"Ways to Improve the Puppy Industry and Ensure Healthy Animals in CT"

Public Testimony and
Supporting Documentation
Provided by Monty Kaufman,
Puppies of Westport, Norwalk, CT
To the Connecticut Task Force
Concerning the Sale of Cats and Dogs
At CT Pet Shops from Inhumane Origins

October 16, 2013
Fairfield, Connecticut

We share the goal that all dogs acquired in CT are healthy and bred humanely.
But this task force mistakenly seeks that goal by focusing on so few of the dogs sold.

This emotional debate generates lots of heat, but not much light. Let me try to hit the switch.

Of 6000 pet shop dogs sold last year, at least 500 left the state. 500 came from in-state. USDA breeders with zero non-compliances of any type are at least half of the rest. Most of the rest had "indirect violations" that are far from "inhumane". From what's left, a small percentage were cited for serious direct violations.

I 'm not defending "bad actors" who intentionally or ignorantly buy from an "inhumane source." They should be accountable. Some have closed and frankly, more should and will. Natural selection works.

We need legitimate, regulated responsible stores selling thousands of State families a puppy of their choice- a right cherished by all in a free society.

We can't change federal rules, but much can be done:

1. Limit stores to breeders with no direct violations for two years. The HSUS forgave Michael Vick for his misdeeds two years after his conviction!
2. Add New State Animal Control Officers

3. Limit dog trafficking from other states and countries- over 14000 imported last year

4. More unannounced inspections

5. Public education on risks of internet puppies

6. Microchips for dogs from all sources and place on dog licenses

7. The HSUS should give more than ½ of 1 percent of revenue to local shelters

8. Add proof of all vaccines plus rabies at initial town licensing

9. Lobby congress for more USDA funding and enforcement

10. Do Not Ban Puppy Stores from use of comercial breeders

Make no mistake, All or most existing puppy stores would close doing little more than thrill animal rights groups with hidden agendas.

But it would be a law with many negative unintended consequences

1. Buyers would go out of state or to the internet

2. An underground unregulated puppy market would grow

3. Price of "bootleg" puppies would rise

4. Little if any increase in shelter adoptions

5. Consumer Protection complaints would rise

6. A half million in sales taxes lost- versus more ACO's for Ray Connors

7. Unemployment up by 250

8. 15 new real estate vacancies

9. 'Uneducated buyers" would rise

10. More Unhealthy animals

11. Increase in shelter relinquishment

12. Lost vet income from less "wellness exams" and neuter/spays

13. Restraint of trade and constitutional challenges would follow

Other states would blindly follow- leading to a nation where domestic pet ownership is a memory- The rarely stated but absolute goal of most animal rights groups.

To Improve the Industry and Ensure Health, Closing puppy stores is not the answer. It might be acceptable in China but it doesn't belong in CT.

Letter from Patti Strand, Chairman of the National Animal interest Alliance in opposition to the Oceanside, CA pet store ordinance. Following hearings and deliberation, the proposed ordinance was not approved by the Ocanside City Council.

September 23, 2013

Dear Oceanside City Officials:

I am writing on behalf of the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA), a broad-based national organization founded in 1991, made up of pet owners, dog and cat organizations including kennel and cat clubs and rescue groups, veterinarians and numerous other animal professionals and animal-related businesses. Our mission is to promote the welfare of animals, to strengthen the human-animal bond, and to safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners and professionals through research, public education and sound public policy. We have members in all 50 states, including members living in Oceanside.

We are writing to express our concern over your proposed pet store ordinance and to urge you to amend it before bringing it to a vote or to vote it down. Although we support the specific goals of the ordinance – prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats bred in substandard conditions – our firsthand experience with similar ordinances all over the United States tells us that the approach being used in Oceanside will not achieve the goals you seek. Instead we believe that its passage would do little more than encourage the growth of an underground economy operating without oversight or taxation, and exacerbate the very real animal welfare problems Oceanside is trying to solve. With that in mind, we offer our assistance and expertise.

There are ways of achieving the city's goals without creating the unintended consequences that are inherent in the current draft ordinance. We have listed three suggestions at the end of this letter.

Even though the supporters of this ordinance may be well-motivated, what they are, in fact, asking you to do is trade a heavily regulated business for their own largely unregulated enterprise. The Oceanside proposal doesn't just prohibit traditional pet stores from buying and selling pets from unapproved sources, it legitimizes a new business model; pet stores that operate and market themselves as rescues. What the proposal does not discuss is where and how the new pet stores will get the pets necessary to maintain a stable inventory. This is a significant omission because the mass movement of dogs sold in this channel, which is euphemistically called humane relocation is not regulated like traditional pet store puppy transport and has led to horrific outcomes in other parts of the country. If the ordinance proposal is passed as it is currently drafted, Oceanside could well become a magnet for homeless dogs from distant states and even foreign countries where diseases exist that have been eliminated in the US for decades. More to the point, this ordinance gives the least regulated operators a competitive

marketplace advantage over the regulated ones, thereby placing animal welfare, consumer protection and public health and safety at greater risk than under the current ordinance.

Every human activity has some black sheep

Animal shelters and rescues provide an invaluable service for all of us and most of them operate responsibly, with humane care and housing practices and aboveboard placement practices. Many of our organization's members are engaged in rescue. But like all other businesses and professions – pet stores, breeders, lawyers, doctors, etc. – shelters and rescue organizations have their share of bad actors, too – individuals and groups that operate without regard to the law or proper standards of conduct. The evidence shows that some animal shelters and rescues treat their rescue animals (the ones they sell) in ways that are indistinguishable from the very operations that Oceanside is trying to prohibit. This reality underscores the weakness of the current draft proposal and undermines its intent and enforceability if passed in its current form.

Traditional pet stores are required to meet health, safety and care standards and provide consumer protection warranties that shelters and rescues do not offer

The current Oceanside proposal directs citizens to the least accountable source in the pet marketplace. California animal shelters are exempt from the health, safety and disclosure requirements and from the consumer protection laws, which are required of traditional pet stores and breeders. This wouldn't be such a big problem if all animal shelters and rescues were as upstanding as some of the ones that may testify in favor of the ordinance, but they aren't. Just like pet stores and breeders (the two pet sources that are currently regulated), there are good, adequate and substandard shelters and rescues.

This is not an insignificant problem, but without amendment, the Oceanside ordinance inadvertently elevates unregulated operations over ones whose standards are regulated at the state and federal level, and which must offer a warranty to their purchasers.

Sourcing problems

Unlike shelters that place as many as a thousand or more pets with the public each year, traditional pet stores are required under the federal Animal Welfare Act to keep records of where they obtain their dogs; and the inspection reports of USDA breeders who sell to them are online at USDA for the public to view. It is therefore possible to require traditional pet stores to buy dogs only from breeders with superior inspection reports and to require that such records be made available to enforcement agencies and the public. Requiring stores to buy only from breeders with good USDA reports, makes more sense and is far more equitable than banning all stores, good and bad alike, because some of them operate in unacceptable ways. This is especially true while similarly situated businesses (private animal shelters) are allowed to sell pets from any source, in a totally unregulated manner, despite the fact that some of them also operate in unacceptable ways. It is wrong and frankly un-American to ban a legally operating business when simply requiring it to modify its business practices would solve the problem.

In addition to the inherent sourcing problems in the shelter and rescue environment, reports from the LA County Veterinary Public Health – Rabies Control Program, the US Customs and Border Patrol and the Centers for Disease Control indicate that a high and rising number of dogs in the pet marketplace are being imported into the US for the rescue-shelter enterprise. This well-documented fact undermines the premise of the

ordinance that the demand for pet store puppies is a driving cause of overpopulation. According to several government reports and professional agencies, more than 10,000 dogs a year enter the Southern California market place from Mexico alone, and many are imported each year from other countries. Some are imported for US rescue operations from as far away as Asia and the Middle East where rabies is still prevalent. Because pet stores must buy from regulated sources, these imports do not wind up in their stores, but they often wind up in rescues and shelters.

In order to publicly recognize the role of rescues and some shelters in the pet import trade, the National Association of State and Public Health Veterinarians amended the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control to oppose the import of dogs for adoption several years ago. The following citation is excerpted from the 2011 Rabies Compendium.

3. **b. Areas with Dog-to-Dog Rabies Transmission.** Canine rabies virus variants have been eliminated in the United States (*2*). Rabid dogs have been introduced into the continental United States from areas with dog-to-dog rabies transmission (*20,21*). This practice poses the risk of introducing canine-transmitted rabies to areas where it does not currently exist. **The movement of dogs for the purposes of adoption or sale from areas with dog-to-dog rabies transmission should be prohibited.**

Please note that the language about adoption was added to this important public health volume in a deliberate way because the authors recognized an emerging problem:

Further, some portion of the dogs in rescues and shelters come from the very sources this ordinance is trying to prohibit; the substandard breeding operations everyone wants to close. Moreover, some rescues serve as overstock outlets for substandard breeding operations, providing the very puppies to the public that responsible pet stores avoid. Thus, by reducing the availability of regulated outlets for the sale of healthy dogs and in favor of shelters and rescues as the main source of obtaining dogs, the municipality will be directly endangering the very consumers it wants to protect.

The bottom line is this: The Oceanside pet store ordinance proposal if passed in its current form will lead to many more problems than it solves.

Here are three suggestions for improving this ordinance.

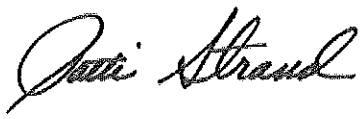
- Replace the ban with a requirement that any store selling pets in Oceanside must buy only from breeders licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) who have no direct violations in their USDA inspection report. A direct violation is one that is deemed to have a direct impact on the health and well-being of the animals in their care. Such things as lack of proper veterinary care or unsanitary conditions are considered direct violations. Paper work errors, or a cobweb in the corner, while recorded, are not considered direct violations. Because the USDA website reports this material in its inspection reports of all breeders, the city would actually be able to enforce this requirement by requiring stores to maintain records of the source of their animals, including the USDA license number. Replacing the ban with this requirement would also avoid restraint of trade challenges.

- For enforcement purposes, the ordinance needs to clearly define what it considers to be a legitimate shelter or rescue organization. It is important for the City Council to understand that all it takes to become a not for profit rescue or shelter is the proper IRS filing papers. Many businesses that promote themselves as shelters and rescues today have less in common with traditional humane societies and rescues than they do with the substandard breeders that Oceanside rightfully opposes. More to the point, many modern shelters and rescues are simply unregulated pet stores marketing themselves in ways that cause lawmakers and the public to confuse them with traditional animal shelters. Please reread the article about the situation at the Simi Valley Rescue. Note that some news people refer to them as a store, an animal shelter or by the name they've given themselves, a rescue. For the sake of this ordinance, it's important that council members decide what they mean when they talk about rescues and shelters. In the sheltering world, shelters that maintain their historic image while importing pets from outside their service areas are called retail shelters, and the primary difference between retail shelters and the traditional pet store is that the rescue is unregulated and provides no warranty.

- Another way to assure that similarly situated activities are treated equitably and in ways that improve rather than weaken animal wellbeing and consumer protection, would be to raise care and sourcing requirements for both pet stores and shelters and apply the same health and care requirements to both shelters, rescues and pet stores.

I apologize for writing you somewhat late in the process and sending you so much information, but this is very important and your current proposal will cause more problems than exist today. Please amend or vote this proposal down. Please email or call me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Patti Strand, Chairman

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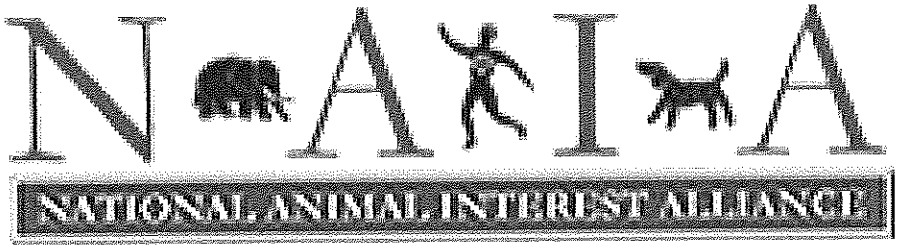

The National Animal Interest Alliance - Promoting Animal Welfare Worldwide

2013 Policy Statement on Pet stores

Pet stores sell about a half million puppies per year according to Patronek and Rowan's dog population compilation in *Anthrozoos* magazine in August 1996. These retailers fill a niche for buyers who cannot find a private breeder with puppies available in their community or surrounding area and those who do not want to wait for a puppy from an in-home breeder where they could see the puppy's dam and view the conditions under which the puppy was raised. Wherever they buy, consumers should always assess the overall health and fitness of the puppy they are considering.

As with all sources of pets, pet stores are not all the same. Some do an excellent job, purchasing only from breeders with proper management, husbandry and animal welfare standards, while others do not. Prospective pet buyers need to evaluate the practices that are being utilized in any pet store they are considering before finalizing a purchase.

Until a few years ago, it was nearly impossible for consumers to determine whether or not a pet store puppy was from a humane breeder or from the sort of breeder shown in TV exposés. It was also very difficult for conscientious pet stores to distinguish themselves from irresponsible ones. But that has been remedied to some extent during the last few years. In 2009 USDA started publishing inspection reports on their website for all USDA licensees. Because most pet store puppies come from USDA licensed breeders, this gives consumers a tool for helping them to evaluate the source of the pet store puppy they are considering.

USDA issues citations for both indirect and direct violations. Indirect violations are issued for small infractions, while direct violations are serious ones that indicate a situation that could harm an animal, such as unsanitary facilities, untreated wounds, lack of proper veterinary care, and other shortcomings that put animal health and welfare at risk. In the years since USDA began publishing this information, some pet stores and middlemen have begun using these reports to guide their buying decisions.

In addition to USDA, many states have enacted their own laws to regulate commercial breeders. AKC puppies are further protected by AKC's kennel inspections program and

AKC's Care and Conditions policy which raises minimum standards of care in kennels of all sizes, and helps breeders stay current with best practices.

For information on a specific breed, consumers should visit the AKC website. AKC national breed clubs set the breed standards for their breeds and maintain useful information about the character, exercise requirements and health issues relevant to each breed. This information can help prospective dog owners determine if the breed they are considering is a good match for their lifestyle and family.

Some pet stores provide educational and behavioral material to potential buyers and pet owners, and many offer limited warranties that provide medical care and protection and are willing to take back puppies that have health issues. Some pet stores belong to PIJAC and send their employees to the association's animal-handling seminars. Most pet stores adhere to some if not all of these practices. But there are also pet stores that pay little attention to social problems that relate to pet breeding and pet population trends, and provide few educational resources or recommendations to puppy buyers about training or veterinary after care. And they offer little if any support to purchasers once the sale is complete. Consumers need to evaluate each store based on its practices.

NAIA supports reasonable efforts to hold all breeders and sellers responsible for the health of the puppies they offer to the public and recognizes that a key component of reducing animal shelter populations, dangerous dog problems, and neighborhood nuisances is helping people choose the right dog in the first place. Thus we encourage potential buyers to do their homework before the purchase.

When pet buyers investigate breeds, breeders and any retailer they may be considering and prepare themselves to accept a new puppy, they are more likely to provide proper housing, training, and medical care for the pet; understand the unique nature of the dog they have chosen to share their lives; recognize and avoid unreliable and unscrupulous breeders and retailers; hold realistic expectations of the pet they purchase; and recognize that even carefully-bred puppies can develop health and/or temperament problems.

No matter how progressive and socially responsible a given pet store may be, anti-pet store activists will continue to oppose all of them categorically. NAIA believes that a more responsible position, and one that encourages improvement, is one that urges potential purchasers to do their homework as suggested above and in our other position statements before buying a dog from any particular source. NAIA believes that it is best to purchase a dog from a responsible in-home hobby breeder where purchasers can see the parent dogs and the conditions in which the puppies were produced and reared. When that isn't possible, choosing a conscientious pet store that operates transparently and with good disclosure and warranty policies can be a good second choice.

The National Animal Interest Alliance - Promoting Animal Welfare Worldwide

2013 Policy Statement On Puppy Mills

The term puppy mill is a term of disparagement originally used to describe a specific kind of large, substandard breeding operation run by people with little concern for the welfare of their puppies or their breeding stock. Dogs found in these facilities were in poor health, living in filthy conditions without adequate medical care, nutrition or socialization. Such operations are the black sheep of the dog-breeding family, something the overwhelming majority of breeders abhor just as much as the general public.

Unfortunately, with the growth of animal rights extremism and organizations that earn fundraising dollars by exploiting the public's love of animals, the meaning of the term "puppy mill" has been expanded and applied to almost everyone who breeds dogs.

Most breeders do a good job, but like all other human activities, dog breeding includes some bad actors and black sheep. Due to animal rights activism, the sophistication of "cause marketing" campaigns by fundraising groups and the media's desire for ratings, the black sheep of the dog breeding family have come to represent most dog breeders in the public's mind. This is especially true for commercial breeders, the most common targets of anti-breeder campaigns and rhetoric. These are now perceived by the public to be "puppy mills." This is true even if they have state-of-the-art facilities, provide excellent care for their dogs and provide the public with healthy, well-adjusted puppies for appreciative owners.

Before the federal Animal Welfare Act and the AKC Care and Conditions Program were initiated, there were significantly more substandard breeding operations than there are today, so the activism aimed at cleaning them up was reasonable and even helpful at the time. But huge improvements have occurred since then, making the current level of fervor against "puppy mills" out of balance with reality. Today, when USDA inspectors come across substandard kennels that sell puppies to pet stores or to other commercial kennels, they use the federal Animal Welfare Act to suspend or revoke licenses and

assess fines. When AKC inspectors find such kennels, they suspend the owner's registration privileges and report the conditions to area authorities. Although some of these operators continue to operate illegally by moving underground and/or to other registries that do not enforce standards of care, the improvements in dog breeding since the 1980's are so dramatic, the activism being spent on this issue, and the fundraising dollars being raised on it would better be spent on other animal welfare issues.

The entire commercial dog breeding industry and even hobbyists are tainted by the existence of substandard kennels. Anti-breeding zealots find kennels with squalid conditions, get the media interested, and paint all commercial breeders and pet stores that buy from commercial kennels with the same brush in press releases, articles, and fund-raising campaigns. Anti-puppy mill campaigns target all commercial breeders regardless of their standards. They use the existence of such kennels to promote mandatory spay and neuter bills and other anti-breeder legislation. They also use these campaigns to promote shelter dogs instead of well-bred and well-socialized puppies.

NAIA joins those who condemn substandard kennels and urges that they be reported to the authorities when they are located. If these kennels sell AKC-registered puppies, they should be reported to AKC. If they sell puppies to pet stores, they should be reported to USDA. If they are present in a state that regulates commercial kennels, they should also be reported to state officials. NAIA works for the closure of all such kennels.

Few states have kennel licensing and inspections programs because few states are home to large numbers of commercial kennels that produce a high volume of animals for sale as pets. NAIA notes that states without such programs can nonetheless protect the well being of animals in large kennels by judicious enforcement of reasonable animal welfare laws and by prohibiting habitual offenders from owning large numbers of animals in the future.

The Vanishing Pet Shop Puppy

Thursday, May 12, 2011

From Terrierman's Daily Dose Blog

Patrick Burns, a Dogs Today Magazine columnist who frequently writes about genetic health issues on his blog, Terrierman's Daily Dose which includes Information on working terriers, dogs, natural history, hunting, and the environment. He has been quoted as a dog authority in the monthly HSUS Magazine.

An increasingly rare sight -- the pet shop puppy.

Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz has proposed legislation to ban the sale of puppies in Los Angeles pet shops. **Excellent!** Awesome. Now, here's a question:

Are there really very many puppies being sold in Los Angeles?

I do not live in Los Angeles, so I cannot tell you based on experience walking around LA, but I can tell you that it's been at least two decades since I saw a puppy being sold in a pet store.
I shot out a quick email to a half dozen other dog people around the country, and they too said they had not seen a pet store puppy in years.
A little more research and I turned up a list of the top pet store chains in the country. Here they are:

- **PetSmart:** PetSmart was the first "big-box" pet superstore chain. Founded by John Doherty in Phoenix in 1987, it is publicly traded, and has over 1,135 stores across the country doing more than $5-billion worth of business. It has NO puppy sales.

- **PETCO:** PETCO was created in 1967 but remained a California-only chain until 1987, when it hired a manager from Toys R Us to grow the chain. PETCO quickly bought up 200 smaller pet stores across the country, and today it has over 950 stores doing more than $2.5 billion in sales. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Pet Supplies "Plus":** Pet Supplies "Plus" was started in Michigan and is the largest franchised pet store chain in the U.S. with 225 stores in 22 midwest and eastern states. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Pet Valu:** Pet Value operates in Ontario, Canada and in the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. (mainly Pennsylvania and Delaware) and it has 350 stores. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Petland:** Petland once had 140 franchised stores across U.S., and is the largest pet store chain that sells puppies, but it appears to only sell puppies in a minority of stores and this chain is actually getting *smaller*. HSUS initiated a lawsuit against Petland for puppy sales, but reports only 21 Petland stores selling puppies, and at least one of those stores has since quit the practice. Not said by HSUS: Petland stores have placed more than 310,000 homeless pets through their stores, including over 72,000 puppies and dogs and over 23000 kittens and cats.
- **Pet Supermarket:** Pet Supermarket has 115 stores in Florida and the Southeastern United States. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Pet Food Express:** Pet Food Express has 34 stores in Northern California. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Complete Petmart:** Complete Petmart is a chain with 32 stores in Ohio and North Carolina. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Petland Discounts**: Petland Discounts is a small chain in New York. It has NO puppy sales.
- **Pet Depot:** Pet Depot is a small franchise with less than 30 stores scattered across the U.S and Canada. It has NO puppy sales.

That's a pretty interesting list. And, of course, it's hardly the end of the story, is it?
Today's "big box stores" like Wal-Mart and Target (to say nothing of huge supermarket chains like Safeway, Publix, Krogers, and Food Lion), are where most people now buy their dog food, leashes, collars, dog bowls, dog beds and even dog houses.
And then, of course, there are the online stores with deep discounts, endless variety, and ease of stay-at-home shopping: Amazon, Drs. Foster and Smith, KV Supply, PetEdge, and the like.

Which is not to say that there are no longer pet stores that sell puppies.
The point is that most of these operations are small outfits and are (for the most part) undercapitalized and fairly marginal businesses.
How many puppies are sold every year through these small-time pet stores?
The simple truth is that no one knows.

Numbers are tossed around (I will give my own best-guess in a minute based on a literature review), but for all of the anti-puppy mill web sites that exist, I could not find one that offered up a state-based list of pet stores selling puppies. Pretty odd!
One clue as to the relative extent of pet store sales is to look at the biggest player in the business, the Hunte Corporation.
Contrary to popular belief, Hunte does not breed its own dogs, but instead operates as a broker or "buncher" of commercially-bred dogs that are then vet-inspected, vaccinated, and trucked to pet stores across the U.S.
Hunte's top management not only sits in the American Kennel Club box at the Westminster dog show, they are such an important registrar of AKC dogs that the Kennel Club has created a computer program so their pet-store puppies can be directly registered even before they hit the parking lot.

And how much business is Hunte doing?

The Hunte Corporation is moving about 80,000 puppies a year.
That may sound like a phenomenal amount of dogs (it is), but it helps to put a denominator on it.
In a country of about 75 million dogs, with a new-puppy acquisition rate of over 7 million dogs a year, 80,000 puppies represents less than 1.2 percent of all dog sales.
So what's my best guess of total pet store puppy sales based on my own review of the literature?
My best guess is that about 250,000 puppies are sold in approximately 2,500 pet stores across the U.S.
This represents, by my calculation, less than 4 pecent of all puppy sales in the U.S. and this number is clearly coming down...as Internet sales (including on-line classified listings such as Craigslist) expand.

Where do pet stores sales of puppies rank on the canine "misery index" here in the U.S.?

That's a hard question.
To start, let's give a nod to the fact that most pet stores puppies are healthy and most end up in loving homes despite the fact that their purchasers are dangerously clueless people.
Most pet store puppies are up-to-snuff on their vaccines, and most move to new homes pretty quickly, and do not suffer from lack of stimulation or socialization (pet store puppies see a lot of people and other pets while on display).
Inbred? No more than any other Kennel Club dog, and probably less.
Health care testing? Very few Kennel Club breeders health test their dogs for anything. As for the 53% of dogs in America that are mutts or crossbreeds, health tests

for these animals were never even considered.**And, truth be told, some pet shop puppy brokers** do a few things well. For example, the largest puppy broker in the U.S. -- Hunte -- microchips all their puppies for lifetime identification. How many AKC breeders can say that?

So what's the problem with puppy mills dogs?

The problem is not necessarily in the store -- it's back in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, or Pennsylvania.... out of sight, but not out of mind.
Back there, far from prying eyes, are thousands and thousands of breeder bitches warehoused in wire-bottom cages with no room to run, and little human contact or mental stimulation.
These dogs are "bred until dead."
Most Americans think this is cruelty on stilts, and I am one of them.
That said, it's worth putting a number on it.
How many misery-dams are we talking about?
Based on the number of puppies being whelped it's likely to be 50,000 to 60,000 dogs.

That's a hell of a lot of misery, but it barely scales on a graph next to the nearly one million Pit Bulls that are whelped, acquired, and then abandoned to be killed in local "shelters" by America's "pit bull lovers."

And how does it compare next to the number of dogs languishing unloved and ignored in the back yards of countless "hobby" show dog breeders and owners across the nation?
Forgot about them, did you? I don't! Do you really think anyone with 20 dogs in a kennel in their backyard and a full-time day job actually does anything with those dogs more than pooper-scoop and (maybe) bathe them once in a while?
And what of the huge number of brachycephalic breeds which struggle every day to simply breathe?
In 2006, the American Kennel Club registered over 21,000 English Bulldogs. Assuming a Bulldog only lives for 6 years (a good assumption!), that means there's at least twice as many English Bulldogs in America as there are puppy mill dams, and most of these flat-faced and heavy-headed dogs are having a hard time breathing. *How do you count that misery?*

None of this is meant to make light of puppy mills or pet shop sales.
It is to say, however, that the scope of canine pain in the United States is a lot larger than pet shop puppies alone.
The good news is that a lot of folks are focused on pet shops and puppy mills, and problems there appear to be in decline.

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THE CONCISE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ECONOMICS

Unintended Consequences

by Rob Norton

The law of unintended consequences, often cited but rarely defined, is that actions of people—and especially of government—always have effects that are unanticipated or unintended. Economists and other social scientists have heeded its power for centuries; for just as long, politicians and popular opinion have largely ignored it.

The concept of unintended consequences is one of the building blocks of economics.

Most often, however, the law of unintended consequences illuminates the perverse unanticipated effects of legislation and **REGULATION**.

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the famous French economic journalist **FRÉDÉRIC BASTIAT** often distinguished in his writing between the "seen" and the "unseen." The seen were the obvious visible consequences of an action or policy. The unseen were the less obvious, and often unintended, consequences. In his famous essay **"What Is Seen and What Is Not Seen,"** Bastiat wrote:

There is only one difference between a bad economist and a good one: the bad economist confines himself to the *visible* effect; the good economist takes into account both the effect that can be seen and those effects that must be *foreseen.*1

Bastiat applied his analysis to a wide range of issues, including trade barriers, taxes, and government spending.

In an influential article titled "The Unanticipated Consequences of Purposive Social Action," Merton identified five sources of unanticipated consequences. The first two—and the most pervasive—were "ignorance" and "error."

Merton labeled the third source the "imperious immediacy of interest." By that he was referring to instances in which someone wants the intended consequence of an action so much that he purposefully chooses to ignore any unintended effects. (That type of willful ignorance is very different from true ignorance.)

More recently, the *law of unintended consequences* has come to be used as an adage or idiomatic warning that an intervention in a complex system tends to create unanticipated and often undesirable outcomes.

Possible causes of unintended consequences include the world's inherent complexity (parts of a system responding to changes in the environment), perverse incentives, human stupidity, self-deception, failure to account for human nature or other cognitive or emotional biases.

The law of unintended consequences provides the basis for many criticisms of government programs. As the critics see it, unintended consequences can add so much to the costs of some programs that they make the programs unwise even if they achieve their stated goals.

About the Author

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Pet Sales Bans In L.A., West Hollywood Don't Affect Thriving Online Puppy Mill Commerce

By Dennis Romero, LA Weekly News, Tue., Dec. 11 2012 at 12:47 PM

All the cool City Hall kids are doing it -- banning retail pet sales in an attempt to squeeze out puppy mills accused of breeding cats and dogs in brutal and inhumane conditions.

The L.A. City Council passed a pet sales ban this fall after the city of West Hollywood did so in 2010.

The thing is, there's always the internet:

With the help of actor/activist Ben Stein, the International Fund for Animal Welfare released the results of an online puppy mill study in Los Angeles today. The organization says 62 percent of the 10,000 online canine ads it examined in one day likely represented puppy mill products.

The overall ads it examined were for as many as half-a-million pets on 9 major websites, according to the IFAW.

Consumers opting to purchase puppies over the Internet are duped into believing they are buying from reputable breeders. The cute puppy images shown on many seller websites hide the heartbreaking reality of the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in which the dogs are housed.

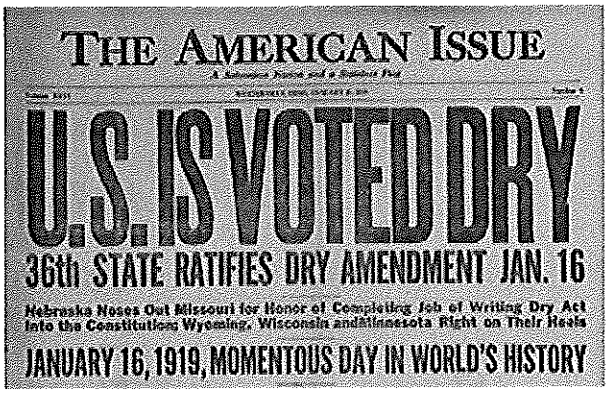
The organization is clearly suggesting tighter federal rules. Tracy Coppola, IFAW campaigns officer: "Most federal regulations designed to address the puppy trade pre-date the Internet and are insufficient in addressing the specific issues relating to online puppy sales. We launched our investigation to determine the scope and scale of the trade in an effort to better inform decision-makers as they are currently considering new policies to eliminate loopholes allowing this practice to continue."

[@dennisjromero / djromero@laweekly.com / @LAWeeklyNews]

Prohibition-

Ken Burns Documentary on PBS

Unintended Consequences


THE AMERICAN ISSUE

U.S. IS VOTED DRY

36th STATE RATIFIES DRY AMENDMENT JAN. 16

Nebraska Noses Out Missouri for Honor of Completing Job of Writing Dry Act Into the Constitution Wyoming, Wisconsin and Minnesota Right on Their Heels

JANUARY 16, 1919, MOMENTOUS DAY IN WORLD'S HISTORY

When the Mayor of Berlin, Gustav Boess, visited New York City in the fall of 1929, one of the questions he had for his host, Mayor James J. Walker, was when Prohibition was to go into effect. The problem was that Prohibition has already been the law of the United States for nearly a decade. That Boess had to ask tells you plenty about how well it was working.

The Noble Experiment

When the Prohibition era in the United States began on January 19, 1920, a few sage observers predicted it would not go well. Certainly, previous attempts to outlaw the use of alcohol in American history had fared poorly…Now, Prohibition was being implemented on a national scale, and being enshrined in the Constitution no less. What followed was a litany of unintended consequences.

This should have come as no surprise with a venture as experimental as Prohibition. It is no mistake that President Herbert Hoover's 1928 description of Prohibition as "a great social and economic experiment, noble in motive and far-reaching in purpose" entered the popular lexicon as "the noble experiment." It was unfortunate for the entire nation that the experiment failed as miserably as it did.

Economics of Prohibition

Prohibition's supporters were initially surprised by what did not come to pass during the dry era. When the law went into effect, they expected sales of clothing and household goods to skyrocket. Real estate developers and landlords expected rents to rise as saloons closed and neighborhoods improved. Chewing gum, grape juice, and soft drink companies all expected growth. Theater producers expected new crowds as Americans looked for new ways to entertain themselves without alcohol. None of it came to pass.

Instead, the unintended consequences proved to be a decline in amusement and entertainment industries across the board. Restaurants failed, as they could no longer make a profit without legal

liquor sales. Theater revenues declined rather than increase, and few of the other economic benefits that had been predicted came to pass.

On the whole, the initial economic effects of Prohibition were largely negative. The closing of breweries, distilleries and saloons led to the elimination of thousands of jobs, and in turn thousands more jobs were eliminated for barrel makers, truckers, waiters, and other related trades.

The unintended economic consequences of Prohibition didn't stop there. One of the most profound effects of Prohibition was on government tax revenues. Before Prohibition, many states relied heavily on excise taxes in liquor sales to fund their budgets. In New York, almost 75% of the state's revenue was derived from liquor taxes. With Prohibition in effect, that revenue was immediately lost. At the national level, Prohibition cost the federal government a total of $11 billion in lost tax revenue, while costing over $300 million to enforce. The most lasting consequence was that many states and the federal government would come to rely on income tax revenue to fund their budgets going forward.

"Cat and Mouse"

Prohibition led to many more unintended consequences because of the cat and mouse nature of Prohibition enforcement. One of the legal exceptions to the Prohibition law was that pharmacists were allowed to dispense whiskey by prescription for any number of ailments, ranging from anxiety to influenza. Bootleggers quickly discovered that running a pharmacy was a perfect front for their trade. As a result, the number of registered pharmacists in New York State tripled during the Prohibition era.

Because Americans were also allowed to obtain wine for religious purposes, enrollments rose at churches and synagogues, and cities saw a large increase in the number of self-professed rabbis who could obtain wine for their congregations.

The trade in unregulated alcohol had serious consequences for public health. As the trade in illegal alcohol became more lucrative, the quality of alcohol on the black market declined. On average, 1000 Americans died every year during the Prohibition from the effects of drinking tainted liquor.

The Greatest Consequence

The greatest unintended consequence of Prohibition however, was the plainest to see. For over a decade, the law that was meant to foster temperance instead fostered intemperance and excess. The solution the United States had devised to address the problem of alcohol abuse had instead made the problem even worse. The statistics of the period are notoriously unreliable, but it is very clear that in many parts of the United States more people were drinking, and people were drinking more.

There is little doubt that Prohibition failed to achieve what it set out to do, and that its unintended consequences were far more far reaching than its few benefits. The ultimate lesson is two-fold. Watch out for solutions that end up worse than the problems they set out to solve, and remember that the Constitution is no place for experiments, noble or otherwise.

By Michael Lerner, historian

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS) DOCKET NO. APHIS-2011-003 FINAL RULE

USDA/APHIS FINAL PET SELLER RULE

September 18, 2013 the final rule was published in the federal register. The rule goes into effect November 18, 2013.

SYNOPSIS
APHIS published the Final Rule September 18, 2013 which revises the definition of "retail pet store" and brings historically exempt retail pet sellers under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) licensing and regulation. The new definition of retail pet store means a place of business or residence where the seller, buyer, and animal are physically present in the same location. The transaction does not have to take place at the seller's home. Previously, APHIS did not regulate any pet sales made directly to the retail consumer.

ADDING NEW LICENSEES
The Rule is effective 60 days from publication in the Federal Register, November 18, 2013. APHIS will begin to identify potential licensees by reviewing breeder marketing and websites and via public complaints.

RULE IMPACTS
APHIS continues to maintain that the benefits from this rule will outweigh any costs. We disagree and believe that AHPIS has continually underestimated the numbers of breeders who will be impacted by this rule as well as cost to both breeders and the agency for implementation.

In the original 2012 analysis APHIS suggested 1,500 dog breeders would be newly licensed. This final rule summary notes, "There is a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the number of facilities that will be affected by this rule, as we acknowledged in the proposed rule, and as evidenced in the public comments." According to the new APHIS estimate, there could be as many as 15,000 online breeders who would likely be affected by this rule. APHIS maintains that only 75% of the pet breeders would sell some pets sight unseen and estimate the final number of new licensees would drop to approximately 4,640. However this still doubles their current workload.

In 2012 APHIS also stated that increasing the number of breeding females from 3 to 4 would possibly reduce current license holders by 31%. The final rule summary states that APHIS expects the number

of current licensees that will fall below the new exemption threshold will be very small.

APHIS also acknowledges that neither the number of entities that will need to make changes nor the extent of those changes is known. Therefore, the overall cost of structural and operational changes that will be incurred due to this rule is also unknown. We believe APHIS has consistently underestimated the cost required for pet breeders to comply with this rule.

In the final rule summary APHIS maintains that their plan to incorporate newly affected entities into the existing regulatory system using a phased implementation for conducting initial prelicensing inspections and compliance inspections eliminates the need for additional personnel.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

For the past several years, the APHIS budget has been shrinking; since 2010 the budget has decreased by approximately $87 million, or roughly 10 percent. In a recent February meeting, APHIS administrators discussed agency changes in response to reduced funding and how the agency plans to preserve core functions while challenged by annually decreasing budgets. The FY 2012 federal Budget contained appropriation for APHIS programs of $837 million, which was 8.3% or $76 million lower than the amount appropriated for APHIS in FY 2011.

Budget cuts are likely to continue into the foreseeable future. The President's 2013 budget request submitted in February to Congress calls for a decrease in APHIS funding by an additional $54 million, or 6.6 percent.

FY 2014 USDA Budget has been released and again there is little revision to the current budget. The APHIS 2014 budget request of $798 million is an overall reduction of $24 million from 2013. Money requested specifically for Animal Welfare activities and enforcement is $29 million, a requested increase of only $1 million which is split between Animal Welfare and Horse Protection. Increase for Horse Protection requested to $893,000 from current $500,000; therefore leaving virtually no additional funds to enact or enforce increased regulation.

ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS RESPONSE TO USDA EXPANSION OF ***EXISTING*** REGULATIONS TO INTERNET SELLERS

"We applaud the USDA for taking this step," said Sara Amundson, executive director of the Humane Society of the United States Legislative Fund, "For too long, the USDA has avoided regulating and inspecting commercial breeders selling puppies over the Internet to unsuspecting consumers." September 11,2013

"The existing regulatory loophole currently allows many commercial breeders to operate without a license and without any inspection—meaning they are not accountable to anyone for their breeding and care standards," added Cori Menkin, senior director of the puppy mills campaign at the ASPCA. ***"The ASPCA is encouraged that the USDA has committed to help end the suffering of millions of breeding dogs and protect consumers by finally closing this loophole."*** September 10, 2013

Wayne's Blog: USDA Announces Rule to Crack Down on Online Puppy Mills

A Humane Nation: Wayne Pacelle's blog September 2013

Ricky Bobby was among 58 dogs The HSUS rescued from a N.C. puppy mill in February 2013. The operator was selling puppies over the Internet. The HSUS

Tens of thousands of dogs suffering in substandard, filthy, and overcrowded cages for years on end will finally get the protection they deserve as a result of a rule the U.S. Department of Agriculture will formally adopt today. This change, a long-held aspiration for The HSUS, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, and the Doris Day Animal League, is decades in the making and ***will extend federal oversight to thousands of puppy mills that do business online.***

Of the dozens of puppy mills that The HSUS has assisted in closing down over the past five years, the vast majority were selling puppies online and escaping any federal oversight because a loophole in federal Animal Welfare Act regulations exempts Internet sellers. Because large-scale dog breeders who sell animals to pet stores are regulated, but breeders who sell directly to the public are not, there has been a massive migration of breeders to the latter sales strategy within the last decade or so. If they could sell dogs and escape any federal oversight, why not get in on that act and continue to cut corners on animal care?

The HSUS, HSLF, and DDAL pointed out that it was fundamentally unfair that people involved in the same underlying business enterprise (breeding dogs to sell for profit) would face entirely different regulatory standards. It was a circumstance ripe for fraud and misrepresentation. Internet sellers of puppies often displayed images of puppies frolicking in open fields. In reality, the dogs were languishing, crammed inside feces-encrusted cages, receiving no protection from the elements and no veterinary care whatever. And until the legal standard was modified, the federal government couldn't take action because none of these mills required federal licensing and inspection.

Due to pressure from The HSUS and DDAL, the USDA's inspector general looked into enforcement of the rules governing dog breeding, finding appalling abuses of the dogs, deficient exercise of authority by USDA where it had authority, and identification of this glaring gap in the law that allowed Internet sellers to evade any federal oversight whatever. It was that OIG report, combined with our advocacy efforts in Congress and with the Obama administration that finally compelled federal action

We thank the Obama administration and the USDA for bringing new standards of care to thousands of puppies, but also to kittens, rabbits and other warm-blooded animals who are often raised in inhumane façilities and sold as pets over the Internet, by mail or by phone, sight-unseen...this rule has the potential to allow federal inspectors to peer behind the closed doors of puppy mills and improve the lives of tens of thousands of animals. That is a change worth celebrating, and we thank our supporters, the USDA, and our allies in Congress for supporting this significant step.

LIVING WITH USDA LICENSING

http://saova.org/APHIS_rulemaking.html

Background Retail sellers have long been provided an exemption from federal licensing through the broad definition of "retail pet store". APHIS proposes to revise this definition and bring more pet animals sold at retail under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) licensing and regulations. APHIS will limit the definition of retail pet store so that it means a place of business or residence that EACH buyer physically enters in order to personally observe the animals available for sale prior to purchase and/or to take custody of the animals after purchase. Under the proposed rule, no dog or other pet animal will be sold at retail without either public or APHIS oversight. If you sell dogs, cats, rabbits, small exotic animals, or other small pets and cannot qualify for exemption in the AWA then you must obtain a federal license and meet set standards.

What does USDA Licensed Facility Mean? Living under USDA licensing is NOT an option for the average retail seller. The average house cannot be converted to a USDA compliant facility. Federal engineered standards for licensed facilities dictate enclosure sizes, sanitation, surfaces that are impervious to moisture, ventilation, bio-hazard control, veterinary care, exercise, temperature controls, waste disposal systems, diurnal lighting, drainage systems, washrooms, perimeter fencing, as well as transportation standards for regulated animals. It does not matter how well you think you care for your animals, Federal regulations are not flexible and do not allow for your own discretion. You must strictly adhere to what the regulations and your inspector say are acceptable equipment, care, and husbandry practices.

• The USDA license will classify you as a commercial business. You will need to know the allowed uses for your property in the current zoning and land use regulations. There may be minimum acreage requirements for commercial land uses.

• You will need to know what the required setbacks are. In land use, a setback is the distance which a building or other structure is set back from a street or road, or other things like fences and property lines. There may also be limitations on the size and height of the building you need to set up for your animals. Building permits will be required.

• Separate facility will be needed for females within two weeks of whelp.

• In order to bring female into your home for whelping or birthing the room used must meet USDA standards – impervious to moisture – meaning tile floor and vinyl-coated walls.

• Separate facility meeting USDA standards will be needed for puppies (they cannot be with adults).

• NO breeding stock allowed to run loose in your home unless it meets the requirements. Your house is not impervious to moisture, so therefore not up to USDA code.

• All surfaces touched by animals must be waterproof and sterilized every two weeks with your choice of live steam under pressure, 180 degree water and detergent with disinfectant, or a combination detergent/disinfectant product.

• Use of cat trees/scratching posts may need approval from your inspector as they are not impervious to moisture, difficult to sanitize, and will need frequent replacement if allowed.

• Pens, runs, and outdoor housing areas using gravel, sand, or earth which cannot be sanitized with live steam or detergent must be sanitized by removing and replacing the material as necessary in order to prevent odors. This would be at the discretion of the inspector.

• Facilities must be equipped with disposal and drainage systems that are constructed and operated so that animal waste and water are rapidly eliminated and animals stay dry.

• Facilities must provide readily accessible washrooms, basins, or sinks.

• Facilities must provide evenly diffused natural or artificial lighting on regular diurnal cycles.

LIVING WITH USDA LICENSING

http://saova.org/APHIS_rulemaking.html

• You must have a separate food preparation area from your kitchen. Food cannot be left in bags, but must be stored in airtight containers.

• Temperature of the kennel facility must be within the allowed range (45-85 degrees) at all times and a daily high-low record maintained.

• You must employ a veterinarian under formal arrangements which must include regularly scheduled visits to your premises and a written program of veterinary care.

• You must hire sufficient staff to carry out and maintain the required level of husbandry practices and care required in the regulations.

• If you are licensed and inspected locally or by the state, you are NOT exempt from federal licensing and regulation. You would be required to carry both licenses and meet all requirements.

Living with USDA Inspections and Being "Written Up" For Violations. The 60 plus pages of current USDA standards as written are designed for research labs and commercial facilities where animals are bred and raised as a business for resale. The regulations were not designed for small part time breeders or mom and pop kennels working out of their homes.

• Breeding is your hobby, not your livelihood, but you have enough animals that you cannot meet any exemptions. You are at work when the inspector comes, so you are written up for not being there. Fines can be up to $10,000.00.

• The only one who can allow an inspector to conduct an inspection of a kennel is the person named on the license or a designee that is listed as being allowed to accompany the inspector in the absence of the licensee. In the absence of either, it is listed as a violation when the inspector shows up unannounced to conduct an inspection.

• Broken kennel wire? Dirty windows? Lid off a food container? Clogged drain that created a puddle of standing water. Footprints in your kennel building on a

rainy day? All of these can get you "written up" for a violation. Three write ups and you will be fined.

• Inspectors will always find something to write you up for. They have to or else they will be accused of not doing their jobs. Invasion of Privacy or "Hi, I'm from the government, and I'm here to see if you've scooped your kennel runs this morning"

Every violation write-up you receive is public information and can be obtained from USDA through the Freedom of Information Act. Efforts to protect such lists from public disclosure have failed.

We do know that the animal rights activists already compile lists of breeders from referral sources, show catalogs, and advertising to give to enforcement authorities. They also do their own sting operations, calling breeders to see if they have puppies available, do they know anyone else who does, etc. The proposed rule will create tens of thousands of new USDA licensed "dealers." All new dealer names and precise addresses will be posted on a USDA website for every animal rightist zealot to access. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/publications.html

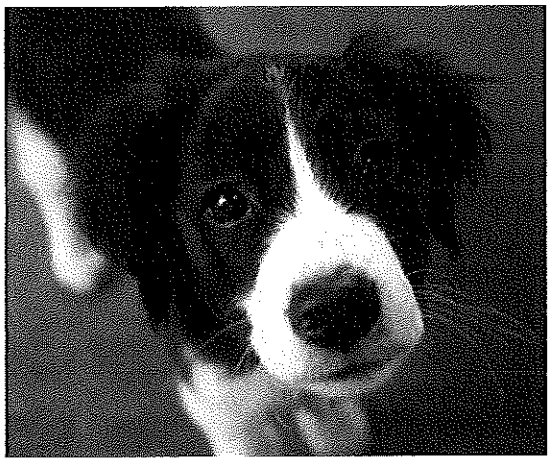
Furthermore, both HSUS and ASPCA offer "bounties" for breeders. These organizations encourage vigilante actions and how much easier they will be once self-appointed inspectors are equipped with USDA provided dealer address lists. It will only take a couple of bounty-inspired incidents to render the dog-breeding community completely terrorized. How long do you think it will take until all breeders are vanquished -- either by direct assault from these groups or willingly leaving out of fear?

March 9, 2010

Consumer Scam: Internet Pet Sales

Why you should never buy a pet online

The Humane Society of the United States



We all know the Internet can be a great place to buy anything from books to DVDs and rare gifts, but it's not where you should go to buy a new pet.

In addition to disreputable dealers and puppy mills, Internet scammers have crept into the realm of online pet sales, stealing money from unsuspecting people who think their new dog or cat is on the way to his or her new home, when in fact there was never really an animal at all. The only party harmed in these scams is the person who is out hundreds or thousands of dollars.

In the real world of online pet sales, families often lose significant money when the pet they ordered falls ill soon after arrival, but the real victims are the breeding animals stuck in factory-style operations, churning out babies to be sold off for a quick profit.

Over the 'net, overseas

Tens of thousands of dogs are shipped into the U.S. from puppy mills in foreign countries, purchased by people over Internet sites. Many people who have purchased puppies and kittens online find that their new pets are sick and often die from their health problems.

Some never even knew they were dealing with someone outside of the U.S. or that their puppy was born overseas before being sold to a U.S. broker. A good rule of thumb is to not deal with anyone who claims to be a distant buyer, seller or adopter.

"Buying an animal online is always a bad idea," said Stephanie Shain, director of The HSUS's Stop Puppy Mills campaign. "Animal peddlers have a big bag of tricks they use to fool buyers into thinking they are dealing with a great breeder. The first rule whenever someone thinks of buying a pet is to visit where that animal was born and see how the parents are living."

Where's my puppy?

That cute puppy in the photo on the legitimate-looking website is almost too cute to be real. Often, he isn't.

One scam promises you a free puppy—as long as you pay the shipping. Once the scammers get your "shipping" costs, the scammer says your puppy is stuck at the airport due to customs complications, and you are asked to send more money. Finally, the scammer (and the puppy who never existed in the first place) disappear. In many cases, victims think their dog is at the airport waiting for them after they've sent two or three money orders.

Some fraudulent email scammers prey upon the kindheartedness of dog lovers who want to offer homes to puppies and their parents.

English bulldogs and Yorkshire terriers are two of the breeds most often mentioned in puppy money order scams, perhaps because they are such popular and expensive breeds.

"Buying an animal online is always a bad idea ... The first rule whenever someone thinks of buying a pet is to visit where that animal was born and see how the parents are living."

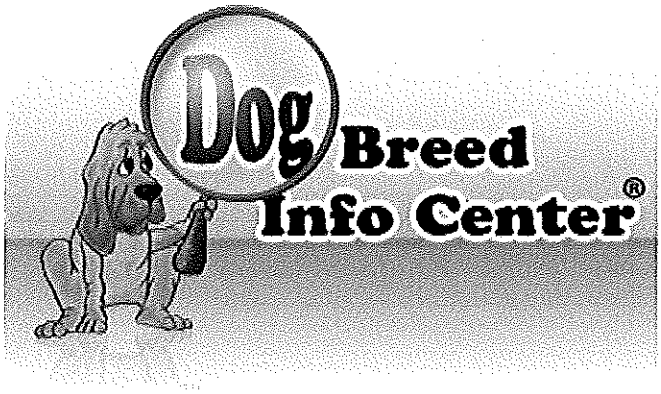
Warning signs

Internet pet-selling scams often include a long-distance seller—claiming to be in another country doing missionary work—who cannot keep the dog because the climate is too hot.

In other cases, the seller claims to represent an animal shelter or a good Samaritan, offering the breeds for "adoption." In these cases, it's important to remember that reputable shelters do not place puppies by sending out mass e-mails and then shipping animals to people.

Internet scammers can deceive would-be buyers by using readily available online photos or by using stolen photos of other people's pets to represent the non-existent animal. They will often copy the claims of legitimate rescue groups and attempt to sound reputable by saying that they will only adopt the pet to someone who has a fenced yard, for example.

They will also copy the text from breeder ads and claim to have registration certificates, vet records and health guarantees.



Detecting Internet Scams

Scams Targeting Puppy Buyers

Before Internet, when one wished to purchase a puppy they were, for the most part, limited to buying locally. Things have changed; the world now relies on the Internet for so many things. People can research the different breeds; a world of options has opened up to be almost endless. This has also opened up new opportunities for scams.

You have decided to bring a new pet into your home; you have researched and read up on all of the pets traits. Next you need to find a breeder, rescue or someone who has what you are looking for.

There are a lot of scammers posing as breeders, pretending to sell fictitious puppies. They take your deposit and you never hear from them again. These scammers are usually running out of foreign countries, posing as USA or Canadian breeders selling adorable little puppies, when in fact they don't even own a dog themselves, let alone have a puppy to sell. The vast majority of breeders advertising puppies for sale are legitimate breeders, however you must keep your guard up for these scam "breeders."

How can you tell if the breeder you are dealing with is for real and not one of those scams running out of countries such as Nigeria or other foreign countries?

Most good breeder listings do their best to weed out scams. Granted, they don't always catch the scammers. Ads for scammers do run in the best breeder listings from time to time, but are removed as soon as the scammer is detected. The scammer opens up the ad page with a stolen credit card and it can be very hard to tell that the credit card has been stolen.

Be extra cautious of ads found in free classified ads (sites where it is free to post an ad). One does not have to avoid sites that run free listings, as there are plenty of legit ads on them, however do be extra cautious, as scammers feed on free places to find their prey.

A lot of these scammers create a website or classified ad page to sell their so-called "puppies." They steal images and text off of actual breeder websites. At first glance their websites look really legit. You fall in love with the picture, contact the scammer and begin

to talk to them about purchasing the adorable little puppy. Eventually you send them a deposit via usually Western Union, and you suddenly never hear from them again. You never receive your puppy, because there was no puppy, and you just lost your money.

These scammers often steal pictures from the Internet of the most irresistible dogs and puppies and post them for sale. For example, here is a blog on the same deceased Pekingese being sold over and over again: http://ravinwoodfarm.blogspot.com. The dog's name is Hershey and he passed away late 2005.

A good way to determine if a picture of a dog or puppy posted for sale is really for sale, or is simply a stolen picture, is to ask the seller to send you a picture of that same dog or puppy with something in the picture that you can identify, such as a piece of paper with the date written on it, or even with your own name written on it. Beware of doctored pictures, so ask to see different shots of the same dog in different poses with your identifiable object in the picture.

Because these scammers are running out of third-world countries, catching them is difficult to almost impossible. In order for you to prosecute the scammer, the country you are in would have to work with the country they are in. In most cases, the country the scammer is running out of is not willing to cooperate. The cost of prosecuting the scammer is very high and the country you are in will most likely not be willing to fork out the money.

Examples of Scams

Subject: Re:Yorkie puppy Hello ,
Thanks for your interest in my pet. The little puppy is still very much available for adoption. This little girl Yorkie Puppy is 2.4lbs at 12 weeks* he is potty trained* and very* friendly with children he fit in the palm of your* hand.he* AKC registered* puppy ..Adorable and sociable* with great Personalities and* very good bloodlines.he* vet-checked, up to date on shots and* deforming, and are* health guaranteed.. All the papers will accompany the puppy,But right now i am in The Central Great Lake Of Cameroon on a Christian* mission* with my Family and* we have the puppy right here with* us.we are going to ship to you via* express delivery on* next day delivery after shipment through a shipping* agent, you.Please if you know* that you are not going to take very* good care* of my* baby, do** not reply me because i am giving her on adoption* because* of bad condition or anything i am only giving this puppy out* because we don't have time to take care of the puppy* again due
to the mission work before us here. he will be* going for free.The lovely puppy will come along with all her necessary* health paper work like..... Akc/Nkc/Fci Registered Paper
One Year health Guarantee
health Insurance Paper
Vet Record
Birth Certificate
Shot Book
Travel Crate
Toys And Foods so right now email me asap with the answers to the following questions so that i should see if you will rather take good care of this baby or not so email me with:
1) Are you a breeder?
2) Are you married?
3) Do you have kids?
4) Have you ever had a puppy before?
5) What is your occupation?
6) Will you send me pictures of the puppy when you have her?
7) Do you have a vet you will take the puppy to?

8) And will you treat her as your children?
9) Give me a Brief Description about your Environment ?
10) Will you have Enough time to spend and Play with them?
11) Were are you located?
Sorry for too many question,but i just want to be sure that my puppy will be going to the right home.so will be waiting to read back from your soonest mail. And below are the pictures of Tina is that ok by you?waiting to read back from your soonest mail.
God Bless You.

ME: Hello and thank you for your quick response as well. I do have a few questions myself first. This little girl Yorkie Puppy is 2.4lbs at 12 weeks* he is-Which is it? ..a he or a she?
potty trained-at 12 weeks? THAT IS A MIRACLE!
going for free-I will not even respond to this. I read the first few lines and knew it was a scam. I am aware of the website you stole these adorable pictures from as I and a few others belong to quite a few rescue groups. I will inform them and Craigs list that you are using them to run a scam. Also be aware that you are being reported for fraud. Mission? Your next one will be in a jail cell. N

AND another one ...

ME: Where are you located Glen? I am Beth by the way. VERY INTERESTED. Would get the baby fixed of course and are any shots been given? Gotten quite a few responses overnight too the ad but my mind keeps going back to your puppies.

SELLER: hi ,
sorry for the late reply , we are located in Cameroon if you are will to take one of my puppies you have to pay just for the shipping which is going to cost you 400R for one puppy to be shipped to your location and they have taken all their shots so if you are still in need of them then get back to me as soon as possibel so that we can see how you can have them. thanks waiting on you ...

ME: Sounds like a scam. And I already got a puppy this weekend thanks. Will turn you in just to make sur

From Scammer (Seller): Cute and lovely Pomeranian puppy for a home. We have a lovely Pomeranian puppy for a home.This puppy is vet checked and has just been vaccinated.This puppy also likes to play with kids,adults and other house hold pets.Contact us for more details if interested to have this lovely puppy to your home.

From Scammer (Seller): On Tue, Jul 1, 2008 at 1:50 AM, Wendy Simpson wendysimpson111@yahoo.com; wrote: Calvary greetings to you, Thanks for your interest in my lovely baby and .She is still very much available for new home.She is 12 weeks old,presently and She is AKC registered and her shots are given up to date,she is vet checked and potty trained.All her papers will accompany her, But right now i am in africa on a Christain mission with my wife and we have her right here with us.We are going to ship her to you via Express pets delivery on next day delivery after shippment through a shipping agent , i am leaving her for $200 Including shipping.If you are interested in having her, i want you to get back to me with your fullname,address including the nearest airport to you.Please if you know that you are not going to take very good care of my baby do not reply me because i am only giving her out becuase we dont have time to take care of her again due to the mission work before us here.Await your response.
Thanks

From Scammer (Seller): Thanks for your response i want you to know that am so happy to read back from you and i want you to prmise me that you will be taking a very good care of my puppy as soon as you recieve her at your location,Regarding the shippment you will have to get back to me with your shipping information such as your full name address phone# and the nearest airport to you for delivery the puppy will be shipped out via AAAA cargo and you will be making the payment for the shippment via money gramm transfer directly to the shipping agent that will be incharge of the shipping and as soon as the payment is confirmed your upcoming family member will be shipped out asap on next day delivery.

From a puppy buyer who was scammed: *On 08/26/05 I e-mailed globalgiving99@aol.com who appeared in the English bulldog breeders list, for information about his puppies.*

On 08/27/05 he contacted me back with information and pictures about a puppy. He mentioned he had auditive problems and couldn't use the phone. He has the Vietnam Veterans of America and POW/MIA Committee logos in all his e-mails.

On 08/28/05 I e-mailed him back asking more questions about the puppy. This same day he answered back saying she was an 8 week puppy.

On 08/29/05 I e-mailed him about my interest in buying the puppy and asking about the process to buy her.

On 08/30/05 he e-mailed back his name, address, and saying that the payment for the amount of $1000 had to be done via western union.

On 08/31/05 I e-mailed my concern about internet scams and asked if my friend who lives in Chicago could go by his house to check everything out. He answered the same day stating he was a 67 year old retiree and was home everyday so she could go by at any time. Because I was moving from Boston to Virginia at the same time, and because he answered like this, I never got around to actually having my friend go by.

On 09/01/05 I e-mailed him that I was in the process of having my mom transfer the money from San Juan, Puerto Rico to him. He e-mailed back on 09/02/05 reminding me to send him the MTCN number from Western Union and the name and address of the sender in order for him to pick up the money. He also reminded me to send him the information of the airport were he had to send the puppy. He was supposed to send the dog to Virginia were I was moving to. On this e-mail he added a link to his web-site: www.bulldoglovers.us

On 09/03/05 I e-mailed him the information to pick up the money in a Western Union in Chicago,IL. The MTCN number was 000-000-0000. The sender was 'xxxxxxx', and the address was: 'xxxxxxxxxxxxx'.

He e-mailed back the same day stating he would pick up the money the next Monday (09/05/05) and e-mail me back the information of were to pick up the puppy. After that e-mail on Saturday 3rd, I never heard back from him. I've e-mailed everyday but no answer. I called Western Union and he picked up the money that same day (09/03/05).

Subject: i have some dogs i want to sell. **Helloo, I am Mr Jonh Badmus by name i stay in the state, i just want to notify you that i have some dogs i want to sell, i mean all kinds of dogs such as Affenpinscher puppies,Airedale Terrier puppies,Akita puppies,Afghan Hound puppies,Akbash puppies,Alapaha Blue Blood Bulldog puppies,Alaskan Malamute puppies,Basenji puppies,Beagle puppies,Belgian Malinois puppies,Borzoi puppies,Bull Terrier puppies,Bullmastiff puppies,Belgium Mastiff puppies, Bichon Frise puppies ,Cairn Terrier puppies,Canaan Dog puppies,Chihuahua puppies,Chinese Foo Dog puppies,Cirneco Dell Etna puppies,Catahoula Leopard Dog puppies,Clumber Spaniel puppies,Dalmatian puppies,Dachshund puppies,Dogue de Bordeaux puppies,Doberman Pinscher puppies,English Bulldog puppies,English Cocker Spaniel puppies, English Toy Spaniel puppies ,English Springer Spaniel puppies,Field Spaniel puppies,Finnish Spitz puppies, Flat-Coated Retriever puppies ,Fox Terrier-Wire puppies ,German Shepherd puppies,German Wirehaired Pointer puppies,Golden Retriever puppies, Great Pyrenees puppies,Greyhound puppies,Great Dane puppies,Harrier puppies,Havanese puppies,Ibizan Hound puppies,Irish Terrier puppies,Irish Setter puppies,Irish Water Spaniel puppies,Jack Russell Terrier puppies,Japanese Chin puppies,Keeshond puppies,Komondor puppies,Kerry Blue Terrier puppies, Lhasa Apso puppies ,Leonberger puppies,Labrador Retriever puppies,Maltese puppies,Manchester Terrier puppies,Maremma Sheepdog puppies,Mi-Ki puppies,Newfoundland puppies,Neapolitan Mastiff puppies,Norfolk Terrier puppies, Norwegian Buhund puppies ,Old English Sheepdog puppies,Otterhound puppies,Papillon puppies,Pembroke Welsh Corgi puppies, Pekingese puppies**

,Pembroke Welsh Corgi puppies,Rat Terrier puppies,Redbone Coonhound puppies,Rottweiler puppies,Scottish Terrier puppies,Shetland Sheepdog puppies,Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier puppies,Saint Bernard puppies, Saluki puppies ,Tenterfield Terrier puppies,Tibet an Terrier puppies,Toy Poodle puppies,Tibetan Spaniel puppies,Vizsla puppies,Weimaraner puppies,Welsh Terrier puppies,Whippet puppies, Welsh Springer Spaniel puppies ,Xoloitzcuintli puppies,Yorkshire Terrier puppies etc please if you are intrested in buying the dogs you can please mail me with this email address markangeloo2000@yahoo.com.
Thanks

Scammer :HELLO DEAR, YOU MAY BE SURPRISE BUT IT WAS OUT OF MY DESIRE TO SHARE THIS MUTUAL PROPOSAL WITHYOU, I GOT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THROUGH MY RANDOM INTERNET SEARCH. MY NAME IS MR.ABINART RHODES A GENERAL SECRETARY IN INTER CAPITAL SECURITIES COMPANY HERE IN NIGERIA THERE IS A CONSIGNMENT CONTAINING A SUM OF (12,000,000.00USD)TWELVE MILLION UNITED STATES DOLLARS DEPOSITED IN OUR COMPANY FOR SAFE KEEPING BY ONE MR. GUEI WALTER BEFORE HIS DEATH, NO ONE HAS COME TO CLAIM THIS CONSIGNMENT AS A BENEFICIARY TILL DATE. I AM HONORABLY SEEKING FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE AS
FOLLOWS: (1) I WANT YOU TO ACT AS A BENEFICIARY
(2) I WANT YOU TO PROVIDE A BANK ACCOUNT WHERE THIS
MONEY WILL BE TRANSFERRED
I WILL PROVIDE YOU THE ENTIRE NECESSARY DOCUMENT FOR THIS CONSIGNMENT TO PROVE THE CONSIGNEE AS A BENEFICIARY TO THE COMPANY, 40% OF TOTAL AMAOUNT MAPPED OUT FOR YOU WHILE THE 60% MAPPED OUT FOR ME. IF YOU ARE OKAY WITH MY CONDITION DO NOT HESITATE TO SEND ME -MAIL (rhodes247_abinart247@yahoo.fr) SO THAT I CAN FURNISH YOU UP WITH ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED, I WISH TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON. THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION
ABINART RHODES.

Scammer: FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION. It is my great pleasure to write you this letter on behalf of my colleagues.
I got your information from a personal search in the internet business index.
I have decided to seek a confidential co-operation with you in execution of a deal hereunder for the benefit of all parties, and hope you will keep it confidential because of the nature of this business. I am the Secretary of the Contract Review Panel instituted by H. E. President Olusegun Obasanjo to probe/review all Contracts executed and payments made during the regime of late General Sani Abacha. I have been mandated by my colleagues on the Panel to seek your assistance in the transfer of the sum of US$31.0 Million into your Bank Account. As you may know, the late General Abacha and members of his government embezzled billions of dollars through spurious contracts and payments to foreigners between 1993 - 1998 and this is now the subject of probe by my Panel. In the course of our review, we have discovered this sum of $31.0 Million, which the former dictator could not transfer from the dedicated account of the Central Bank of Nigeria before his sudden death in June 1998. It is this amount that my Colleagues and I have decided to acquire for ourselves through your assistance.
This assistance becomes crucial because we cannot acquire the funds in our names and as government officials we are not allowed to own or operate foreign bank accounts. We have thus developed a, fool proof, legal and totally risk free scheme through which the fund can be transferred to your nominated bank account within a very short time. The scheme is to use our position and influence on the Panel to represent you as a foreign Contractor beneficiary of the funds. We shall arrange all documentation to support this claim and get Approval for the transfer of the funds for your benefit on our behalf. The scheme is perfected to be 100% risk free and we are sure the funds can arrive your Account within 7 - 10 working days from when you agree to assist us.
You should acknowledge the receipt of my letter through my email address so we can further discuss the modalities of your cooperation and negotiate the charge for the usage of your Account. You definitely have a lot to benefit from this transaction as we are prepared to give you 25% of the total funds as soon as you secure it in your account.
Please, endeavor to give me a telephone/fax number through which we can communicate with you in

confidence (in your response) as the need for secrecy is great to this transaction. We expect your urgent response. Yours faithfully,'Niran Frederick

Scammer: Calvary greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
I am Mrs. Juliet Andreas, named person from Switzerland. I am married to Late Dr. Andreas Dominic of blessed memory who worked with Switzerland embassy for nine years before he died in the year 2000. We were married for eleven years without a child. He died after a brief illness that lasted for only four days. Before his death we were both very devoted Christians.
Since his death I too have been battling with both cancer and fibroid problems. When my late husband was alive he deposited the sum of $17.5 Million (Seventeen Million Five hundred thousand U.S. Dollars) with Barclays Bank of Ghana vault with a special arrangement in their vault.
Endeavour to contact me, so that I can link you up with the Barrister involve. The barrister and my late husband has been able to use their contact to make this fund to Barclays Bank on a special arrangement. So feel free to contact him on maysfield@zipido.com . The barrister's name is Barrister Adegbesan Tunde Melvin. He will furnish you more details on how to receive this fund smoothly. Recently, my Doctor told me that I would not last for the next three months due to cancer problem. Though what disturbs me most is my stroke sickness. Having known my condition I decided to donate this fund to either a Christian organization or devoted Christian individual that will utilize this money the way I am going to instruct here-in. I want this Christian organization or individual to use this money in all sincererity to fund churches, orphanages, widows and also propagating the word of GOD and to ensure that the society upholds the views and beliefs of the holy inspired and infallable word of God which is the Bible.
The holy Bible emphasized so much on GOD's benevolence and this has encouraged me to take this bold step. I took this decision because I don't have any child that will inherit this money and my husband's relatives are new Muslim convert and I don't want my husband's hard earned money to be misused by people I call unbelievers. I don't want a situation where this money will be used in an unholy manner. Hence the reason for taking this bold decision. I know that after death I will be with GOD the omnipotent, the omniscience and the omnipresent. I don't need any telephone communication in this regard because of my health and also the presence of my husband's relatives around me always. I don't want them to know about this evelopment. With GOD, all things are possible. As soon as I receive your reply I shall give you the contact of the Bank i.e. Barclay's Bank of Ghana. I will also issue you a letter of authority that will prove you as the original - beneficiary of this fund. I want you and the Christian community where you reside to always pray for me. My happiness is that I lived a life of a true devoted Christian worthy of emulation. Whoever that wants to serve GOD, must serve him in truth and in fairness. Please always be prayerful all through your life. Until I hear from you, my dreams will rest squarely on your shoulders.
May the almighty GOD continue to guide and protect you.
Regards,Mrs. Juliet Andreas

Scammer: goodday,
i am michel Mobutu Sese-Seko, wife of the late President Mobutu Sese-Seko of former Zaire, now Congo Democratic Republic. My family and I now live in exile, in Morocco. I believe you are aware through the International press how the European Government froze my late husband bank accounts. Recently the French Government confiscated my father's Chateaux in South of France. In view of this, my family and I are afraid to make any investment without a front. In this line, therefore, it is the wish of my family to solicit for a trustworthy and sincere person who will invest these fund under trusteeship. I am interested in making an enormous investment worth US$12Million in some parts of the world of which will be beneficiary to both parties SOURCE OF FUND. Before the death of my late husband, he deposited the above stated funds with a security Firm here in Amsterdam. Hence I am in asylum here in lome. Therefore, I intend to have a front who will manage this funds and invest it into property development, buying of sharesstock in Multinational Companies and engage in non speculative investments and other related ventures.As soon as I hear from you I will then aarrange a face-to-face meeting for us to deliberate on this investment. It will also give me the opportunity to assess your capability of handling this investment. Please, I will like you to send me your private telephone/fax numbers to allow me discuss privately.Meanwhile, reach me on the above email address. Kindly treat thls matter with utmost confidentiality.
Best Regards,michel Mobutu Sese-Seko

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Importation of dogs into the United States: risks from rabies and other zoonotic diseases

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Impacts

- Based on import trends suggesting that the annual number of unvaccinated puppies being imported into the United States increased substantially from 2001 to 2006, imported dogs pose a risk for introducing zoonotic pathogens such as rabies into the United States.
- Commercial resale or adoption of unvaccinated puppies originating from rabies-enzootic countries poses a risk for spread and transmission of foreign canine variants of rabies; since 2004, at least two cases of foreign variants of canine rabies virus have been documented in recently imported puppies.
- On July 31, 2007, CDC posted an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the topic, and invited public comment on issues regarding possible requirements for a unique identification and health certificates, and setting a minimum age for importation that would require valid rabies vaccination prior to entry into the United States.

Keywords:
Zoonosis; rabies; importation; dog; cat; ferret

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Summary

The importation of dogs into the United States poses a risk for the introduction of rabies and other zoonotic diseases. Federal regulations (42 CFR 71.51) currently require proof of valid rabies vaccination for imported dogs, but allow the importation of some unvaccinated dogs, including dogs less than 3 months of age, provided certain requirements for confinement are met until the dog is vaccinated. Although there are no accurate surveillance data on the number of dogs imported each year, it is estimated based on extrapolated data that over 287 000 dogs were imported into the United States during 2006. Of these, approximately 25% were either too young to be vaccinated or lacked proof of valid rabies vaccination. Import trends suggest that an increasing number of unvaccinated puppies are being imported into the United States, many through commercial resale or rescue operations. Since 2004, foreign canine rabies virus variants have been documented in at least two imported puppies. Federal regulations are currently being reviewed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to determine if they can be updated to address current import trends and disease risks, such as requiring a health screen and valid rabies vaccinations for all dogs prior to entry.

Introduction

In the current era of global travel and trade, the transport of companion animals across U.S. borders represents a possible threat for the introduction of zoonotic pathogens into the United States. In many parts of the world, canine rabies virus variants are enzootic in dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*), and bites from infected dogs cause over

QUOTES FROM VARIOUS ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

"The life of an ant and that of my child should be granted equal consideration." ***Michael W. Fox, Scientific Director and former Vice President, The Humane Society of the United States, The Inhumane Society, New York, 1990***

"A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy." ***Ingrid Newkirk, PETA founder and president, Washingtonian Magazine, August 1986***

"Human care (of animals) is simply sentimental, sympathetic patronage." **Michael W. Fox, Vice President, Humane Society of the United States, *Newsweek* interview, 1988**

"But if there were two dogs left in the universe and it were up to us as to whether they were allowed to breed so that we could continue to live with dogs, and even if we could guarantee that all dogs would have homes as loving as the one that we provide, we would not hesitate for a second to bring the whole institution of 'pet' ownership to an end." **Gary Francione, Professor, Rutgers University "Pets": The Inherent Problems of Domestication, July 31, 2012**

"Owning animals is the equivalent of slavery." **Hope Bohanec, Vegan activist, In Defense of Animals, AR 2010.**

"Animals for the most part just need to be left alone." **Wayne Pacelle, CEO, Humane Society of the United States, *Los Angeles Times*, July 19, 2008**

"We should take good care of the domestic animals we have brought into existence until they die. We should stop bringing more domestic animals into existence." **Gary Francione, Interview on Columbia University Press blog, June 18, 2008.**

"I don't have a hands-on fondness for animals...To this day I don't feel bonded to any non-human animal. I like them and I pet them and I'm kind to them, but there's no special bond between me and other animals." ***Wayne Pacelle quoted in Bloodties: Nature, Culture and the Hunt by Ted Kerasote, 1993, p. 251, before joining the HSUS.***

"It is time we demand an end to the misguided and abusive concept of animal ownership. The first step on this long, but just, road would be ending the concept of pet ownership." ***Elliot Katz, President "In Defense of Animals," Spring 1997***

"Liberating our language by eliminating the word 'pet' is the first step... In an ideal society where all exploitation and oppression has been eliminated, it will be NJARA's policy to oppose the keeping of animals as 'pets.'" ***New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance, "Should Dogs Be Kept As Pets? NO!" Good Dog! February 1991, p. 20.***

"Let us allow the dog to disappear from our brick and concrete jungles--from our firesides, from the leather nooses and chains by which we enslave it." ***John Bryant, Fettered Kingdoms: An Examination of A Changing Ethic Washington, DC: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, 1982, p. 15.***

"Producing animals for sale is a greedy and callous business in a world where there is a critical and chronic shortage of good homes for dogs, cats, and other animals, and the only "responsible breeders" are ones who, upon learning about their contribution to the overpopulation crisis, spay or neuter their animals, and get out of the business altogether." **- PETA, "Animal Rights Uncompromised: There's No Such Thing as a 'Responsible Breeder' - current website**

"We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding. One generation and out. We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." ***Wayne Pacelle, Senior VP of Humane Society of the US, formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Animal People, May, 1993***

When asked if he envisioned a future without pets, "If I had my personal view, perhaps that might take hold. In fact, I don't want to see another dog or cat born." ***Wayne Pacelle quoted in Bloodties: Nature, Culture and the Hunt by Ted Kerasote, 1993, p. 266.***

"I'm not only uninterested in having children. I am opposed to having children. Having a purebred human baby is like having a purebred dog; it is nothing but vanity, human vanity." ***Ingrid Newkirk, PeTA's founder and president, New Yorker magazine, April 23, 2003***

"Our goal is to make [the public think of] breeding [dogs and cats] like drunk driving and smoking." ***Kim Sturla, former director of the Peninsula Humane Society and Western Director of Fund for Animals, stated during Kill the Crisis, not the Animals campaign and workshops, 1991***

"We are not superior. There are no clear distinctions between us and animals." **Michael W. Fox, HSUS (Washingtonian Magazine, February 1990)**

"Sometimes I think the only effective method of destroying speciesism would be for each uncaring human to be forced to live the life of a cow on a feedlot, or a monkey in a laboratory, or an elephant in the circus, or a bull in a rodeo, or a mink on a fur farm. Then people would be awakened from their soporific states and finally understand the horror that is inflicted on the animal kingdom by the vilest species to ever roam this planet: the human animal! Deep down, I truly hope that oppression, torture and murder return to each uncaring human tenfold! I hope that fathers accidentally shoot their sons on hunting excursions, while carnivores suffer heart attacks that kill them slowly.

"Every woman ensconced in fur should endure a rape so vicious that it scars them forever. While every man entrenched in fur should suffer an anal raping so horrific that they become disemboweled. Every rodeo cowboy and matador should be gored to death, while circus abusers are trampled by elephants and mauled by tigers. And, lastly, may irony shine its esoteric head in the form of animal researchers catching debilitating diseases and painfully withering away because research dollars that could have been used to treat them was wasted on the barbaric, unscientific practice vivisection." ***Gary Yourofsky, PeTA Humane Education Lecturer, quoted in the University of Southern Indiana Student Newspaper, The Shield, January 24, 2008***

If (a particular researcher) won't stop when you ask nicely, when you picket in front of his house, or when you burn his car, maybe he'll stop when you hit him over the head with a two-by-four." **Jerry Vlasak, Trauma Surgeon Los Angeles, In The Chronicle of Higher Education, February 20, 2011.**

See more complete information Mr. Vlasak below:

Science Blogs- From National Geographic Society

Respectful Insolence

Animal rights terrorism advocate Dr. Jerry Vlasak: Murder of animal researchers is "morally acceptable"

Animal rights terrorism apologist Dr. Jerry Vlasak, a trauma surgeon in the L.A. area, has …done it again: At the "Confronting Animal Cruelty" conference in the Salt Lake City Library, 2NEWS Brian Mullahy got a chance to speak with Dr. Vlasak about the measures that activists should take.

Mullahy: Is murder on the table as an option?

Vlasak: Whatever it takes to stop someone from abusing animals is certainly morally acceptable. Nothing is more violent and radical than what's being done to non-human animals in our society. If a researcher won't stop abusing animals and is stopped physically, whether with the use of force, or is killed, I certainly wouldn't lose sleep over that idea."

Vlasak gives inflammatory talks full of such apocalyptic imagery and thereby inspire young and impressionable activists with a lot of zealotry but not much in the way of rational thought to do what he advocates. Meanwhile, he stays safe behind a wall of plausible deniability as the "spokesperson" for the Animal Liberation Front

Rational people may think that Dr. Vlasak is being intentionally over-the-top just for effect or to make a point. That's mainly because they're rational people and can't wrap their minds around openly advocating the murder of scientists or other statements by Dr. Vlasak.

Personally, I really do believe that Dr. Vlasak means exactly what he says.

Animal rights groups keep inviting Dr. Jerry Vlasak agains and again to give talks and be on discussion panels at their meetings. That's what they've done at the Confronting Animal Cruelty conference in Salt Lake City, claiming with a straight face that they "don't endorse the opinion of Dr. Vlasak." Why, then, do they not only invite Dr. Vlasak, but go further than that and whitewash his record? Here is, for instance, the description of Dr. Vlasak for the SLC conference:

Jerry Vlasak, MD is a board-certified surgeon specializing in trauma and critical care. He is a former vivisector who has seen the agony of animals in laboratories. He debates the scientific invalidity of animal experimentation around the world, speaks out about the benefits of a vegan diet and offers lectures on the right of all sentient beings to live free of pain and suffering. His essays and interviews have been published in numerous journals and magazines and he has been interviewed on radio, TV and in print by journalists worldwide regarding animal rights. He resides in Los Angeles.

The Animal Rights Threat

What is the Animal Rightist Threat? "Animal Rights" proponents seek to restrict use and ownership of animals, including hunting and fishing, pet and livestock ownership, circuses, rodeos, zoos and medical research. They pursue this radical agenda through a wide variety of legal and illegal means, but concentrate on passing state and federal legislation that appears to address animal welfare. In reality, however, such legislation goes far beyond its superficial intent, placing severe restrictions on the rights of law-abiding animal owners and sportsmen.

Why should I be concerned? Animal Rights organizations, including the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS), ASPCA, Farm Sanctuary, PeTA and others are growing rapidly and receive huge media-induced donations, frequently from pet-owning citizens who mistakenly believe the money goes to helping homeless animals. Nearly one-half of the U.S. House of Representatives and over one-third of the U.S. Senate consist of predictable AR voters, endorsed by the well-funded coalition, Humane USA, and other similar Political Action Committees.

Branches of these national lobbying groups are active in every state legislature. Influenced legislators sponsor outrageous bills, such as mandatory spay-neuter programs and the "Puppy Protection Act" and its 2005-06 offshoot, "PAWS," which, under the guise of regulating "commercial facilities," would have placed onerous or impossible federal restrictions on hundreds of thousands of responsible home pet breeders, rescuers and hunting dog owners. A 2003 House AR bill would have superceded all existing state bear hunting regulations. Federal abrogation of any state's wildlife department's rulemaking authority can't be tolerated. In September 2006, against the recommendation of its Agriculture Committee, the U.S. House passed the Horse Slaughter Prevention Act, placing emotion ahead of animal welfare and public health, and setting dangerous precedents of Federal interference in animal owners' end-of-life decisions and establishing a special, quasi-human status for a livestock species.

Who are these Animal Rights Proponents? The Animal Rights movement has evolved in recent years into two factions, the radical side represented by PeTA, ALF, ELF, SHAC, etc., and the more "respectable," corporate side led by HSUS, which has now incorporated the Doris Day Animal League, Ark Trust and Fund for Animals. The outrageous and sometimes illegal activities of the radicals distract attention from the much larger and more powerful corporate side, with its belief-altering agenda. With a swelling membership of activists who are educated professionals, they strive to ever broaden their reach and increase credibility, pressing for acceptance of their ideas as "mainstream."

In addition to funding and lobbying politicians at all levels of government, the corporate animal rightists disseminate slick, Madison Avenue quality "humane education" materials in elementary and secondary schools, indoctrinating our children. They are active in the veterinary schools and provide literature to animal shelters, influencing those we turn to for help and advice with our animals. They go out of their way to conceal their agenda and suppress science-based criteria of animal well-being.

The Hoax of the Animal Radicals Movement

KACHING!
By: Dr. Al Grossman, June 3, 2009

Dr. Al Grossman, the founder and publisher of Doral Publishing, has a wealth of experience in dogs, showing and raising them for over forty years. That wealth of experience has also attracted a wealth of talented authors to Doral Publishing which has published over 100 dog breed guides as well as many other dog training manuals.

The ringing sound of the old fashioned cash register meant a sale had been made and that money was now in the till. Money, Money the mother's milk of politics as described by Jesse Unruh, a former speaker of the California Assembly when running for election against Ronald Regan.

Let's face it, the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS) through their very professional fund raising campaigns has raised millions of dollars through misleading advertising and an appeal to save the poor darling Puppies, Seals etc. Would it come as a surprise to you that most of the money collected never found its way to help anyone but the administrators of the fund raising companies and the top brass of HSUS. HSUS is listed near the very bottom of charitable organizations that deliver monies to the actual recipients in need.

It appears that HSUS main thrust at the present time is to work hand in glove with PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) to introduce legislation at the National, City, County, and State levels to destroy both the livestock industry and the breeding of Pure Bred Dog and Cats. According to a profile in a 2003 New Yorker magazine Ingrid Newkirk, the president of PETA, by her own claims, wants to destroy all pets. She claims to be responsible for euthanizing thousands of pets brought to a shelter where she worked in Washington, D.C. She explained "I would go to work early, before anyone got there, and I would just kill the animals myself. I must have killed a thousand of them, sometimes dozens every day." They weren't even given a chance to be adopted. She took them out because she felt she could give them what she felt they deserved. This is a woman now in a position to influence the lives of thousands of pets and who leads a horde of vengeance minded brain washed bleeding heart converts. She is interviewed on radio and television as though she is the avenging angel rather than a demented fraud.

If this were a nurse killing off her patients because she thought it was for their own good, she would be serving a life sentence for murder. The State of Virginia is so disgusted with Newkirk and her organization and their killing of dogs and cats that they have introduced legislation to declare PETA a slaughterhouse. Debra J Saunders writing in the San Francisco Chronicle on June 23rd, 2005 tells us not to be fooled by the slick propaganda of PETA. The organization claims to champion the welfare of animals, as the many photos of cute puppies and kittens on its website suggests.

But recently two PETA employees were charged with 31 felony counts of animal cruelty, each after authorities found them dumping the dead bodies of 18 animals they had just picked up from a North Carolina Animal Shelter into a dumpster. According to the Associated Press 13 more dead animals were found in a van registered to PETA.

The rise of HSUS and PETA has coincided with the economic boom. It allowed them to collect obscene amounts of money thus fulfilling the fantasies of Newkirk and Wayne Pacelle, president of HSUS. Their thoughts must have been: "if we can collect all this money we must be on the right track so we can do what we want". The Center for Consumer Freedom, which represents the food industry, a frequent target of PETA campaigns, released data filed by PETA with the state of Virginia that shows PETA has killed more than 10,000 animals form 1998-2003. "In 2003, PETA euthanized over 85% of the animals it took in.," said a press release from the lobby, "finding adoptive homes for just 14%. By comparison the Norfolk (Va) SPCA found adoptive homes for 73% of its animals and Virginia Beach SPCA adopted out 66 percent."

Increasingly the agricultural industry, hunting enthusiasts and the dog/cat breeders have fought back against the onslaught of PETA and HSUS. In many instances they have turned back legislation and in some cases competent counsel has been hired to fight such onerous legislation such as that passed by the city of Louisville. The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA), a seventeen-year- old non-profit organization along with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the ASPCA and a host of other organizations has led the fight against the Animal Radicals.

HSUS and PETA are not friends to pet owners, breeders or pet business of any kind, nor to reptile or bird owners, hunters, fisherman, pet stores, pet retail sellers, ANYONE in the pet trade regardless of what you are selling. The HSUS would like to stop the pet trade in its entirety because the HSUS doesn't believe animals should be owned much less used as a food product according to www.PetDefense.WordPress.com.

50 000 human deaths each year (WHO Expert Consultations on Rabies, 2007). Although the United States has successfully eliminated canine rabies variants from domestic circulation, introduction of foreign canine rabies virus variants via imported dogs threatens this status. Rabies is of particular concern in imported dogs because of its long incubation period; on average, clinical disease develops 4–8 weeks after infection. Because of this, dogs may be admitted on the basis of apparent good health, but may be incubating the virus and could develop disease after entry. Other zoonotic pathogens (for example, leishmaniasis) may also be imported with dogs, and could potentially develop a sustained or enzootic presence in this country (Rosypal et al., 2003). Imported dogs may also harbor exotic or other ticks that could carry human or animal pathogens not currently present in the United States, or may physically introduce insects or pathogens of agricultural significance, such as screwworm larvae or tapeworms (Barre et al., 1987; Mannelli et al., 2003; Nyangiwe et al., 2006; U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 2007). Dogs may also serve as a source of human infection with intestinal parasites such as *Toxocara* and enteric pathogens such as *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* (Enriquez et al., 2001; Robertson and Thompson, 2002).

No single U.S. agency has the sole authority to regulate the importation of dogs. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires health certifications and inspections at the port of entry for some dogs imported from some countries on the basis that they may pose a threat to U.S. agriculture through the introduction of screwworms or certain *Taenia* species of tapeworms which are not found in the United States (U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 2007). Under the Public Health Services Act, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has the authority to restrict the importation of dogs due to risks to human health. Under 42 CFR 71.51, CDC may require dogs that appear ill with a at the point of entry to the United States to be confined and referred to a veterinarian for examination (Fig. 1) (Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, 2007).

42 CFR 71.51 requires a valid rabies vaccination for dogs 12 weeks of age and older imported to the United States from countries where canine rabies is present. However, this regulation has provisions that allow the entry of unvaccinated puppies and dogs if the owner agrees to confine the dog at a place of the owner's choosing until vaccinated, and then for 30 additional days (Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, 2007). The regulation does not require a health screen for these dogs prior to arrival in the United States, nor does it require treatment for ticks or evaluation for specific zoonoses of concern. Under 42 CFR 71.51, importers are expected to appropriately confine and vaccinate imported dogs that lack valid rabies vaccination. Enforcement of this regulation is problematic because there is no federal requirement, mechanism, or capacity for documenting compliance. In addition, the current CDC regulations provide an exception to vaccination if the dog originates

Fig. 1. Imported puppies undergoing inspection at JFK International Airport, New York (note evidence of diarrhea on the animals and in the cage). Photo courtesy of Sheryl Shapiro, CDC New York Quarantine Station.

Table 1. Estimates of dogs imported into the United States during 2006

Port of entry	Type of surveillance system	Surveillance data	Extrapolations from surveillance data*
Airport	Dog importation data collected by CDC Quarantine Stations for Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD) and John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) (*CDC, unpublished data*).	10 125 dogs (5156 unvaccinated) were imported through ORD in 2006. An estimated 7350 dogs (1327 unvaccinated) were imported through JFK in 2006.	These airports account for 20% of international air passenger traffic entering the United States.† Therefore, estimated 87 375 dogs were imported through U.S. airports in 2006, of which 32 415 (37%)are estimated to have been unvaccinated.
Northern land border crossing	Confinement agreements issued for unvaccinated dogs at Canadian land border crossings within CDC's New York Quarantine Station's (at JFK airport) regional jurisdiction (*CDC, unpublished data*).	Reports were submitted for 73 unvaccinated dogs during 2006. Unvaccinated dogs were presumed to represent 18% of overall dog imports (the same as dogs entering through JFK airport). An estimated 404 dogs were therefore imported through these stations in 2006.	These land border crossings accomodate 47% of passenger vehicle crossings from Canada.† Therefore, an estimated 870 dogs entered from Canada in 2006, of which 157 (18%) are estimated to have been unvaccinated.
Southern land border crossing	A multi-agency 2-week border surveillance operation conducted November 27 through December 10, 2006, at San Ysidro and Otay Mesa border crossing stations. (*Aaron Reyes, Southeast Area Animal Control Authority, personal communication 4/12/2007*).	1991 dogs (381, or 19% unvaccinated) were imported during the operation. Presuming that this 2-week period was similar to other times of the year, an estimated 51 766 dogs (9906 unvaccinated) entered the U.S. through these ports during 2006.	These ports accomodate 26% of passenger vehicle crossings from Mexico.† Therefore, an estimated 199 100 dogs entered from Mexico in 2006, of which 38 100 are estimated to have been unvaccinated.
All United States	Combined extrapolations from airport, northern land border, and southern land border ports of entry		>287 000 dogs are estimated to have been imported into the United States during 2006, including an estimated 70 600 (25%) unvaccinated dogs.

*Extrapolations presume that the available surveillance data is representative of dog importations occurring at other similar ports of entry.
†Border crossing statistics available at Bureau of Transportation Statistics, http://www.transtats.bts.gov.

from a 'rabies-free' country. The presence of canine rabies is determined by CDC based on surveillance data reported to the World Health Organization by member countries, and determining an updated and accurate list of rabies-free countries is difficult because countries without robust surveillance systems may appear free of rabies.

While there are no official surveillance statistics on the numbers of dogs imported into the United States each year, it is estimated based on extrapolation of limited importation data that over 287 000 dogs were imported into the United States in 2006 (Table 1) (Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2007). Of these, approximately 70% entered through land border crossings, while the remainder entered through airports. Because not all imported companion animals are inspected on entry, the true volume of imports is likely much larger than these estimates suggest. An estimated 25% of dogs imported into the United States during 2006 were either too young or otherwise not current for rabies vaccinations.

The importation of unvaccinated dogs into the United States appears to be increasing. The number of reports that CDC received for dogs entering John F. Kennedy International Airport doubled from 2003 to 2006 (CDC, unpublished data), and reports of unvaccinated dogs being imported into California increased by over 500% during the period 2001–2006 (Ben Sun, California Department of Public Health, personal communication 3/22/2007). Some of these increases may be explained by the apparent recent expansion in a high-volume international commercial puppy trade. Breeders overseas and across borders ship puppies to the United States for sale through commercial pet stores, flea markets, and internet trading sites. Consumer demand for puppies under 4 months of age results in some animals being sold before the end of the required vaccination confinement period (Fig. 2) (AP News Article, 2007; Discussion of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS), 2005). The number of imported puppies sold commercially before the end of

Fig. 2. Puppies imported to the United States from Mexico via a land border crossing, 2006. Purebred puppies such as these are most commonly destined for quick commercial sale within the United States, many in violation of CDC confinement requirements. Photo courtesy of Gregory Elizondo, USDA-APHIS, Pharr, TX Port of Entry.

the required confinement period is unknown, but over 4000 confinement agreement violations are known to have occurred in 2006 (CDC, unpublished data). In addition to imports for commercial sale, several animal rescue operations import dogs from other countries for adoption in the United States. For example, in 2006, a humane rescue organization imported 295 dogs to the United States from the Middle East (Fig. 3) (Best Friends Middle East animal rescue operation, 2007). In addition to organized efforts, U.S. citizens may less formally acquire stray animals during travel abroad and bring them back to the United States.

The importation of unvaccinated dogs from areas where canine rabies is enzootic poses a potential public health risk. Since 2004, CDC has received two reports in which young, unvaccinated puppies were imported from rabies-enzootic countries and developed rabies after arriving in the United States. In 2004, a puppy rescued as a stray in Thailand was diagnosed with a canine rabies virus variant the day after being imported to California. (Ben

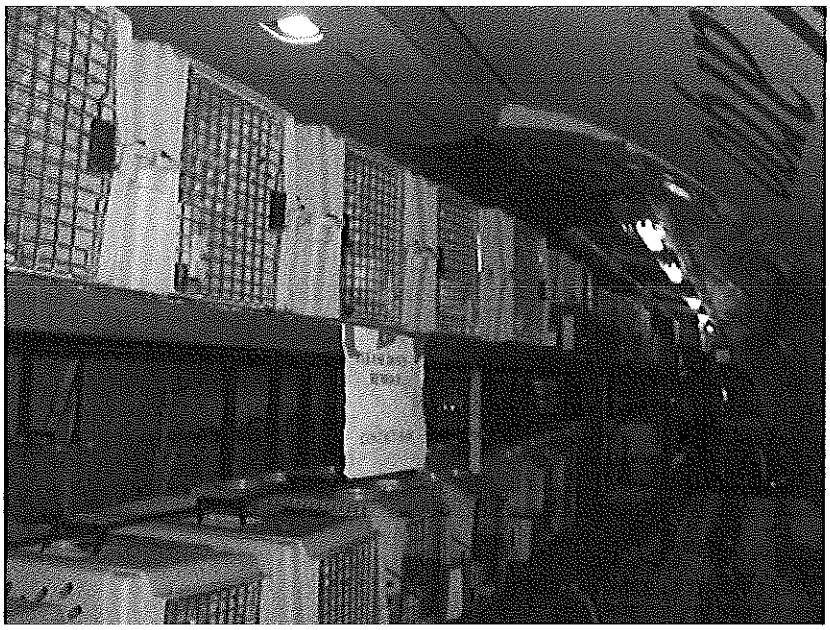

Fig. 3. Humane rescue operation importing large numbers of dogs from the Middle East, 2006. Photo courtesy of Sheryl Shapiro, CDC New York Quarantine Station.

Sun, California Department of Public Health, personal communication 8/1/2007). In 2007, a puppy rescued as a stray in India was imported through Washington to Alaska, where it was diagnosed with a canine rabies virus variant commonly circulating in dogs in India. (Louisa Castrodale, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, personal communication 8/1/2007). As these cases highlight, the importation of unvaccinated dogs poses not only a direct human health risk, but also a risk for translocation and establishment of canine variants of rabies virus not currently present within the United States. Although the documented risk appears small (less than 2 per million imported dogs), it is likely underestimated because imported puppies with rabies may die without being appropriately tested or diagnosed, particularly if they did not bite other animals or humans prior to death.

While rabies infection may not be highly prevalent in imported dogs, even the importation of one or two infected animals per year represents an unacceptable and preventable risk. While import restrictions may not be able to specifically address all possible zoonoses, a requirement for a health screening by a veterinarian in the country of origin prior to shipment could help reduce the likelihood of zoonotic disease transmission from imported dogs. More stringent requirements for animal identification, such as a tattoo or microchip, as well as treatment for ticks and other ecto- or endoparasites prior to import, are successfully employed in many other countries, including the United Kingdom and western European countries (Europa European Commission, Animal Health and Welfare, 2007). In addition to dogs, companion animals such as cats and ferrets are highly susceptible to rabies, and some other countries have importation restrictions for these animals, including requirements for rabies vaccinations (Europa European Commission, Animal Health and Welfare, 2007). The zoonotic diseases risks associated with these additional companion animal species should be carefully reviewed if changes to the current federal regulations are considered.

Discussion

CDC's regulations regarding the importation of dogs were promulgated in 1956 and updated in 1983 (Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, 1956; Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, 2007). During this time, international pet travel was not routine and typically involved the occasional family pet. In contrast, today's importation practices include highvolume importation of unvaccinated puppies for commercial resale and humane rescue. Federal regulations are currently being reviewed to determine if they should be strengthened to prevent the possible importation of foreign canine rabies virus variants. On July 31, 2007, CDC posted an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) soliciting public opinion on possible changes to current federal regulations (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007). Questions posed for public comment included whether dogs should have a minimum age for importation, and whether a unique animal identifier and health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian in the country of origin should be a requirement for importation. The ANPRM also asked whether cats and ferrets should be subjected to the same importation requirements as dogs. The public comment period for the ANPRM closed on December 1, 2007. Following review of all comments and consideration of specific disease risks, CDC will consider whether federal regulations regarding the importation of companion animals should be strengthened to prevent the importation of foreign canine rabies virus variants and other zoonoses.

Acknowledgements

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Dog imports raise fears of a resurgence of disease

Posted 10/21/2007 11:26 PM

By Josh T. Reynolds for USA TODAY

Anna Geraghty, left, and Marianna Massa tow through Logan International Airport in Boston a cart of dogs from Puerto Rico.

By Alan Gomez, USA TODAY

When animal shelters started going overseas to fill their emptying kennels, some worried the imported strays would bring foreign diseases and even rabies into the USA.

And now for the first time in decades, it has, prompting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to step in.

"The No. 1 thing we think about is canine rabies," said Nina Marano, head of a CDC unit responsible for drafting new regulations for dog importation.

Marano hopes to come up with ways to better screen incoming dogs and have new regulations in place by next year. Among the recent examples of cases:

•In March, a dog from India flew through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport and reached its owner in Alaska before it was diagnosed with rabies, the CDC said.

•In November 2004, a dog imported from Mexico was the first case of canine rabies in Los Angeles in more than 30 years, the county Animal Care and Control said.

•In May 2004, a dog from Puerto Rico was taken to a Massachusetts shelter to be adopted but was diagnosed with rabies, the first such case in "decades" according to the state Department of Health.

No humans were infected, but critics say it's only a matter of time before a human, or a large number of dogs, are infected if the emerging practice of importing dogs isn't regulated or stopped.

"It's a ticking time bomb," said Patti Strand, president of the National Animal Interest Alliance, a group that represents breeders, pet shop owners and others

interested in animal welfare. "We've spent fortunes and decades eradicating many of these diseases, and they may be reintroduced."

Agencies in Southern California created the Border Puppy Task Force after they saw a surprising number of very young dogs being brought across the border from Mexico. The task force estimated that during a one-year span, 10,000 puppies entered San Diego County. The collection of law enforcement and animal welfare agencies has targeted "puppy peddlers" and their sometimes dangerous importing and selling practices.

The only federal requirements for bringing a dog into the USA deal with rabies. An owner must show proof of a rabies vaccination, or sign an agreement stating the dog will be confined until a vaccination is given and goes into effect. Many states have stricter requirements.

The Department of Agriculture closely monitors dealers who sell to pet stores, whether the dogs are raised or imported from other countries. Department spokesperson Jessica Milteer says her agency has no authority to monitor people who import large numbers of dogs and sell them on their own.

That gap is what concerns many in the dog industry.

Marshall Meyers, executive vice president of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, said those sellers use the Internet, newspaper classifieds and street corners to sell the unregulated dogs. Meyers said those sales make up a vast majority of the international dog trade.

Shelter owners say the importation programs are safe, moral and in demand.

Marianna Massa travels to Puerto Rico several times a year to screen dogs for the Northeast Animal Shelter in Salem, Mass. She said it would be difficult to argue against the program if people saw how strays live in Puerto Rico.

"Along the highway, you see dead dogs like we see squirrels," Massa said. "People just hit them. They don't care."

Some, like Strand, say it's silly and dangerous to go overseas for dogs when there's plenty of strays here. About 4 million dogs are put to death by injection or gas every year in the USA.

"Pet overpopulation is a misnomer," she says. "What we have is a pet distribution problem."

Spay and neutering campaigns have been so successful in much of the USA — especially the Northeast and Northwest — that shelters need to look elsewhere if they want dogs to offer for adoption. But Strand says there is abundance of dogs in other parts of the country such as the South that could make up the difference.

Julie Potter, director of Northeast Animal Shelter, said they take in 800 dogs a year from the South. She said people usually want to adopt younger dogs, so they bring 200 dogs a year from Puerto Rico.

"If it's something we can do to help, why not?" Massa said

TIMES COLONIST

Influx into B.C. of 'rescue dogs' from other countries stirs debate over pet adoption

Paul Luke / The Province
July 14, 2013 03:39 PM

A dog at a protest this month in Cairo, Egypt. Photograph by: Hassan Ammar, The Associated Press

VANCOUVER — A suspected street thief named Ellie has bedazzled Erin Silo. Silo has yet to catch Ellie committing a theft — other than stealing her heart — since she adopted the Taiwanese rescue dog in March. The 29-year-old Richmond resident sees only an adorable, exceptionally intelligent dog who learned eight commands in their first two weeks together.

But Cherry Latour, the dog rescuer who imported the Formosan mountain dog to B.C. from Taiwan, isn't so sure Ellie's paws are clean. "I kept finding my purse on the floor and my wallet out with all my plastic cards gone," said Latour, founder of Mission-based Dogway Dog Rescue Society. "I kept finding them in her bed. Speculation has it that she was trained on the streets to assist purse-nappers." Critics in B.C.'s animal shelter and rescue community might suggest Ellie is a thief in another sense. They might say she has unwittingly stolen an adoptive home that should go to a dog born and bred in the province.

B.C. shelters have lots of dogs in need of homes, according to this line of thinking. Why import foreign dogs when we can't find families for the ones we already have?

Barbara Cartwright, Ottawa-based CEO of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, argues that Canada should first find homes for its overpopulation of domestic dogs.

But Cartwright does not believe Canadian dogs are being euthanized because of the arrival of foreign dogs. She said the issue sparks a clash of emotions in her organization. "It's a conundrum. On the one hand, we celebrate anyone who has compassion and empathy for an animal," Cartwright said. "Where it becomes conflictual for us is: What are we doing with the animals already here in Canada and can we get that problem solved?"

Even those concerned about the impact of foreign rescue dogs in B.C. and Canada concede it's a complicated matter. For one thing, nobody knows how many foreign rescue dogs are arriving. No federal or provincial agency keeps tabs on furry immigrants.

Foreign rescue dogs are becoming more popular in this province, according to B.C.-based rescue groups. Rescuers in the province report steady or rising demand. Taiwan, India and California, with large populations of street or shelter dogs, are among the most popular sources of canines coming to B.C. Bob Busch, the B.C. SPCA's operations general manager, said the arrival of foreign rescue dogs likely does not jeopardize the adoptability of domestic rescues.

"The numbers, I suspect, are so small they don't have a big impact," Busch said.

Nine per cent of the 9,200 dogs taken in by B.C. SPCA shelters last year were euthanized. That's one of the lowest rates in Canada, and far below the national average of 31 per cent, Busch said.

Foreign rescue dogs, in many cases, do not compete for the same adoptive homes as Canadian animals, rescuers say. Latour, who places domestic and international dogs, said there's a shortage of small dogs at B.C. shelters. "There is just not the little-dog problem here like there is at the high-kill shelters in California."

Busch said the number of small dogs entering SPCA shelters in B.C. has fallen off in recent years as people try to sell unwanted animals themselves.

When Langley's Julie Dahl went looking for a smaller dog as a companion for her two young daughters, she decided to avoid going to breeders out of a conviction there are already too many dogs in B.C. But Dahl and her husband found SPCA shelters across the province dominated by larger breeds, Dahl said. They decided to adopt a male mixed terrier named Luke that Dogway brought from California.

"I've had people ask 'Why get a dog from California when there are so many here?' " Dahl said. "For us, it doesn't matter where they come from," she said. "The dogs in B.C. were for another family. Making sure a rescue dog is right for your family is more important than wherever it comes from." Timing also helps. Latour said Luke was minutes away from being euthanized at a California shelter when a friend plucked him from death's jaws and sent him to B.C.

Jennifer Nosek, editor of Vancouver-based Modern Dog magazine, predicts that demand for foreign and local rescue dogs will continue to grow in B.C. Awareness of the conditions facing street and shelter dogs is on the rise, she said.

People travelling abroad often bring animals back with them. Nosek's uncle recently did that with dogs from Mexico. And people who do not set out to adopt foreign rescues often search pet databases such as petfinder.com and find their ideal rescue dog comes from abroad, she said.

Abbotsford's Barbara Gard, founder of Adopt An Indian Desi Dog, says the question of whether rescue dogs should be imported is misleading.

The majority of breeds in North America already come from somewhere else, said Gard, who rescues desi dogs from New Delhi (desis are a breed of heritage dogs that abound in the Indian streets). North American settlers killed off all but a few indigenous breeds, she says. "People who object [to foreign rescue dogs] are not thinking globally," Gard said. "They're thinking locally and we're not a local society."

International rescue cuts both ways, Gard said. The World Society for Protection of Animals funds and runs sterilization and vaccination clinics in remote Canadian communities. It also works with native groups to address overpopulation of dogs on reserves, Gard said.

"WSPA does fantastic work around the world and Canada is one of their focus countries," she said. The real issue, say advocates of foreign rescues, is how much of an impact their efforts have on over-dogged countries or U.S. states.

Dogway Dog Rescue has rescued and "re-homed" more than 500 dogs, half of them local and half foreign, since starting in 2011. People typically pay $300 to $450 to adopt a dog. That does not cover all of the costs of treatment and care, leaving Dogway to rely on donations — money, services and products — to cover the difference.

Latour gets hundreds of emails daily from contacts abroad begging her to rescue dogs on death row in shelters. "I don't see the borders of countries — dogs are universal citizens. I see the plight of a sentient being," Latour said. "We believe in the life of the individual dog. We can't save them all but we can save them one at a time."

Erin Silo made a joyful difference in Ellie's life. The dog's credentials as a thief are dubious but it is known that she was taken to a vet hospital in Taiwan after being run over by a car. The clinic splinted Ellie's leg, let it heal for a month and released her from up to 65 kilometres away.

A few days later, the little dog turned up back at the clinic.Silo read her story on petfinder.com, went to meet Ellie and fell in love with the sweet and stunningly smart dog."I was just looking for a rescue dog. I wasn't looking for one from overseas," Silo said. "This is just how it worked out."

The newest threat to Purebred Dogs in the US

02/26/2012 By anonymous breeder

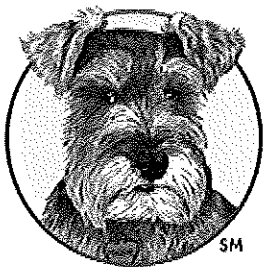
Rescue, purebred dogs and shelter dogs - the OTHER side of it

February is Westminster Kennel Club month for anyone who breeds, exhibits or owns purebred dogs. It is THE celebration of our passion, the two nights a year that we get our World Series, our Kentucky Derby, our Super Bowl. It is now also the beginning of "slam the purebred breeder" season in America. In the UK, it's the Crufts Dog Show in March.

For the last several years there has been an irrational and nasty outcry after every televised show and after appearances of the BIS winner. PETA, HSUS, almost every shelter and almost every "rescue" in the country have determined that any dog in a shelter is a direct result of me, you and any of us who occasionally breed a litter of well bred purebred dogs. They are sure that if we never bred another litter, the shelter populations and rescue populations would dry up! Never mind that there are shelters and rescues in the NE US that are importing dogs from other countries as well as other parts of the US, never mind that the majority of dogs in shelters and rescues are mixed breed dogs, never mind that the majority of dogs that are surrendered have been because of behavioral issues, economic issues or illness issues. Never mind that the vast majority of dogs in shelters and rescue are young adult dogs. Never mind that statistically over 80% of dogs in the US are already spayed or neutered and it would be physically impossible for the purebred breeders in the US to populate the shelters and rescues with the numbers of dogs that are in them right now.

On the surface, one has to wonder where the dogs in shelters come from. Let's take a look at ONE small shelter and analyze it's population: Cats – 20 Dogs - 22

Of the dogs listed, 16 are listed as mixes. There are two of the remaining 6 are listed as "Australian Cattle Dogs". While I have no doubt there is a lot of cattle dog in these two, their ears and size and bone reflect a mix, IMO. There is a Chihuahua, a border collie, a white GSD and a beagle that are truly identifiable as breeds. That is 81% mixed breed, 19% purebred. Of the population of dogs - 8 were surrendered, the rest either strays or transferred from other shelters, because this one is a "no-kill" shelter and had room. Of those surrendered the reasons ranged from owner lost their house to behavior issues, "too much dog", "barking" (border collie), "ran away". NOT one of these dogs was in the shelter as a result of a purebred breeder abandoning animals at the shelter. If one were to look at most of the pets on shelter websites and those internet adoption sites (As an aside, why is it okay for rescues to use the internet and not breeders?) the vast majority of dogs are either stray mixed breed dogs or dogs surrendered due to either behavior issues, owner's illness or death, and loss of homes. How are any of the above issues related to purebred dog breeders? While anectdotal, I can honestly say I do not know a single person that I regularly show with who has refused to take back a single dog they have bred. Let's truly look at those "purebred" dogs that are on those pet adoption sites. If it has pointy ears and legs even remotely short - it's a corgi mix. If it's black, it's a lab mix. If it's small it's a chi mix. I even saw three Sussex Spaniel mixes today - except one looks suspiciously like a golden mix, one doesn't look a thing like



MADDIE'S FUND

The Maddie's Fund® mission is to revolutionize the status and well-being of companion animals. Maddie's Fund® is a family foundation endowed by the founder of Workday® and PeopleSoft, Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl. Maddie's Fund is helping to achieve and sustain a no-kill nation by providing solutions to the most challenging issues facing the animal welfare community through the combined efforts of Maddie's® Grant Giving, Maddie's Center℠ (hands-on animal care), and Maddie's Institute℠

The Pros and Cons of Dog Transport

The animal welfare movement has greatly improved over the years. In the 1980's approximately 18 million dogs and cats annually died in animal shelters nationwide. Today, that number has decreased to about 4.5 million, and many communities are actually experiencing a shortage of puppies and small dogs. As a result, the last five years have seen a rapid rise in the movement of shelter animals from areas of oversupply to areas of greater demand.

Good things can be said about dog transport. However, critics, including many veterinarians, cite drawbacks - especially in areas of disease transmission and animal health and safety.

Lorna Grande, DVM, is a private practice relief veterinarian. She also teaches in the Veterinary and Animal Sciences Department at the University of Massachusetts and has been affiliated with shelters as a Board member and humane educator for over 30 years. When it comes to animal importation, "first and foremost I worry about disease transmission," Grande says. "In addition to illnesses such as giardia, distemper, parvo and URI, imported animals are also bringing new diseases into the community. Just a couple of examples: rescuers have imported a blood borne protozoal disease called Leishmaniasis and species of tick borne diseases we rarely see in the Northeast. Another puppy brought in a new strain of rabies. Many of these animals are coming in sick with pneumonia and diarrhea, and there isn't a clearinghouse to monitor them. The Massachusetts Bureau of Animal Health was recently forced to impose Emergency Regulations.

Another big problem is that most of these animals are puppies, puppies traveling long distances from places like Tennessee and Virginia. They can suffer a great deal of stress on the trip. The transporters are often unregulated, so the conditions inside the vehicles may be inadequate. In addition, many of these puppies are coming from stray moms who are probably not vaccinated. Even if the puppies are vaccinated, the stress of the travel can prevent their own immune system from responding properly to the vaccine. Anyone who has gotten sick when they are "run down" knows that stress contributes to disease."

Sara White, DVM, is a shelter veterinarian in New Hampshire. According to White, almost all New Hampshire shelters import puppies because so few litters are born within the state. According to White, New Hampshire shelters don't euthanize dogs for space, and place all of their healthy, treatable and behaviorally sound dogs (for a 75% save rate).

White believes animal transport has a lot of advantages - it fills a need by giving the public what it wants, prevents the sale of pet shop puppies and saves lives. It's a net benefit, believes White, if the imported animals have proper health certificates, behavior assessments, are spayed and neutered prior to placement and are provided proper health care at both ends. But there are worries. "Veterinarians in New Hampshire are not happy, mostly because of medical concerns. They fear the entry of illnesses that aren't normally seen here, like tick borne diseases from the south. The concern is that if the vets aren't used to seeing such diseases, they won't know what they're looking at or how to treat it. I personally haven't seen anything out of the ordinary in my shelter. I've seen more behavior problems with under-socialized dogs than medical problems. I do think there is another risk. If you can get cute puppies, they are a lot simpler to place and more fun to work with than bratty adolescents from the community shelters, but that's not fair to the local animals."

Dr. Grande couldn't agree more. She believes cute and cuddly imports darn near mean a death sentence for the big, old and rowdy adolescent dogs in her state's municipal shelters. "If people would put the same amount of time, energy and resources into saving animals in Massachusetts that they do in trucking animals from down south, our own community animals could be saved. If you are in a community where there are animals that need shelter, you're turning your back on those animals if you're importing," argues Grande. "For people like me who have worked for thirty years to end pet overpopulation, to have basically succeeded when it comes to dogs - it's hard to see dogs imported. Wasn't the goal to put ourselves out of business? We used to be people finding homes for dogs. Now we're finding dogs for homes."

In California, dog transport takes a slightly different form. Here, most transport takes place within the state, from originating shelters in Central Valley communities like Merced, Madera, or Sacramento, to shelters in the Bay Area, a distance of 50 to 200 miles. The various Bay Area shelters that draw animals from the Central Valley use their own staff and vehicles to select and transport the animals, and they establish on-going relationships with the source shelters and communities.

Dr. Kate Hurley, Director of the University of California Davis Shelter Medicine Program, is one of the nation's leading shelter medicine experts and someone who has directly worked with several of California's importing and exporting shelters.

"Moving shelter animals from places of few resources and adopters to places with lots of resources and adopters can be great for the animals. What concerns and frustrates me is that the shelters that need the most help with transfers are the same shelters that have the fewest resources for disease prevention."

Hurley believes there needs to be much more awareness of infectious disease issues on the part of both source and receiving shelters, and many more resources given to source shelters to minimize risks and make the whole process more positive.

"We need to find a way to support the disease prevention efforts of source shelters during the animal's crucial first week in the shelter. If we don't, there's a good chance that a pet will be exposed to a serious illness as soon as he comes in. The receiving shelter will put time and expense into transporting that animal, time and expense into quarantining him, and then he'll come down with something like parvo. You've transported parvo or other diseases into a shelter that didn't have these conditions before, gone to tremendous effort and expense, and the whole cycle could have been avoided with a $2 vaccination on intake."

Hurley relates the story of one shelter's ongoing attempt to alleviate this kind of situation. "The receiving shelter provides vaccines and helps with shelter clean up. However, even these efforts may not be enough if the source shelter remains unable to isolate sick dogs due to lack of space. Significant facility improvement at the source shelter and improved vaccination practices within the source community may be required to really solve the problem. I know that seems like a lot to put into "someone else's shelter." However, if our communities are benefiting from "someone else's dogs," I think it makes sense to think about ways we can improve conditions for that shelter; it will benefit the shelter and adopters on the receiving end, as well as many sweet, adoptable dogs that - by a twist of fate - find themselves in a less well-to-do community.

If shelters are going to bring outside animals into their facility, they have to expect to get diseases from time to time, from nuisance infections such as giardia to severe or fatal illness such as parvo and distemper. It seems unfair to transfer a dog and make him go through the stress of travel, only to euthanize him if he comes down with something treatable. In order to avoid this, receiving shelters need to have adequate veterinary resources and isolation rooms to quarantine the animals. Those that are planning a new shelter and anticipate having a transport program need to design their shelters with this in mind. For example, if a truck full of puppies comes in and one of them is diagnosed with parvo, the shelter will need a safe space to quarantine the exposed dogs for fourteen days. Otherwise, either the exposed puppies may need to be euthanized, or the rest of the shelter population will be put at serious risk."

Without question, there are a lot of legitimate veterinary issues to work out with dog transport. But in reality, this activity is probably just a temporary phenomenon. Notes Hurley, "Bay Area shelters seem to be traveling farther and farther to find pups and small dogs - there's a lot more competition for them now. At this point, virtually all the smaller breeds and puppies from our local Sacramento shelters, and even the great majority of sweet, healthy adult dogs - with the exception of pit bulls, are either adopted locally, rescued, or transferred to another shelter."

With more spay/neuter programs, model adoption programs and the success of current transport programs, shelters throughout the country will probably get the dog - or at least the small dog and puppy surplus - under control within a few years. At that point, a whole new set of questions will arise.

If shelters insist on having small dogs and puppies to satisfy demand, where will they get them? Where will the community get them - from backyard breeders, pet stores, reputable breeders, third world countries? Should shelters fight these sources?

If temperament, breed, age or size makes the majority of shelter dogs unsuitable or unappealing for most adopters, what should shelters do with these dogs? Will shelters be able to persuade their communities to adopt older dogs or dogs who are less than perfect? Will they want to even try? What will we do if the majority of dogs in shelters are pit bulls with iffy personalities?

Will future shelters have cat adoption programs only? Would that be bad?

If animal shelters really *don't* want to put themselves out of business, what do they want to do? That is the question of the century.

Healthy pets With Dr. Karen Becker
Presented by Mercola.com

The Unexpected Outcome of Stiff New Pet Breeding Laws

March 24, 2010 | 10,967 views

Four years ago in 2006, nearly 300,000 dogs were estimated to have crossed United States' borders, and the problem is growing.

Consumer demand for pure-bred and cross-bred puppies coupled with strict new domestic breeding laws is believed to be driving importation numbers even higher than four years ago.

Federal regulators have no real way of tracking exactly how many dogs are brought into the country, where they come from, where they are going, and whether importers are following up on vaccination requirements for underage puppies.

"One thing that really concerns veterinarians is, underage puppies come in and not only are they at greater risk of zoonotic diseases, but also other canine diseases," says Nina Marano, DVM, of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Global Migration and Quarantine. "It is a concern. It's a consumer issue; it's a public health issue; it's a veterinary issue. Really, it's a moral and ethical issue."

Dr. Becker's Comments:

You would think, given the number of adoptable dogs looking for forever homes in shelters across the U.S., there would be no market in this country for foreign-bred, imported puppies. If that's what you thought, think again.

More Than a Problem of Overpopulation

Not only does the importation of dogs add to the problem of pet overpopulation in the U.S., but many of these pups are not healthy. This poses considerable risk not only for the puppies, but for the humans and other animals these dogs come in contact with.

Of the 287,000 dogs imported in 2006, it is estimated about 25 percent were too young to be vaccinated for rabies. Importers sign contracts agreeing to confine puppies until they've received the rabies vaccine. However, since most puppies are sold almost immediately upon arrival in the U.S., it's clear those contracts are routinely ignored.

Many puppy exporters and importers not only don't honor contractual obligations, they also ignore federal regulations. The USDA prohibits carriers destined for the U.S. from transporting animals less than eight weeks of age, and any animal without a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian.

It's widely assumed importers routinely lie about the age and health of puppies on import documents. And it is obvious health certificates are forged based on the number of puppies who become ill or die shortly after arrival here.

Imported, unvaccinated, underage puppies pose a significant risk for zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans) and other canine diseases as well.

Significant numbers of puppies become ill and/or die within a few days of arrival in the U.S. The rates of parvovirus, pneumonia, rabies, ringworm and serious congenital defects are higher in imported puppies than in dogs bred in this country.

Rabies is of particular concern because of its long incubation period. Puppies arrive here in apparent good health while incubating the virus, and then become ill with the deadly disease.

Imported dogs have also been tracked as carriers of diseases long ago eradicated in this country. One such disease is screwworm. A screwworm is a parasitic fly, the larvae of which eat the healthy tissue of living, warm-blooded animals.

What's Behind the Puppy Import Trend?

There are several forces at work, including:

- ***Higher hurdles for commercial breeders in the U.S.*** *Due to heightened awareness and regulation of puppy mills, the laws for raising puppies in this country have grown more stringent. In Pennsylvania alone, 256 kennels were closed last year, compared to just 65 closures five years ago. Many of the foreign countries exporting dogs to the U.S. have fewer and looser animal health standards than we do, making the business of breeding a less expensive – and often less responsible – proposition.*

- **Market demand.** One particularly troubling aspect of the dog import business is that in spite of the heartbreaking number of abandoned dogs that languish and are euthanized in animal shelters across the country, people seeking new canine family members persist in purchasing puppies from pet stores, irresponsible local breeders, and over the Internet, from unknown, unresearched sources.

  Internet sales of puppies and dogs have caused an explosion of commercially bred and imported puppies – sales that are estimated to far exceed pet shop sales. Because U.S. puppy mill regulations have thankfully been tightened, it's becoming harder to locate the exact breed or fashion hybrid people are demanding on an impulse, but foreign markets are able to supply these animals to demanding U.S. consumers.

- **Uneducated consumers.** Many people simply are not aware of the risks and other issues involved in purchasing a puppy they know has been imported, or one for which the parentage and health history is unknown.

  Pet lovers are often led by their hearts, and impulse purchases (and even adoptions from shelters or rescue organizations) are common.

  Every companion animal regardless of origin deserves a loving family, including dogs bred in other countries. But seeking them out creates a demand for which there will always be suppliers, and does nothing to help the millions of pups in U.S. shelters who deserve a second chance at life.

- **U.S. puppy mill owners looking to increase profits.** Or owners who've been shut down who are looking for a way to replace lost income. Many of these people become "puppy brokers," or middlemen for imported puppy mill pets.

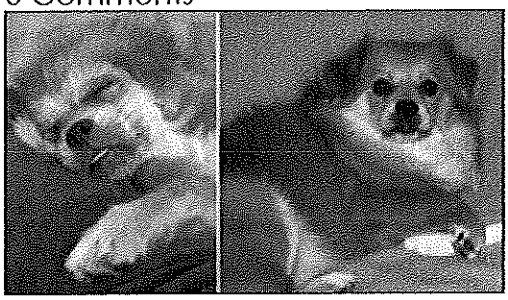
- **Not-for-profit, misguided or uninformed importers.** Rescue groups and even veterinarians have imported dogs from other countries without an appropriate level of concern for the health risks involved.

- **Federal import regulations with no teeth.** Government agencies like the CDC and the USDA don't have the staff, resources or law enforcement authority to effectively regulate the import of live animals. In addition, most of the laws governing live animals crossing U.S. borders were written during a time when the only dogs being transported into the country were pets of families returning from extended trips or business abroad.

Lost Laowai
china expat & traveller community

Jaiya's Animal Rescue, hope for homeless animals in Shanghai

02/182010
6 Comments

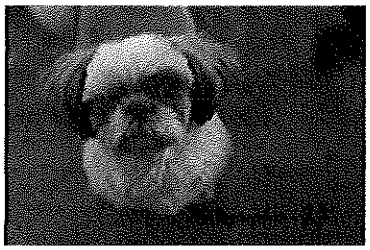


A before and after photo of a JAR rescued pup

During a conversation about the treatment of animals in China some time ago, I remember a friend saying, "what rights are animals going to have in a country that is still working out the rights of humans?" Anyone that's ever been to a zoo in China knows just how true this is.

Fortunately, like all things in China, this is changing. Helping along that change in Shanghai is an altruistic group of volunteer animal rescuers called Jaiya's Animal Rescue, or JAR for short.

Adopting a Shelter Dog From North Korea



If you are considering adopting a dog from a shelter here are some helpful tips for the journey you are about to take.

Before you go to the shelter be sure to think about what kind of dog will fit best with your family. Do you want an energetic dog that will be able to keep up with young children. Or maybe you would prefer a more laid back dog that will require less activity. Just be sure to think about this before you go to the shelter....sometimes once you are at a shelter and faced with all of the adorable dogs... it is difficult to think logically.

When picking which dog to adopt be aware that puppies are typically not the best choice. With puppies you can not evaluate what kind of temperament they will have once they are grown. Also it may be difficult or impossible to determine how large they will grow to be. The older a dog is the easier it will be to get a true evaluation of what kind of temperament the dog has. I adopted a shelter dog that was approximately seven months old and her personality did not change much since then.

Once you are at the shelter be sure to spend some time with the dog you consider adopting. Sit on the ground with the dog and pet them. Check how sensitive the dog is by gently pulling on their ears, and tail. Try to touch and hold the dogs paws. Lightly pinch the dog on its belly or back. The goal is NOT TO HURT the dog ....you just want to see how the dog will react to this annoyance. If you have young children at home this test is especially important. You can be sure that young children will do things that may irritate the dog, and you want to be sure the dog can handle it.

Once you adopt a dog there are some things you can do to ease the transition from shelter to home. The very first thing you should do is to keep the dog on a leash when you first bring it to your home. While the dog is on a leash give it a tour of your house. Let the dog smell whatever it has interest in. This is the dogs chance to check out its new surroundings while also getting some clues as to what the rules of the house are.

A visit to the vet is a must as soon as you've brought your dog home (right after bathing him/her of course). Some shelters in Korea have vets who donate their services, but it is still a good idea to arrange for a thorough physical for your new pet. Your dog may or may not have had all her/his required shots and may need some medical care, such as teeth scaling, spaying or neutering, heartworm, etc

Questions not answered above:

If you've adopted or are fostering a dog from one of the Korean shelters, and have questions regarding your new friend, please post them on the K4E Forum and we will do our best to find answers for you. Here's the link:

http://www.korea4expats.com/forum-south-korea/pet-corner-b10.0/

examiner.com

Import of strays sustains the pet over population myth

April 14, 2012

You go to your local pound, shelter, humane society , or rescue and the story is the same, please adopt there are too many unwanted pets, You walk the halls and see kennel after kennel, cage after cage, full of sad eyes, wagging tails and pleading paws. You assume the dogs and cats in front of you come from your area, but are they?

Asking the people in charge usually gets you many sob stories but no real proof. Many shelters have insufficient records to document where the dogs and cats in their shelter have come from. Many relocate pets from one shelter/rescue to another to fill empty runs. While this may be reasonable and increase adoptions, the dogs get counted more than once increasing the numbers of unwanted animals reported for that area.

In many areas today, campaigns to end "pet over-population" has been so successful that demand far outweighs supply. Larger cities are trying to fill their empty runs and cages, and keep government funding by what is now called humane relocation. The Humane Society of Tulsa is setting milestones in humane relocation. First, they are boarding another record-setting transport on the Rescue Waggin' vehicle this week – another 75 dogs and puppies. Second, they are reaching their 1,000th pet transferred, setting this record in just 18 months – six months before any other shelter in the program.

Humane relocation started just a few years ago as a common sense method to get dogs adopted through cooperative efforts among city shelters. As numbers of adoptable dogs

and cats were reduced in one area the shelters looked farther afield to find more animals to adopt out. Dogs leaving the Humane Society of Tulsa are sent to the Humane Society of Boulder Valley in Boulder, Colo, where they are generally adopted within a week of arriving at the shelter. Great idea as long as the TRUE source of the dogs and cats was revealed to the adoptive public and not left to believe that the dogs and cats came from strays and unwanted animals in their area. Irresponsibly used, humane relocation turns a charity formed for the good of the public and animals into a commercial pet store being supported by the public's misinformation.

Shelters /rescues participating in humane relocation acquire their "stock" at little or no cost to them, advertise their "product" using time tested methods of pet overpopulation, abuse and neglect, rotate "inventory" quickly, restock immediately and bring in staggering amounts of money that is pure profit. PetSmart Charities Rescue waggin is supported by donations from the public according to PetSmart's website and they have transported thousands of dogs across the country.

Some groups like Save a Sato (slang for mutt) backed by PeTA has already sent over 14,000 dogs to the U.S and participating shelters/rescues. The receiving shelters/rescues take in 100-200 dogs a month then turn around and adopt them out for $200-$250 each. That buys a lot of vet care and food! One active shelter looks to make $500,000 in 2012 on imported dogs!

What sense does it make to import more dogs when we are STILL killing about 4 million dogs and cats? Importing strays to this country takes homes from native dogs and cats already in shelters and rescues, brings unknown diseases to the US, and just increases the number of unwanted dogs and cats just waiting to be killed. More fodder for the pet overpopulation myth. Shelters and rescues that don't have enough dogs or cats in their area should be commended then they should look to areas here in the United States that need help and step up. We need to take care of our own problems before tackling stray dog issues in other countries.

The Animal Radical stalwarts might also want to be aware of what they wish for. The last times such activism won the day was when they banned alcohol consumption and the teaching of evolution. Those triumphs all turned out to be Pyrrhic. There are some successes that are simply not survivable. If by any combination of luck and coincidence HSUS/PETA succeeded in criminalizing the raising of dogs and cattle it would swiftly become the victim of backlash that would make it rue the day. This would apply with redoubled force to any imitative that would make the United States trade its hard-won scientific prowess in favor of animal radical fanatics.

Christopher Hitchens writing in the April 6th issue of Newsweek believes that this country is so constituted that no one group and certainly no one confessional group is able to dictate its own standards to the others. He states, "sometimes I wish they would get their own way, just so they would find out what would happen to them."

HSUS/PETA are a danger to our way of life and a threat to the economic future of agriculture in this country. They are hell bent on eliminating raising dogs and cats for pets and want to convert all of us from meat eaters to vegetarians. Lord, I hate Broccoli, Spinach and Carrots.

Understanding HSUS

A Guide to the World's Richest Animal Rights Group

1. **The Humane Society of the United States is a "humane society" in name only.**

   Unlike the "humane societies" in thousands of American cities and towns, HSUS doesn't care for dogs and cats, or place them for adoption. HSUS is not an umbrella group for pet shelters: In 2008 and 2009, HSUS shared less than one percent of its budget with them. In fact, it's not affiliated with a single pet shelter anywhere in the world.

2. **"Animal welfare" and "animal rights" are two very different ideas.**

   Most people are in favor of animal *welfare*. They want animals to be treated humanely. But they also accept the fact that some animals are raised to provide food, some are kept as pets, some are used in research that seeks to cure cancer and AIDS, and others are an important part of sports, entertainment, and education. A very tiny minority of Americans, however, believe in animal *rights*. They want to eliminate every human interaction with animals, without exception. Animal rights activists believe insects and babies are morally equivalent—and that since "animals are people too," no man, woman, or child should benefit from the use of animals.

3. **The primary difference between PETA and HSUS is that PETA is honest about its beliefs.**

   PETA spells out its goal of "total animal liberation" right on its website. But most Americans don't understand that HSUS shares the very same agenda. In its 1980 annual meeting, HSUS formally resolved to pursue the "establishment of *the rights of all animals* within the full range of American life and culture" [emphasis added]. Most of HSUS's current leaders come from the animal *rights* school of thought. Many of them are former PETA employees.

4. **PETA is increasingly irrelevant; its main purpose is to make HSUS appear moderate by comparison.**

   If PETA didn't exist, most of HSUS's goals would be (correctly) seen as quite radical. But PETA routinely throws red paint, attacks politicians with pies, and parades its naked interns on street corners—allowing HSUS to promote the same extreme agenda as PETA while appearing comparatively reasonable.

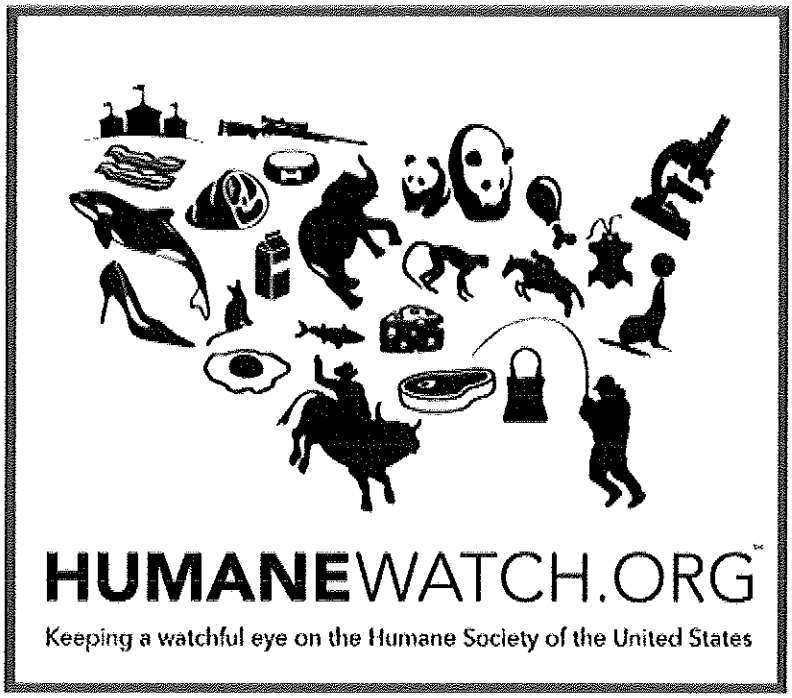
5. **HSUS's CEO is an outsider, not a stakeholder, in how farm animals are cared for.**

   Like the leaders of other animal rights groups, HSUS top dog Wayne Pacelle is a strict vegan. He has sworn that he will never eat meat, eggs, or dairy foods. But unlike labor union negotiators, who have a strong interest in making sure their corporate adversaries stay in business, Pacelle's main goal is to completely shut down entire sectors of the American economy—including animal agriculture, pet stores, shooting sports, the fur trade, *in vivo* biomedical research, zoos, and aquariums.

6. **Many Americans are in an endless war with HSUS—even those who don't want to be.**
   HSUS will keep attacking American farmers and ranchers, hunters and fishermen, pet owners, biomedical research scientists, zookeepers, and many others because it has no reason to stop. On the contrary, HSUS funded its employee pension plan to the tune of $11 million during the first six years of Wayne Pacelle's presidency: The group is training a new generation of young leaders who plan to be agitating long enough to collect these benefits when they retire.

7. **Abraham Lincoln was right: "Public opinion is *everything*."**
   Less than 1 percent of Americans are vegan, but 83 percent have a favorable opinion of HSUS. This high public-approval rating has come about only because HSUS's leaders intentionally deceive the public about their goals and intentions.

8. **All conventional wisdom is flexible, but there is no such thing as a "public-opinion tooth fairy."**
   If more Americans understood what HSUS really is, what it does, and what its leaders want, the group's public approval rating would be a fraction of what it is today. But making that happen will require people who care about the outcome to roll up their sleeves and actually *do something*. The documented facts at **HumaneWatch.org** are powerful ammunition, but loading the cannons and firing them is up to you.



To learn more, visit **www.HumaneWatch.org** and **Facebook.com/HumaneWatch**

The wolf in sheep's clothing:

Established in 1954, HSUS began as an animal welfare organization. Over the years HSUS assimilated leaders and ideas from other organizations in the animal rights movement, such as PETA and Animal Liberation Front (ALF), gradually moving closer to the complete animal rights ideology it maintains today.

Amazingly, many people still believe that HSUS funds and operates local Humane Societies and are unaware that the majority of its funds are actually used to further the animal rights agenda.

Through effective marketing and campaigns to solicit funds directed at the public's natural love of animals, HSUS has grown to be a household word and an industry giant worth over $200 million. The goal of the animal rights movement is to end all animal use. However, this uncompromising position supporting no pets, no livestock, and a vegan lifestyle is not capable of generating millions of dollars in annual donations from mainstream America. Therefore HSUS campaigns are cloaked with half truths and labeled as protection for animals.

Researcher and author Daniel T. Oliver writes: "the animal rights movement will continue to harm both people and animals as long as Americans fail to understand its actual agenda."

SAOVA

Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance

The Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance (SAOVA) is a nationwide, nonpartisan group of volunteers seeking to elect politicians who will oppose the "Animal Rightist" (AR) threat to our rights as Americans.

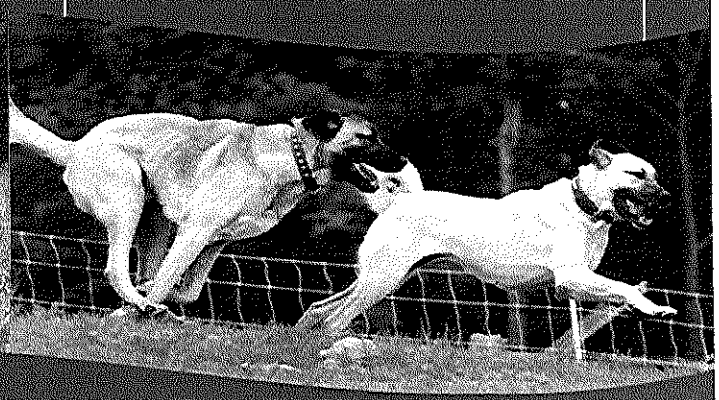
SAOVA is the only national group working to protect both sportsmen and animal owners, natural allies, in the legislative and political arenas. Our members hunt, fish, own and breed livestock, dogs, cats and other animals.

SAOVA remains, as always, in the forefront of animal owner legislation to protect your interests

SAOVA
PO Box 612, Spencer NC 28159
www.saova.org ■ saova@earthlink.net

HSUS
The Humane Society of the United States

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing



Quotes from HSUS leaders:

"It's really about human behavior and less about the animals. Animals for the most part just need to be left alone." Wayne Pacelle speaking on animal rights, LA Times interview July 2008.

"nothing is more important than promoting veganism." Paul Shapiro, senior director of HSUS Factory Farming Campaign, 2004 National Student Animal Rights Conference.

"We want Americans to eat fewer animals," Wayne Pacelle, HSUS CEO, Welfare's Political Animal, DVM Magazine, January 1, 2008.

If we believe in evolution, then we believe that humans come from other animals and the differences between us and them are differences of degree and not kind," Wayne Pacelle, Washington Post August 9, 2004, Vegan in the Henhouse.

"The entire animal rights movement in the United States reacted with unfettered glee at the Ban in England ...We view this act of parliament as one of the most important actions in the history of the animal rights movement. This will energize our efforts to stop hunting with hounds." Wayne Pacelle, CEO, Humane Society of the US (HSUS), London Times, December 26, 2004

"..your everyday meat-eaters and cosmetics users; they are not vivisectors, they are not slaughterhouse operators, and they have basic feelings of compassion. But they are accustomed to eating, wearing, and using animal products, and they need to be convinced to give them up. They can be won over—slowly but surely they are being won over—....." Michael Markarian. Executive VP Humane Society of the United States

Anti breeder campaign:

HSUS is relentless in its efforts to introduce "puppy mill" legislation to regulate dog breeders. The name alone generates sympathy from the uninitiated. The bill is presented as if abusive situations are the norm rather than the exception thereby rationalizing the need for government to step in and set standards for breeding, care, housing, allowable numbers and sales for the entire dog breeding community, eventually regulating breeders out of existence.

There is no legal definition of "puppy mill", which is a derogative, slanderous term used to paint all breeders with the same brush. In true activist style, vilifying dog breeders across the board makes the job of criminalizing dog breeding much easier.

HSUS would like the general public to believe that they are not against pet ownership or pet breeding but only against the worst forms of cruelty. One of the most demanding tasks that dog (and cat) breeders face is to unmask the true HSUS agenda. HSUS does not change its mission to eliminate animal use and ownership – only its tactics.

HSUS has a long history of opposition to purposeful breeding. In 1991 HSUS launched its "Until There Are None, Adopt One" campaign urging the public away from both breeders and pet stores. "Don't breed dogs, don't buy, don't even accept giveaways" became the motto.

In 1993 HSUS took the anti breeder campaign to a whole new level with the announcement of a new campaign calling for a one year **Moratorium** on dog and cat breeding. In a press release for the campaign the HSUS announced it had prepared legislative guidelines to promote the enactment of local breeding moratoria and mandatory sterilization laws.

The real HSUS agenda:

"...many activist groups such as PETA, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Farm Sanctuary have used falsehoods and scare tactics to push their hidden agendas of fundraising and systematically abolishing all use of animals including production agriculture, zoos, circuses, and sporting events. These groups campaign for animal "rights," which is not synonymous with animal welfare, using half-truths or complete deception. -- *Testimony of former Congressman Charles W. Stenholm to the House Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry, May 8, 2007*

"Today, the [animal rights] movement is defined by the Humane Society of the US and its president, Wayne Pacelle. When Pacelle joined HSUS as vice president, he declared he would create the "NRA (National Rifle Assn.) of animal rights, and he's well on his way. The organization leverages its public image as a dog/cat, spay/neuter, pet adoption group, positioning itself as "moderate" in comparison to the PETAs of the movement. When you peel away the layers of public image, you're left with an HSUS agenda that is anything but moderate, and not too radically different than that of PETA. You need only look at the organization's legislative agenda, the comments of some of its officers, to see where HSUS would eventually hope to see animal agriculture wind up." *Steve Kopperud, Policy Directions, Farm Animal Welfare Coalition (FAWC) chair. Cattle Network Interview 11/17/08*

"HSUS sponsored legislation goes far beyond its superficial intent, placing severe restrictions on the rights of law-abiding animal owners and sportsmen." *SAOVA*

The New York Times nytimes.com

August 1, 2007

Government Makes a Case, and Holds Dogs as Evidence

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT

SURRY, Va., July 31 — More than 60 dogs seized from Michael Vick's property have been sheltered here and in kennels across several counties in southeastern Virginia since April.

The dogs' fate has been undecided while the government investigates a suspected dogfighting ring that federal prosecutors say was run from the property. The dogs are considered evidence and, eventually, will probably be euthanized.

"Officials from our organization have examined some of these dogs and, generally speaking, they are some of the most aggressively trained pit bulls in the country," Wayne Pacelle, the president and chief executive of the Humane Society of the United States, said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "Hundreds of thousands of less-violent pit bulls, who are better candidates to be rehabilitated, are being put down. The fate of these dogs will be up to the government, but we have recommended to them, and believe, they will be eventually put down."

Pacelle said the Humane Society normally advocated that fighting dogs be put down shortly after being seized.

"Four months is a long time, a long time to be warehoused," he said. "They may be walked only once a day, if that. We don't know how well they are being kept. They are likely being held in cages for months on end."

But Pacelle said his organization supported the government's efforts. "It is lose-lose for the dogs," he said. "They either die a gruesome death as a dogfighter in action, or they will be killed because they are not adoptable."

A spokeswoman at the United States attorney's office in Richmond described the dogs as part of the investigation and would not discuss the government's plans for them.

Vick, 27, and three others — Tony Taylor, 34, of Hampton, Va.; Purnell A. Peace, 35, of Virginia Beach; and Quanis L. Phillips, 28, of Atlanta — pleaded not guilty last week to charges related to a dogfighting operation that the authorities said was called Bad Newz Kennels.

On Monday, Taylor pleaded guilty and agreed to help prosecutors make their case. He signed a 13-page statement confirming much of what the government stated when it indicted the four men July 17. The 18-page indictment uses graphic detail in describing the animal cruelty the men are accused of. It states that

during a search of Vick's property in Surry County in April, 54 pit bulls were recovered, along with a so-called rape stand used to hold dogs for mating, and a treadmill modified for dogs.

More charges are expected in the case, and a trial has been scheduled for November. Vick, the star quarterback of the Atlanta Falcons, has been suspended indefinitely by the National Football League.

Tyrone W. Franklin, the county administrator for rural Surry County, had to sort out where the dogs were placed.

Twelve of them went to the small Surry Animal Control Pound, which is less than 10 miles from Vick's property, down a gravel road behind acres of trees. Franklin sought help from surrounding counties and shelters to take the other dogs.

The commonwealth attorney for Surry County, Gerald G. Poindexter, initially took control of the animals and had them kept alive as part of a local investigation into the dogfighting. In June, the federal government served a warrant to the county to seize control of the dogs. Surry County taxpayers had been expected to pay up to $25,000 for the dogs' care throughout the case, according to a report in May by The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, Va.

Franklin said dogs normally remained in the county's pound up to 14 days. "They are either adopted or euthanized by then," he said.

The dogs have remained in those locations while the local and federal investigations have continued. No one from the public is permitted to see them, said James Smith, the county's animal control officer.

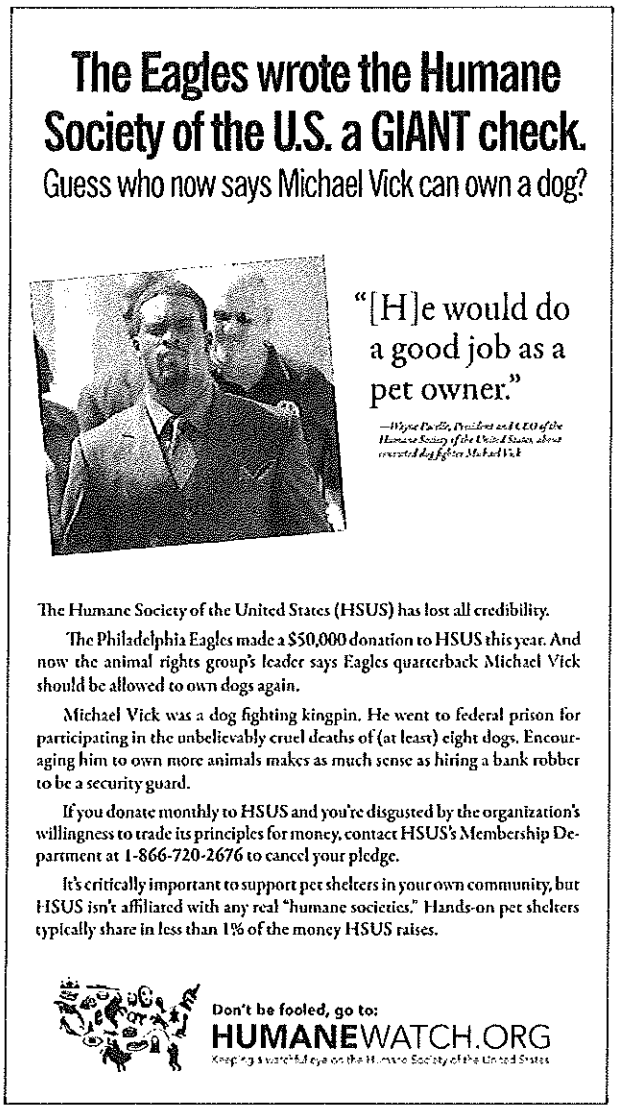
On Tuesday, the dogs were yelping from within the pound while Smith sat in his truck with a shotgun next to him. He said he did not know what would become of the animals.

"They are in good shape," he said. "They are not violent to humans."

HSUS's Michael Vick Scandal Hits The New York Times

If you haven't heard the shocking news, here it is: Last Wednesday Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) CEO Wayne Pacelle told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that convicted dog-fighting kingpin Michael Vick "would do a good job as a pet owner." It was a slap in the face to animal-loving Americans from the president of a group whose very name suggests a deep and abiding concern about dogs and cats. (Why would Pacelle and HSUS side with a violent felon over his furry victims? A $50,000 check from Vick's Philadelphia Eagles team might have something to do with it.)

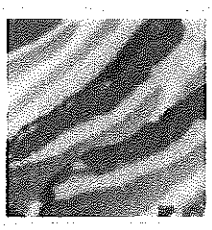
We used this opportunity to educate Americans about HSUS's willingness to bend its principles for money. Despite its name, the "Humane Society" of the United States isn't affiliated with any hands-on pet shelters, and it gives a symbolic pittance toward the financial support of pet shelters (something many Americans aren't aware of). Yesterday we placed a full-page ad in *The New York Times* to give concerned HSUS donors information about how to stop funding this deceptive group. (Click to enlarge.)



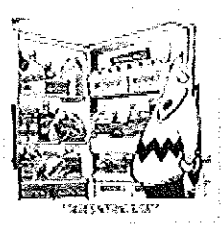
How did the ad play? Wayne Pacelle is in full damage-control mode. If you call HSUS's membership department to cancel your monthly donation (1-866-720-2676), you're met with a personal message from Pacelle spinning his statement about Vick and attacking us.

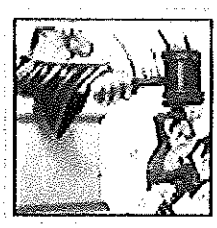
This indicates that HSUS is taking a big hit from Americans who see through its year-end factory-fundraising promotion. We're just glad Pacelle stepped outside of his PR bubble and was honest with the *Journal-Constitution* reporter. His own words are providing Americans with a rare look into what makes HSUS tick: money.

You might like:


A Veganism Story that's Wrong


America's real obesity crisis


There's nothing to eat!


PETA in Double Court Trouble?

THE MYTH OF OVER POPULATION IN REGARD TO SHELTER ANIMALS

Linda Tilley
North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance
February 2006

There are dogs, puppies, cats and kittens killed every week in this country's animal shelters. These deaths are a sad and inexcusable fact.

To listen to the media reports, the number of animals in shelters is all the fault of dogs/cats being bred. If you breed, then more will be killed in shelters. If you buy a dog or cat then you are supporting breeders and one more will die in a shelter. The animal rights movement promotes that breeders are evil. To allow your dog/cat to reproduce makes you lower than dirt. Heaven forbid if you actually planned the event. Wanting to purchase a pet with a certain look, behavior and wanting it for a specific purpose makes you a bad person. According to the media and animal rights activists, over population (breeding) is the reason for all of the shelter deaths.

A large portion of the general public has been lead to believe these theories. These are only theories because reliable, credible statistics have not and are not being kept at an overwhelming majority of shelters as to why animals are being surrendered. There are some sections of this country that are importing dogs from foreign countries because of a lack of local dogs available for adoption. Large numbers in shelters seem to be regional not necessarily national.

My main question has always been -- Why are there dogs and cats at animal shelters in the first place?

According to Chief Cathy Hartley, Granville County Animal Control, "The main reason for animals in our shelter is irresponsible pet owners. It doesn't matter if it is a mix breed mutt or a high dollar purebred. It doesn't matter if it belongs to a drug dealer on one street or a professional living on another. It's irresponsible owners".

If the owners of those animals surrendered at shelters would accept responsibility for those animals then the shelter would not have to deal with the numbers that have to be killed. Those numbers would not then be deceptively used to impact the lives of responsible animal owners.

Just a quick note: there is a huge difference between animal rights and animal welfare. Animals don't have rights; people do, in my opinion. But, people do have responsibilities towards animals. Animal rights activists generally believe that humans should not use animals in any way. That includes having pets (slavery is their term), for food, research or any other use or association. There should be no

domestic animals. Animal welfare is where people feel responsibility to care for, use and live with animals humanely. Please be sure of the agendas (often hidden) of organizations you choose to support. Some animal rights groups have been determined to be domestic terrorists by the FBI. Other AR groups, while not actively participating in terrorist activities, financially support the groups that promote violent activities. Make sure you are supporting what you think you are supporting.

If you choose to neuter or spay your animal then they will not reproduce. If you choose not to neuter or spay then keep your animal home and don't allow it to roam. Many cities, communities and counties have leash laws currently on the books. These existing laws need to be enforced before new laws are written. If your animal isn't allowed to roam it will not be randomly breeding, bothering your neighbor, their property or livestock. Roaming dogs, whether in a pack or a single, can frighten people, fight with other dogs, kill livestock or other dogs or cats, injure people and destroy property. It isn't the dogs or cats fault, they are just being who they are, but it is sure the fault of their owner.

Did your dog or cat have babies that you want to take to the shelter? Have you tried to find them homes? Run ads? Ask friends or neighbors if they want a new pet? Taking them to the shelter should be your last option not your first choice. The shelter has enough to do without irresponsible owners contributing to the problems. Is your pet sick or old? Does it cost too much to care for it? Did your kids grow up and now you just don't want the thing? Did you take on more than you can handle? Did you make the wrong breed choice? Do you work 60 hours a week and don't have time? Did the animal's owner die and it ended up at a shelter? Does it have behavior problems? Did it pee on the floor; again? Did it jump on the kids? Or does it bark all night? Did it get too big? Turn out to be the wrong color or shed? Again, the animal didn't cause the problem but, in most cases, the owner's irresponsibility to solve the problem caused the animal to end up at a shelter.

These are but some of the reasons why animals end up being abandoned or surrendered to shelters. While some situations are legitimate reasons for surrender, they are the exception not the rule. A shelter should be the considered only after you have exhausted all other paths.

Most of the reasons for surrender seem to cluster around behavior/training issues, lack of animal care knowledge and owners not knowing what the resources are available that can help. Of course, you will still have a certain segment of people who just don't give a dang. Owner irresponsibility is far reaching. Not only does irresponsibility impact the animals themselves, but it also impacts neighbors, the community at large while at the same time overburdening shelters and rescue groups. Irresponsibility also impacts the rights of others to responsibly use and enjoy their own animals by giving fuel to the animal rights movement. Not only are you doing a disservice to yourself and your own animals, you have become a pawn in the animals rights agenda.

National Animal Interest Alliance

Sunday, October 13, 2013

8 Things You (Probably) Didn't Know About U. S. Dog Shelters

1. Tax Supported Shelters Usually Can't Reject Dogs

No-kill and private shelters have been criticized for skimming the cream of abandoned dogs and letting public, tax-supported shelters deal with all the sick, aggressive and elderly dogs.

There is truth to this. If you take Fido to a no-kill shelter, you may be required to have a clean bill of health from a veterinarian before the shelter will accept him. People who won't or can't afford this leave Fido at the county shelter.

2. Owners May Not Have Told the Truth

The most common reasons given for turning in a dog is that the owner is moving or divorcing and can't take Fido with him.

That may be true but begs the question of why didn't the owner try to place the dog himself? If you paid $1000 for a purebred or loved your dog, it's likely you'd try to find a good home for him (if not resell him).

The dogs that wind up at shelters may be dogs that aren't socialized or trained, and owners are too embarrassed to admit their dog is out-of-control.

Some shelters claim they don't take puppy mill dogs, but how could they possibly know the dog's background.

3. Some Adoptions Don't Take

Be sure to ask the shelter if the dog had been placed previously. You may be surprised at how many dogs are re-homed and then sent back to the shelter.

A 2013 study by the American Humane Association revealed that one in every 10 adopted pets is returned to a shelter, given away, lost or dead within six months.

People mean well but if they don't have much experience with dogs, they may be overwhelmed by how much time and effort it takes to care for a normal dog, let alone one with behavior problems.

4. Shelters Serve Their Needs, Not Yours

Financial support for a shelter is often tied to its success in getting dogs adopted.

Some shelter volunteers or employees believe every dog should be adopted (rather than risk euthanasia) and place dogs even when they have shown signs of aggressive behavior such as guarding food or toys.

Some shelters permit adoptions of small dogs with behavior problems that they would never allow in larger dogs.

To their shame, some shelters and rescue groups even rehome dogs that have bitten people.

If your local newspaper has columns on dog placements, note how often the shelter claims all the dog needs is a loving home, but he shouldn't be in homes with small children or other pets.

5. Your Dog May Bark in Chinese

Thanks to the publicity campaigns to get people to spay or neuter dogs, some shelters are running low on popular small dogs and puppies. They ensure a sufficient supply of adoptable dogs by importing them from foreign countries.

Visit the website of the Taipei Abandoned Animal Rescue Foundation to see how happy they are to have placed so many dogs in the United States from the Humane Society of Snohomish County, WA to Pets Alive, a
no-kill shelter in Middletown, NY.

Shelters are exempt from many import laws and have no federal requirements to quarantine the dogs or ensure they are free of parasites and diseases before they place them.

Does that sound paranoid? Ask the six Massachusetts residents who had to take rabies shots because a shelter imported a rabid puppy from Puerto Rico. The puppy was too young to have his rabies vaccinations completed, but shelters need puppies to satisfy their clients.

6. Laws Don't Necessarily Apply to Non-Profits

Despite the hysteria you read about buying puppies from pet shops, you should realize that at least pet stores have to obey federal, state and local laws.

Often these laws do not apply to non-profits or community shelters. State puppy lemon laws may not apply either.

The most frequent complaint I get about shelters/rescue groups from would-be adopters is discrimination. One lady was told that at 55-years of age she was too old to adopt a puppy! Good luck finding an agency to investigate a complaint.

Non-profits get away with things that would land Wal-Mart in the headlines.

7. Shelters Are Not Dens

Not all dogs do well at shelters. Some dogs adjust to kennel life but others become fearful, frustrated, and overactive which makes them even less likely to be adopted.

Many shelters simply do not have sufficient staff to exercise and play with each dog to the degree the dog needs to become socialized.

It's also extremely difficult to prevent the spread of diseases when you have so many dogs in one location. There's a reason canine infectious tracheobronchitis is popularly known as "kennel cough."

8. Old Dog, Big Dogs and Pit Bull-mixes Dominate

People often go to a county shelter for a puppy or small dog. What you're most likely to find are old and frail dogs, big dogs and pit pull mixes (assuming your area allows these for adoption).

Many people do not want to be bothered with a dog that requires ongoing medical care or isn't physically able to do the things they used to do.

Before you make a decision based only on sympathy, consider whether you have the financial resources and time to take on special needs dogs.

Look honestly at your lifestyle, environment and social life before you make an emotional choice.

If you're never had a dog before, this is not the time to adopt a fully grown Pit Bull!

Bottom Line

My goal is not to convince you to avoid shelter dogs but to encourage you to be realistic and put away the rose colored glasses.

The Internet is filled with romantic claptrap that would make you think Lassie is waiting for you at the county shelter.

Happily-ever-after is more likely to happen if you are an experienced dog owner with the time, understanding and patience to work on any problems you encounter.

If you're inexperienced, you may be better off going to a breeder or rescue group that can help match you with a dog suitable to your personality and lifestyle.

They also can be a resource for you for the rest of your dog's life.

Think before you make a decision purely on emotion.

At shelters as in marriage: marry in haste, repent in leisure

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Westport News Weekly Column

06880 **By Dan Woog**

Where Westport meets the world

A Humane Policy?

Posted on July 27, 2011

In his long career as a Coleytown Middle School phys ed. teacher, Ron Weir was well known for lavishing care and attention on every child. Less well known is his interest in animals. But that's an important interest too. Over the years, Ron has adopted 5 dogs from the Westport branch of the Connecticut Humane Society. A couple of months ago, he picked up an 8-year-old dalmatian mix.

The man Ron hired to install an invisible fence on his property said the dog had "kennel cough." The next day, Ron took Precious to the vet. The dog was diagnosed with heartworm.

The Humane Society has a 30-day policy for visiting a vet. Ron called the Society, and described the potentially fatal parasitic disease. The Humane Society said to bring the dog back. His vet, however, said that — because of Precious' age and illness — that meant it would be euthanized. "I love this animal," Ron says. "That's unacceptable."

He took Precious to several veterinarians. One — a heart specialist in Shelton — thinks he can save the dog. Ron had spent $250 on a Humane Society insurance policy. But it paid only $1,500. So far, Ron has paid about $6,000 for the animal's care. He called the Humane Society in Westport — and the state office — to see if they could help with medical expenses. "The dog came from North

Carolina," Ron says. "My vet said there's a lot of heartworm down there. But the Humane Society never checked for it."

I called the Westport Humane Society, and asked about its policy if — after adoption — one of its animals is found to have a disease. "We don't provide care," a spokeswoman said. "All animals are spayed, neutered, and current in their shots." So, I continued, an owner has to pick up all medical expenses for a dog rescued from its facility? "Of course," she replied.

Ron thinks it's unfair that the dog was not tested for an endemic disease like heartworm. But, he says, he won't let Precious be put down. "I love her," he says. "I'm not going to lose her."

RESPONSES TO A HUMANE POLICY?

1. *Cyndi Antonio Crabbe* | July 27, 2011 at 8:34 am |

Cuddos to you Ron!!! God will Bless you in so many ways, but the true blessing comes from within where the his spirit lies.
I watched a special on TV last year about the Humane Society. The commericals we see where they are asking for donations, well, according to many Humane Society's they don't see a penny of that money! I now donate to local shelters abd mainly to the no kill ones. Maybe I should donate to others but I feel that the Humane Society isn't humane at all!!!! Our family had a run in with the one there in Westport back in the 70's. It wasn't pretty at all and that prompted my mother to get involved with Friends of Animals and P.A.W.S. She volunteered her time with them until she couldn't any longer due to illness. Best of luck to you and Preciuos!!!

2. *Linda Smith* | July 27, 2011 at 1:17 pm |

I'm glad that information about the CT Humane Society (and yes, never donate to a national "Humane Society" because it has no association with local state societies and passes along no donations) is being shared. We had a more minor but similar situation when we adopted a "8 month old kitty" for my mother, age 90. When I took him to the vet, the vet could tell he was really only 3 months old (why couldn't the CT Humane Society's vet tell that?) and he grew so HUGE that by 8 months he couldn't fit on my mother's small lap in the wheelchair. I too support PAWS and have adopted two stray cats and we just love them to death. Never again with the CT Humane Society.

3. *Dog lover* | July 28, 2011 at 6:42 pm |

It is so sad to hear stories like this. But when will people take the time to understand what's really going on here. Ct humane societies can play a crucial role in rescuing LOCAL dogs. The

problem is that there are nowhere near enough to offer those LOCAL people who want to do the right thing and rescue a puppy. So what most local humane societies have turned to is importing dogs from the deep South AS WELL as from places like Mexico and Puerto Rico and even the far east!!!!
This results in new strains of bacteria and even diseases that many local dogs have no immunity against. The dogs brought to us from far away often come from places where they never received proper vaccinations as a puppy and this can easily lead to many problems as the dogs get older. Heart worm is just one of dozens of things that one would have to check for in order to insure a dog is healthy but at a 250 or 300 adoption fee there is no money to do such tests.
There are actually shelters that make a profit off their $300 adoption fees and they simply need more dogs and puppies to get more adoption fees and the donations that frequently follow an adoption so they have resorted to importing all sorts of dogs from anywhere.
Ct Dept. of Animal Control has been aware of this issue for years and the Ct. Legislature just passed a law that takes effect October 1 of this year that will put limits on imports, require isolation periods and require multiple vet examinations and medical records before and after the animals enter Ct. The animal activists and rescue groups say that the cost of the new bill will put Ct shelters out of business because it will be too expensive for them to continue bringing dogs in from out of state and there isn't enough local dogs for them to rescue!
Gee is it better to bring sick dogs into the state that unsuspecting adopters have to spend thousands on as well as put our local dogs At risk of new illnesses?
Over 150000 dogs were brought into the. US last year from just Mexico and Puerto Rico. The animal activists won't tell you about that. They just want to make sure that you stay away from pet stores where dogs are examined, tested, vaccinated and guaranteed which is one of the reasons they cost more than at a shelter! DUH?
This is a very important story that no one wants to talk about. Maybe Dan should take the time to check it out. You would be both surprised and disappointed.

4. *Mary Ann West* | July 28, 2011 at 9:30 pm |

Wow, I for one will welcome a more stringent animal control law. Massachusetts has a similar one, which is why CT and NH have become the drop off points for the southern ship-ups, including those pets designated for MA families who come across the border. With an estimated 2 million animals put down every year due to lack of space in shelters, there is a huge surplus of pets needing homes, including puppies & kittens and a quarter of them are purebred. There are specific breed rescue groups across the country as well as local shelters and private rescue groups.

«

The Ugly Truth of Where Those Puppies in Online Sales Actually Live

by **Alicia Graef**

Last month the **International Fund for Animal Welfare** (IFAW) conducted the first public study examining the connection between Internet puppy sales and how they're keeping puppy mills in business.

*"Consumers opting to purchase puppies over the Internet are duped into believing they are buying from reputable breeders," **said** Ben Stein, Honorary Member, IFAW Board of Directors. "The cute puppy images shown on many seller websites hide the heartbreaking reality of the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in which the dogs are housed."*

The report, **How Much is that Doggie in my Browser? The Truth Behind Online Puppy Sales**, was released after investigators completed their analysis of data collected after spending just one day examining ads on nine websites — Animaroo, DogsNow, NextDayPets, PuppyFind, PuppyTrader, TerrificPets, Craigslist, eBayClassifieds and Oodle.

According to the report, on that one single day "there were a total of 361,527 advertisements for puppy sales posted. Within those ads, there were conservatively estimated to be 733,131 individual puppies advertised for sale that day (using the value of 2 for any advertised generically as more than one puppy or a "litter" for sale, which could actually have up to ten or more dogs in the litter depending on breed). Investigators captured and recorded 12,740 ads from these nine websites that day for analysis of basic data."

Of those, investigators examined nearly 10,000 ads using criteria established by a panel of experts to determine whether or not dogs in the ads were likely to be from a puppy mill, including whether potential owners were screened, whether sellers would only meet prospective buyers off of their property, how clean the puppies looked, whether multiple breeds were offered, whether refunds or return agreements were offered and whether puppies under eight weeks old were available, among other criteria.

According to the results, the site with the largest percentage of dogs likely to come from puppy mills was Animaroo, which scored 85 percent — followed by PuppyTrader with 64 percent, DogsNow with 62 percent, NextDayPets with 61 percent, PuppyFind with 55 percent and TerrificPets with 44 percent.Sadly, there is little that can be done to protect these dogs, thanks to a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) that allows online sellers to operate without any oversight.

"Most federal regulations designed to address the puppy trade pre-date the Internet and are insufficient in addressing the specific issues relating to online puppy sales," **said** Tracy Coppola, IFAW Campaigns Officer. "We launched our investigation to determine the scope and scale of the trade in an effort to better inform decision-makers as they are currently considering new policies to eliminate loopholes allowing this practice to continue."

In May, the USDA **announced a proposal** to regulate breeders who sell dogs online directly to the public by updating the 40-year-old definition of a "retail pet store" to close the loophole and impose the same regulations on these breeders as those faced by large-scale wholesale dealers under the AWA and would apply to those who breed more than four "female dogs, cats, and/or small exotic or wild mammals" every year. Brick and mortar pet stores have been exempt from regulations under the premise that people can actually go in and observe the health and well-being of animals before bringing them home.

"As America's demand for pet dogs grows, so does the number of online puppy sales," **said** Jeff Flocken, DC Office Director, IFAW. "This holiday season and beyond, we hope that consumers looking to add a new puppy to their family will not fall victim to the deceptive practices of puppy mill operators over the Internet. Instead, they should proactively take a stand against puppy mills by always adopting from local shelters, responsible local breeders and rescue facilities."

Will USDA tame the Wild West of Internet Pet Sales

By Raining Cats and Dogs, September 11, 2013 at 6:00 am


This dog was rescued from an unlicensed dog breeding operation.

If you're searching for a puppy or kitten online, you may not realize that the pretty websites selling pets are usually a front for kitten and puppy mills. As Internet commerce has exploded, laws regulating Internet pet sales lagged behind – until this week. Pet breeders involved in Internet pet sales must now face the same scrutiny as all other breeders licensed under the USDA thanks to a change in the Animal Welfare Act.

Under the new regulations, Internet-based businesses and other businesses that sell animals sight unseen must now be licensed and inspected. The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will ensure the pets they sell to the public through Internet pet sales receive minimum standards of care.

"For several years, I've referred to the Internet as the Wild West because no one has been minding the store," says Cari Meyers, founder of The Puppy Mill Project. "Consumers were constantly being lied to about the origin of the dogs – they're always posing on red velvet with a pretty bow. In reality, they're being bred in hellholes. It's about time we dispel the myth of where the dogs come from."

The majority of the Internet pet sales are really just fronts for backyard breeders or puppy mills. And, those breeding pets for Internet pet sites were not being inspected or regulated.

An audit by the Office of Inspector General three years ago found that over 80 percent of sample breeders selling on the Internet were not being monitored. No one was ensuring the pets' overall health or that the pets were being treated humanely.

"We're ecstatic that the USDA realized that there was no oversight on the Internet and that something had to be done for consumers," adds Meyers. "This is a big, bold step that needs to be taken and I think there are a lot of these mills and backyard breeders that will be going out of business. This will affect consumers in a positive way and cruel puppy millers in a negative way – they will have to abide by the same rules as the "breeders" not selling on the Internet."

METRO

Puppy farms and online sales blamed for rise in dog mortality rates

By Metro News Reporter Sunday 1 Sep 2013 6:54 pm

The Kennel Club is warning against buying puppies from possible farmers online.

Puppies bred in poor conditions to be sold online are said to be contributing to high death rates of the canines, as one in five die within the first six months of being purchased, according to a dog welfare organization. The research, compiled by The Kennel Club, points to a trend in which farms breed a large number of dogs for maximum profit and in questionable conditions. These include overcrowding – allowing disease to spread easily – as well as a poor diet. It said that many dogs which are bred in this way not only experience health problems but also behavioural ones.

The Kennel Club asked over 2,000 dog owners how they came about to own their puppy, where they purchased it from and what health complications the animal has experienced since they started looking after it.

According to their report, 17 per cent of people who bought their pet from the internet – particularly through social networking sites like Twitter – said it died within six months of being purchased. Also, 12 per cent from the same bracket claimed that their dog was in poor health and needed substantial medical treatment.

The organisation is calling on dog lovers to buy their pets from registered breeders or rescue centres and avoid making contact with suspected 'puppy farmers' on social networking sites.

'Whilst there is nothing wrong with initially finding a puppy online, it is essential to then see the breeder and ensure that they are doing all of the right things,' said Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club Secretary.

'This research clearly shows that too many people are failing to do this, and the consequences can be seen in the shocking number of puppies that are becoming sick or dying.'

The number of people buying puppies online has jumped from one in five to one in three this year.

New study investigates the Internet puppy trade across the U.S.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

A new investigation into online puppy sales highlights the *problem of the Internet being used as a tool for exploiting dogs and consumers.*

) bring awareness to the magnitude of the issue, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW- www.ifaw.org) today released its latest investigative report, How Much is that Doggie on my Browser? The Truth Behind Online Puppy Sales, marking the first publicly available large-scale examination of the connection between Internet puppy sales and suspected puppy mill operations.

The one-day investigation focused on over 12,000 advertisements representing a total of over half a million puppies for sale on nine major buyer-seller Internet websites on just one day. Six of these sites are dedicated primarily to the puppy market and three offer puppies amongst a variety of other commodities.

Employing the criteria set forth by a panel of experts, investigators further isolated the nearly 10,000 ads from the six puppy-specific websites and found that 62% of the ads qualified as "likely puppy mills."

"*Consumers opting to purchase puppies over the Internet are duped into believing they are buying from reputable breeders,*" said Ben Stein, Honorary Member, IFAW Board of Directors. "The cute puppy images shown on many seller websites hide the heartbreaking reality of the overcrowded and unsanitary conditions in which the dogs are housed."

Lacking the regulation assigned to some brick-and-mortar establishments, the)ternet has become a preferred platform for unscrupulous commercial facilities to sell puppies directly to innocent consumers who are unwittingly supporting the puppy mill industry.

"Most federal regulations designed to address the puppy trade pre-date the Internet and are insufficient in addressing the specific issues relating to online puppy sales," noted Tracy Coppola, IFAW Campaigns Officer. "We launched our investigation to determine the scope and scale of the trade in an effort to better inform decision-makers as they are currently considering new policies to eliminate loopholes allowing this practice to continue." The report also recommends that websites strengthen efforts to shut down puppy mill advertisements.

According to a recent survey from the American Pet Products Association, the number of dogs living in U.S. homes is at an all-time high -- more than 78 million and growing.

"As America's demand for pet dogs grows, so does the number of online puppy sales," added Jeff Flocken, DC Office Director, IFAW. "This holiday season and beyond, we hope that consumers looking to add a new puppy to their family will not fall victim to the deceptive practices of puppy mill operators over the Internet. About IFAW (the International Fund for Animal Welfare)

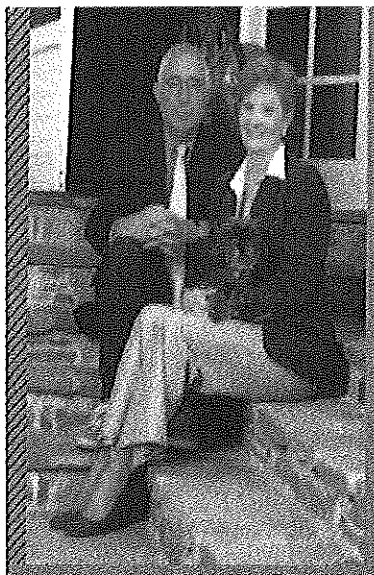
Founded in 1969, IFAW saves animals in crisis around the world. With projects in more than 40)untries, IFAW rescues individual animals, works to prevent cruelty to animals, and advocates for the protection of wildlife and habitats. For more information, visit www.ifaw.org. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

HOW MUCH IS THAT DOGGIE ON MY BROWSER?

THE TRUTH BEHIND ONLINE PUPPY SALES

IFAW

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE



Over the past decade, the public has increasingly moved from buying their dogs in person to buying their pet dogs online. Those in the market to purchase a new dog are now turning to their computer screens where they are instantly presented with images of what look to be adorable, tail-wagging, well-cared-for puppies.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The majority of the hundreds of thousands of puppies advertised for sale over the Internet are, in fact, almost certainly from large-scale commercial dog breeding operations commonly known as "puppy mills" where, among other atrocities, dogs are kept in cramped and unsanitary quarters without veterinary care and with little or no human socialization.

Although we do not know the exact number of puppy mills operating throughout the United States, we do know the harrowing conditions that befall the dogs that are housed in those facilities—from inadequate food and water, living in wire cages with wire flooring so their paws never touch the ground; to female dogs mated to produce litter after litter until they can no longer do so and are then killed. Make no mistake— these profit-seeking, unscrupulous breeders are placing emphasis on quantity breeding over quality care, at the cost of the welfare of millions of innocent dogs.

It is essential that the public learn the truth. Dogs are not just another commodity to be purchased from an anonymous seller online. They are living, breathing, thinking creatures that can experience happiness and suffering. And the Internet is unfortunately a platform ripe for exploiting these animals. Remember that each click to purchase a dog over the Internet could be building incentive for a puppy mill breeder to continue their operations.

Very often, dogs born in puppy mills get sick and die after they are brought home, which would naturally be devastating for any family. These nefarious facilities will only disappear when consumers stop buying from them—and that means only adopting or purchasing dogs from local animal shelters, rescue groups or breeders, where buyers can see firsthand the conditions in which all the dogs on the premises are kept. That is the only way to ensure that the puppy being brought home is coming from a reputable organization or breeder. And that automatically precludes puppy sales that are conducted exclusively online, where the buyer can just never be sure with whom they are dealing or the unnecessary suffering such transactions encourage.

In the pantheon of relationships, the one between humans and their pet dogs is for many Americans equal with that of human family members. And you would never consider buying a family member online, would you?

Sincerely,

Alexandra Denman *Ben Stein*

ALEXANDRA DENMAN
MEMBER
IFAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BEN STEIN
HONORARY MEMBER
IFAW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Summary

In the past decade, Internet marketplaces have become a major platform for commercial breeders to sell their puppies directly to the public, sight unseen and without regulation. The anonymous and unmonitored nature of online sales has also opened the door for unscrupulous breeders—who emphasize profit over animal welfare—to skirt existing laws designed to protect dogs from these inherently cruel high-volume operations, commonly known as "puppy mills."

Most federal regulations designed to address the puppy trade pre-date the advent of the Internet and are therefore not designed to address the specific issues relating to the online trade in puppies. To address this, on May 10, 2012, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced its proposal to create new federal regulations meant to expand its current monitoring to include some of the hundreds of thousands of dogs currently exploited through the Internet. However, the regulations are being considered without complete knowledge of the full scope and scale of the trade.

In an attempt to better inform decision-makers and create public awareness around the magnitude of the problem, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) launched its fifth comprehensive investigation into online sales of animals on the Internet and the first widespread public examination of the scope and scale of online puppy mill sales in the United States. The one-day investigation took place on July 18, 2012, and focused on nine major buyer-seller Internet websites; six dedicated primarily to the puppy market and three offering a host of other commodities, including puppies. From the six dedicated puppy sale sites, the investigators analyzed nearly 10,000 ads to determine if they were "likely puppy mill" sourced based on criteria developed by a panel of experts.

The results of the investigation showed that in just one day, on nine websites, well over 733,000 puppies were advertised for sale. The ads featured dozens of breeds, and prices ranging from $1 to thousands of dollars for a single puppy.

Looking at the nearly 10,000 ads from the six dedicated puppy seller websites—representing approximately 10% of total ads on these sites—the investigators estimated that 62% of the ads were "likely puppy mill" sourced. This number is thought to be conservative as the criteria was likely to miss more puppy mill ads then incorrectly identify reputable breeder ads as puppy mills.

The findings of this report will be used to (1) educate the public about the cruelty of puppy mills and dissuade consumers from buying puppies online, (2) encourage websites to strengthen efforts to block puppy mills from using their sights to post ads, (3) urge USDA to promulgate regulations that fully and effectively address puppy mill breeders using the Internet to exploit animals, and (4) lobby Congress to provide increased funding to the USDA Animal Care Program under the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in order to adequately enforce federal oversight of puppy sales online.

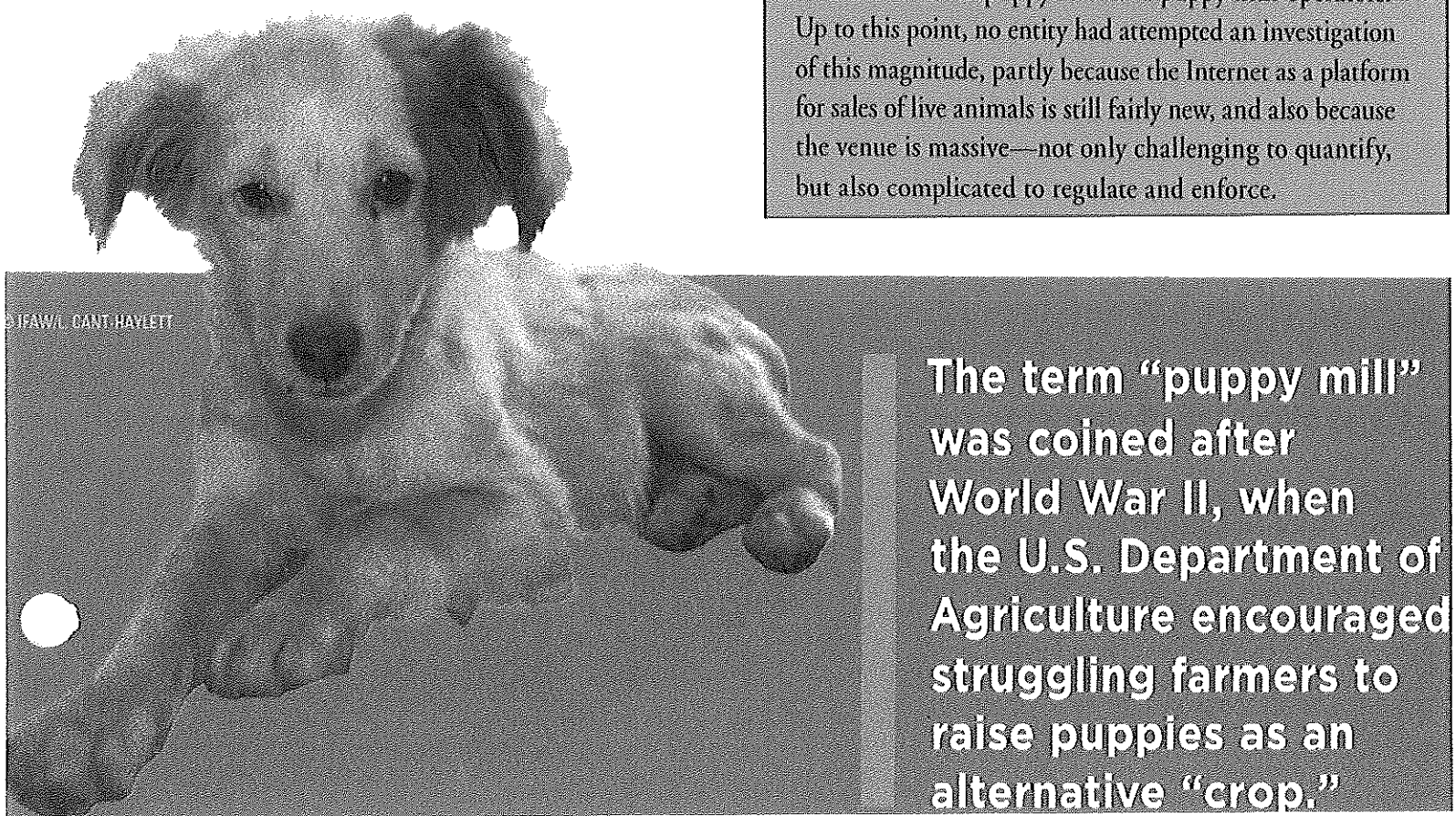
Introduction

On May 10, 2012, the U.S. Government announced a proposal to create new federal regulations in an attempt to better monitor and regulate the sale of certain pets—in particular, dogs. The declaration came as a response to decades of criticism of current policies failing to adequately protect hundreds of thousands of dogs from the horrors of certain commercial dog breeders putting economic gain over animal welfare—operations more commonly known as "puppy mills."

The term "puppy mill" was coined after World War II, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) encouraged struggling farmers to raise puppies as an alternative "crop." Today, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) estimates there could be as many as 9,000 to 10,000 high-volume commercial puppy breeders operating in the U.S.[1] Before the advent of the Internet, puppy mill puppies—sometimes younger than eight weeks old—were typically only sold to pet shops, usually through a broker, and strategically marketed to unknowing buyers.

Today, the Internet is a lead platform for puppy sales. While the newly proposed federal policies appear to be a step in the right direction of regulating puppy mill operations, any emerging regulations and accompanying enforcement strategies will be fatally flawed unless they are able to address the *full* scope and scale of the puppy trade over the world's largest marketplace: the World Wide Web.

Publication of this report marks the first publically available, large-scale investigation and examination of the connection between Internet puppy sales and puppy mill operators. Up to this point, no entity had attempted an investigation of this magnitude, partly because the Internet as a platform for sales of live animals is still fairly new, and also because the venue is massive—not only challenging to quantify, but also complicated to regulate and enforce.



© IFAW/L. CANT-HAYLETT

The term "puppy mill" was coined after World War II, when the U.S. Department of Agriculture encouraged struggling farmers to raise puppies as an alternative "crop."

Existing Regulations

The U.S. Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires certain commercial pet breeders—namely, those who sell wholesale and not to the end pet owner—to be licensed and routinely inspected by the USDA, and more specifically by the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS). This policy exists, in part, to "insure that animals intended for use... as pets are provided humane care and treatment"[2] The Act provides minimum care standards for a list animals by a host of possible owners, including but not limited to pet dealers. However for decades, USDA-APHIS has interpreted the Act to exempt "retail pet stores" from these requirements, and thus, anyone selling directly to a potential pet owner.

To this day, the exemption fosters a massive loophole that not only allows but encourages unscrupulous entrepreneurs in the dog breeding industry—some with well over 500 breeding dogs[3]—to sell directly to customers without any regulatory oversight via methods like newspaper ads or the telephone.

As admitted by USDA-APHIS since 2009,[4] this allowance flies in the face of the AWA "humane treatment and care" dictate. Because of the loophole, there are thousands of large-scale breeding facilities in the U.S. producing more than half a million puppies per year with no government oversight; these animals are forced to live—or, more appropriately, *survive*[5]—in the exact dramatically substandard conditions that the AWA was designed to prevent.

Investigations of these facilities by the USDA Office of the Inspector General and non-profit organizations have shown these dogs frequently living in starvation and filth, and irrecoverable bodily and mental harm as more the norm than the exception.[6] These puppy mill operators have caught the attention of the public, Congress, and animal advocates, all of whom have pointed-out that these dog breeders are exploiting the loophole in existing laws by selling most of these puppies directly to customers, sight unseen.[7]

Internet Commerce

In 1971, USDA-APHIS defined "retail pet store" to apply to outlers where pets were only sold to local consumers and thus subject to "a degree of self-regulation and oversight by persons who purchase animals from the retailers' homes."[8] However, the arrival of the Internet in the early 1990's drastically challenged the application of this definition, which was already being circumvented on a smaller scale with direct sales by phone and newspaper. "...[T]he definition was broadly interpreted to include Internet breeders because they also sell directly to consumers. However, these breeders are no longer limited to local consumers but can sell and transport animals nationwide... there is no degree of self-regulation and oversight because consumers do not have access to their facilities."[9]

As a result, Internet marketplaces have become a major platform for commercial breeders to sell their puppies directly to the public, sight unseen and without regulation. In minutes, consumers can view multiple advertisements for puppies all at once. And the numbers are staggering. According to the American Pet Products Association, 150,000 dogs were bought online annually as far back as 2006.[10] Given consumer demand and the soaring growth of the Internet, today's numbers are likely to be far higher.

The Internet is the world's largest marketplace, open 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. It is anonymous, unmonitored and practically unregulated. Within this untamed "Wild West", it is not surprising that profiteers have found ways to exploit the dog market, a continually booming business in the U.S.[11] "Many puppy mills directly sell the dogs they breed to consumers through...the Internet, often posing as small, family breeders,"[12] and many consumers have complained about the deaths and myriad health problems suffered by Internet-purchased puppies as a result.[13]

The USDA's recent proposal to reign in exploitation of dogs and other domestic animals over the Internet may help the situation. However, it will likely be years before the new policies are enacted, and to this day, commercial sales of dogs over the Internet remain unregulated and exploited.[14] Without a full understanding of the breadth of puppy mill sales online, the government will be hard-pressed to allocate appropriate resources to make a significant impact on this cruel cyber-trade.

The Investigation

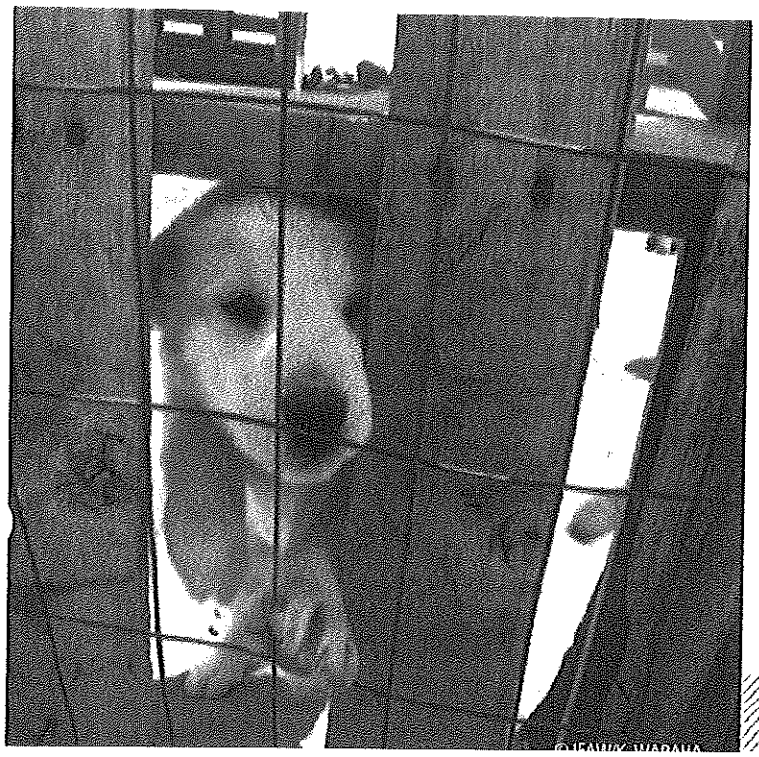
To better inform decision-makers and the public about the dangers and degree of the use of the Internet as a tool for exploiting dogs, the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) undertook an investigation in summer 2012. The goal of the investigation was to collect baseline data on the number of puppies advertised in the United States on the Internet daily, and more importantly, what percentage of such ads are suspected of being generated by puppy mill operations.

The investigation was undertaken because IFAW believes that individuals who allow dogs to breed have a responsibility to ensure the well-being of the breeding animals and their progeny. IFAW is deeply concerned about the prevalence of U.S. "puppy mills," as this commercially-induced cruelty results in systematic suffering of dogs with untreated illness, injury, and trauma stemming from lack of socialization. Moreover, the unmonitored nature of the Internet, as well as the ease of anonymous and efficient sales online, has opened the door for puppy mills to directly reach millions of potential buyers who then unknowingly stimulate this loathsome trade by buying puppies from what they are led to believe are reputable breeders online, but are, in fact, puppy mill operators engaging in one of the worst forms of animal exploitation.

Methodology

The basic methodology for the Internet investigation was modeled on the 2008 IFAW global investigation into the sale of endangered species products online. This investigation resulted in the widely distributed report *Killing with Keystrokes*[15] and is linked to the voluntary decision by eBay to ban the sale of animal ivory on all its buyer-seller websites around the world.

Prior to its defining methodologies, IFAW surveyed a number of industry leaders in anti-puppy mill advocacy to determine whether conducting a definitive investigation into the scope and scale of puppy mill sales online was feasible. Collecting this information provided insight into the vastness of this online trade.



In 2011, the Humane Society of the United States announced the findings of a three-month investigation into a single online seller who advertised puppy mill dogs on nearly 800 Web domains designed to appear like local breeders selling online.[16] Based on the breadth of just this one seller's advertising capabilities, as well as the omnipresence and ephemeral nature of postings on the Internet, IFAW determined that it would not be possible to track and investigate all sales occurring on the Web on any given day. Instead, the focus shifted toward creating manageable parameters in order to gain insight into the breadth of sales occurring, and to inform the public of the high percentage of sales online likely stemming from puppy mill sources.

To illustrate the extent of the problem in a practicable manner, IFAW concluded that concentrating on a finite number of websites conducting high-volume sales of puppies was most feasible. Thus, six high-volume puppy sale websites—Animaroo, DogsNow, NextDayPets, PuppyFind, PuppyTrader, and TerrificPets—and three large general buyer-seller platforms engaging in puppy sales—Craigslist, eBay Classifieds, and Oodle—were targeted. Even within this limited number of sites, trial runs determined that there would likely be in excess of a half-million dogs advertised online in a single day.

The parameter defining the scope of the puppy mill problem within the over-all scale of daily sales was developed by mirroring IFAW's *Killing with Keystrokes* methodology. Like puppy mill ads, the ads from the *Killing* investigation were of such volume and complexity that drilling down into each ad to determine with 100% certainty whether an ad was an actual offender rendered anything definitive implausible given the level of resources that would have been needed.[17] The *Killing* investigators circumvented this problem by creating three categories that ads were placed into based on the information found on the face of the individual ads: *Likely Compliant, Possible Violation,* and *Likely Violation.* With that classification scheme in mind, the puppy mill investigators created a panel of experts to develop criteria for determining a "likely puppy mill" designation based on information that could be found on the face of the ads being analyzed.

The expert panel consisted of four professionals: two puppy mill experts (one from IFAW and one from the ASPCA), an Internet investigation expert from IFAW, and a reputable hobby-breeder. The panel worked with IFAW investigators to create detailed criteria which all analyzed ads were run through to determine whether or not they were "likely a puppy mill." The panel acknowledged that usage of the criteria created a probability that a reputable hobby breeder would sometimes be inadvertently classified as "likely a puppy mill." However, as puppy mill operators are often masters of deception, they know how to manipulate their ads to make them appear above suspicion. Thus, the panel also recognized it was probable that numerous ads stemming from puppy mills would inadvertently be overlooked.

Results

Number of Total Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

7,631

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

1,280

Investigators captured ads tailored to 53 of the 316 breeds located on the site.* Investigators pulled 1,280 ads (17% of total ads) from 9am to 6pm.

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

1,502

This is a very conservative number, as 131 ads (over 10%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, and instead advertised "puppies for sale." In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised:

8,928

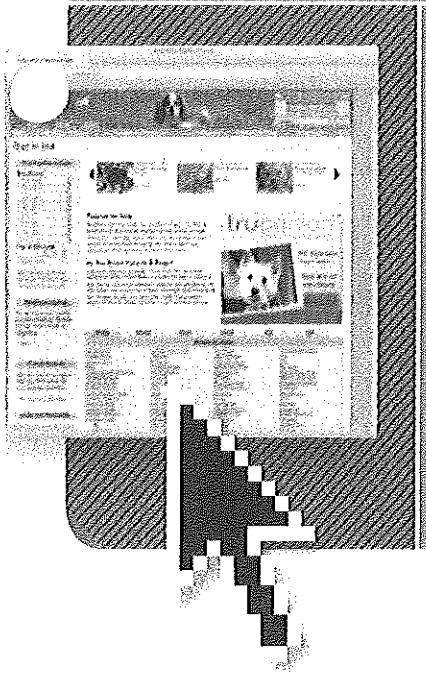
Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

86%

* Animaroo.com customized list of popular breeds: American Pitbull Terrier, Beagle, Bichon Frise, Bichon Poo, Border Collie, Boston Terrier, Boxer, Bull Terrier, Cavachon, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Chihuahua, Cockapoo, Cocker Spaniel, Dachshund, Miniature Daschund, English Bulldog, French Bulldog, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Goldendoodle, Great Dane, Havanese, Jack Russell Terrier, Jug, Labradoodle, Labrador Retriever, Lhasa Apso, Lhasapoo, Maltese,w Maltipom, Maltipoo, Mal-Shi, Miniature Pinscher, Miniature Schnauzer, Morkie, Papillon, Pekingese, Pomeranian, Standard Poodle, Toy Poodle, Pug, Puggle, Rottweiler, Schnoodle, Shih Poo, Schih Tzu, Shorkie, Teddy Bear, West Highland White Terrier, Westie Poo, Yorkiepoo and Yorkshire Terrier.

©IFAW/K. WAPANA

Dogsnow.Com

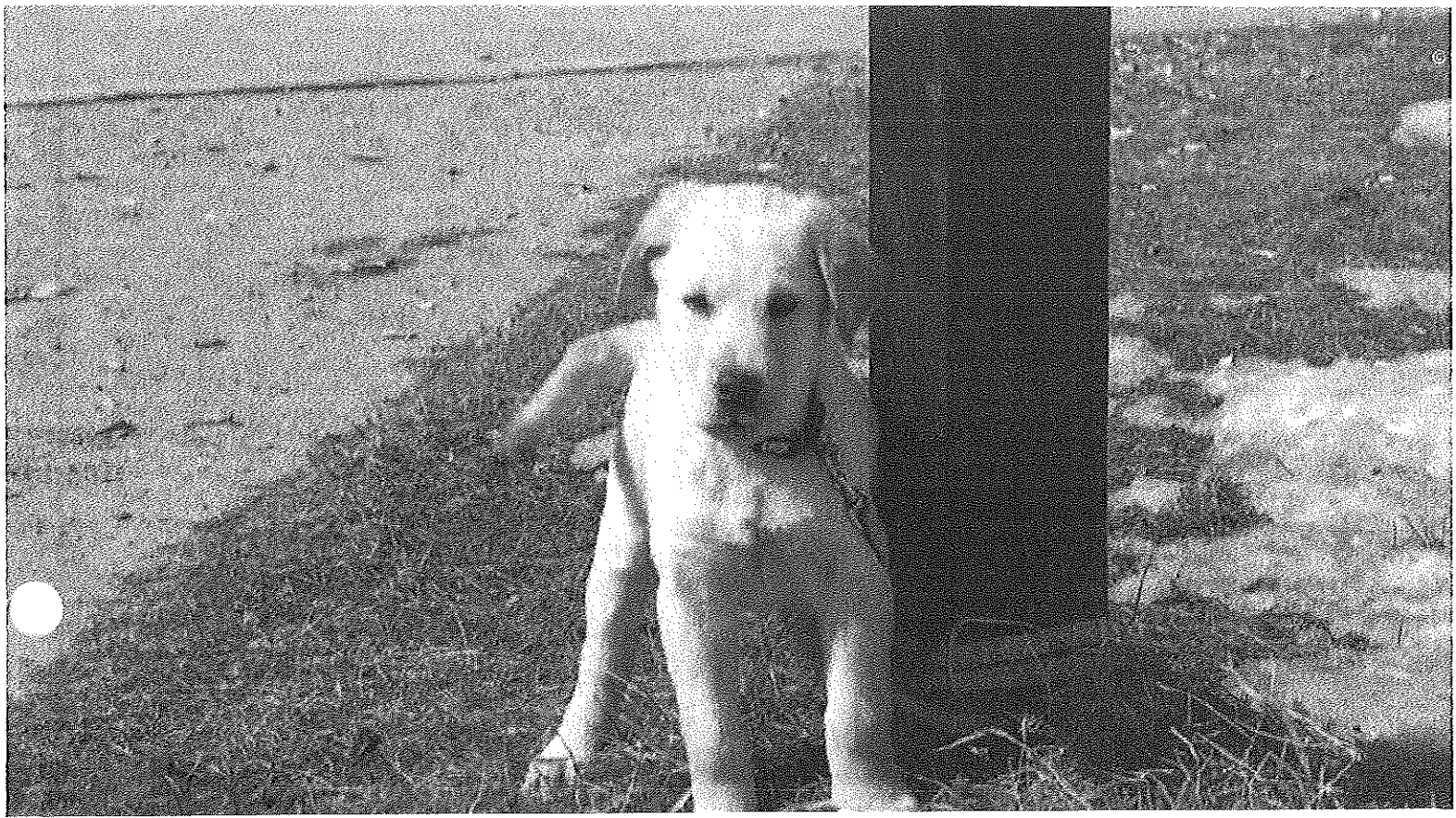


DogsNow, a service of Equinenow.com, is a California state-based business that operates as a platform for U.S. buyers and sellers of adult dogs and puppies.[23] By putting people directly in touch with breeders registered on the site according to the consumer's choice of breed and other customized preferences, DogsNow is designed to facilitate and simplify online sale of puppies and adult dogs. According to its Terms of Use, all negotiations are conducted between buyers and sellers. DogsNow is not a party to any transaction.[24]

For free, viewers can contact breeders after browsing according to breed, hybrid, state, color, sex, age, size, and group (working, toy, herding and so forth), city or zip code.

Animal Welfare Policy

DogsNow does not explicitly reference animal welfare concerns stemming from the puppy mill industry. However, the site references the potential for *consumer* exploitation within the puppy and adult dog market. The website does not control or otherwise participate in transactions between buyer and seller and thus warns the viewer that there are no guarantees regarding the health and welfare of the animal. The website offers a Buyer Safety link that encourages face-to-face dealing and warns the consumer to be wary of scams and fraudulent transactions.[25]



Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

37,238

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

2,189

Investigators captured ads tailored to 53 of the most popular breeds on DogsNow.com.* Investigators pulled 2,189 ads (5.88% of total ads) from 9am to 6pm.

*Dogsnow.com customized list of popular breeds: American Bulldog; Beagle; Bich-poo; Bichon Frise; Border Collie; Boston Terrier; Boxer; Bull Terrier; Chihuahua; Chorkie; Cockapoo; Cocker Spaniel; Dachshund; English bulldog; French bulldog; German shepherd; Giant Schnoodle; Golden Retriever; Goldendoodle; Great Dane; Havanese; Havanese and Poodle; Havanese PomTese; Jack Russell Terrier; Cavalier King Charles Spaniel; Labrador Retrievers; Labradoodle; Lhasa Apso; Lhasapoo; Malshipoo; Maltese; Maltipoo; Mini Snoodle; Miniature Pinscher; Miniature Schnauzer; Papillion; Pomeranian; Poodle; Pug; Puggle; Rottweiler; Shnoodle ; Shepadoodle; Shih poo; Shih poo Pomeranian; Shih-tzu; Standard Poodle; Toy Poodle; Westiepoo; West Highland White Terrier; White West Highland/Cairn Terrier; Yorkshire Terrier.

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

3,902

These are very conservative numbers, as 944 ads (over 43%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, instead advertised "puppies for sale." In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised :

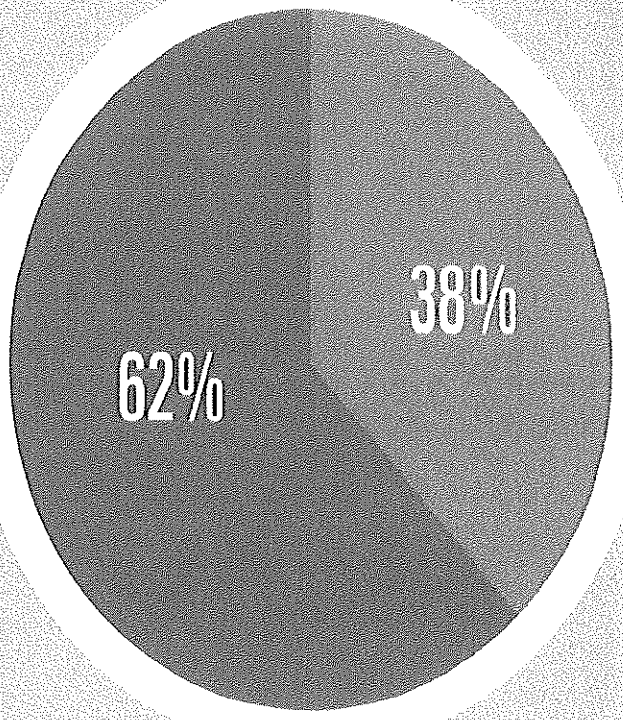
67,770

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

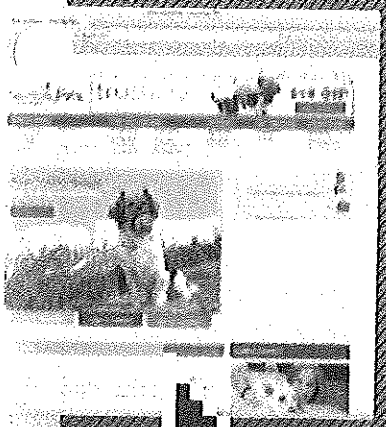
62%

PERCENT OF ADS "LIKELY" AND "NOT LIKELY" ASSOCIATED WITH A PUPPY MILL"

"LIKELY" _____ **62%**
"NOT LIKELY" _____ **38%**



Nextdaypets.Com



NextDayPets, LLC is a Maryland-based business that operates as a platform for U.S.-based buyers and sellers of puppies and adult dogs. Advertisements on the site can reach over three million visitors per month.[26] By putting people directly in touch with breeders registered on the site according to the consumer's choice of breed and other customized preferences, NextDayPets is designed to facilitate and simplify online sale of puppies and adult dogs.

For free, viewers can browse according to breed, age, group (working, toy, herding and so forth) and then contact the seller via email or phone. Sellers can list puppies and dogs within minutes by creating a free account and uploading photos and videos.

Animal Welfare Policy

NextDayPets requires that sellers abide by a Code of Ethics.[27] The Code has a number of requirements that pertain directly to puppy mills, such as: "I will maintain a safe, clean and sanitary facility for all pets you offer for sale or for stud service," and "I will not breed any male or female pets for sale until they are both physically and mentally mature enough to breed. I will not continue to breed any male or female pets for sale beyond the appropriate age for the breed."[28]

Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

20,028

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

2,147

Each investigator was given a list of breeds to pull ads from based on the number of ads posted for each breed. Using this system, investigators were able to capture 2,147 puppy ads for 46 breeds* (11% of total ads) from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

*Nextday.com customized list of popular breeds: American Bulldog; Beagle; Bichon Frise; Bichon-Poo; Border Collie; Boston Terrier; Boxer; Bull Terrier; Cavachon; Cavalier King Charles Spaniel; Chihuahua; Cockapoo; Cocker Spaniel; Dachund; English Bulldog; French Bulldog; German Shepherd; Golden Doodle; Golden Retriever; Great Dane; Havanese; Jack Russell Terrier; Labradoodle; Labrador Retriever; Lhasa Apso; Lhasapoo; Maltshih; Maltese; Maltipom; Maltipoo; Papillon; Pekingese; Miniature Pinscher; Pomeranian; Poodle (miniature , standard, toy); Puggle; Pug; Rottweiler; Schnauzer (miniature, grand, standard); Schnoodle; Shih Tzu; Shihpoo; West Highland White Terrier; Westiepoo; Yorkiepoo; Yorkshire Terrier.

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

4,120

These are very conservative numbers, as 1,911 (over 89%) of ads just advertised as "puppies for sale" with no specific number given. In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated, even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised :

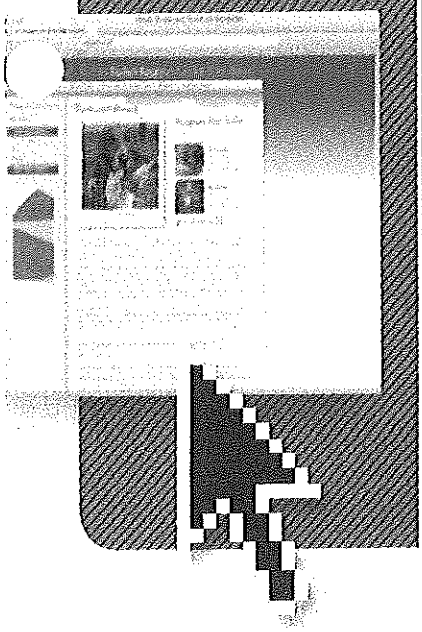
38,444

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

81%

©IFAW/J. HANNAH

Puppyfind.Com

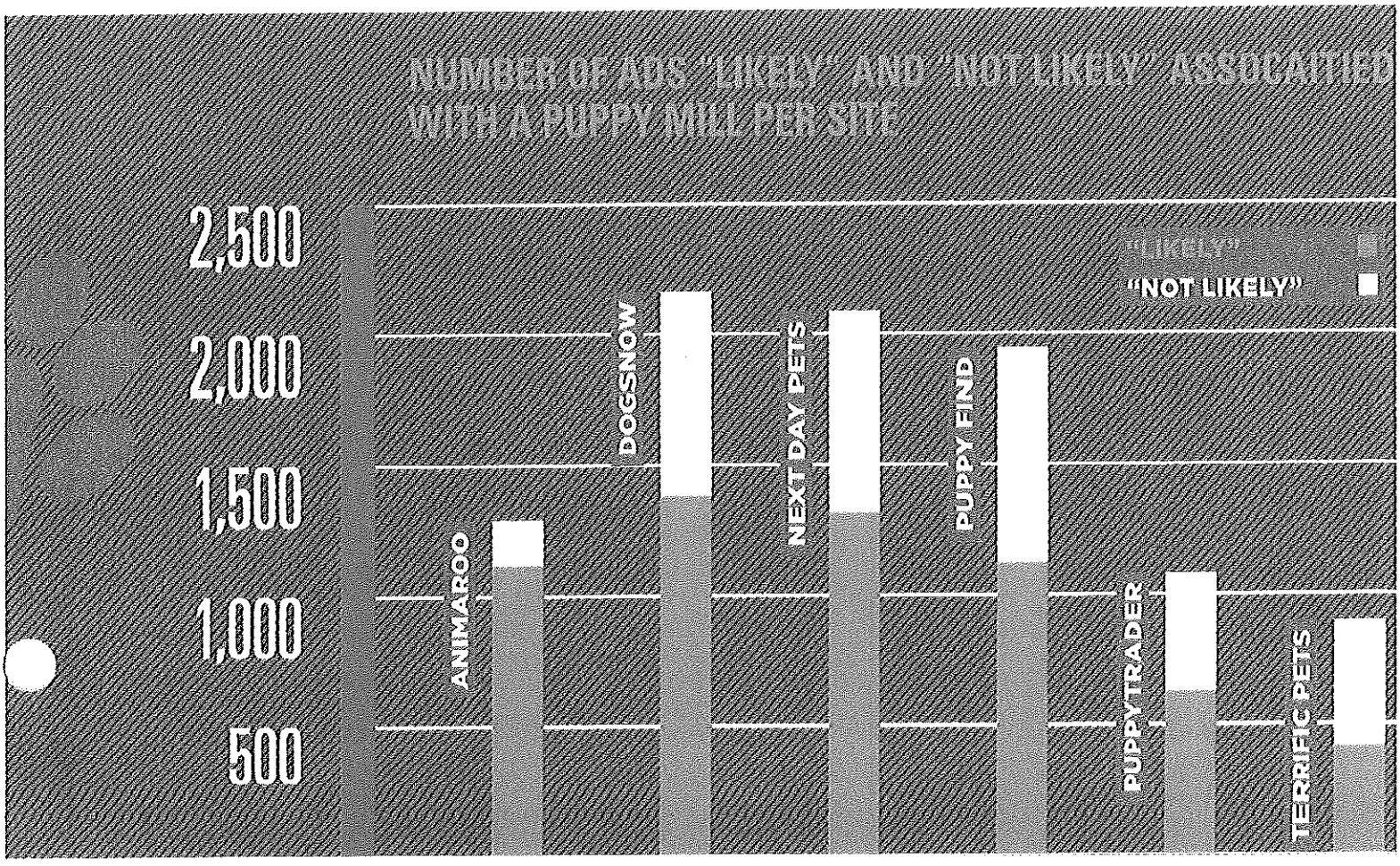


PuppyFind, LLC is an Arizona-based business that operates as a platform for buyers and sellers of puppies. Advertisements on the site can reach over 300,000 visitors per day.[29] By putting people directly in touch with breeders registered on the site according to the consumer's choice of breed and other customized preferences, PuppyFind is designed to facilitate and simplify online sale of puppies. All negotiations are conducted between buyers and sellers. PuppyFind is not a party to any transaction.

At no cost, viewers can either type in preferred breeds in a "search by keyword" box or browse breeds listed alphabetically. The viewer can then link to "Puppies for Sale" within that breed to view current listings and make purchase arrangements after filling out a registration form. On the day of the investigation, the site listed 720 different breeds.

Animal Welfare Policy

PuppyFind offers buyer tips that encourage the consumer to ask certain questions of the seller. Some of the questions allude to concerns directly related to puppy mill operations, such as: "May I see/visit where the puppies are raised?"; "How many litters do you have per year?"; "What happens to your retired breeding dogs?"; and "How many different breeds do you breed?".[30]



Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

25,811

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

1,984

Directly prior to the investigation, 1,984 puppy sale ads were collected (8% of total ads) from 9:00am to 6:00pm.

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

3,082

This is a conservative number given that 1,685 (85%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, instead advertised "puppies for sale". In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

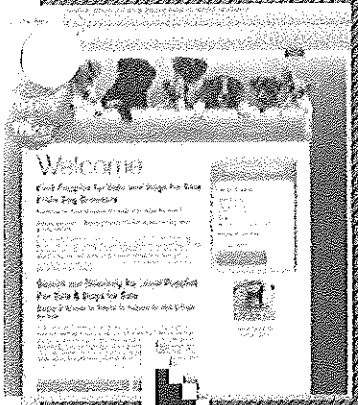
Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised:

40,815

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

56%

Puppytrader.Com



Puppytrader is a Pennsylvania-based business that operates as a platform for U.S. and Canada-based buyers and sellers of puppies and adult dogs.[31] By putting people directly in touch with breeders registered on the site according to the consumer's choice of breed and other customized preferences, Puppytrader is designed to facilitate and simplify online sale of puppies and adult dogs. The site emphasizes the importance of finding a quality breeder, whether locally or in other states. All negotiations are conducted between buyers and sellers. Puppytrader is not a party to any transaction.

Puppytrader provides the online viewer with various means of achieving search results for specific breeds. The day of the investigation, the site listed 106 different breeds.

For free, viewers can search for puppies and dogs by breed, location, age, and gender or simply browse all puppies available on the site, and then typically email the seller directly.

Animal Welfare Policy

Puppytrader does not explicitly reference animal welfare concerns about the puppy mill industry. However, the site advises consumers to "[a]sk a lot of questions about the parents of the puppy, and where the pup is being raised. If at all possible go meet the breeder and pick the puppy up yourself."[32] The site also advises that shipment of puppies include the following: dogs must be least eight weeks, have enough room to move in their carriers, have current health certificates and exposure to proper temperature, food and water[33]

Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012: 1,022

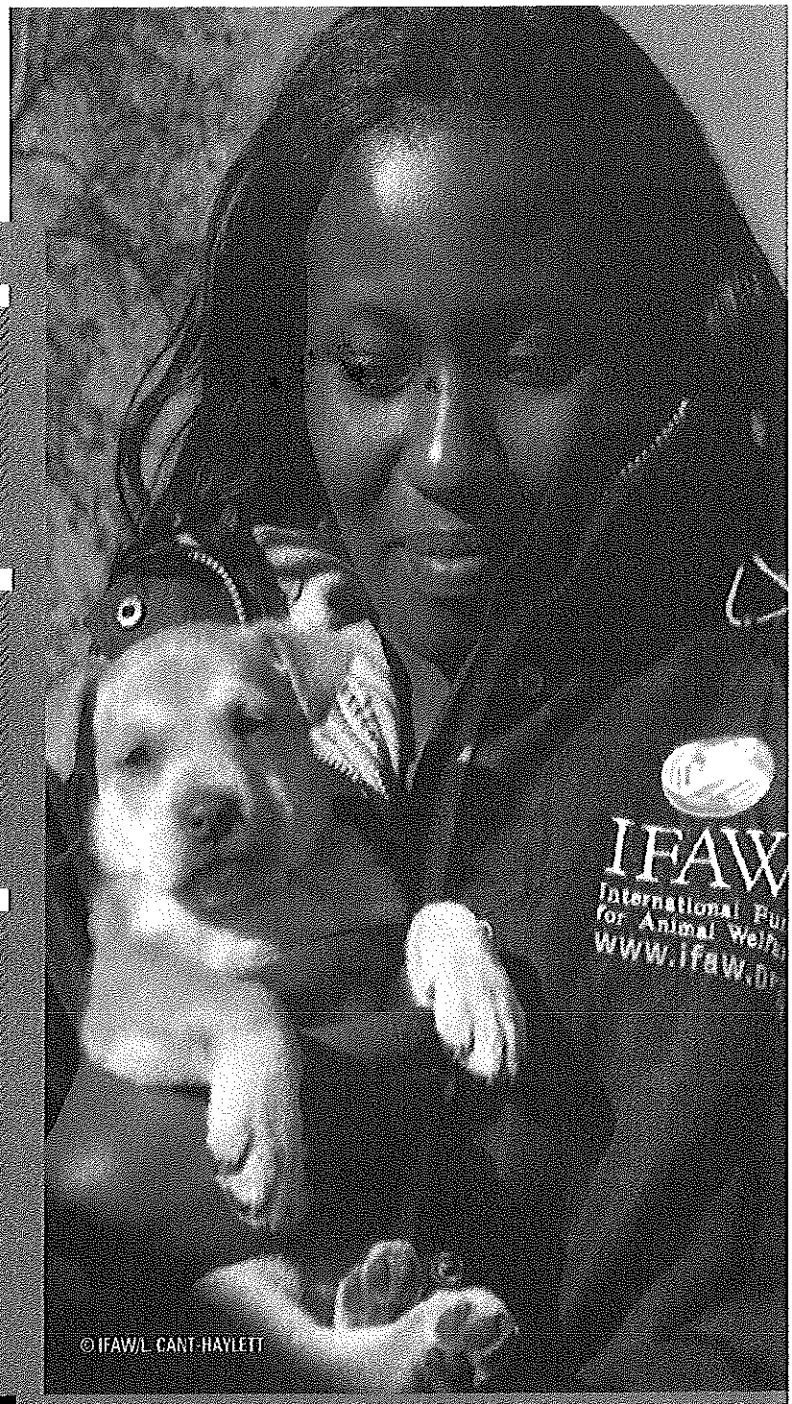
Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm: 1,022

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation: 1,782

This is a conservative number given that 524 (51%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, instead advertised "puppies for sale". In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised : 1,778

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill": 64%

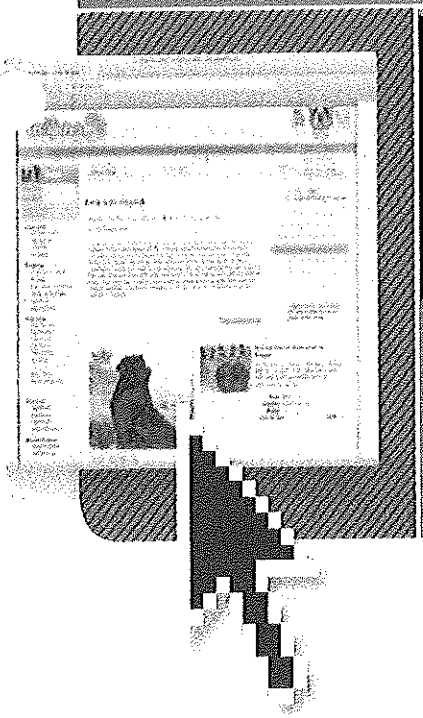


© IFAW/L. CANT-HAYLETT

TOTAL NUMBER OF PUPPY ADS PER SITE ON DAY OF INVESTIGATION

ANIMAROO	7,631
CRAIGSLIST	18,000
DOGSNOW	37,236
EBAY	38,388
NEXTDAYPETS	20,023
OODLE	212,483
PUPPY FIND	25,811
PUPPER TRADER	1,022
TERRIFICPETS	933

Terrificpets.Com

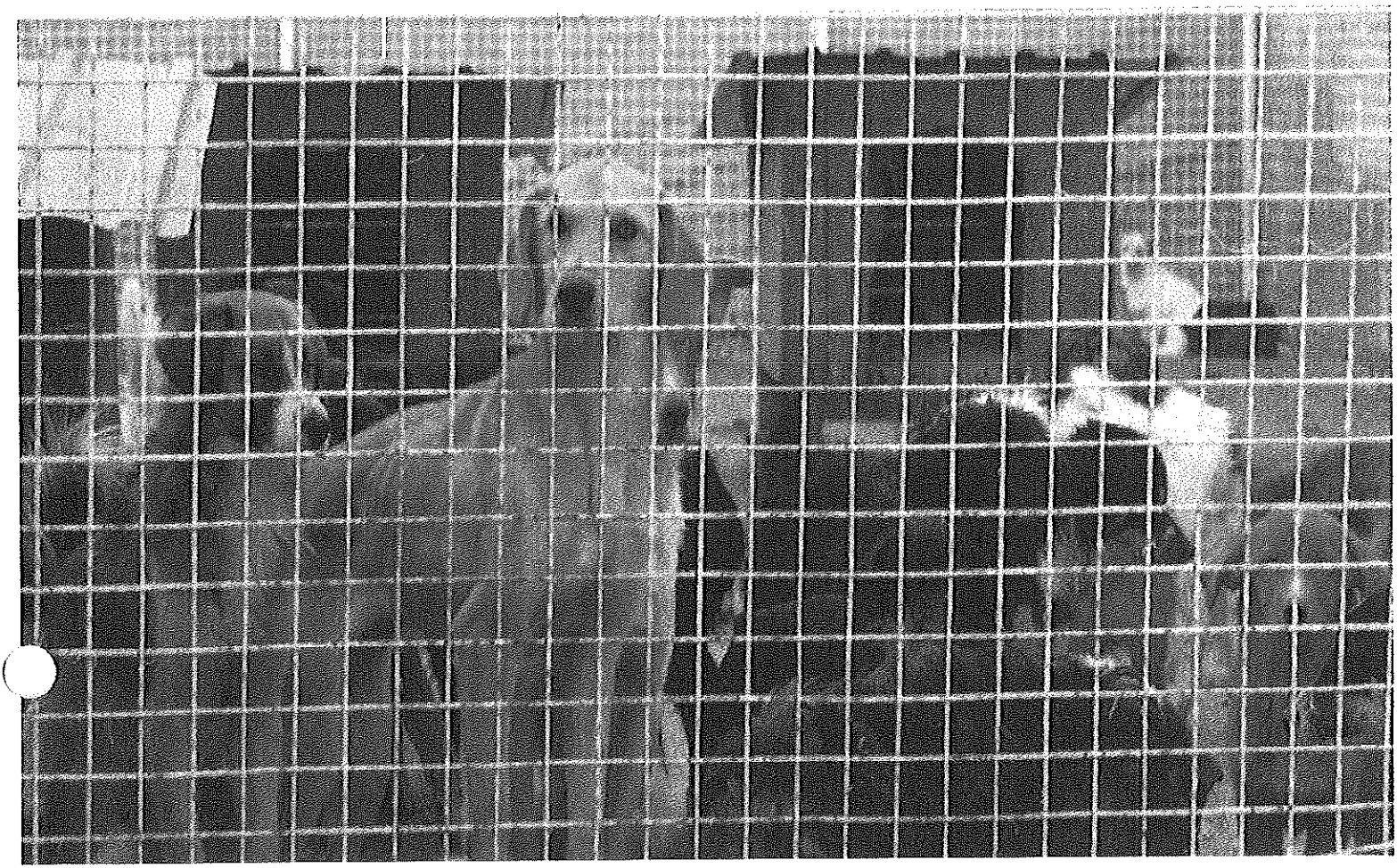


TerrificPets is a North Carolina-based business that operates as a platform primarily for U.S. buyers and sellers of puppies and adult dogs[34]. The website also has links to sales of cats and horses. By putting people directly in touch with breeders registered on the site according to the consumer's choice of breed and other customized preferences, TerrificPets is designed to facilitate and simplify the online puppy market.

For free, viewers can browse according to breed or by state of sale, and then contact the seller via email or phone. Sellers can list puppies and dogs within minutes by creating a free account and uploading photos and information.

Animal Welfare Policy

TerrificPets provides the user with certain examples for pointing out pet trade scammers, including: "Doesn't care much about the pet, just the transaction," and "says they will use their own shipper".[35] The website states that "TerrificPets does not make any promise, nor does TerrificPets have any obligation, to monitor or police activity and account holder behavior occurring on or via the Network and will have no liability to any party."[36]



Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

983

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

983

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

2,667

This is a conservative number given that 605 (65%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, instead advertised "puppies for sale". In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised :

2,868

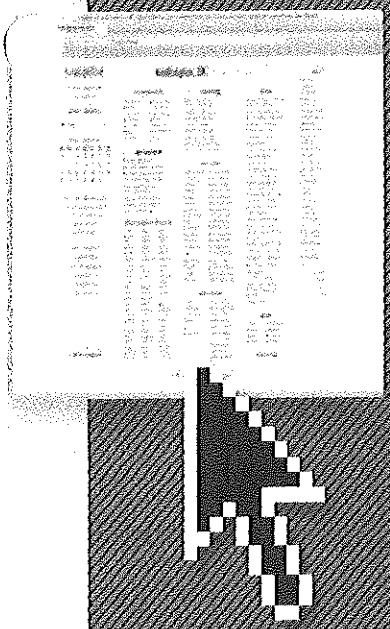
Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

44%

PROJECTED NUMBER OF PUPPIES ADVERTISED PER SITE ON DAY OF INVESTIGATION

ANIMAROO	8,928
CRAIGSLIST	42,300
DOGSNOW	67,770
EBAY	79,463
NEXTDAYPETS	38,444
OODLE	441,965
PUPPY FIND	49,815
PUPPYTRADER	1,778
TERRIFICPETS	2,668

Craigslist.Com



Craigslist is a California-based business that, since 1995, has operated as a free online version of a newspaper's classified section with a vision of providing free ad space to people "trying to help each other out."[37] Craigslist is not a party to any transaction.

Craigslist organizes sales regionally and reaches out to practically every major city in the United States. Typically, the viewer is taken to the regional Craigslist website that best corresponds to his/her geographical location, but the viewer can also search a host of other geographical locations. After the desired location is found, the viewer can sort by categories of items, refining searches using key words. Items are listed by date of posting (from most recent to oldest, going back as far as 45 days). Buyers typically contact sellers directly via email.

When conducting a search for a specific item like puppies, the user needs to go into each individual region where the sales are posted. On the date of the Investigation, this included 417 geographical regions in the United States. For free, a seller can post ads in his/her designated region under different "for sale" categories (appliances, tickets, tools and so forth). Due to the fact that Craigslist explicitly prohibits pet sales, sellers of puppies post their sales under vague or mislabeled headings such as: "general for sale by owner"; "farm & garden"; or "sporting goods"—the three most common headings for puppy sales on the day of the investigation.

Animal Welfare Policy

Craigslist explicitly lists household pets—including dog—among items prohibited for sale on the website, but allows a "small rehoming fee"[38] Despite this prohibition, there were thousands of ads posted for puppy sales on the day of the Investigation, with fees ranging from minimal to exorbitant.

Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

18,000

Craigslist does not provide a count of individual sale items on any given day, or by any region. Puppy sale searches typically pulled up at least two to ten times as many ads than those that were actually related to puppy sales, making it necessary for the investigator to count all the actual puppy ads on each page manually in 100 cities searched. Additionally, seventeen selected cities with very large search results required an estimate of actual puppy ads by counting the number of puppy ads per one page from that region, and then multiplying that number out by the number of pages in the region. The investigator then added these estimations with the actual ad counts in the other 83 regions, in order to get an estimate of 4,741 ads for the 100 regions investigated. To achieve an accurate cross-representation of the over-all 417 cities on Craigslist, the investigator multiplied this number by 4 as 100 is just under one-fourth of the total cities (24%). Doing so resulted in an estimation of approximately 18,000 ads posted on Craigslist on the day of the investigation.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised:

42,300

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

Ads excluded from analysis

Unlike the six other sites included in the investigatory analysis, Craigslist is not specialized in selling dogs. Due to the nature of the site, not enough information was available on the vast majority of the ads to allow for a reliable analysis of whether the ads were likely from a puppy mill. Therefore, ads captured from Craigslist were excluded from analysis.

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

1,310

The investigator captured puppy sale ads from one-hundred different geographical regions: the first 48 regions were drawn from a list of popular eBay classified cities, and the remaining 52 regions were chosen to represent at least one region from every state, two states in their entirety, and a balanced mix of rural, suburban, and urban regions.* The 100 investigated regions represented 24% of overall US geographic regions on Craigslist the day of the investigation.

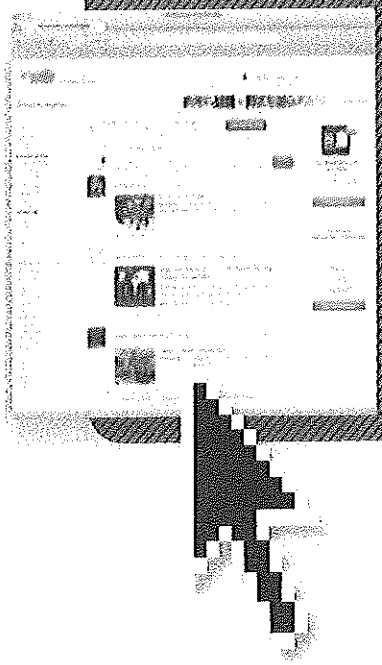
Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

3,086

These are very conservative numbers, as 262 (20%) just advertised as "puppies for sale" with no specific number given. In these cases, a number of two ("2+") was designated, even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

*Regions examined on Craigslist.com: Alabama (Auburn, Birmingham, Dothan, Florence/Muscle Shoals, Gadsden-Anniston, Huntsville/Decatur, Mobile, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa); Alaska (Anchorage, Fairbanks); Arizona (Flagstaff/Sedona, Mohave County, Phoenix, Prescott, Show Low); Arkansas (Fayetteville, Fort Smith); California (Bakersfield, Fresno/Madera, Inland Empire, Orange County, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco Bay Area); Colorado (Boulder, Colorado Springs); Connecticut (New Haven); Delaware; District of Columbia; Florida (Jacksonville, Lakeland, Ocala, Orlando, Sarasota-Bradenton, South Florida); Georgia (Augusta); Hawaii; Idaho (Twin Falls); Illinois (Chicago, Southern Illinois); Indiana (South Bend); Iowa (Cedar Rapids); Kansas (Wichita); Kentucky (Lexington, Louisville); Louisiana (Central Louisiana); Maine; Maryland (Baltimore); Massachusetts (Boston); Michigan (Flint, Grand Rapids); Minnesota (St Cloud); Mississippi (Jackson); Missouri (Kansas City); Montana (Bozeman); Nebraska (North Platte); Nevada (Las Vegas, Reno/Tahoe); New Hampshire; New Jersey (North Jersey); New Mexico (Albuquerque); New York (Buffalo, Hudson Valley, Rochester, Syracuse); North Carolina (Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh/Durham); North Dakota (Bismark); Ohio (Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton); Oklahoma (Oklahoma City); Oregon (Eugene); Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh); Rhode Island; South Carolina (Myrtle Beach); South Dakota (Sioux Falls); Tennessee (Knoxville, Memphis); Texas (Austin, San Antonio); Utah (Salt Lake City); Vermont; Virginia (Richmond); Washington (Seattle/Tacoma); West Virginia (Southern WV); Wisconsin (Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Janesville, Kenosha-Racine, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Northern WI, Sheboygan, Wausau); Wyoming. Note: The investigator purposely did not examine ads from Craigslist "top 8 cities" so as not to bias the sample with the most popular cities for classified ads. In cases where Craigslist did not have the same regional designation as eBay classified, the closest corresponding region available on Craigslist was used instead.

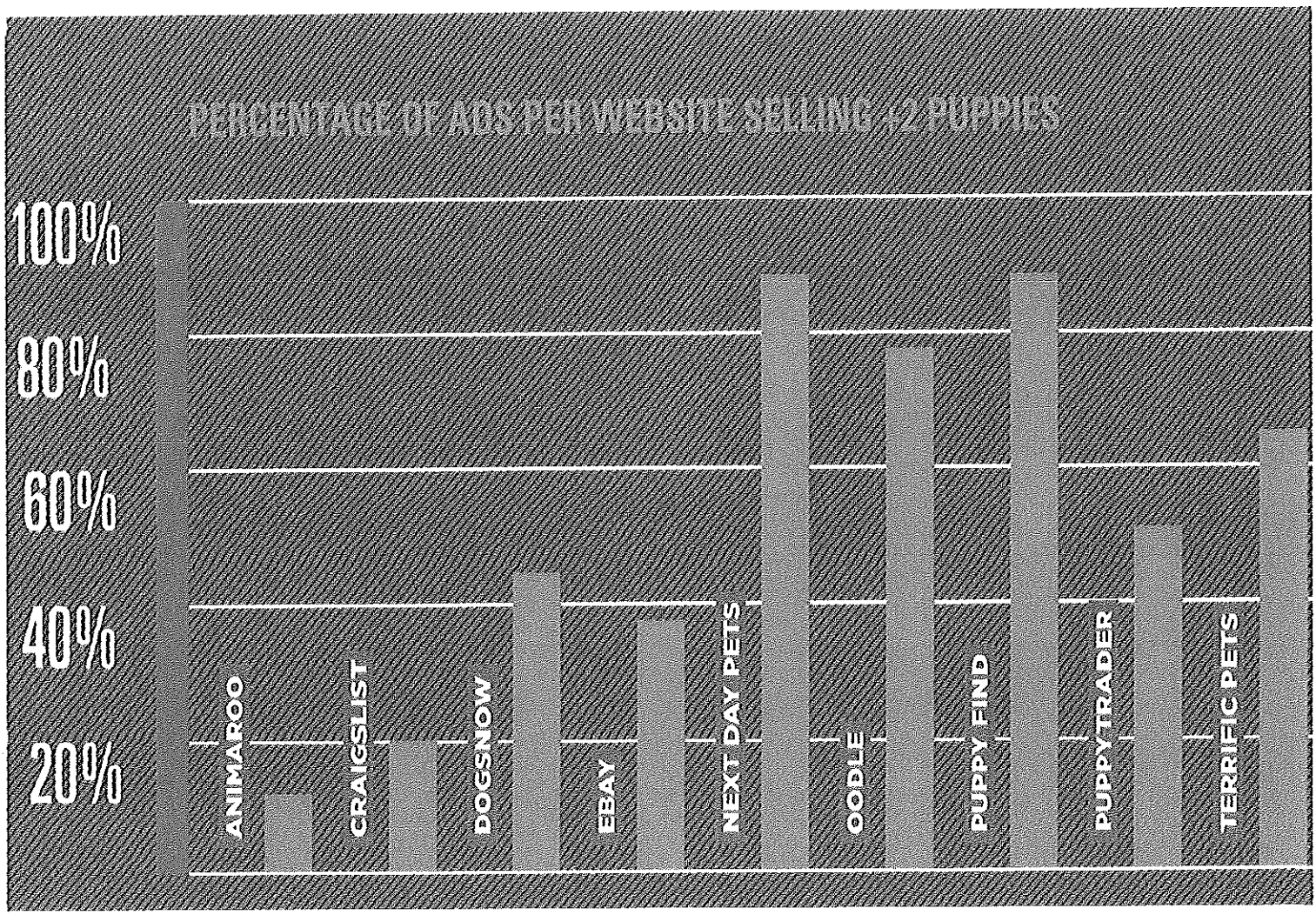
Oodle.Com



Oodle is a California-based business that brings together buyers and sellers with the vision of "provid[ing] consumers with a friendly local marketplace to buy, sell and trade."[39] Through the Oodle Marketplace and Marketplace on Facebook, the site operates a network of online marketplaces with more than 30 million listings posted in real time (versus by item, breed or location) over 80,000 classifieds sites.[40] All negotiations are conducted between buyers and sellers. Oodle is not a party to any transaction. Items range from real estate, clothing, cars, services and pets, including but not limited to dogs. More than 15 million people use the site per month.[41]

Animal Welfare Policy

Oodle does not explicitly reference animal welfare concerns stemming from the puppy mill industry. However, the site provides viewers with three "Important Safety Tips": (1) Meet the seller and pet in person; (2) Don't wire money or take advance payments; and (3) Only pay for shipping if you know the seller.



Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

212,488

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

626

was not feasible to pull all of the ads listed in an eight-hour time frame. Thus, the investigator started with the first ad posted most recently and continued till 6pm working backwards chronologically.

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

1,304

This is a conservative number given that 485 (77%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, instead advertised "puppies for sale." In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised :

441,967

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

Ads excluded from analysis

Oodle.com attracts a wide-range of sellers and does not specialize in puppy sales and requires the consumer to have a Facebook account in order to capture more information. Many of the ads did not list basic information needed for a comprehensive analysis of the ads. Therefore ads captured from Oodle.com were excluded from analysis.

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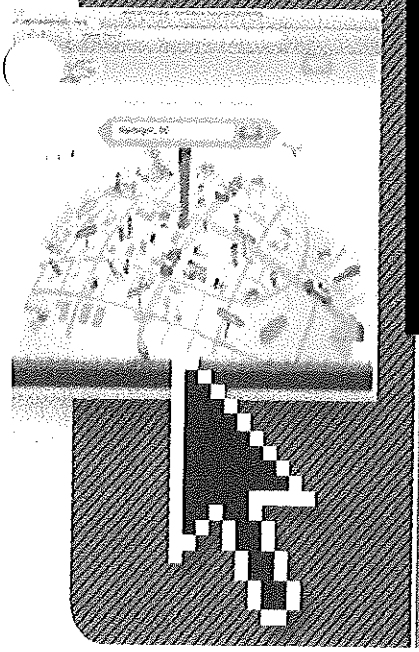
Ebayclassifieds.Com



eBayclassifieds, a subsidiary of eBay, is a California-based, multinational online platform that operates as an online classifieds platform for U.S.-based buyers and sellers of numerous items posted, including but not limited to puppies. Unlike eBay, which operates as an auction site and does not allow sale of live animals in the U.S., eBayclassifieds focuses on local transactions, with a vision partially stated as "all free, all the time—deal direct with people in your community."[42] All negotiations are conducted between buyers and sellers. eBayclassifieds is not a party to any transaction.

Advertisements on eBayclassifieds are organized by regional location. In order to search for puppy ads, the site requires users to choose dogs of interest based on geographic location. Ads can be sorted by categories of items desired or refined further using a key word search ("puppies") after which they are listed in real time by date of posting (from most recent to oldest, back as far as 60 days, with an option to repost prior to expiration).

Animal Welfare Policy

The eBayclassifieds site explicitly includes an emphasis on animal welfare. On its "Pet Policies" page, eBayclassifieds explicitly emphasizes a concern for the welfare of any puppy or kitten sold: "We will listen closely to our community for any reports of unhealthy animals...All puppies and kittens being sold on our site must come with a good health certificate established by a veterinarian and up to date vaccinations."[43]

eBayclassifieds cannot guarantee the occurrence of local, face-to-face transactions, but emphasizes the benefit these transactions have upon consumer protection and animal welfare. The site explicitly prohibits puppy sales if the animals are to be sold under eight weeks old, or if postings derive from pet stores, brokers, dealers or any other middleman.[44] The site also reserves the right to immediately remove any ad and suspend any user violating the Animal Welfare Act.

Results

Number of Ads Available at 8am on July 18, 2012:

30,300

Number of Ads Captured During Investigation, 9am-6pm:

1,249*

*eBayclassified.com 48 "other classified cities": http://www.ebayclassifieds.com/puppies (Albany, NY; Allentown, PA; Austin, TX; Baltimore, MD; Birmingham, AL; Boston, MA; Buffalo, NY; Central Valley, CA; Charlotte, NC; Colorado Springs, CO; Columbus, OH; Dayton, OH; Denver, CO; Flint, MI; Grand Rapids, MI; Greensboro, NC; Honolulu, HI; Hudson Valley, NY; Inland Empire, CA; Jacksonville, FL; Kansas City, MO; Knoxville, TN; Lakeland, FL; Las Vegas, NV; Lexington, KY; Louisville, KY; Memphis, TN; Nashville, TN; New Hampshire; Newark, NJ; Ocala, FL; Oklahoma City, OK; Orange Country, CA; Orlando, FL; Phoenix, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Raleigh, NC; Reno, NV; Richmond, VI; Sacramento, CA; San Antonio, TX; San Diego, CA; San Francisco Bay Area, CA; Sarasota, FL; Seattle, WA). Note: In order to capture a more randomized sample, this list stands separately from the website's "top 8 eBay Classifieds" city list: http://www.ebayclassifieds.com/puppies (Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City and St. Louis).

Number of Individual Puppies for Sale From Ads Captured During Investigation:

2,686

This is a conservative number given that 466 (37.31%) did not specify the exact number of puppies for sale, instead advertised "puppies for sale". In these cases, a number of two puppies were designated even though the ad could have actually represented many more puppies offered for sale.

Projected Total Number of Puppies Advertised :

79,463

Percentage of Ads Qualifying as "Likely Puppy Mill":

Ads excluded from analysis

eBayclassifieds attracts a wide-range of sellers and does not specialize in puppy sales. Ads captured from eBayclassifieds were excluded from analysis as there was not enough information on the ads to ascertain if it was likely from a puppy mill or not.

HSVMA BOOTH

Recommendations

This report marks the first public study of the scope and scale of online puppy sales. Internet marketplaces, the U.S. Congress, and the consumer public must proactively take steps necessary to combat the vastly unregulated Internet marketplace currently providing platforms for unscrupulous puppy mill operators.

With its findings from this investigation, IFAW recommends the following:

This Holiday Season and Beyond, **Consumers** Should Take Their Business Elsewhere.

The holidays—arguably the year's most emotional and impulse gift-giving season—are prime time for puppy mills to exploit the emotional bond between people and dogs. As illustrated by this investigation, consumers need to think twice.

Annual retail spending on pets soared above a historic $50 billion last year,[45] and people are willing to spend more money on dogs—especially purebred puppies—than ever before.[46] Increasingly, many people are looking to the Internet for a fast and efficient means to purchase puppies. Unethical profiteers are taking notice and aggressively exploiting this unregulated and anonymous marketplace.

Keeping in mind the staggering numbers in this report, this holiday—and beyond—use your power as a consumer and don't allow yourself to be duped into buying animals from puppy mill operators over the Web. Instead, proactively combat puppy mills and pet overpopulation by adopting from your local shelter, breeder or rescue.

The holidays are prime time for puppy mills to exploit the emotional bond between people and dogs.

Websites Should Strengthen Efforts to Shut Down Puppy Mill Ads.

Despite the consumer guidance and animal welfare considerations within the terms of agreement of some puppy trade online websites and general buyer/seller Internet platforms, ads that constitute as "likely puppy mills" continue to successfully infiltrate the Web. Proactive measures to curtail ads likely stemming from puppy mills will be an effective means toward choking the supply chain that has funded operations depriving thousands of dogs from even the most basic humane treatment and care.

The **USDA** Should Promulgate Regulations of Large-Scale Breeders.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) should implement its proposed rule, published May 16, 2012 in the Federal Register, which aims to bring the retail sale of more pet animals (in particular, domestic canines) under Animal Welfare Act (AWA) jurisdiction. On August 14, 2012, IFAW submitted comments in general support of the USDA-APHIS proposed rule. Upon adequate address of three key areas proposed by IFAW, the agency will be taking a strong step in the right direction toward closing a massive AWA loophole that has left thousands of dogs lacking basic humane treatment and care:

- The USDA's proposed definition of "retail pet store" should require that the potential buyer be afforded reasonable access to the breeding operation;

DONE

- Government-directed funding of USDA-APHIS, Animal Care must be strengthened and personnel must be increased to ensure adequate enforcement of the proposed rule; and

NOT DONE

- The proposed rule should explicitly exempt non-profit animal rescue groups.

DONE

Congress Should Provide Increased Funding to the USDA Animal Care Program in Order to Ensure Adequate Federal Oversight.

Providing increased funding to the Animal Care program of USDA-APHIS will be essential toward adequately enforcing a new rule governing federal oversight of large-scale breeders. USDA-APHIS predicts an estimated 1,500 dog breeders who are not currently subject to the AWA regulations could now fall under federal oversight as a result of the agency's proposed rule.[47] Given the widespread implications of Internet sales as illustrated by the Investigation, this number will likely be far higher and government-directed funding will be ever more critical.

In its 2008 fiscal year, the USDA-APHIS employed just 99 inspectors to conduct inspections of all licensed and registered facilities covered under the AWA, including but certainly not limited to large-scale dog breeding facilities.[48] To ensure even adequate enforcement of the proposed rule and the magnitude of sales from likely puppy mills that IFAW has demonstrated is currently occurring online, increasing the number of personnel trained to inspect breeding facilities will be imperative.

Employing the findings of this Investigation, IFAW will work with like-minded organizations to advocate for increased Congressional appropriations to ensure adequate federal oversight over high-volume Internet puppy sales.

Conclusion

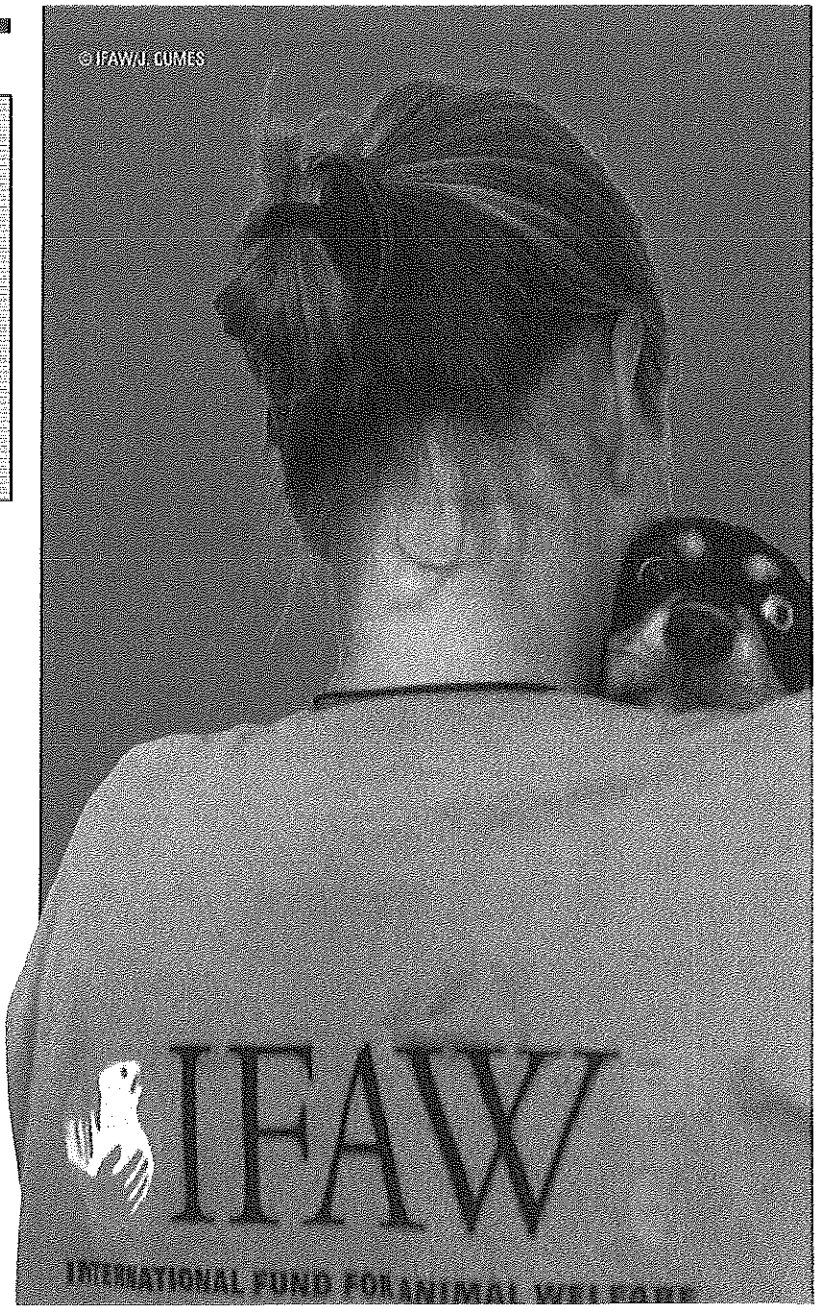
In the United States, the emotional bond between humans and their companion dogs is stronger than ever before. Our society overwhelmingly chooses to look beyond a mere master-pet relationship toward one where a dog truly is not only man's best friend, but also a member of his family. Statistics continue to support this shift. According to the American Pet Products Association's 2011-2012 National Pet Owners Survey, the number of dogs living in U.S. homes is at an all-time high: more than 78 million and growing.[49] As these numbers grow, so do the numbers of online puppy sales.

Fueled by consumer demand and the unregulated and unmonitored nature of the Internet, puppy mills "produce" and sell millions of puppies each year, masterfully deceiving unsuspecting buyers into believing that the puppies are either being rescued or were raised in humane conditions.

The general public is not aware that buying a puppy online leaves them open to manipulation and exploitation from puppy mill breeders who make money off the suffering of animals.

This Investigation marks the first public study of the scope and scale of online puppy sales, and its findings are a call to action. The USDA's recent proposal to address online sales by large-scale breeders is a necessary step in the right direction toward closing a massive loophole that has left thousands of dogs lacking in basic humane treatment and care.

However, as more consumers look to the Internet to purchase puppies, puppy mills will continue to find ways to deceive the public. IFAW strongly encourages the public to use the findings of this report, to think twice before seeking a puppy online, encourage websites to remove listings that fall under the report's criteria, and to never buy a live animal sight-unseen. IFAW invites lawmakers to ensure that any emerging regulations and accompanying enforcement strategies address the full scope and scale of the puppy trade over the world's largest marketplace: the World Wide Web.



USDA PROPOSED REGULATIONS AND IFAW RESPONSE

USDA-APHIS Proposed Rule

The USDA-APHIS proposed a rule which aims to bring the retail sale of more pet animals (in particular, domestic canines) under Animal Welfare Act (AWA) jurisdiction. More specifically, the proposed rule will revise the definition of "retail pet store" to include large-scale breeding facilitates that sell dogs sight-unseen, e.g. puppy mills, under AWA protection. Doing so would address the needs of thousands of animals that are currently excluded from such protections as well as deter puppy mills from Internet exploitation.

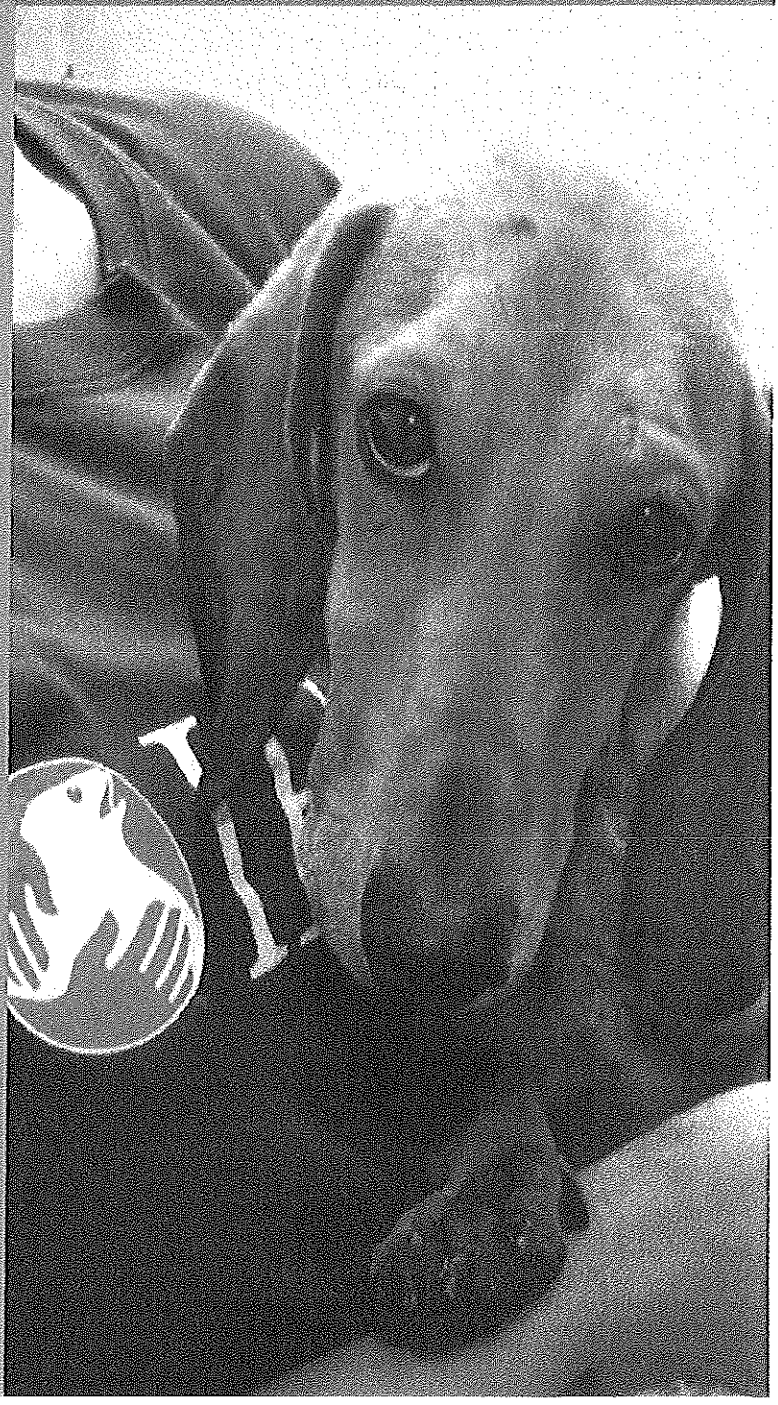
IFAW's Response

IFAW supports the USDA-APHIS proposed rule with the caveat that three key areas require clarification and/or improvement if the proposed rule is to become more effective and enforceable:

- The USDA's proposed definition of "retail pet store" should require that the potential buyer be afforded reasonable access to the breeding operation in order to support the USDA-APHIS goal of providing more public oversight of high-volume breeders.
- Government-directed funding of USDA-APHIS, Animal Care must be strengthened and personnel must be increased to ensure adequate enforcement of the proposed rule.
- The proposed rule should explicitly exempt non-profit animal rescue groups to ensure laudable efforts by these organizations are not deterred.

PERCENTAGE OF ADS ANALYZED PER SITE

Animaroo	17% (1,280 ads)
DogsNow	6% (2,189 ads)
NextDayPets	11% (2,147 ads)
PuppyFind	8% (1,984 ads)
PuppyTrader	100% (1,022 ads)
TerrificPets	100% (933 ads)



Endnotes

1. *Puppy Mill FAQ*, AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, http://www.aspca.org/fight-animal-cruelty/puppy-mills/puppy-mill-faq (last visited Nov. 2, 2012). To gather this estimation, the ASPCA added the current number of USDA-licensed facilities (roughly 3,500+) to the estimated number of state-licensed facilities not licensed by the USDA (roughly 1000+), and then doubled that amount to account for unlicensed facilities. The ASPCA estimates that for every licensed breeding facility, there is one unlicensed facility.

2. 7 U.S.C. §2131, §2133, §2134 (January 3, 2007).

3. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Animal Health Inspection Service Animal Care Program, *Inspections of Problematic Dealers*, Audit Report 33002-4-SF, at 19 (May, 2010) (description of dealer inspection findings from an Oklahoma facility with 525 dogs), *available at* http://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33002-4-SF.pdf.

4. *Id.*, at 37 ("In April 2009, APHIS publically acknowledged that not requiring Internet breeders to be licensed and inspected is a 'massive loophole'") (citing *A (Designer) Dog's Life*, NEWSWEEK, (April 13, 2009).

5. Not all of these dogs survive. For example, *See Id.* at 13 (noting a finding of "five dead dogs and other starving dogs that had resorted to cannibalism").

6. *Id.*, at 2, 10-54.

7. Katherine C. Tushaus, *Don't Buy the Doggy in the Window: Ending the Cycle That Perpetuates Commercial Breeding with Regulation of the Retail Pet Industry*, 14 Drake J. Agric. L. 501, 504 (2009) (concluding that many large scale commercial breeders were avoiding regulations by selling animals directly to consumers over the Internet and shipping them to buyers, sight unseen). *See also* Adam J. Fumarola, *With Best Friends Like Us Who Needs Enemies? The Phenomenon of the Puppy Mill, the Failure of Legal Regimes to Manage it, and the Positive Prospects of Animal Rights*, 6 Buff. Envtl. L.J. 253, 282 (1999).

8. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Animal Health Inspection Service Animal Care Program, *supra* note 3, at 36 (citing *Doris Day Animal League v. Veneman*, 315 F.3d 297, (D.C. Cir. 2003).

9. *Id.* *See also* Voris, H.C., et al., *Characterization of Advertisements for Puppies Sold Online: Determinants of Cost and a Comparison with Parent Club Breeders*, Preventative Veterinary Medicine, 2011, at iii, ("The Internet is a large and growing source for puppies. Currently, breeders who sell puppies online directly to consumers are not subject to any type of regulation. As this industry grows, some type of oversight will be important ...").

10. Greg Hunter, Pia Malbran, *Sick Puppies Dog Some Online Purchasers*, CNN.COM, May 13, 2006, http://edition.cnn.com/2006/US/05/11/online.puppies/index.html (citing American Pet Products Association).

11. A 2011-2012 survey by American Pet Product Association found 46.3 million households with dogs in the US, totaling 78.2 million individual dogs. The survey estimated 52.87 billion dollars are being spent on pets and pet products in the US in 2012. American Pet Products Association, *Industry Statistics and Trends*, *available at* http://www.americanpetproducts.org/press_industrytrends.asp (last visited Nov. 2, 2012).

12. Tushaus, *supra* note 7, at 504.

13. *See* USDA Department of Agriculture, Office of Inspector General, Animal Health Inspection Service Animal Care Program, *supra* note 3, at 37. *See also* Robert H. Teuscher, Better Business Bureau, *The Puppy Mill Industry of Missouri: A Study of the Buyers, Sellers, Breeders and Enforcement of the Laws: Executive Summary*, at 1-2 (March 2010), *available at* http://stlouis.bbb.org/Storage/142/Documents/Puppy%20Mills%20study.pdf. ("A total of 352 complaints and reports against dog breeders and sellers have been filed with the three Missouri BBBs in the past three years...Of those who complained after they had bought a puppy, more than a third said their puppies were ill when they purchased them or became ill soon thereafter, and that several of them had died. Many of the buyers spent thousands of dollars on veterinarian fees that weren't reimbursed by the seller.").

14. Some state laws address general standards for commercial breeders, but no state laws address sale of dogs over the Internet. *See* Tushaus, *supra* note 7, at 514.

15. *Killing with* Keystrokes, INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR ANIMAL WELFARE, *available* at http://www.ifaw.org/united-states/node/900 (last visited Nov. 2, 2012).

16. *Today Show Airs HSUS Investigation into Huge Internet Puppy Broker*, HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2011/12/purebred_breeders_120711.html (Dec. 7, 2011).

17. In the case of *Killing with Keystrokes*, offenders were advertising illegal sales of endangered species or products thereby requiring an actual sale transaction to occur for 100% certainty. Similarly, as tracking and visiting a statistically valid number of sites where the puppies were being sourced to conclude with 100% certainty that they were coming from puppy mills would have been impossible due to the volume of ads and the purposefully veiled locations used by puppy-sellers to obscure their operations.

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19. *The Online Industry Is at An All-Time High*, ANIMAROO.COM, http://www.animaroo.com/index/banners/ (last visited Nov. 2, 2012).

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22. *Id.*

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28. *Id.*

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30. *Buyer Tips*, PUPPYFIND.COM, LLC, http://www.puppyfind.com/buyer_tips/ (last visited Nov. 2, 2012).

31. *Info & Activity: Puppytrader.com, L.L.C.* DUN & BRADSTREET CREDIBILITY CORP, *available at* http://www.dandb.com/businessdirectory/puppytradercomllc-narvon-pa-1187615.html (last visited, Nov. 2, 2012).

32. *How to Protect Yourself from Internet Fraud*, PUPPYTRADER.COM, http://www.puppytrader.com/internet_fraud.html (last visited Nov. 2012).

33. *New Puppy Tips: Things to Think About*, PUPPYTRADER.COM, http://www.puppytrader.com/tips.html (last visited Nov. 2, 2012).

34. *Overview, Additional Information, Terrificpets.com*, BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU, *available at* http://www.bbb.org/raleigh-durham/business-reviews/web-designers/rapid-listings-in-new-bern-nc-90065166 (last visited Nov. 20, 2012).

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49. AMERICAN PET PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, *supra* note 11.

IFAW

Founded in 1969, The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) works to improve the welfare of wild and domestic animals throughout the world by reducing commercial exploitation of animals, protecting wildlife habitats, and assisting animals in distress. We seek to motivate the public to prevent cruelty to animals and to promote animal welfare and conservation policies that advance the well-being of both animals and people.

IFAW has more than 1.5 million supporters worldwide and is staffed by more than 200 experienced campaigners, educators, internationally acclaimed scientists and legal and communications experts.

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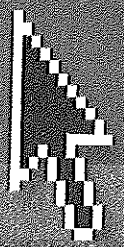

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As one of the world's leading animal welfare organizations, IFAW works in more than 40 countries to safeguard wild and domestic animals. With international headquarters in the United States and representation in 15 countries, IFAW works both on the ground and in the halls of government, promoting practical solutions to animal welfare and conservation challenges that advance the well-being of animals.

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