving up her license, yet she didn't produce the license for surrender. A recent review of federal license records found her license wasn't cancelled until three months later.

Cox's previous Animal Welfare Act violations included a seriously underweight Maltese with skin lesions whom the inspector noted was "thin with prominent backbone, hipbones, and a tucked abdomen" and "a 2cm x 2 cm wound with crusted dried blood"; expired medications in the "puppy house," dogs in the heat without shade, housing problems, and the "entire floor surface" of one enclosure "covered with wet feces."

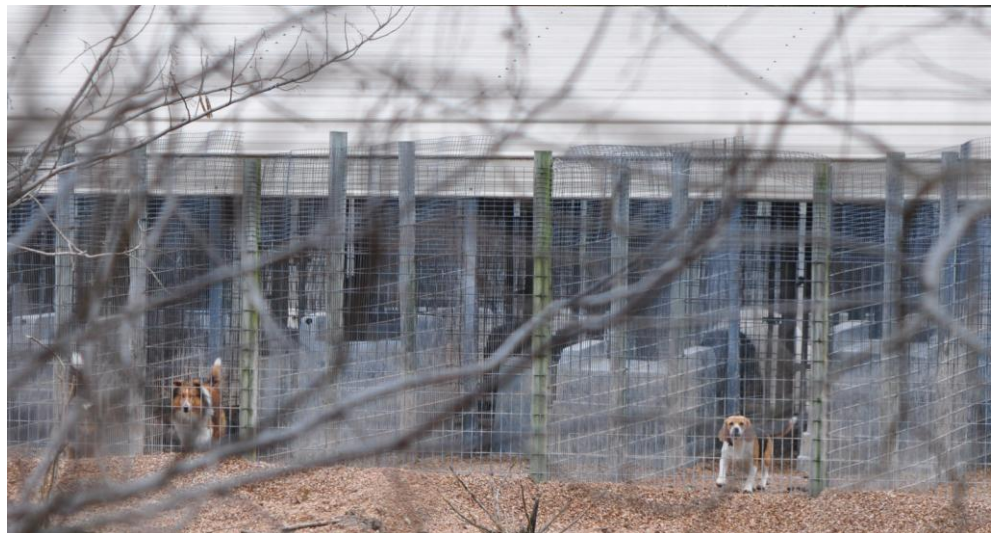
Should Marsha Cox ever lose her state license, she appears to have backup nearby. A relative, Lou Cox, owns a second puppy mill at an adjacent address. Lou Cox also has multiple Animal Welfare Act violations on file with the USDA, yet remains both state and USDA-licensed. See part three of this report for details.

Sick Puppies, Dogs Exposed to Extremes of Heat and Cold

Peggy Ryan - For Heaven's Sake Kennel, Reeds Spring, MO

STATUS: both USDA licensed and MDA licensed through 2011.

Although her most recent USDA inspection was compliant, 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



Dogs in outdoor pens at For Heaven's Sake Kennel are often exposed to extremes of heat and cold, according to USDA reports. 2010/The HSUS

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 Fahrenheit temperatures who did not have enough protection from the cold, stacked wire cages where “puppies that were attempting to move around” were seen with their feet “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 F buildings without adequate climate control, and puppies who were underweight and lethargic.

Out of Business

Robert Dukes and Robin Dollens - Tiny Tails, Edgar Springs, MO

STATUS: No longer USDA licensed or state licensed in 2011

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.

Photos taken by The HSUS in 2010 showed some dogs in kennels so high that the licensee had to use a ladder to attend to them, yet like so many similar facilities in Missouri, the dogs in their tiny cages were surrounded by acres and acres of land.

Robert Dukes cancelled his USDA license in May 2010. Wilma Dukes, at the same address, cancelled her USDA license in January 2011. Robert Dukes, Robin Dollens, and Wilma Dukes were all on the MO state kennel license list for 2010 but are no longer licensed as of 2011.



Dogs in small cages at the “Tiny Tails” facility in Edgar Springs likely never set foot on the spacious grounds. 2010/The HSUS

Tiny Tails is one of three kennels listed in the original (October 2010) Missouri’s Dirty Dozen report that appears to be out of business in 2011.

Licensee Found Conducting Potentially “Invasive, Painful Veterinary Procedures” Such as Dental Extractions

Bill and Sandra Sackrey – S K’s Kennel, Brookfield, MO

STATUS: S K’s Kennel remains both USDA licensed and MDA licensed through 2011 despite ongoing violations.

As detailed in the original Dirty Dozen report, S K’s Kennel has accumulated repeat Animal Welfare Act violations for failure to provide adequate veterinary care for numerous animals, including dogs with missing teeth and a dog who was missing a portion of his jaw, 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. A rusty scalpel and scissors were found at the facility in May 2010 - the licensee admitted to using these dirty instruments on his dogs.

Shockingly, the violations at this facility continue to escalate: in Oct. 2010 the licensee admitted to a federal inspector that he performed dewclaw removal and tail docking on 1 to 2 week old puppies without the approval of a vet. He also stated that he cleans the dogs’ teeth and "extracts them when necessary" - the licensee stated that sometimes he has to stop because of the excessive amount of blood or when the dogs try to bite down on his fingers. Other violations include dogs in need of veterinary attention, dogs with untreated dental issues - "a wet, brown to green discharge was present along the gumline," multiple expired medications, housing in disrepair (repeat), accumulations of grime and hair (repeat), and more.

Quotes from the October 2010 USDA inspection report include:

“The licensee stated that he removes dewclaws and docks the tails of 1 to 2 day old puppies, but he does not have any documentation showing that he is appropriately trained and qualified to perform these procedures.” (USDA inspection Oct. 2010)

“The licensee stated that he cleans the dogs’ teeth and extracts them when necessary. A bottle of ‘Anased’ was present in the facility, which he states he sometimes administers to the dogs intramuscularly while cleaning and extracting their teeth. The licensee stated he sometimes has to stop the procedures and finish them later due to the presence of excessive amounts of blood or when the animals begin to bite down on his fingers, which could indicate that the animals are experiencing pain or distress. The licensee is not a veterinarian and is not qualified to administer anesthesia/ sedation or conduct invasive, painful veterinary procedures such as dental extractions.” (USDA inspection Oct. 2010)

“The following medical items were in the kennel area ready for use but were expired: A container of amoxicillin pills inside the same refrigerator used to store vaccines expired 1/2002; a container of catgut

suture that the licensee stated he sometimes uses on umbilical cords expired 9/2004. Expired medical products such as suture may become contaminated and could result in infections in the animals.” (USDA inspection Oct. 2010)

Botched Home Surgical Procedure Leaves Puppies’ Tails with Open Wounds; what “Appeared to be Bone/Cartilage” Exposed to Dirt and Flies

Brenda Walter – Hidden Valley Farms, Greencastle, MO

STATUS: both USDA licensed and MDA licensed through 2011 despite ongoing violations.

Hidden Valley Farms continues to accumulate severe federal animal welfare violations. As mentioned in our 2010 report, in recent years inspectors have identified numerous underweight dogs with "very prominent" backbones, "easily visible" ribcages," "no discernable body fat" and/or "extremely tucked abdomens," lethargic and injured animals, unsafe conditions, dogs found in below freezing (17 degree F) temperatures without adequate protection from the elements, dogs with matted fur caked with feces, and other problems at Walter's kennel.

Since our original report was compiled, Brenda Walter was cited in October 2010 for a "direct non-compliance" for cutting the tails of six 4-week old golden-doodle puppies because she reportedly suspected there was an infection in the tails. According to the federal inspector:

“At time of inspection there were six 4-week old golden doodle puppies that were in need of immediate veterinary medical attention. According to the licensee, she suspected an ‘infection’ in the tail area. Upon conferring with her veterinarian via phone, she ‘crimped’ the tails. The ‘crimp’ did not completely cut through the entire thickness of the tail (approximately ¼ inch depth completely around the tail), leaving the end of the tail below the ‘cut line’ hairless, lifeless, lumpy, and limp. At the site of the incision there appears evidence of swelling. The wound was a circumscribed incision around the tail approximately 2 inches from the base exposing raw, moist, red tissue, and white tissue with a smooth surface that appeared to be bone/ cartilage. The cut area was not bandaged and was left exposed to the environment which included: flies, outdoor housing, dirt, hay, and wood surfaces. The hair around the cut surface was soiled with dirt and grime. Licensee conferred with a veterinarian and performed a ‘surgical procedure’ without anesthesia nor any pre/ post procedural analgesia.” (USDA inspection Oct. 6, 2010)

Newly reported information indicates that as far back as 2001, Brenda Walter was suspended from all AKC privileges for ten years and fined \$2,000 for "failure to maintain her dogs and facilities in an acceptable manner" and other problems, according to the organization's board minutes.

[http://www.akc.org/about/board_minutes/2001/0401.cfm].

In January 2011, the facility passed a USDA inspection.

Euthanasia Plan: Club the Dogs

Jesse and Sonja Miller - Walnut Creek Kennel, La Monte, MO

STATUS: Operator still does not hold a current USDA license; but he has an active Missouri state kennel license in 2011.

Walnut Creek Kennel still has ads listed on “breeder club” classified advertising sites such as BreedersClub.net [<http://web.breedersclub.net/walnutcreek/index.html>], a front for various sellers which claims to have a “no puppy mills” policy. In the BreedersClub.net ad, the Millers claim, “We are a family who enjoys raising puppies on our farm. We specialize in raising well-socialized, well-loved, and well-cared for puppies!” Yet as we reported in our October Missouri’s Dirty Dozen report, 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.”

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. They subsequently cancelled their federal license, yet they are still licensed by the state of Missouri in 2011.

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

II. UPDATE ON THE DISHONORABLE MENTIONS

Brief updates on the eight facilities that made our “dishonorable mentions” list.

Out of Business; All Dogs Sold at Auction in October; No Charges

Bonnie and Herman Schindler – Mettoville Kennels/ Teacher’s Pets, Mexico, MO

STATUS: No longer USDA licensed or state licensed in 2011; all dogs sold.

UPDATE: According to news reports, the Schindlers were required by state officials to go out of business due to ongoing problems at the facility. They held a complete sell-out auction in October 2010. Unfortunately, they were permitted to collect sizable profits by selling the hundreds of dogs and puppies they had failed to properly care for. They were not charged with any crime in connection with their failure to properly care for the dogs.

Out of Business

Sharon Owen – Poodles Plus, Auxvasse, MO

STATUS: No longer USDA licensed or state licensed in 2011

Owen was cited for severe repeat animal care 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. She accumulated 68 state kennel violations in all. In April 2007 an inspector noted that no vet had been to the facility since August 10, 2005. The breeder was still on state licensee lists for 2010, but is no longer licensed in 2011.

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.

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

Wendy Laymon/ Layman aka Faith Laymon/Layman

Shadow Mountain Kennel, Rogersville, MO

STATUS: Operator still does not hold a current USDA license; but has an active Missouri state kennel license in 2011. In addition to holding a commercial breeder license, Laymon has also opened a dubious “rescue” operation called Rescue a French Bulldog, which is also licensed by the state. Both the commercial kennel and the “rescue” share the same address.

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. 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/oal/decisions/090403_AWA-08-0089.pdf. She was fined and banned from holding a USDA license for three years.

Although Laymon has been banned from holding a USDA license until at least 2012, she currently holds two MO state kennel licenses – one for a commercial breeding operation and one for the dubious “rescue” operation, which she runs primarily via a website, www.rescueafrenchbulldog.com.

Through her “nonprofit” corporation’s website (www.rescueafrenchbulldog.com), Layman offers French Bulldog puppies and older dogs to the public for alleged “adoption fees” that run from \$500 to \$950. Laymon’s alleged nonprofit outfit also solicits “donations” through the website, ostensibly to help feed and care for the dogs.

Admitted Performing Invasive Surgeries without a Vet; Still State Licensed, Sells Puppies Over the Internet

John and Sharlette Tidwell, Ramblin’ Spring Kennel, West Plains, MO

STATUS: The couple’s former USDA license (43-B-0441) was cancelled last October, but John Tidwell now holds a new USDA license (43-T-0055) as a transporter. The operators still hold an active state kennel license in 2011.

Website: www.TidwellFarm.com.

In December 2009, Sharlette 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.

As we reported in our original report, according to a USDA inspector:

“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....” (Dec. 2009)

Since they cancelled their USDA broker license in October 2010, the Tidwells can no longer legally sell puppies to brokers or pet stores. However, in March 2011 John Tidwell acquired a new USDA license

as an animal transporter (#43-T-0055), using the same address. And as long as their Missouri state kennel license is current, the Tidwells can continue breeding and selling dogs directly to the public.

Sick dogs, Excessive Accumulations of Feces, Still USDA Licensed

Jerri Vestal, Vestals Kennel, Livonia, MO

STATUS: Facility is still USDA licensed, despite ongoing citations and refusal to grant access to inspectors. However, the facility does not appear to be state licensed in 2011.

Vestal's facility has been cited for filthy conditions, sick animals, matted animals encrusted in feces, refusal to grant access to inspectors on numerous occasions, and lack of proper veterinary oversight.

In September 2010 Vestal was cited for violations for dogs with excessive matting, a dog with severe dental issues, expired medications (also non-compliant on 3 previous inspections), housing with rusted metal doors and sharp edges, accumulation of grime, and excessive accumulations of feces.

Problems continue at Vestal's facility this year. During a January 2011 inspection attempt, the licensee once again failed to allow inspectors access to the facility to check on the wellbeing of the animals.

Recent violations include:

"A female Bischon Frise, chip #101853085, had excessive matting on her head, chest, legs, and back that were bound close to the skin. This dog also had feces adhered to her rear end embedded in the matted hair." (USDA inspection Sept. 2010)

"When asked when the last time the licensee had cleaned and sanitized this enclosure she stated that it had not been cleaned since she painted, when asked when that was, she said that it could have been a month or two." (USDA inspection Sept. 2010)

"Inside of the indoor whelping facility there was excessive accumulation of feces in the washdown under one indoor enclosure, the fecal material in the washdown under this enclosure also had insect larvae in it, affecting 2 pups. Also in a pan under one indoor enclosure, affecting 2 pups, there was an excessive accumulation of food and feces. In the outdoor section of a sheltered enclosure there was a large pile of compacted feces, affecting 2 dogs. When inspector asked the licensee when was the last time she had cleaned these enclosures licensee stated that it had been about a week ago." (USDA inspection Sept. 2010)

Repeated Violations for Underweight Dogs

Joyce Young, Young's Ozark Kennel, Pottersville, MO

STATUS: both USDA licensed and MDA licensed through 2011 despite ongoing violations.

Young has been cited repeatedly by USDA inspectors for excessively thin dogs, matted dogs, housing violations, dirty food and water, and unsafe conditions such as wire flooring that allows the puppies' feet to pass through the floor. She remains licensed through Sept. 2011. In November 2010 she was once again cited for having wire flooring that would allow the feet of puppies to pass through and potentially get stuck or injured.

Proposition B would prohibit wire flooring in dog kennels. Wire flooring causes discomfort to the animals, and sometimes injury or entrapment.

Sick and Injured Dogs in Filthy Conditions

Donald Schrage, Rabbit Ridge Kennel, Edina, MO

STATUS: both USDA licensed and MDA licensed through 2011 despite a long history of violations.

Rabbit Ridge Kennel has been cited for severe, repeat Animal Welfare Act violations for several years in a row, including a lack of veterinary oversight, housing issues, violations for sick and injured dogs, excessive feces, and housing violations. Recent violations include dogs in excessive heat without adequate air flow or ventilation, excessive feces in pens that had not been cleaned for days, a dog with an untreated tumor and oozing eyes, and general lack of pest control and animal husbandry, and having only one full-time employee to care for more than 300 animals.

The facility is now USDA licensed through March 2012 and state licensed through 2011. No violations were listed on the November 2010 inspection report.

Truth in Advertising

Barbara McCoy, Gone to the Dogs, Thayer, MO

STATUS: No longer USDA licensed or state licensed in 2011

This dealer's kennel was aptly named. She 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 a water supply that had been frozen for 4 days per owner's admission, dogs in freezing temperatures with inadequate protection, no program of veterinary care, and more. The dealer cancelled her USDA license in Dec. 2010 and is no longer state licensed in 2011.

III. NEW CONCERNS

Unfortunately, for every kennel on our original Dirty Dozen report that has gone out of business, there is one that we couldn't fit on our original list that continues to demonstrate ongoing severe violations. New candidates for some of the worst kennels in Missouri who were not covered in our original report, include:

Dead Dog Found Outside in the Bitter Cold

Tina Carr – Simply Puppies, Hannibal, MO

- USDA license: 43-A-5672 - USDA licensed from Sept. 1997 through Oct. 2011 (18 pages of USDA violations since Jan. 2009)
- MDA license #: 4002 – state licensed through 2011

Simply Puppies has accumulated numerous federal Animal Welfare Act violations over the last several years, including February 2011 violations for failure to provide adequate bedding when it was 13.6 degrees F. outside and one dog who was observed to be shivering with frozen water droplets on its chin. In January 2011 the licensee was cited by USDA inspectors for a "direct non-compliance" for a dead dog found by the inspector in a kennel with another dog. The report does not specify how the dog died, but indicates that it may have been due to the cold temperatures.

Quotes from Carr's recent federal inspection reports include:

"At the time of inspection the outdoor temperature was 13.6 degrees F and the surface temperature in various boxes ranged from 0-9 degrees F. Approximately 80 dogs had primary enclosures that contained approximately 1/2 -2 inches of wood shavings or pellets. One dog was observed to be shivering and had frozen water droplets on its chin. The amount of bedding evident in the enclosures was not sufficient to allow the animals to burrow into for additional insulation/ protection against the extreme cold." (USDA, Feb. 2011)

"At time of inspection a female Dachshund (#222) was found dead in an outdoor run with another live dog. The deceased dog needs to be removed immediately to minimize stress to the other dog in the enclosure." (USDA, Jan. 2011)

“At time of inspection, the outdoor temperature was 28 degrees F. There were approximately 20 short-haired Dachshunds that were in outdoor enclosures with no bedding available.” (USDA, Jan. 2011)

“At time of inspection the temperature was 28 degrees F. The surface temperature was 36 degrees F. There was no bedding in the 52 enclosures containing a total of 94 dogs” (USDA, Jan. 2011)

“Outside dog hutches had no bedding in them at time of inspection. Outside temperature at time of inspection was 40 degrees.” (USDA inspection Jan. 2009)

When Proposition B goes into effect in November 2011, dogs will be protected from the freezing cold temperatures that most likely contributed to the death of at least one Dachshund at this facility and others like it, and the longer-term suffering of many more dogs who are forced to withstand bitter cold temperatures all winter long.

Dogs Outside in 23 Degree F Weather, Frozen Drinking Water

Lou Cox – Lou’s Country Kennel, Chillicothe, MO

- USDA licensed (#43-A-1969) from Apr. 1993 - Apr. 2011 (34 pages of USDA violations since April 2008)
- MDA license #84 – State licensed through 2011



This kennel, registered to Lou Cox, is adjacent to one belonging to Marsha Cox (Mar-Don Kennel), one of our original Dirty Dozen, who is believed to be a relative. Perhaps not surprisingly, both facilities exhibit similar longstanding problems.

Earlier this winter, USDA inspectors found dogs at Lou Cox’s kennel exposed to outside temperatures as low as 23 degrees F, with drinking water that was frozen “the majority of the time.” – 2010 / The HSUS

Earlier this winter (December, 2010), USDA inspectors found 8 pages of violations at Lou’s Country Kennel for several dogs with untreated medical issues, including a seriously underweight mother

Rottweiler who had only two surviving puppies out of a litter of six, dogs with matted fur, and dogs standing on wet flooring in 23 degree F temperatures with inadequate protection from the cold. Inspectors also noted that the drinking water was frozen in ALL of the outdoor kennels - the staff stated that they watered at 8 am and 2pm (which would mean 18 hours between watering from 2 pm daily until 8 am the next morning), and the inspector noted that there were not enough employees currently taking care of the 100 dogs.

News reports have documented two different fires at Lou Cox's kennel, one in 2008 that killed fifteen puppies, and one in 1996 that killed more than 100 dogs.

Problems at Lou Cox's facility have been documented by USDA inspectors for several years in a row. Earlier violations include a strong fecal and ammonia odor and "a high degree of non-compliance" observed by inspectors, including several dogs with eye conditions and one very underweight Boxer.

Below are a few quotes from Lou Cox's most recent USDA inspection report.

"An adult female Rottweiler housed in the sheltered facility [...] was excessively thin with prominent ribs, hip bones, and vertebrae, and an exaggerated waist and abdominal tuck. When the inspector asked about the small number of pups present with this dog, the employee informed inspector that this dog had whelped 6 puppies the prior day but that 4 had died." (USDA, Dec. 2010)

"An unidentified adult male black/ gray standard poodle, housed in the sheltered facility 'Morton Building', was observed with matting on the face to the point that the eyes could not be visualized." (USDA, Dec. 2010)

"There were 7 out of the 11 shelters in the outdoor enclosures [...] that could not be accessed. The only entry into these structures was the dog door which was not large enough to allow a person to enter. Visual inspection through the dog entry appeared that the bedding material was inadequate and that the interior was not cleaned and sanitized properly. When the inspector asked the employee to remove the screws from the lids of shelters to inspect the interior, the employee said that he did not have the tool to remove these screws." (USDA, Dec. 2010)

"Some of the dogs were observed shivering and in a crouched position. The temperature at the time of inspection was 23 degrees Fahrenheit." (USDA Dec. 2010)

"In the indoor facility, there was an enclosure housing a female Pomeranian, tag # 047367790, that measured 16 inches. The tips of the dog's ears were sticking out of the top of the enclosure." (USDA Dec. 2010)

"In all of the outdoor enclosures, and in the sheltered facilities [...], the water was frozen at the time of inspection (12:00-2:00pm). The employee stated that the dogs are watered at approximately 8:00 am and 2:00 pm. The dogs go 18 hours between watering. In these winter weather conditions the water is frozen for the majority of the time." (USDA Dec. 2010)

Mother Dog “Lethargic and Shivering,” Dogs Exposed to Heat Index over 115 Degrees F

Joseph and LeRoy Detweiler – Sunset Ridge Kennel, Princeton, MO

- USDA licensed (#43-A-5447) from Dec. 2008 through Dec. 2011 (35 pages of USDA violations since Dec. 2008), and #43-A-5661 (Joe only; same address) from Sept 2010 through Sept 2011
- MDA license #: 7681 (LeRoy Detweiler) and # 8276 (Joe Detweiler)– State licensed through 2011 with two kennels listed under one address

Despite its pretty name, Sunset Ridge Kennel has incurred some ugly animal welfare violations. The facility has only been USDA licensed since December 2008 yet federal inspection reports list a litany of ongoing problems, including sagging floors, filthy conditions, a “lethargic and shivering” mother dog, and a limping Rottweiler with an open wound on her paw who had not been seen by a vet.

Violations from the Detweilers’ most recent USDA reports include:

“A female Chihuahua, tag #545, was observed to be lethargic and shivering in her enclosure. When this dog was removed from her enclosure there was a mucoidal red discharge from her vulva. This could be a sign of infection or other medical condition. This dog had whelped 3 puppies on 29 October 2010, only one male puppy was still alive.” (USDA, Nov. 2010)

“In at least 5 enclosures, housing 8 puppies, it was observed that the openings in the floor (1 inch x 1 inch) were large enough to allow the puppies feet to pass through.” (USDA, Nov. 2010)

“There was excessive accumulation of feces under the outside enclosures on the north side of the sheltered facility. There was a very prominent fecal odor in the area with a high number of flies and other insects observed. This item was also non-compliant on: 14 Dec. 2009, 28 July 2010.” (USDA, Aug. 2010)

“Four very young Rottweiler puppies have very pale, white colored gums inside their mouths, which can occur due to a variety of medical conditions. The licensee has not consulted with a veterinarian concerning the condition of these puppies. This is a repeat non-compliant item. It also was not in compliance on July 28, 2010.” (USDA, Aug. 2010)

“At 3:20pm, the inside of the sheltered building was 92.2 degrees F with 68% humidity and a heat index of 114.1 degrees F. The building is currently housing approximately 44 adult dogs and 16 puppies, including brachycephalic [short nosed] breeds such as Pekingese and heavily coated breeds such as Pomeranians that are less tolerant of temperature extremes. Many dogs and puppies were showing signs of heat stress. The inspectors were both sweating profusely and uncomfortably hot while inspecting within the facility. At least 7 puppies had noticeable respiratory effort including heavy panting and open mouth breathing with extended tongues. Nearly all the adult dogs were heavily panting at the time of the inspection. At least 4 dogs were panting heavily with their tongues extended. At least 20 dogs were panting heavily with moderately wide opened mouths and their tongues extended and/or curled and lolling. One Cavalier King Charles Spaniel was sprawled and flattened on the wire

floor of the cage to cool herself off while panting with her mouth moderately open and her tongue extended.” (USDA, Aug. 2010)

“An outdoor enclosure, housing 2 Rottweilers, still does not have enough shade for all of the animals. The outdoor conditions at the time of the inspection were 92 degrees F with 69% humidity and a heat index of 112 degrees F.” (USDA, Aug. 2010)

“In the upper outdoor sections of the sheltered facility the wire mesh flooring had openings large enough, 1 ½ inch x 1 ½ inch, that the dogs feet could pass through them. The inspectors observed several dogs feet passing through the wire openings. These openings are large enough that the dogs’ legs or feet could become caught or wedged in the openings which could cause injury to the dogs.” (USDA, Aug. 2010)

“The Licensee stated that approximately 8 weeks ago one Rottweiler lost 5 out of 6 puppies that were about 1 week old, and a Cavalier King Charles spaniel lost 4 out of 5 puppies at birth. The licensee did not consult with a veterinarian to try to determine the cause of the high death rate in these litters.” (USDA, July 2010)

“The top row of enclosures on the north side of the sheltered facility are so high that they can not be inspected from the ground, even though one of the inspectors is 6 feet tall. The inspectors asked the licensee to provide them with a ladder or other method to access these enclosures for inspection, but he was unable to locate anything that would allow the inspectors to safely inspect the facilities.” (USDA, July 2010)

“At 12:50pm, the inside of the sheltered building was 90.2 degrees F with 71% humidity and a heat index of 108.8 degrees F. The building is currently housing approximately 44 adult dogs and 11 puppies... Many dogs and puppies were showing signs of heat stress such as excessive wide mouth panting, pacing, vocalizing, and tongue lolling. Inspectors returned to the facility at 5:50pm, the inside of the sheltered building was 87.4 degrees F with 92% humidity and a heat index of 113.7 degrees heat index in the aisle. Next to one of the upper enclosures, the temperature was 88.1 degrees F with 89% humidity and a heat index of 115.6 degrees F... The dogs were still exhibiting signs of heat stress.” (USDA, July 2010)

“A female Rottweiler, tag #448, was observed to be limping on her right front leg. Upon examination an open wound was present on one of the pads of her paw. The licensee stated that he had noticed her limping less than a week ago but no treatment or consultation with a veterinarian was provided.” (USDA, Dec. 2009)

Dogs without Shelter in 20 Degree Temperatures, Buildings Not Cleaned in Months

Rhonda Gear – Country Babies, Galt, MO

- USDA licensed (#43-B-3613) from Apr. 2007 through Apr. 2012 (38 pages of USDA violations since Aug. 2008)
- MDA license #: 7045 – State licensed through 2011

This facility has accumulated numerous ongoing animal care violations as recently as January of this year, including repeat violations for dogs with untreated medical issues, repeat problems with housing in disrepair, an accumulation of dirt and grime, failure to provide adequate shelter to the dogs, rodent infestation, and more. Below are some quotes from the facility's USDA inspection reports.

"An adult male Dachshund (microchip # 103272801) is thin, has visibly prominent ribs and spinal column, and has a slightly tucked abdomen. There is severe tartar buildup on the teeth. The dog is active and behaves normally. The licensee has not taken this dog to a veterinarian because she plans to place it with a rescue group." (USDA, Jan. 2011)

"Throughout the sheltered facility "Rottie building" there was an accumulation of dirt and grime present on the inside of the shelters. When asked when was the last time the inside of the shelters were cleaned and sanitized the licensee stated that the insides of the shelters had not been done since April." (USDA, Sept. 2010)

"In the sheltered facility "Rottie building" all of the enclosures had a greater than daily accumulation of fecal material and there was a thin layer of accumulated fecal material covering nearly the entire floor surface. [...] In some of the enclosures the amount of fecal material present made it difficult for the animals to avoid walking in it." (USDA, May 2010)

"On the south side of the sheltered facility the top washdown is no longer sealed at the back of the building and is leaking dark brown colored waste into the back wall of the lower enclosures." (USDA, May 2010)

"Throughout the outdoor housing facilities, affecting 75 dogs, there was some but not enough bedding provided... The temperature within the last few days had dropped down in the 20 degree F range and is expected to drop into the teens this coming night." (USDA, Nov. 2008)

Gear has also been cited for MO state kennel violations, including:

"There is a Lhasa with puppies in the whelping room. This dog's head almost touches the top of her cage." (MDA inspection Oct. 2009)

"There are at least 4 dogs with a round oozing sore and one dog, a Lhasa, that has thick skin and hair loss. These dogs need to be seen by the attending veterinarian." (MDA inspection June 2009)

"Treating" Dogs with a Controlled Substance; USDA Issued an Official Warning in September 2010

Ruth Zuspahn – Zuspahn Kennel, Edina, MO

- USDA License: 43-A-1013 – USDA licensed from Oct. 1992 through Oct. 2011 (14 pages of USDA violations since Sept. 2008)
- MDA license #: 1616 – State licensed through 2011

Ruth Zuspann is reportedly the mother of Sherrie Zuspann, a kennel owner in nearby Kirksville who finally shut down her facility after years of egregious animal care violations, including a violation for housing dogs in a trailer with a heat index of 113 to 115 deg. F – per the inspector "the dogs were panting heavily and exhibiting behavioral signs of heat stress," and multiple dogs in the trailer were very lethargic and would not respond when stepped on by other dogs in the cage.

Unfortunately, it seems the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Ruth Zuspann was recently issued an Official Warning by the USDA for Violation of Federal Regulations for "a repeated failure to provide adequate floor space for dogs."

In addition, Zuspann Kennel accumulated USDA violations in November 2010 for an accumulation of grime (repeat), strong fecal and ammonia odor (repeat), housing in disrepair, dirty water devices, and more. In July 2010 Ruth Zuspann accumulated violations for use and possession of controlled substances without proper training and licensing (licensee was improperly using Ketamine to allegedly sedate the dogs for grooming), failure to provide adequate vet care (including a puppy with a lesion and dogs with eye issues, etc.), using dirty and cluttered rooms in her house and basement to keep cages full of dogs, strong fecal and ammonia odor in all 3 areas where dogs are kept (back room in house, basement of house, and a trailer outside), puppies with feet passing through the wire flooring, accumulations of feces, and more.

Quotes from Ruth Zuspann's recent USDA inspection reports include:

"A bottle of injectable, premixed Rompun/ Ketamine is present in the kennel for sedation of the dogs for grooming. The licensee stated that she administers this medication to the animals under the skin, although the label instructions indicate it should be given in the muscle. Use and possession of controlled substances requires specialized training and licensing by state and federal agencies. The licensee is not a veterinarian and is not trained or qualified to safely administer sedation to animals." (USDA inspection July 2010)

"A male black and white Havanese puppy that is approximately 2 weeks old has a quarter sized lesion on the central area of his abdomen. The tissue has a foul odor, is thickened around the edges, and has a discharge present on the surface. The licensee, without input from a veterinarian, is treating the area with medications." (USDA inspection July 2010)

"A male 9 year old Yorkshire terrier (ID 064-296-617) in the basement room of the owner's residence has a brown colored discharge around both his eyes and matted hair on his chest. The dog's tongue was hanging out and he was repeatedly making licking movements. He is missing many teeth had has severe tartar present on the remaining teeth." (USDA inspection July 2010)

"A female dog (ID 038-848-529) in the house trailer used as a kennel building is drooling excessively, is making repeated licking movements, has brown, soiled fur around her eyes and mouth, and her tongue protruded from her mouth. She is missing many teeth and has severe tartar present on the remaining teeth." (USDA inspection July 2010)

"The back room of the owner's residence currently in use as a puppy room was observed with an excessive odor and a presence of ammonia. The windows were closed in this area and no exhaust systems were in place and in use. Upon entry to the basement kennel room in the owner's residence a strong odor of fecal material and ammonia was encountered. Windows in this area were not open during this time and the door to the outside was shut. Upon entry to the kennel building the presence of

ammonia and a strong odor was observed. Affects 113 adult dogs and 48 puppies.” (USDA inspection July 2010)

“Two enclosures were observed with small puppies housed on wire mesh flooring surfaces. These wire mesh floors had a strand spacing of 1 inch by 1 inch. During the inspection numerous times feet or parts of feet were observed extending beneath the floor surface of the enclosure.” (USDA inspection July 2010)

“Within the kennel building multiple enclosures were observed with inadequate floor space provided for the dogs.” (USDA inspection July 2010)

“Obvious Veterinary Care Problems,” Fined by USDA

Wilma Jinson – Jinson Kennel, Stella, MO

- USDA License: 43-A-2656 – USDA licensed from June 1997 through June 2011 (14 pages of USDA violations since Apr. 2008)
- MDA license #: 3773 – State licensed through 2011
- Website: <http://www.angelfire.com/mac2/jinsonkennel/index.html>

Problems at Jinson Kennel have been longstanding. As far back as 2002, The AKC’s Management and Disciplinary Committee suspended Jinson from all AKC privileges for 10 years and imposed a \$2,000 fine for “failure to maintain her dogs and facilities” in an acceptable manner and other violations.

In September 2010 The USDA issued Jinson an Official Warning for “failure to establish and maintain an effective program for the control of insects, external parasites affecting dogs, and [control of] birds and mammals that are pests” at the facility in both 2009 and 2010.

In December 2010 the licensee was cited by federal inspectors for a “direct non-compliance” for several dogs with untreated medical issues and 10 dogs with matted fur. Jinson’s Kennel was also cited for housing in disrepair, failure to provide the dogs and puppies with adequate shelter from the elements, puppies with their feet passing through the wire flooring, and dirty water receptacles. A 2009 inspection noted excessive flies and waste issues. The facility was also cited for numerous Animal Welfare Act violations in 2007 and earlier.

Quotes from the facility’s recent USDA inspection reports include:

“There were four dogs with obvious veterinary care problems. The licensee did not have any documentation of treatment for these animals. There was a male bulldog [...] that had red swollen areas in between the toes of his front paws. The swollen area on the left paw was large, dark red, shiny and protruded from in between the middle toes. [...] There was a female bulldog [...] that had an abnormal appearing right eye. The eye was cloudy and bluish white in color. [...] There was a female Miniature Pincher [...] that was partially non-weight-bearing on her front right leg. The leg appeared swollen and was bent at an unusual angle. [...]” (USDA, Dec. 2010)

“There were ten dogs that required grooming. These dogs were heavily matted. There were several Schnauzers and Shi Tzus that had mats all over their bodies. One black and white Shi Tzu was so matted it was difficult to see his face.” (USDA inspection Dec. 2010)

“There were two litters of puppies in the interior of the whelping [...] housing unit where the feet and legs of these puppies were seen falling through the flooring openings. The flooring in one enclosure was larger [than] 1” x 1” vinyl coated wire flooring.” (USDA inspection Dec. 2010)

Voter Initiative in Jeopardy

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.

Under Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act, many of the above dealers’ horrific violations will be backed by stronger enforcement opportunities, and conditions leading to distress and suffering in dogs, such as painful wire flooring, lack of proper vet care, overcrowded cages, and scant protection from extreme weather will also be more clearly addressed.

In November 2010, nearly one million Missouri citizens voted to pass Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act, into law. Prop B, which is scheduled to take effect in November 2011, will help thousands of dogs suffering across the state. But unbelievably, some legislators are trying to weaken or even overturn Prop B. Approximately a dozen bills have been introduced to attack Prop B since the measure was voted into law.

Proposition B is a reasonable measure. It requires access to nutritious food daily and continuous access to drinkable water, veterinary care for illness or injury, safe housing, adequate space, and room to exercise. Proposition B will increase and facilitate local law enforcement because it provides clear standards that sheriffs and prosecutors can understand, as compared to the existing vague and highly technical puppy mill regulations. And it does all this without wiping out or eliminating the existing laws and penalties.

The protections outlined in Proposition B will apply to all large-scale commercial dog dealers whether the owner is licensed or not, and will ensure that dogs in large-scale commercial breeding facilities receive basic humane care.

What Citizens Can Do

Missouri citizens can help by making brief, polite phone calls to their state senator, representative, and governor to ask them to respect the will of the voters – by voting "NO" on any bill that seeks to weaken or overturn Prop B. Even those who have already called before may want to call again due to new bills being introduced regularly (go to www.Missourifordogs.com to find your representative or senator's information).