

# Pennsylvania's Unlicensed Kennels



**Uncovering Neglect, Abuse, and Appalling  
Conditions for Puppies in Pennsylvania**

# OVERVIEW SECTION



Puppies in Pennsylvania are suffering in filthy barns, backyards and cramped enclosures at unlicensed kennels — defined by the state as anyone who keeps, sells, or transfers 26 or more dogs in one calendar year.

Breeders and facilities without state or federal licensing often fly under the regulatory radar unless caring people sense something suspicious — or duped consumers purchase sick or dying puppies — and lodge official complaints.

That means dogs kept in illegal kennels on the fringes — often by people who won't provide proper care because it would cut their profits — are most likely to suffer the worst conditions.

Lady Freethinker wanted to shine a light into these dark places to raise awareness about the appalling conditions that puppies and their parents endure at the hands of unlicensed kennels, away from the shiny facades of pet store windows or the “cutesy” posings of puppies in online ads. We also wanted to reveal other repercussions from the profiteering puppy trade to illustrate why it's so important to adopt — rather than shop — for companion animals.



We focused our investigation on unlicensed facilities in Pennsylvania, a state that has made strides in curbing puppy sales from unscrupulous breeders but is still largely known as a “puppy mill” pipeline of our nation.

We sorted through thousands of pages of inspection reports, photos and videos obtained via a public records request to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, which covered more than 170 investigations into possibly illegal kennels from January 2016 through May 2021 and resulted in at least 158 kennels cited for unlawful activity.

This report is a snapshot of the massive neglect, abuse, and suffering for dogs and puppies exploited for profit that’s playing out in Pennsylvania’s unlicensed kennels.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>09</b>
• Issues With Unlicensed Kennels	09
• Who We Are	10
• Our Call To Action	10
<b>Executive Summary: Our Investigation into Pennsylvania’s Unlicensed Kennels</b>	<b>12</b>
• Animal Welfare Issues	13
• Costs To Consumers	15
• Strain On Shelters	16
• Unlicensed Kennels in Pennsylvania	19
<b>Illegal Kennels By County</b>	<b>20</b>
• Adams	20
• Allegheny	21
• Armstrong	21
• Beaver	22
• Bedford	22
• Berks	23
• Bradford	25
• Centre	25
• Chester	25
• Clarion	26
• Clearfield	28
• Crawford	28
• Cumberland	28
• Dauphin	30
• Erie	31
• Fayette	31
• Franklin	32
• Fulton	33
• Huntingdon	35
• Indiana	35

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

• Lancaster	35
• Lawrence	40
• Lebanon	40
• Mifflin	45
• Monroe	46
• Montgomery	46
• Northumberland	47
• Perry	48
• Schuylkill	50
• Snyder	50
• Sullivan	51
• Susquehanna	51
• Union	53
• Venango	54
• Warren	55
• Washington	55
• Westmoreland	55
• York	56
<b>Social Impacts and Cost To Consumers</b>	<b>59</b>
• Dangers of Buying From Breeders	59
• Consumer Complaints	59
• Adopt – Don’t Shop!	60
• Resources for Reporting Suspicious Kennel Activity or Cruelty	60
<b>Pennsylvania Can Do Better</b>	<b>62</b>
• Penalties and Enforcement for Illegal Kennels	62
• Suffering Dogs Don’t Have Time To Wait For Change	63
<b>Our Call To Action</b>	<b>65</b>
• Report Suspected Cruelty	65
• Call or Write To Your Legislators	65
• Always Adopt!	66

# INTRODUCTION

People have become increasingly familiar with the term “[puppy mill](#)” – most often defined as any dog breeding operation or facility that seeks to sell puppies for profit while simultaneously not providing for the dogs’ most basic needs, including clean food and water, adequate shelter, and medical care.

Facilities that have more than four breeding females and sell puppies to pet stores, dealers, or via online advertisements [must be licensed](#) by the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#), whose inspectors are supposed to annually review facilities to ensure minimum welfare.

Pennsylvania also requires a kennel license for any facility that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away, or transfers [26 or more dogs in a single calendar year](#), and also conducts routine inspections.

But there are facilities, listed in our report as unlicensed or illegal breeders and kennels, that breed, buy and sell dogs without obtaining the needed licenses or undergoing the routine inspections.

Public records documents revealed many of these unlicensed kennels were keeping dogs in horrific conditions with impunity – until someone complained or otherwise raised the alarm.

Pennsylvania has for years ignominiously been dubbed the “[puppy mill capital of the East](#).” Despite strict laws cracking down on unscrupulous dealers [in 2008](#), the state’s reputation as a puppy mill pipeline is once again on the rise.

Meanwhile, life-saving legislation like Victoria’s Law – a bill that would prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet stores – has been stuck in the Senate [since February 2021](#).

In May 2021, Lady Freethinker started a public records investigation into the state’s unlicensed kennels, where we believed the worst cruelty likely was taking place outside of regulatory scrutiny.



Several of the illegal kennels were selling dogs and puppies who were kept in appalling conditions directly to pet stores. Others reportedly sold sick puppies to unsuspecting consumers through online ads on broker sites, social media, or personal web pages.

For both innocent companion animals and their people, Pennsylvania must crack down on these cruel, unlicensed kennels and the pet stores selling them. We hope our report will provide caring consumers and legislators with real life examples of the victims and dangers of illegal kennels to help them make choices – and legislation – that will lead to a more compassionate world for all species.

## WHO WE ARE

Lady Freethinker (LFT) is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit working to end animal suffering. LFT gives a voice to those who cannot speak out for themselves and effects meaningful, lasting change through investigative reporting and other media, citizen petitions, and partnerships with rescuers and activists on the ground worldwide. Together, we are changing the way the world sees and treats animals for the better. Learn more at [ladyfreethinker.org](https://ladyfreethinker.org).

## OUR CALL TO ACTION

- We are asking federal and state inspectors to crack down on unlicensed kennels and breeders via increased fines for first-time offenders and license revocations for severe and repeat offenders – including both breeders and the pet stores that buy from them – and for legislators to swiftly enact game-changing legislation, including Victoria’s Law.
- We’re also asking caring members of the public to call their legislators, report suspected cruelty by unlicensed breeders to their local animal control and law enforcement, and promise to do their part to undercut demand by adopting companion animals – rather than shopping for them online or from breeders like those in this report.



some of the details in this report may be distressing



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Officers with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement received a tip one day, referred from a couple who said they had been searching for a new companion puppy.

Instead, they had found what they described as a puppy mill.

*“At the address above, there is a puppy mill,”* the couple alleged to their municipality, via an official complaint form. *“They have multiple litters of puppies in the home... They locked a female and male in (a) shed so they will breed. They ask \$485 per puppy. The dogs are running through glass and live in their own feces. The puppies smell like feces too.”*

Inspectors discovered the breeder, who was advertising purebred German shepherd dogs on Craigslist, also had prior convictions for violations of dog law, including for selling puppies less than 8 weeks old.

When inspectors served a search warrant at the kennel, the breeder became “argumentative” and was tased twice, according to public records documents.

Officers also followed up after receiving a complaint about an unlicensed facility selling dogs on the online broker site Lancaster Puppies for \$1,595 to \$2,495.

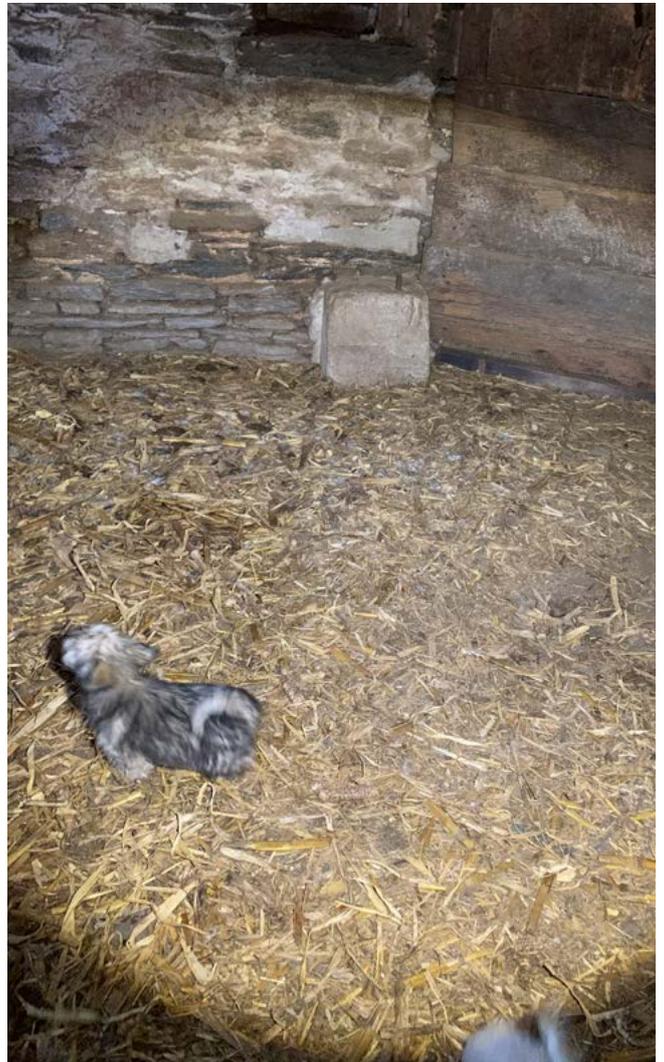
The kennel owner reportedly lied when inspectors showed up and asked how many dogs he had, according to public records documents – requiring “some coercion to be honest and comply with the law” before he showed inspectors a barn where he was keeping dogs.



But the situation didn't stop there. When the dog warden climbed a wooden staircase to the top of the barn, he observed four tiny dogs kept for breeding confined to "an unsanitary enclosure," according to the report.

Photos of the scene, obtained through public records request, show shadows, cold stone walls and a tiny dog spotlighted in a circle of light.

Those kennels were just two of more than 170 investigations state inspectors conducted from January 1, 2016 through May 7, 2021, spanning 38 counties and impacting at least 4,108 dogs and puppies, according to public records documents obtained by Lady Freethinker (LFT) from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

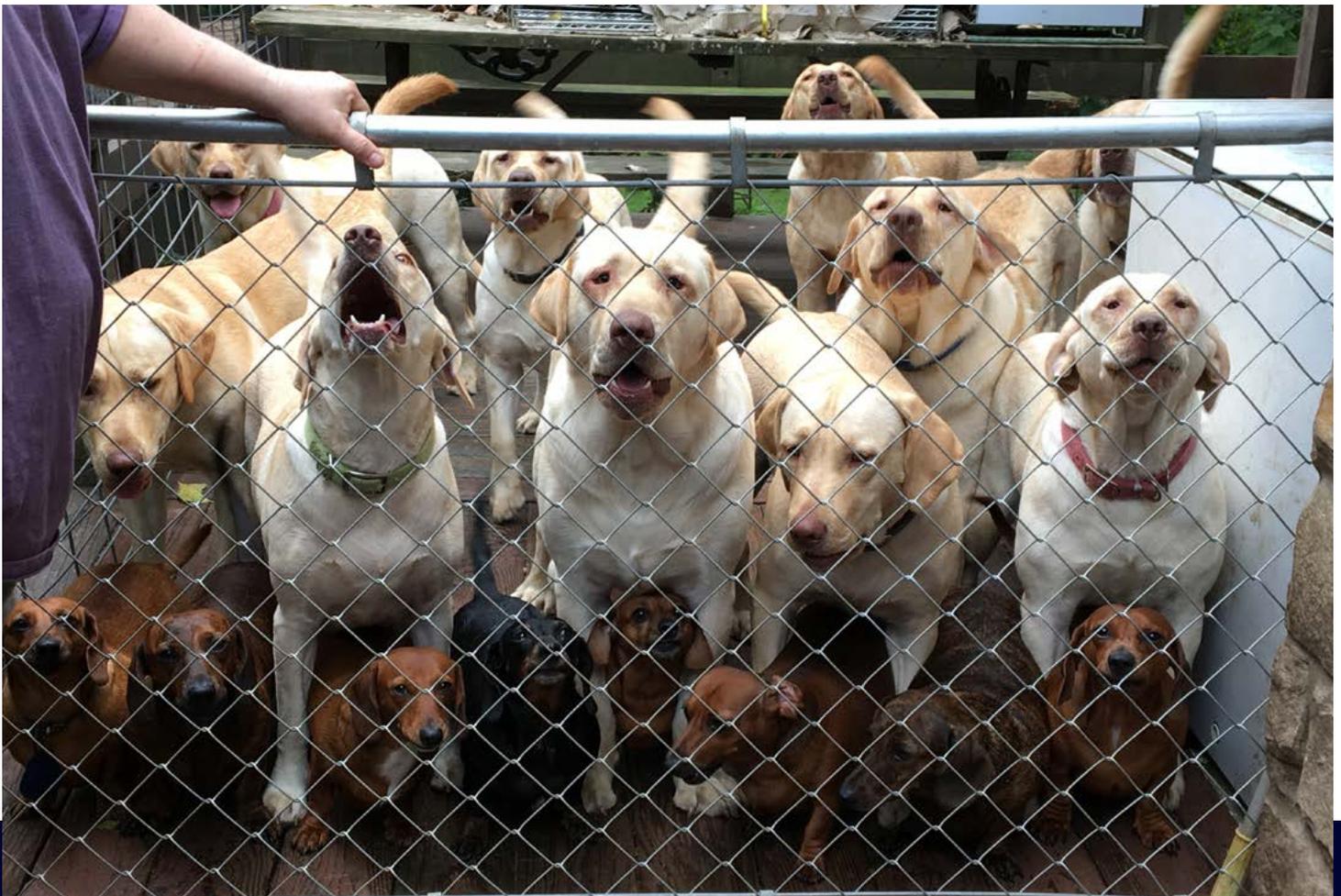


## The public records documents outlined numerous animal welfare issues:

- **Illegal kennels were dealing out sick and disease ridden, puppies.** Records indicate puppies and their parents suffered from worms, fleas, Coccidia, skin and ear infections, scabbing, eye issues, sores, parvo, Giardia, dental disease, untreated growths and tumors, brucella canis (an infectious bacteria that can jump to people), head tilts, twitches, lethargy, lesions, hyperplasia (or enlarged tissues) and ataxia (weak muscle control).
- **Puppies and their parents were kept in awful conditions and treated as disposable.** Many unlicensed dealers kept dogs stacked in wire crates or in filthy and inadequate enclosures – including unheated barns, feces-saturated basements, and kennels with dead rodents or algae-covered water. Neglected dogs suffered from severe matting, emaciation, untreated wounds and many diseases and disorders.

- **Unlicensed kennels also were criminally cruel.** State inspectors seized dogs from at least eight illegal kennels and referred for animal cruelty at least 11 illegal kennels in our report – including for a dead dog discovered in a creek, a dog named “Birdie” being kept in a bird cage, and a French bulldog not given proper follow-up veterinary care following a C-section delivery.

The unlicensed kennels identified in the public records documents consistently engaged in duplicitous marketing to cover up conditions at their facilities, including choosing to sell their puppies online through puppy broker sites like Greenfield Puppies or Lancaster Puppies, where they had total control over what potential purchasers saw.



### Where puppies were sold:

- Websites
- Facebook
- AKC Marketplace
- LancasterPuppies.com
- GreenfieldPuppies.com
- KeystonePuppies.com
- BreedersClub.net
- Craigslist
- Pet Stores



Screenshots from Pennsylvania investigators show rows of clean, fluffy puppies, posed near pillows or in baskets, while other kennels touted purebred pedigrees and bloodlines, ACA papers with purchase, or AKC membership.

## Meet Bostin (male)...

**\$1000**

Bostin is a beautiful buff F1b Cockapoo. His mother is a F1 Cockapoo and his father is a purebred AKC registered Miniature Poodle. Bostin will be ready to go to his new home by March 11th and will come up-to-date with his vaccinations and wormings. Hurry and send in your deposit to reserve him.



Meanwhile, public records documents reveal dogs from the same kennels wallowing in dark, filthy enclosures, sometimes with open wounds or untreated medical ailments.

One illegal kennel owner in Bedford County, for example, claimed on her marketing materials, “My dogs are my family pets even my puppies R [sic] raised with the same love” – but state inspectors cited her for welfare violations including a “severely matted” collie and four dogs kept in an outside kennel without straw in their boxes. The kennel was selling the dogs on Facebook and Puppyfind.com and asking between \$550 and \$1,500 per pup, according to the public records documents.

Other kennels sold directly to pet stores, including [Vinnie’s Bow Wow Shoppe](#), [Puppy Barn in New Jersey](#), [Puppy Palace](#), and [Waynesboro Builders pet store](#), according to sales records and inspector notes obtained via public records request.



Some illegal kennels chose to employ intermediaries to post puppies on a website, meet people with the puppies to make the transaction, or even take the puppy from the facility the night before a sale to bathe the dog and have the dog in a “home” environment when the purchaser arrived. The intermediaries then got a cut from the sale.

One of those fronts was a Clarion County woman who told state inspectors she received 40 percent of sales for posting puppies and then transferring the puppies to buyers in a public place, like a grocery store parking lot.

When state inspectors told her those actions were illegal, she hung up – then obtained a chip reader for “on the fly” payments and continued exactly what she had been doing before, according to inspectors’ notes.

### Marketed dogs spanned more than 60 breeds

Including labradoodles, pugs, Chihuahuas, golden retrievers, Newfoundlands, Labradors, Yorkshire terriers, goldendoodles, puggles, bernedoodles, French bulldogs, Boston terriers, Shorkie Tzus, Siberian huskies, cockapoos, Maltipoos, rottweilers, Catahoulas, Yorkie-Poos, Jack Russell terriers, poodles, Tibetan mastiffs, shelties, English bulldogs, Akitas, springer spaniels, German shorthaired pointers, Australian shepherds, collies, morkies, Eskimo poos, Pomapoos, miniature Spitzes, Shiba Inus, cocker spaniels, cane corsos, Welsh corgis, dachshunds, Irish setters, dalmations, German shepherds, Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Pomeranians, Great Danes, Norwegian elkhounds, beagles, Doberman pinschers, Dogue de Bordeaux, West Highland terriers, Havanese, pit bull terriers, border collies, Bernese mountain dogs, Brittany spaniels, mini schnauzers, cairn terriers, fox terriers, Shih Tzus, Weimaraners, Bouvier des Flandres, Great Pyrenees, bichons frises, Belgian Malinois, Saint Bernards, Shichons, and African Boerboels.

Breeders sold the puppies at both deeply discounted prices – as low as \$385 per dog – and exorbitant prices, as some advertised \$2,495 per puppy.

Investigator notes consistently showed that kennels were making at least \$100 in profits for each dog they sold, and that at least two of the kennels kept, sold, or transferred more than 100 dogs and puppies in a single calendar year.



Meanwhile, during the period covered by our public records request, Pennsylvania's fines for operating an illegal kennel ranged from \$100 to \$500 – or the sale of one to five puppies, by our calculations – meaning the fines wouldn't have touched the profit raked in by these cruel and exploitative facilities.

### **BY THE NUMBERS** (Jan. 1, 2016- May 7, 2021).

The public records documents we obtained revealed:

- ✔ 158 kennels cited for unlawful activity by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- ✔ 38 Pennsylvania counties with illegal kennels
- ✔ 60+ dog breeds targeted by unlicensed breeders
- ✔ 20+ types of diseases, disorders, or untreated medical problems in dogs or puppies
- ✔ \$2,495 the highest price asked for a single puppy purchase
- ✔ \$500 maximum fine for operating an illegal kennel in Pennsylvania
- ✔ 4,108 the minimum number of dogs and puppies impacted by the illegal kennels identified.

While the public records documents pointed to appalling conditions for puppies and their parents, they also revealed heartbreak and significant financial expenses for families who reportedly purchased sick or dying puppies from these unscrupulous individuals, according to inspection reports and consumer complaints.

One of those complaints alleged a purchase in Bedford County of a 7-month-old bulldog – for \$2,200 – who reportedly died two days after a veterinary checkup. Inspectors cited the breeder, who was using Facebook to advertise the puppies, for running an illegal kennel, as well as not having all of his dogs licensed or up-to-date on rabies vaccinations.



When state authorities issued “Cease and Desist” letters — meaning the facilities were forced to surrender or relocate their dogs and discontinue their operations — the confiscated dogs often landed at local shelters, which then had to shoulder the cost of needed medical treatment and care from the abuse and neglect the dogs endured.

When state authorities issued “Cease and Desist” letters — meaning the facilities were forced to surrender or relocate their dogs and discontinue their operations — the confiscated dogs often landed at local shelters, which then had to shoulder the cost of needed medical treatment and care from the abuse and neglect the dogs endured.



The Montgomery County SPCA was one agency that stepped up, taking in 16 confiscated dogs from a kennel in Green Lane where inspectors documented dogs stacked on top of each other in wire cages and several dogs with severe, untreated medical conditions: including Billy, a matted male miniature schnauzer with advanced periodontal disease and Maverick, a matted male mini schnauzer with narrowed ear canals and hyperplasia, inflamed skin, and brown and black discharge in both ears, according to public records documents.

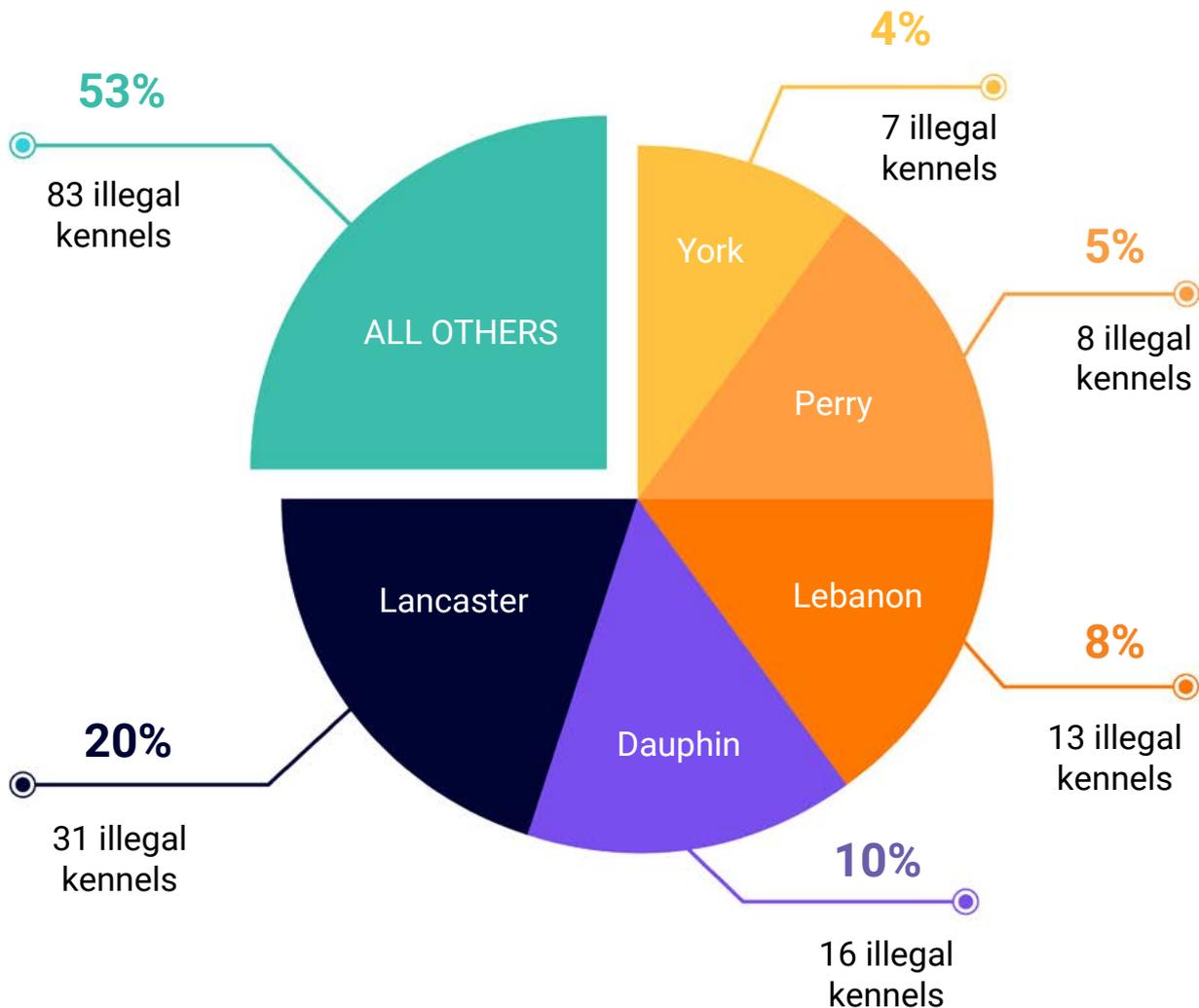
While the illegal kennels cited in this report spanned 38 Pennsylvania counties, five counties — Lancaster, Dauphin, Lebanon, Perry, and York — comprised nearly half of the unlicensed kennels identified in public records. Within those counties:



- Lancaster County had 31 illegal kennels (20 percent overall total), with five kennels in Christiana and four kennels in Manheim.
- Dauphin had 16 illegal kennel investigations (10 percent overall total), with seven kennels in Elizabethville.
- Lebanon County had 13 illegal kennel investigations (8 percent overall total), with six kennels in Myerstown.
- Perry County had eight illegal kennel investigations (5 percent overall total), with three kennels each in Loysville and Millerstown.
- York County had seven illegal kennel investigations (4 percent overall total), two of which were in Spring Grove.

## UNLICENSED KENNELS IN PENNSYLVANIA

(January 1, 2016 through May 7, 2021)



# ILLEGAL KENNEL ISSUES BY COUNTY

## ADAMS COUNTY



The consumer complaint said the puppy from an Adams County kennel had a cough, congestion, diarrhea and lethargy at the time of purchase – but that the family was told these were symptoms from “the stress of moving” from New Jersey and leaving the puppy’s mothers and siblings.

Over the next few days, the puppy got worse, with heavy breathing, constant trembling, and seizures. A veterinary visit revealed pneumonia and roundworms. The complainant said the dealer had only partially reimbursed costs and only after

“much arguing, canceled meetings and threats of legal action,” according to the complaint. Inspectors ultimately cited and fined the kennel owner for operating illegally.

Another complaint about possibly unsanitary conditions at another Adams County kennel resulted in 23 dogs seized through a search warrant and an additional 15 dogs signed over to the Pennsylvania SPCA in a single swoop.

Authorities served a search warrant to another kennel, selling pugs for \$650 and Great Dane puppies for \$1,200, on two issues: having more than 300 dogs on site and running an illegal kennel. A district court judge barred the kennel from owning dogs for 1710 days – or more than four years – and also authorized unlimited access to the property by state inspectors.

### Other issues at kennels in Adams County:

- An illegal kennel selling puppies for \$1,400, with marketing of “100 percent European bloodlines” and “top show lines” and whom he said would make “exceptional family additions”
- An illegal kennel fined for not having rabies vaccination records available for all of her dogs



## ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Humane officers originally seized 30 pit bull dogs and brought 60 charges against one Allegheny County kennel, but later dropped those charges after negotiating an agreement in which the kennel pleaded guilty to licensing and kennel violations and granted inspectors unlimited access to the property for two years. Inspectors returned nine of the seized dogs in return.

A kennel breeding pugs for show also got cited for having more than 26 dogs in one calendar year.

## ARMSTRONG COUNTY

The Armstrong County kennel had several violations over the years, including dogs without licenses, unsanitary food and water receptacles, inaccurate records, and veterinary issues.

Inspectors noted that a black German Shepherd named Bretta had an obvious limp, an open wound on her leg, hair loss and scabbing on her ears and neck, and dark brown discharge in both ears – with no records showing the dog was under veterinary care, according to the inspection report.



Another black German Shepherd, named Nia, was thin and had numerous scabs, hair loss and was seen shaking her head often.

Inspectors also noted J-Lo, a black female poodle, had severe matting and a foul odor coming from her when they pulled her out of her kennel. The inspectors noted that, “According to the kennel owner, it would have taken her very little time and effort to clip this dog; however, she had not done so.”

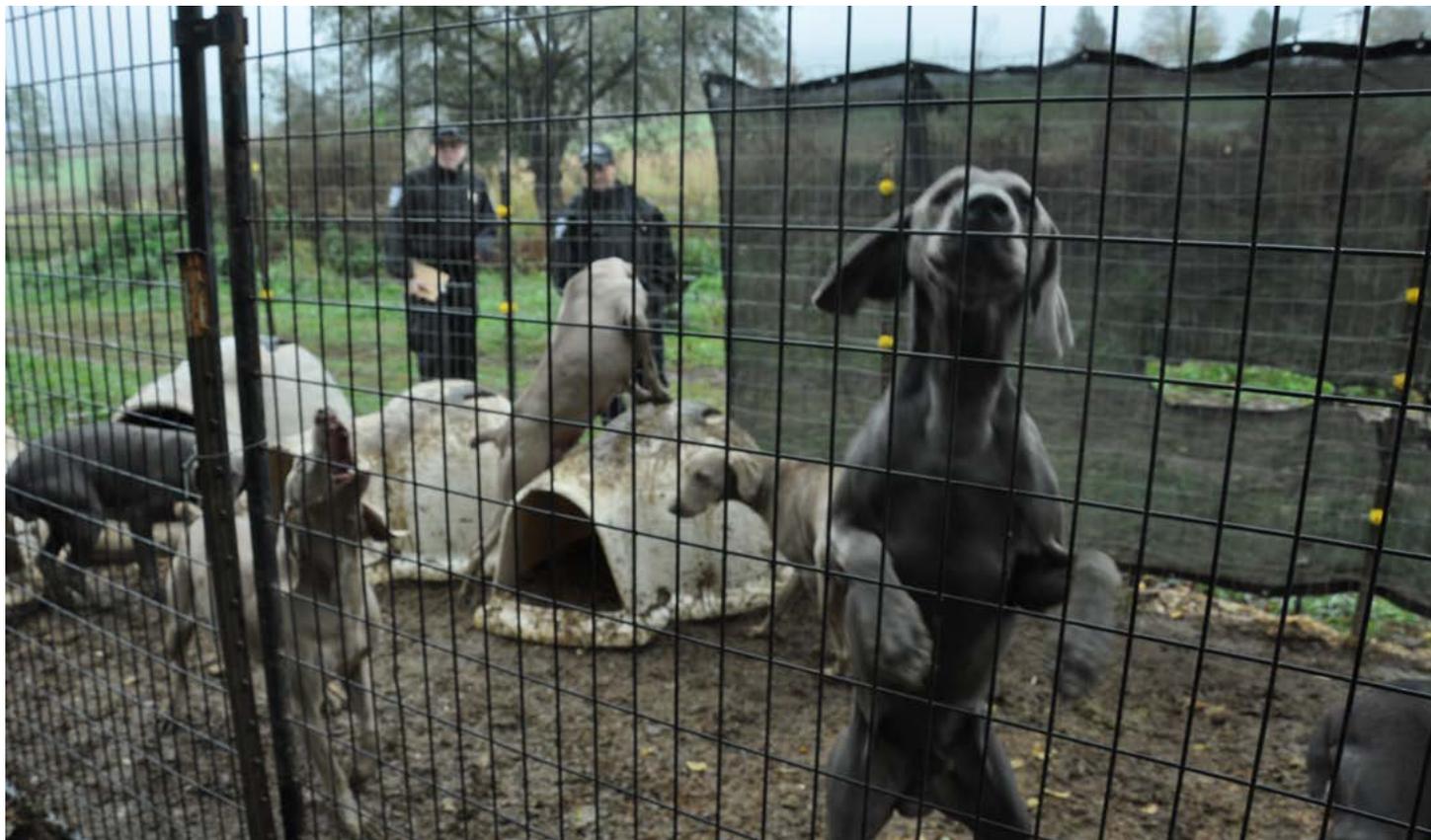
They referred the conditions to the Pennsylvania State Police for a cruelty investigation.



## BEAVER COUNTY

The Beaver County kennel got cited for exceeding the permitted number of dogs without obtaining a license, with inspectors noting 38 puppies transferred or sold in 2019. The kennel was advertising Shetland sheep dogs on Puppyfind.com for \$1,500.

## BEDFORD COUNTY



A letter from the American Kennel Club to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture noted that a field agent had found “care and conditions issues that needed immediate improvement” at one illegal Bedford County kennel, which was selling dogs through a website, Facebook, and Puppyfind.com for \$400 to \$800 each.

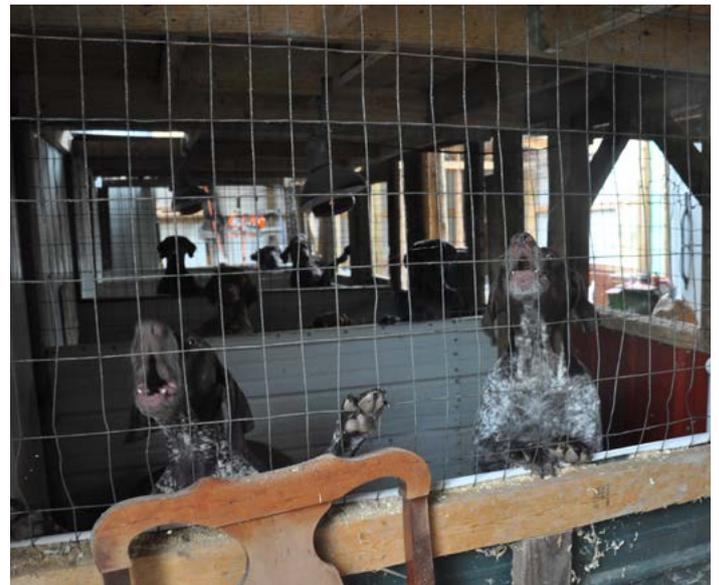
State inspectors over the years documented dogs chained to trees, numerous dogs in a muddy enclosure without adequate shelter from the elements, and dogs who tested positive for roundworms, hookworms, and Giardia. They ordered at least five veterinary exams for untreated medical conditions. They also noted sanitation issues, missing records and rabies vaccination information, failure to provide drinkable water, and numerous “actively shivering” dogs in a building with accumulated cobwebs and no active heat source.



In 2019, one of the owners – who had formerly pleaded guilty to animal cruelty – surrendered 16 dogs to the Bedford County Humane Society.

At another Bedford County kennel, a purchaser who paid \$2,200 for a 7-month-old bulldog ended up with a dead puppy two days after an initial veterinary check. The kennel, which was selling the puppies through Facebook, got cited for exceeding the number of dogs allowed without a license as well as not having rabies vaccination information available for all the dogs on-site.

A third Bedford County kennel selling dogs on Puppyfind.com from \$550 to \$1,500 got cited by state inspectors for having a “severely matted” collie, four small dogs kept in an outside kennel with no straw in their boxes, and missing rabies vaccination and licensing information.



Another Bedford County kennel was cited for exceeding the number of dogs allowed without a license.

## BERKS COUNTY



State inspectors documented dogs with sunken eyes, discharge, ear irritations, growths, dental issues, lameness, eye issues and emaciation – with their ribs, hips, spines, and shoulders visible – at one illegal kennel in Mohrsville.

They also photographed water frozen to bowls, weeds, downed trees, excess feces, and maggots and flies in the main kennel.

The kennel owner, an attorney, fought the levied \$20,000 fine. He also refused to allow the State veterinarian onto his property.





In the final settlement agreement, obtained via public records request, the kennel owner paid out a paltry \$5,000 penalty and agreed to allowing inspectors onto his property twice without a warrant.

Authorities cited another Berks County kennel for not being able to provide complete rabies vaccination information for dogs on-site. Inspectors also alleged he was acting as an off-site kennel for another breeder who was keeping dogs in unsanitary conditions and had been referred to the PSPCA for cruelty, according to a probable cause affidavit.

### Other issues at Berks County illegal kennels:

- A breeder selling puppies online who exceeded the number of dogs she was allowed to have in the calendar year
- A breeder with at least 45 dogs who refused to allow inspectors to view the dogs when they visited to investigate a complaint about an alleged dog beating
- A breeder who reportedly had been breeding and showing dogs for 40 years but had never licensed any of her dogs and had 32 dogs on-site.
- A breeder cited for unsanitary conditions and exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license.



## BRADFORD COUNTY

Inspectors at an illegal kennel in Gillett noted dogs with dental and other medical issues – including JoJo, a fawn pug who couldn't stand on his right front leg and had an eye issue and advanced periodontal disease with root exposure, calculus and gum recession.

Inspectors also cited the kennel for a female fawn pug named Phoebe who had advanced dental disease and long toenails.

The illegal kennel was selling Yorkies, pugs, morkies, shorkies, and Shichons via Facebook, in the newspaper, and on a site called Puppy Wups for \$300 to \$400. Inspectors noted she had 27 adult dogs and 65 puppies on site and also had sold 36 puppies – bringing the number of dogs she handled in a single year to 128.

## CENTRE COUNTY

A Centre County kennel was cited for four dogs without licensing and exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license – with inspectors noting 25 puppies listed for sale on Lancaster Puppies. The kennel paid a \$100 minimum fine for illegally operating.

## CHESTER COUNTY



A consumer who complained about allegedly purchasing a puppy with parvo brought state inspectors to the kennel in Oxford in June 2016. During that visit, inspectors noted dogs with wounds but reported overall conditions were “good.”

But in August, when they returned, inspectors noted chewed food and water receptacles, excess feces and other sanitation issues, exposed insulation inside individual dog boxes, an exercise area with deep holes that was not maintained “in a manner conducive to the health and comfort of the dog” and dogs in need of medical care.



Those canines included Kong, a male black S. African Boerboel who had discharge coming from his leg and Thor and Nuna, a male and female with discharges of pus and mucus, watering eyes, and other eye conditions.

The kennel continued operating in 2017, when inspectors noted incomplete records, unsanitary conditions, and missing licensing and rabies vaccination records.

A tip about possible cruelty and a sick puppy complaint brought state inspectors to another illegal kennel in Honeybrook. The kennel, which reportedly was providing dalmatians and German shepherds for stud services, advertised happy pups. But inspectors cited the facility for pests, sanitation issues, excessive odor from feces and urine, rust, overgrown yards, and keeping dogs in a barn with dirt floors that couldn't be properly sanitized.

### Other kennel issues:

- A kennel that exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license.
- An illegal kennel cited for incomplete rabies vaccinations, maintenance, and sanitation issues, including catch trays under the kennels with accumulated feces, urine, water, food, and shavings

## CLARION COUNTY

Inspectors noted that in the Sligo area several breeders were using “English/plain sect women to run websites, facilitate sales and transfer puppies directly to new owners or fly them to other states” and that the dealers were “likely collecting a commission for each puppy sold based on sale price.” The inspectors also noted that several of the transactions likely were taking place in public spaces, which they noted is against state law.

That was the case for a woman who called the Pennsylvania Department



of Agriculture, told them she was selling puppies for an Amish man and receiving 40 percent of the sale as payment, and wanted to know if she needed a license.

She added she would meet prospective buyers halfway – “in a grocery store parking lot or other type of location that is public” – and reportedly was told to immediately stop doing so, “as it is unlawful to transfer a dog in a public place.”

After hanging up with officials, the woman continued acting as an intermediary without a license – with inspectors noting she was advertising additional dogs online, had obtained a card reader to help her process payments “on the fly” and also posted on Facebook pictures of herself with puppies in a car.

“She obviously has no clue what she is doing or has going on,” inspectors noted.

At another site, the dogs at an illegal kennel in Sligo tested positive for brucella canis, an infectious bacteria that can jump to people. The kennel owner knowingly violated quarantine protocol and transferred the dogs off the property, with inspectors noting, “It wasn’t on his records, but he admitted it when asked.”



Inspectors noted the owner also brought in a dog from Ohio without a health certificate. Inspectors also documented incomplete records, sanitation issues, inadequate enclosures, and that more than six months had passed since the last vet visit.

### Other issues of note:

- An illegal kennel that transferred 72 dogs in one calendar year
- An illegal kennel cited for incomplete records, cramped enclosures, and a possibly inadequate ventilation system



## CLEARFIELD COUNTY

Inspectors who toured an illegal kennel in Morrisdale that had handled at least 31 dogs in a calendar year noted dogs were kept in stacked crates in a laundry room, with a fenced area outdoors that was “quite cluttered with garbage and dog feces” and not “acceptable” to licensing requirements.

When asked where she planned to keep additional dogs, the woman led inspectors to a “garage in progress,” where inspectors noted dirt floors, unfinished walls and no ventilation system. They ordered an immediate “cease and desist” order and also cited the woman for lacking rabies vaccination records, proper licensings, and illegally operating a kennel.

The PSPCA looped in state inspectors after another illegal kennel operator surrendered 12 labradoodle puppies – whom they said were in “very poor condition” with fleas, tapeworms, and Coccidia— to their shelter. The PSCPA later confiscated six adult dogs and four puppies from the woman, who told them she “had too many dogs and needed to get rid of some.” Inspectors also cited the kennel owner for selling a puppy less than 8 weeks old, which can harm their health.

Another illegal kennel, in Wallaceton, immediately offered to give away dogs when inspectors told her she had too many and would need to obtain a license. Inspectors noted the dogs were kept in stacked crates and that the kennel owner wasn’t able to produce rabies vaccination information for all the dogs on-site.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY

Inspectors seized two litters of puppies and 10 adult dogs after receiving an online tip about a Crawford County breeder allegedly selling hundreds of dogs each year without being licensed.

A kennel in Greenville also was cited for illegal operation and missing rabies vaccination information.

## CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Authorities cited an illegal kennel in Newville that was selling Pomeranians and teacup puppies on Facebook for \$600 to \$650 and also directly selling to





the Waynesboro Builders Pet Store – with inspectors noting eight puppies transferred there over a 3-week period. Other violations included dirty water receptacles with green water, high grass and weeds, standing water in kennels, dog areas without adequate shelter, excess feces, pests, large amounts of dirt and clutter throughout kennels, other unsanitary conditions, missing bills of sale and a health certificate, and dogs not being current on rabies vaccinations.

Several Cumberland County breeders running illegal kennels also were netting more than \$100 in profit per puppy sold, according to records.

Inspectors noted another illegal kennel selling rottweilers for \$450 to \$500 made \$17, 230 in a calendar year from their sales – which broke down to \$4,305 in profit, or an average profit of \$153.75 per sale.

Inspectors noted another kennel that hadn't licensed any dogs and also exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license made \$13,320 from puppy sales in a year – including \$5,145 in profits, for an average profit of \$160.78 per puppy sale.

A third illegal kennel, selling dogs for \$425 to \$465, made \$10,560 in puppy sales in one year for a net \$3,335 in profits, or an average \$138.96 profit per puppy sold.



## Other Issues in Cumberland County:

- An illegal kennel that sold at least 54 dogs in one year without a license and also was cited for missing rabies vaccinations
- An illegal kennel boarding dogs without a license

## DAUPHIN COUNTY



Lily, a 6-year-old Maltese, couldn't bear weight on her right rear leg when inspectors arrived at one unlicensed kennel in Elizabethville. The state inspectors ordered a veterinary visit for the dog, telling the kennel owners to "Please check to see why this dog is limping on three legs."

Inspectors also issued verbal and written warnings for unsanitary food and water receptacles – including a water bowl coated in green algae – excess feces, inadequate maintenance,

overgrown foliage in an exercise area, and inadequate pest control.

Another illegal kennel that declined officers' requests for an initial walk through later was cited for expired rabies vaccinations and keeping puppies in a barn without temperature regulation. Dogs also didn't have heating or bedding in their kennels, according to inspection reports, which also noted that the kennel was selling dogs on Greenfield Puppies.

A third kennel was cited for receiving a dog from Ohio without a health certificate, exceeding the number of dogs allowed without a license in a calendar year, sanitation issues, and holes in the floor of indoor run areas.



## Some of the other issues in Dauphin County:

- An unlicensed kennel, selling English cream retrievers and rottweilers for \$775 to \$1,200 per dog, cited for insufficient kennel size, no written veterinary care program, expired rabies vaccinations and unsanitary conditions
- An unlicensed kennel, selling Tibetan mastiffs and breeding and moving dogs between locations, cited for inadequate maintenance and excessive feces
- An illegal kennel that sold 60 puppies in a single year whose owner asked inspectors how many dogs they would need to “get rid of,” according to inspection reports
- An unlicensed kennel selling Great Danes on Puppyfind.com for \$950 that exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license
- An unlicensed kennel in Elizabethville cited for illegal operation and failure to license and vaccinate all dogs on-site
- A kennel selling Siberian huskies without proper licensing
- An unlicensed kennel selling dogs on Puppyfind and Greenfield Puppies
- A working farm selling Pyrenees cited for exceeding the number of dogs allowed without a permit, with 44 dogs sold or on site in a calendar year, according to inspection reports
- An unlicensed kennel boarding dogs without a proper license
- A kennel that exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license in a calendar year

## ERIE COUNTY

One kennel was cited for advertising boarding facilities without proper licensing in Erie County.

Inspectors cited a second kennel, selling Weimaraners, that sold 33 dogs in a single year and so exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license.

## FAYETTE COUNTY

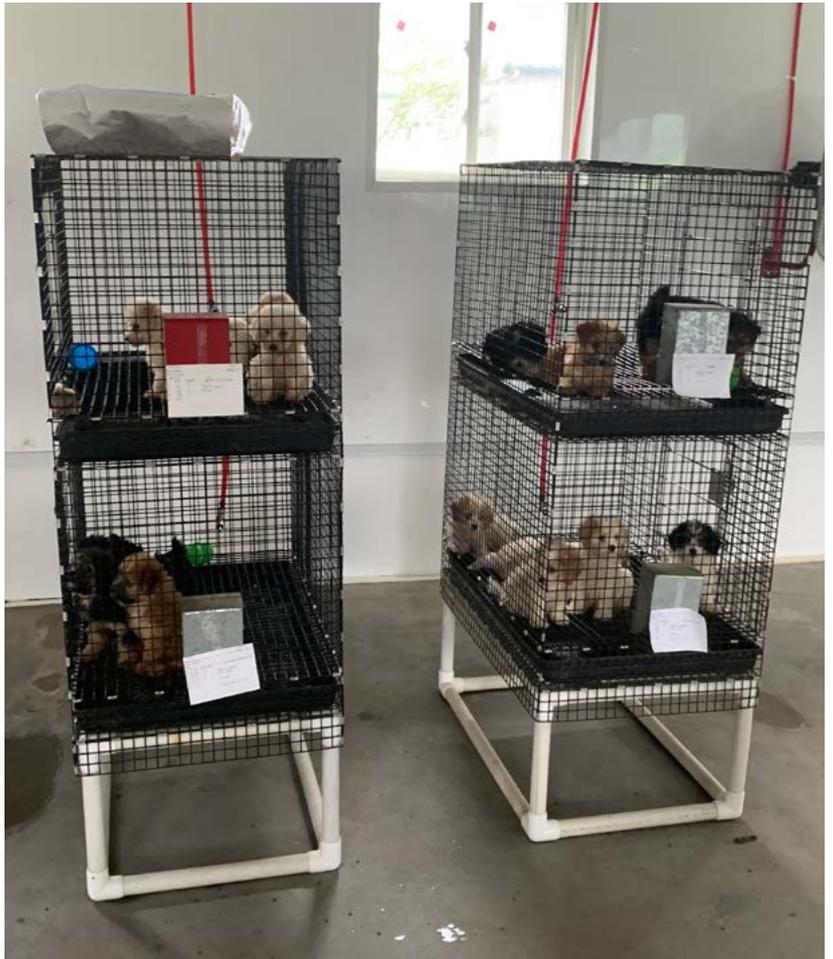
Inspectors noted unsanitary conditions outside one home that allegedly housed dozens of dogs but no one answered the door when they knocked. A passerby informed inspectors the property was scheduled reportedly for an upcoming sheriff sale, according to reports.



## FRANKLIN COUNTY

Levi, a male Yorkie, had advanced dental disease – with calculus, root exposure, and loose teeth – when inspectors stopped by one unlicensed kennel in Franklin County.

The illegal kennel had violations across inspections, including for unsanitary conditions, missing records for 67 dogs, irregular veterinary care, lapsed rabies vaccinations, and obtaining dogs without health certificates. Inspectors noted the kennel “smelled strongly of urine and feces” and that floors inside the building were covered with feces in many of the kennel areas.



A kennel in Waynesboro, Franklin County, was cited in August 2017 when inspectors noted “very dirty” outside kennels and dogs without proper licenses or rabies vaccinations.

The kennel stayed open but racked up additional citations within weeks of each other in October: first for unsanitary food and water receptacles and a lack of fire extinguishers, then for excess feces, inadequate shelter that didn’t allow dogs to preserve their body heat, and an accumulation of dirt and dust on the walls and floors of the dogs’ enclosures. Two years later, in 2019, the same kennel got cited for expired rabies vaccinations.

At another location, during an “opening” inspection of a potential kennel, violations included soiled and stained carpet in dog housing, a strong smell of ammonia, soiled bedding and an accumulation of dirt, dust, and debris in dogs’ enclosures. Inspectors also noted several dogs not current on rabies vaccinations.





### Other issues in Franklin County:

- An illegal kennel that exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license, failed to vaccinate all dogs against rabies, and had kennels and an exercise yard smaller than the minimums required by state law
- A kennel selling dogs on Facebook for \$600 to \$650 cited for inadequate rabies vaccinations, failing to properly license dogs, and exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license
- A kennel that exceeded the number of dogs permitted without a license

### FULTON COUNTY

Inspectors ordered several veterinary checks after visiting an illegal kennel in Waterfall, including for Snickers, a chocolate Lab with osteoarthritis and pyoderma (or pus filled skin) on his face and chin.

Inspectors also ordered veterinary exams for Pink and Maximus, two dogs with entropion – or inward folding eyelids – and noted that dogs with this condition shouldn't be bred.





“A discussion was had with this kennel owner about the heritable nature of entropion, and she was strongly encouraged not to breed dogs known to have produced puppies with this trait or have had this trait themselves,” the inspector wrote.

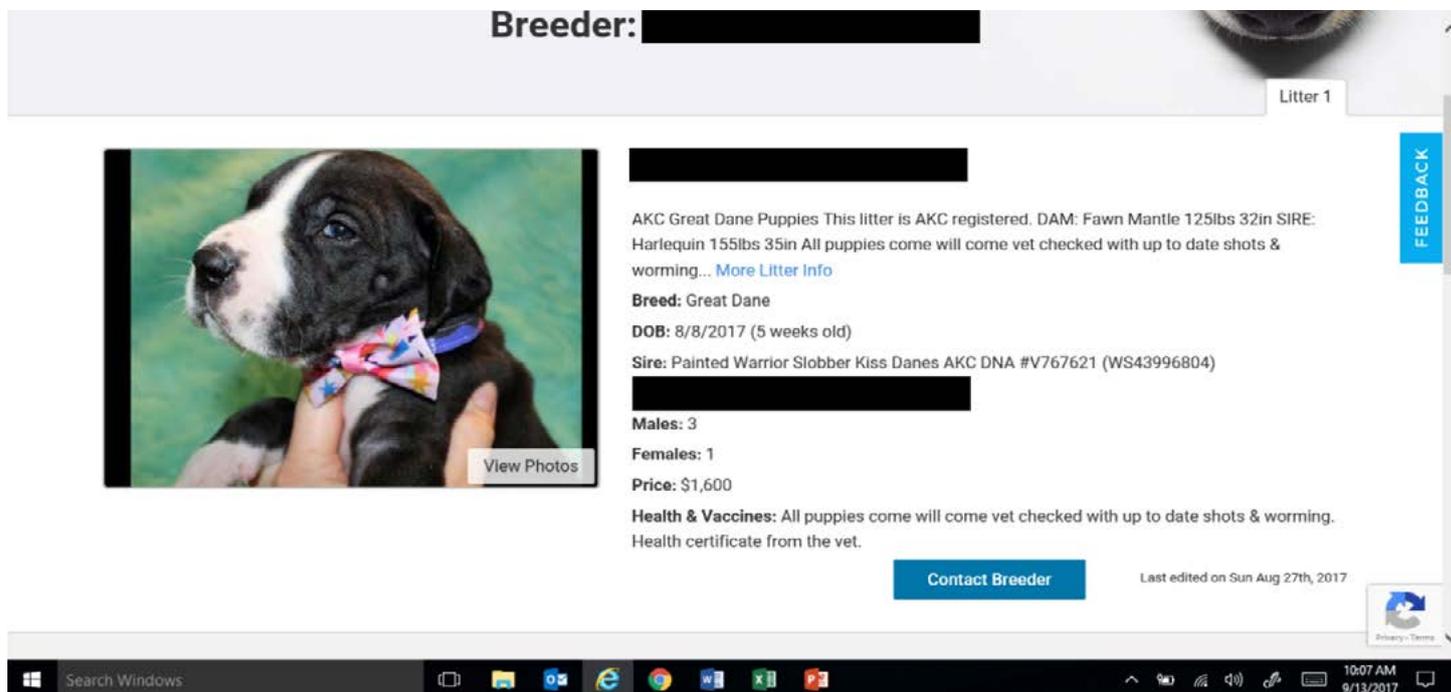
The kennel owner told inspectors she wouldn't breed the dogs any more, according to the inspection report. Inspectors also fined the kennel for exceeding the number of dogs allowed without a license and for not properly confining dogs, resulting in a bite.

Another illegal kennel, selling Pomeranians in Warfordsburg via a personal website, was cited for a dog without a rabies vaccination and for not having any on-site dogs licensed. Veterinary reports also revealed a female Pomeranian had untreated bilateral medial patellar luxation – a congenital condition where the kneecap pops out but which can be corrected with surgery.



## HUNTINGDON COUNTY

An AKC-registered illegal kennel selling Great Danes for up to \$1,600 in Huntingdon came onto inspectors' radars after they noted 38 dogs had been transferred in a single year.



The screenshot shows a Facebook listing for AKC Great Dane puppies. At the top, the breeder's name is redacted with a black box. Below this, there is a photo of a black and white Great Dane puppy wearing a colorful bow tie. To the right of the photo, the text reads: "AKC Great Dane Puppies This litter is AKC registered. DAM: Fawn Mantle 125lbs 32in SIRE: Harlequin 155lbs 35in All puppies come will come vet checked with up to date shots & worming... More Litter Info". Below this, it lists "Breed: Great Dane", "DOB: 8/8/2017 (5 weeks old)", and "Sire: Painted Warrior Slobber Kiss Danes AKC DNA #V767621 (WS43996804)". Further down, it states "Males: 3", "Females: 1", and "Price: \$1,600". A "Health & Vaccines" section says "All puppies come will come vet checked with up to date shots & worming. Health certificate from the vet." There are buttons for "View Photos", "Contact Breeder", and "FEEDBACK". The listing was last edited on Sun Aug 27th, 2017. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

## INDIANA COUNTY

An Indiana County illegal kennel was selling Great Danes on Facebook and reportedly having back-to-back litters – transferring at least 35 dogs in one year, according to inspectors.

Inspectors who visited the kennel found 18 dogs on-site had expired rabies vaccinations and cited the kennel for having more dogs than allowed without a license.

## LANCASTER COUNTY

Lancaster County's unlicensed kennels had issues with selling reportedly sick puppies to consumers, selling puppies who came from violative conditions to pet stores, and being referred by inspectors for animal cruelty charges, public records show.

An inspector who fielded a call about a "stray," possibly injured dog near an intersection tracked the innocent animal back to a kennel, catalyzing a cruelty complaint.





An inspector who fielded a call about a “stray,” possibly injured dog near an intersection tracked the innocent animal back to a kennel, catalyzing a cruelty complaint.

“Conditions are bad,” the inspector wrote. “I need to call it in as cruelty to the PSPCA.”

The inspector discovered the kennel owner was hiding dogs in secret locations and that other complaints had been made about loose dogs – one of whom was “hit twice,” according to the inspection report.

Veterinary records revealed untreated medical conditions, including for Daytona, a female red mastiff-type dog with an inward-turning eyelid (entropion) who had not been seen by a veterinarian. A settlement agreement, including a \$4,000 fine, followed.

At another kennel, inspectors filed cruelty charges – resulting in the Pennsylvania SPCA seizing three adult dogs and four puppies. Inspectors noted missing licenses and missing rabies vaccines among other issues.

Inspectors also referred for possible animal cruelty a kennel in Ephrata that was selling Labs, Siberian huskies, boxers, and Greater Swiss mountain dogs, according to public records documents.

Conditions also were bad for dogs at a kennel in Stevens, where inspectors noted pests, incomplete records and rabies vaccinations, missing health certificates, and accumulated dirt and debris within the facility.

A visit in 2017 revealed 40 dogs on-site – including 13 adults and 27 puppies – and resulted in a “cease and desist” letter. But by April 2019, inspectors were back: once again citing the kennel for unsatisfactory records and operating illegally – with 35 puppies not listed on state kennel records and 22 adult dogs on site.

Weeks later, inspectors found the kennel still had at least 58 dogs on the premises and that the kennel was operating as a “dealer” without the proper licensing. But the kennel kept operating, with inspectors noting additional violations in December 2020, including incomplete records and rabies vaccinations and dogs missing from state kennel records.



Pet stores also had a history of purchasing their puppies from unlicensed kennels in Lancaster County, records show.



One unlicensed kennel came onto inspectors' radars after records from the [Puppy Barn](#) pet store showed the kennel had transferred 53 dogs to them. Inspectors noted at least 39 dogs on-site when they visited, resulting in a "Cease and Desist" letter.

Another unlicensed kennel in Lancaster also was selling puppies to a pet store, with inspectors discovering records from [Vinnie's Bow Wow Shoppe](#) showing sales of 32 puppies. When executing a warrant, they found 46 dogs had been on the premises and sold in a single calendar year, and that the property owner had no kennel facility – the dogs were just roaming the property at will, according to the report. Inspectors also noted that the kennel owner had sold two litters of puppies under the minimum age of 8 weeks old.

[Vinnie's Bow Wow Shoppe](#) receipts also showed 23 puppies obtained from an illegal kennel in Kirkwood – and that the puppies, [selling for around \\$1,375 each](#), had been purchased before they were the minimum age of 8 weeks old, according to public records. Inspectors who visited the site noted at least 28 dogs had been on the premises and issued citations for the puppy sale violations as well as exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license.

Consumers also lodged several complaints about reportedly purchasing sick puppies from Lancaster County illegal kennels.



Inspectors received a voicemail complaint from a person alleging she had bought a sick puppy from a pet store and then tracked the puppy's source to an illegal kennel in Lancaster County.

"She stated that she recently bought a puppy from her local pet store up in [redacted]. The puppy was diagnosed with both Giardia and parvo, and passed away early this morning," an inspector wrote. "She wants to make sure this doesn't happen to another family."

Inspectors who visited the kennel immediately issued a "Cease and Desist" order, after determining the kennel had already harbored at least 31 dogs without a license and that rabies vaccinations were only current for five of the nine adult dogs on site.

Inspectors also received a complaint about another breeder in Ephrata from a couple who alleged that the purchased puppy had parvovirus and the breeder was only willing to refund the purchase cost – not the extensive vet bills that followed.

Another complaint about a puppy purchased with parvo brought inspectors to Lancaster County as well, where they substantiated the facility was an illegal kennel and issued citations for missing rabies vaccinations and licensing.

### **Some of the other issues identified at the Lancaster County illegal kennels:**

- **A kennel that lied about how many dogs were on-site and also refused to allow inspectors access to the shed, where the dogs were kept, according to the inspection report**
- **A kennel keeping puppies in a barn that "did not have adequate shelter to preserve the body heat of these puppies," a litter of puppies sold without bills of sale, and unsatisfactory maintenance**
- **A kennel selling poodles and cocker spaniels, none of whom were current on their licenses, as well as several without adequate rabies vaccinations**
- **A kennel fined for exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license and missing rabies vaccinations, yet advertising dogs on Greenfield Puppies**
- **A kennel cited for unsatisfactory maintenance – including chewed and broken walls in primary enclosures, high grass and weeds, and an old mattress left in the exercise area – and incomplete records.**



- A kennel in Narvon selling dogs via a personal website that was cited for unsanitary conditions, including pests, accumulated dirt and cobwebs, and bird droppings
- A kennel that identified as a “family farm” cited by inspectors for incomplete bills of sale, exceeding the number of dogs allowed without a license, inadequate maintenance and housekeeping, accumulated feces and a dog without current rabies vaccination
- A kennel cited for handling at least 47 dogs within one calendar year
- A kennel advertising dogs on Lancaster Puppies that was cited for handling at least 47 dogs in one calendar year
- A kennel that had at least 42 dogs on site, with missing licenses and rabies vaccinations
- An illegal kennel in Quarryville that handled at least 30 dogs in a calendar year
- Another kennel that handled at least 30 dogs in one calendar year
- An illegal kennel with rusty enclosures
- A kennel fined for having dogs without current rabies vaccinations
- A kennel without adequate dog licenses or rabies vaccinations
- Kennels cited for having too many dogs
- A kennel fined \$100 for illegally selling puppies



## LAWRENCE COUNTY

An illegal kennel in Hillsville, Lawrence County, was cited after inspectors received a complaint about two purchased dogs allegedly showing genetic defects and aggressiveness. During a site visit, they determined the kennel had no licenses or rabies vaccinations for any of the dogs.

## LEBANON COUNTY



The consumer complaint said a 7-week-old puppy purchased from a Lebanon County breeder for \$1,100 wouldn't eat, had diarrhea, and required emergency veterinary care. The puppy, purchased Sept. 16, 2020, started having seizures on Sept. 24. By Sept. 29, the puppy had passed away. The breeder and the breeder's associate then stopped communicating, according to the complaint.

It wasn't investigators' first encounter with the breeder, whom they noted was "in some trouble with us" and "working with a very shady character" who had previously been convicted of animal cruelty in New Jersey, according to public records documents.

According to inspector emails, the duo was transferring dogs to buyers at a restaurant, which didn't condone the activity and was trying to stop it.

Emails from the inspectors noted that the breeder had "lied to us numerous times."

Screenshots of online ads for the puppies, including via Lancaster Puppies, noted numerous featured breeds – including Catahoulas, Maltipoos, rottweilers, Chihuahuas, and German shepherds – at prices ranging from \$800 to \$1,350.

A screenshot of a notebook containing dog sale information also showed at least nine puppies from the illegal kennel had been sold to a pet shop, according to the public records documents.



While executing a search warrant, they viewed at least nine puppies – some exhibiting signs of entropion (inward turning eyelids) and “signs of having worms,” according to the inspector’s notes.

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement also received a complaint alleging a person bought a puppy who tested positive for worms and Giardia from a Lebanon County breeder.

Investigators then determined the kennel – which was selling goldendoodle, mini goldendoodle, and labradoodle puppies for around \$1,900 on Facebook and via a webpage – had kept or sold at least 110 puppies in a single calendar year – far exceeding the number she was allowed without a license.

They cited the kennel owner for operating illegally, incomplete records, an inaccurate inventory, and also selling puppies under the minimum 8 weeks old.

Inspectors also received a complaint about a repeat offender who they found was advertising at least 29 puppies on Lancaster Puppies, with prices per puppy ranging from \$1,595 to \$2,495.

The kennel owner lied to inspectors about how many dogs he had when they showed up for a visit, according to public records documents.

“Initially, d.o. (dog owner) #3 and the relative asserted that these were the only other two dogs on this property, until this Warden heard barking coming from inside the barn,” the warden wrote in an inspection report. “After some coercion to be honest and comply with the law from this Warden, the relative invited this warden into the barn and showed me a kennel setup on the ground floor.”

The warden then climbed to the top of the barn, via a wooden staircase, where he observed “an unsanitary enclosure housing 4 small dogs... kept for breeding purposes,” according to the report.

Inspectors cited the kennel owner for illegal operation, rabies vaccination violations, and unsanitary conditions.

Kennels in Lebanon County also got cited for animals with untreated medical conditions.





In 2017, inspectors noted two dogs with wounds from dog fighting at an illegal kennel in Myerstown: Mia, a German shepherd, had a wound on her face, while German shepherd Lassie had an injury and laceration near her eye.

During that inspection, the kennel owner — who was selling dogs on Puppy Pals, Keystone Puppies, Greenfield Puppies, and Lancaster Puppies — reportedly lied to the state inspectors about how many dogs were on the property. Inspectors found puppies, about 6 to 8 weeks old, outside in 38 degree weather — at least one of whom was visibly shivering, according to the report.

That year, inspectors cited the kennel for illegally operating, inadequate maintenance, incomplete records, and sanitation issues. They noted gaps in siding and flooring of kennels that allowed dogs to drop several feet into the barn stalls below, dirty water, and accumulated filth and cobwebs.

They also noted an English bulldog named Diamond had an ulceration and was leaking discharge from her anus and a doodle mix named Sheba had severe matting, down to the skin and crusted with feces. In addition to these suffering animals, inspectors noted there were dogs on the property that they were “not allowed” to view, according to the reports.

Before the kennel closed in 2018, inspectors leveraged a criminal complaint, citing issues with temperatures, inadequate food and water, accumulated debris and feces, disease hazards, no proof of veterinary care, signs of poor health among dogs, and dogs with aggressive and ferocious behavior not being kept separate from other dogs.



Inspectors discovered more than 30 dogs while executing a search warrant for another kennel – advertising “Elite” Belgian Malinois dogs for \$2,000, as well as transportation services and dog training. The visit resulted in a referral for “various aspects of cruelty,” according to public records documents.

The tip off came from a consumer, who filed a complaint alleging the breeder had failed to send promised American Kennel Association papers for the dog.

Investigators noted the breeder had been on their radars for a while, noting he “has been the subject of many complaints from Philadelphia to the Amish communities in Pennsylvania and Ohio.”

“We have known about him for years, as has the PSPCA,” an investigator wrote. “We have never been able to catch him at any address we’ve been provided as he is constantly on the move. Some Amish folk took him to court in PA for civil charges and won; however, they have not gotten their digs [sic] back or any financial compensation.”

Another kennel selling puppies on Greenfield Puppies was cited multiple times for unsanitary conditions, including bedding mixed with days-old excreta and feces accumulated along the walls and floors of dogs’ kennels.

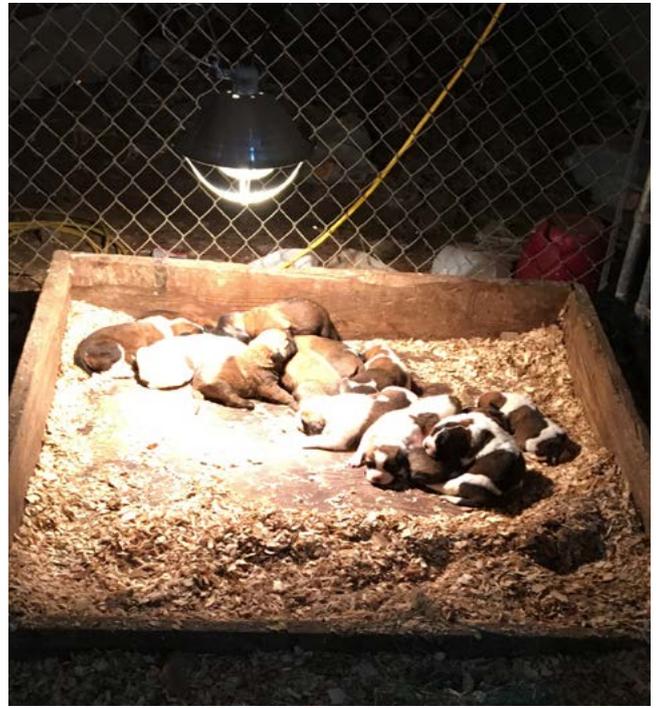


Inspectors noted that two dogs had pushed over the flimsy structure of their enclosure and escaped, while 12 other dogs were crammed into an enclosure that didn’t meet minimum space requirements.



They also documented one dog overdue for a rabies vaccination, loose wires in a dog kennel, metal strand flooring in kennels without vinyl to pad the dogs' sensitive paws, accumulated filth and cobwebs, and a Cavalier-type dog without adequate shelter.

Inspectors also were concerned by a litter of six Saint Bernard puppies, the runt of which was observed to be weak in the hind legs and only able to move with "swimmer like" motions, while at least three of the other puppies were shaking and showing signs of a possible neurological disorder.



Inspectors ordered a vet exam for a dog named Liberty whom they observed shaking, scratching her ears, with scabs, dark brown discharge, inflammation, and an odor.

### Other Issues in Lebanon County:

- A kennel that kept dogs in a sunroom with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees and also had too many dogs to operate without a license
- Another kennel where temperatures in the dogs' enclosures exceeded 85 degrees and inspectors noted accumulated spiderwebs and weeds and also ordered a veterinary check for a suffering dog
- A kennel selling Dobermans for \$650 to \$900 via Facebook and a personal webpage cited by inspectors for a female Doberman with a large mammary tumor and exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license
- A breeder advertising Norwegian elkhound pups on BreedersClub.net cited for exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license who also had a veterinary examination ordered for a dog
- A kennel selling labradoodles on Facebook fined for inadequate rabies vaccinations and exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license
- A kennel cited for illegally operating after handling at least 32 dogs in a single calendar year
- Another kennel that exceeded the number of dogs permitted without a license



## MIFFLIN COUNTY

Belleville proved a hotspot in Mifflin County – with all five illegal kennels identified within the public records documents within that city.

Investigators noted more than 70 puppies posted on Lancaster Puppies in a single calendar year by a single person without a license: including pugs for \$750, goldendoodles for \$400 to \$750, Yorkshire terriers for \$650, puggles for \$450, bernedoodles for \$750, French bulldogs for \$1,900, Boston terriers for \$600, Shorkie Tzus for \$550, and Siberian huskies for \$750.



The screenshot shows a mobile phone interface with the following details:

- Carrier: VZW Wi-Fi
- Time: 3:41 PM
- Battery: 52%
- Address bar: puppyfind.com
- Page Title: Dog Breeder Directory @ Puppyfind.com
- Listing Title: **Puppies for Sale** by [REDACTED] - Updated 01-24-2018
- Location: Dog Breeder in Belleville, Pennsylvania
- Puppy Name: Bentley
- Category: Pug Puppies For Sale
- Sex: Male
- Age: 7 Weeks
- Price: \$750 USD
- Navigation: Home | Back

The woman, when contacted, told inspectors that she worked with breeders who paid her to take photos of the puppies and advertise them. She then got a cut of the profits.

Inspectors told her she was breaking the law.

At another location, inspectors cracked down on an unsubdivided property where two men were each selling dogs and so exceeded the limit of dogs allowed without a license. During conversations with inspectors, one of the men “admitted he knew the law” but had ignored it, according to the inspection report.



Sales sheets included in the public records documents showed one of the men was selling puggles and golden retrievers from \$100 to \$335, while the other man was selling goldenpoos and toy fox Chihuahuas for \$395 and \$245, respectively – including to the [pet store Puppy Palace](#).

The sheets show the average profit for each man per puppy sold was \$95 to \$115.

Another kennel – selling goldendoodles, shorkies, pugs and Yorkshire terriers – was cited after inspectors found the kennel had sold 37 dogs in a single calendar year to a dealer without a license. They also found dogs in deplorable conditions.

“There was no heat in the shed and no bedding for any of the dogs except the puppies, which had wood shavings in their pen,” the inspector wrote.

### Other issues in Belleville, Mifflin County:

- A breeder cited for illegal operation sold 23 goldenpoos to a state-licensed dealer, with prices between \$385 and \$395 per dog – leaving a profit of about \$103 dollars per dog sold, according to public records documents.
- A kennel exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license, with inspectors counting 27 puppies and 12 adult dogs on the premises with an additional 18 puppies sold during the same year.

## MONROE COUNTY

A kennel in Monroe County found to be operating illegally was fined \$100, without any other details available in the public records documents.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Inspectors who stopped by an illegal kennel in Green Lane noted numerous dogs with severe, untreated medical conditions.

There was Billy, a matted male schnauzer with advanced periodontal disease – with root exposure, gum recession, significant calculus, loose teeth, and a foul odor.

Then there was Maverick, a matted male mini schnauzer with narrowed ear canals from hyperplasia, inflamed skin, and brown and black discharge in both ears.





Inspectors also noted numerous others – including dogs named Victor, Sunny, Emma and Heddie – who were matted.

“The kennel owner was advised that it is unacceptable to have that many dogs in need of grooming,” inspectors wrote. “The kennel owner’s explanation was that she didn’t have the staff to do it, and she wasn’t going to allow just anybody to groom her dogs.”

Inspectors told her to get the dogs groomed immediately. Over multiple inspections, they also documented inadequate maintenance, incomplete records, five dogs without rabies vaccinations.

Public records documents also show a filed criminal complaint that resulted in the forfeiture of 16 dogs to the Montgomery County SPCA.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

September 19 at 9:30 AM · 🌐

Mamas are resting. Eva had 12 puppies. 7 boys and 5 girls. I have contacted those in line within the number available. If they pass, I'll move down the list. Piper had 13 born, 12 survived, but unfortunately today she lost a black female. 😞 so she has 11. Those people have been contacted for their pups.

August 6 at 7:33 P

Don't mind me pops, I'll j till you get the hint to hide th

1 Like  
Like · Comment

July 10 at 7:22 PM

itty bitty Briar is just a littl

2 Likes  
Like · Comment

English (US) · Español · Portu  
Français (France) · Deutsch

Privacy · Terms · Advertising ·  
Cookies · More ·  
Facebook © 2019



Inspectors who executed a search warrant at an illegal kennel in Shamokin found 30 dogs on site – including several they seized who were in need of immediate veterinary care.

Those dogs included a Newfoundland named Creed who had matted hair and no shelter, an unnamed female Lab with ear issues and scabbing, an unnamed female black Lab with ear infections, an unnamed female yellow Lab with eye issues and sores on her back and leg and possible vulva discharge, and a female Chi mix with cherry eye.

Another Northumberland County kennel got cited after inspectors determined that at least 55 puppies had been born on the premises in a single calendar year.

## PERRY COUNTY

State inspectors during a 2017 site visit to an illegal Perry County kennel noted accumulated dirt and debris on the walls and dog boxes, cobwebs, and a suffering Irish setter named Newt in an outside kennel who had swelling on the left side of his muzzle, excessive drooling, and skin sensitive to the touch.

State inspectors issued both verbal and written warnings to the same kennel in 2018, when they found excess feces, other sanitation issues, and improper maintenance.

Before the kennel closed, they also noted numerous other issues, including dogs in need of medical care.



Faith, an Irish setter, had scabbing, itchy skin likely caused by mites or a severe flea allergy, and alopecia (or hair loss). Newt also likely was suffering from a severe flea allergy, and an unnamed schnauzer had matting, inspectors noted. Dogs also weren't current on rabies vaccinations, bills of sale weren't complete, and inspectors noted the kennel owner had obtained Bostons from a person who reportedly told him not to use his name on the records, according to inspection reports.

The chronic issues led Anastacia Fitzburgh, the state dog warden at the time, to write in her report that the kennel owner was “too lackadaisical” about the care of his canines.

At another property, inspectors noted the kennel walls were so dirty that they were brown instead of white, with cobwebs and muddy dirt floors in the kennels. The kennel owner, who was selling dogs on Greenfield Puppies, got cited for illegal operation as well as not having all dogs up-to-date on rabies vaccinations.



### Other Issues in Perry County unlicensed kennels:

- A Louisville kennel, advertising puppies in Greenfield Puppies as well as stud services, that exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license
- Another Louisville kennel, selling puppies via PuppyFind.com, cited for inadequate rabies vaccinations and having too many dogs
- A kennel missing bills of sale for nine dogs, inadequate maintenance, unsanitary conditions, and one puppy without rabies vaccination
- A kennel that exceeded the number of dogs allowed without a license



- A kennel owner cited for selling a puppy less than the minimum 8 weeks old and incomplete records
- A kennel in Greenwood Township that paid fines after advertising more than 30 dogs in a single year without a license, including German shepherds, yorkies, poodles and a maltese and bichon frise; the kennel came onto inspectors' radars after they picked up a "stray" German shepherd on the loose and tracked the dog back to the kennel, according to public records documents.

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

Inspectors came across the illegal kennel in Schuylkill County following an animal cruelty complaint about two dead, dumped horses. They called the kennel's stated veterinarian and discovered no vaccination records on file for any of the dogs, according to public records documents.

The woman was selling the dogs, whom she advertised as German shepherd-golden retriever mixes, in a Facebook group for \$400 a pup.

The Dog Bureau also assisted the Pennsylvania State Police with an illegal kennel in Klingerstown, with a trooper saying he had filed animal cruelty charges.

Inspectors who arrived on scene found "one deceased dog lying in a creek on the property and many dogs inside and outside of the residence."

"All of the dogs were in poor health, underweight, missing hair, and having sores on their body," the inspectors wrote.

The investigators also seized five donkeys and two goats – one of whom was dead – while noting "there were composting type bins that had bones and some type of animal inside, it was unknown as to whether they were dogs' remains or not," according to the report.

## SNYDER COUNTY

In 2019, Pennsylvania authorities refused a kennel license application from a notorious breeder in Snyder County.

In their refusal, inspectors cited numerous violations from 2018 and 2019, including rust, broken and sharp metal in dogs' enclosures, pooled water near



their exercise area, a buildup of dirt, dead rodents in breeding areas, feces-filled water pools outside a whelping area, inaccurate records, dogs kept in crowded enclosures, improper temperatures, a Brittany spaniel with an injured leg and a dog with an open wound.

In emails, included with the public records documents, the breeder asked inspectors about places where he could offload his dogs, telling them that he “can no longer handle the kennel duties” and that he had “major problems selling and even giving dogs away.”

“He said he just needs to move the dogs, that they are costing him too much money,” the inspector wrote.



The kennel closed in 2020 following a fine and a settlement agreement.

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

Inspectors cited an illegal kennel in Sullivan County that had 29 dogs on site, including 19 without current rabies vaccinations, according to inspection reports.

## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY



A kennel in Thompson was cited by state inspectors twice, with inspectors noting that the owner continued to breed and obtain dogs even after pleading guilty in court to operating an illegal kennel.

Inspectors also noted improper veterinary care, including when the owner did not take a French bulldog who had delivered a litter via a C-section for a required follow



up care visit, and for a dog with an eye injury.

The State ordered the kennel to forfeit dogs to the True Friends Animal Shelter in September 2019.

Inspectors also noted numerous dogs without proper medical care at another Susquehanna kennel where dogs were stacked on top of each other in cages. Inspectors ordered veterinary examinations for a Yorkie named Jackson with advanced dental disease and for Zoe, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel with dirty ears and dental disease.



Inspectors also ordered veterinary examinations for Maylin, a female Shih Tzu with bulging, red eyes and edema, whom the breeder said had been injured two months prior while breeding with a male. Although the female dog was nursing a new litter of puppies, she had not yet been seen by a vet, the inspectors noted.

Vet exams also were ordered for female Shih Tzu Maya, who had advanced dental disease and bulging eyes, and for a male Yorkie named Mikey whose back end and legs were soiled with his own excrement, was reluctant to stand, and was “quite elderly,” according to inspectors.



Benny, a Shih Tzu, also had dental issues while Eddy, a male Yorkie, had corneal opacity and edema, according to inspection reports.

Inspectors noted the kennel was selling dogs for between \$700 and \$900. The kennel owner pleaded guilty to animal cruelty charges after the investigations.

## UNION COUNTY

One Union County kennel was cited after inspectors noted at least 36 dogs were transferred in a single calendar year, with screenshots from investigators showing a cockapoo for a purchase price of \$1,000. The kennel got fined \$300 for operating illegally, according to inspection reports.

### Cockapoo Puppy for Sale in Mifflinburg, PA [Back](#)



**Daisy- F1b** [Add to favorites](#)

Breed:	Cockapoo
Sex:	Female
Birthdate:	01-21-2019 (8 Weeks)
Champion bloodlines:	No
Champion sired:	No
Price:	\$1000 USD <a href="#">Buyer tips</a>
Shipping area:	United States
What's included:	Current vaccinations, Veterinarian examination, Health certificate, Health guarantee
Additional information:	Hi! My name is Daisy. I am a darling little buff F1b Cockapoo. My mother is a F1 Cockapoo and my father is an AKC purebred Miniature Poodle. I will have my first vaccination and wormings and will be ready to go to my new home by March 18th. Send in your deposit to reserve me. Check out our website: 

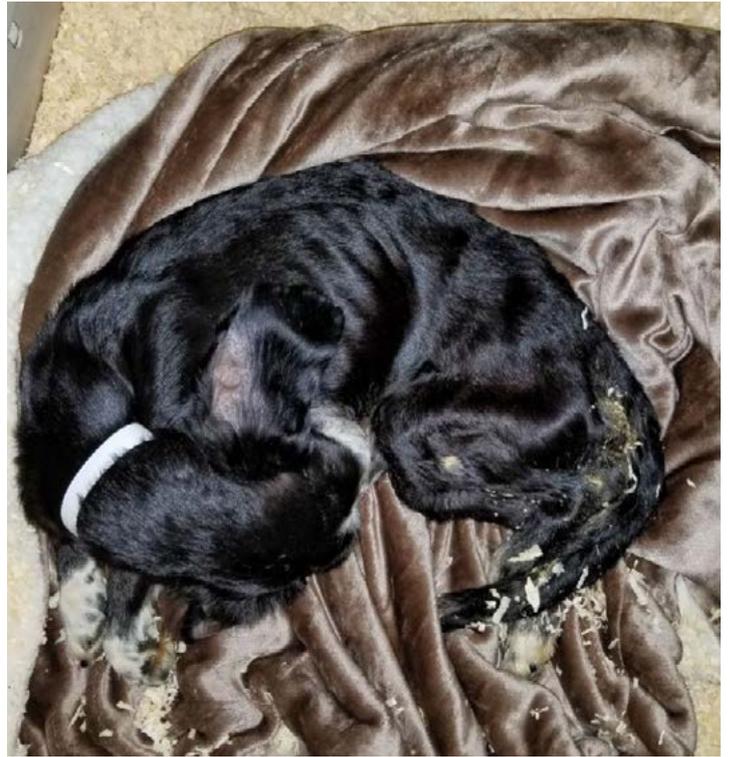
Another kennel was cited for operating illegally after inspectors noted puppy ads posted on Facebook, the American Kennel Club Marketplace, and a personal website – with at least 57 dogs kept or sold within a single calendar year. Inspectors also discovered not all dogs were up to date on rabies vaccinations.



## VENANGO COUNTY

When inspectors left the residence in Venango County, they filed aggravated animal cruelty charges – including for intentional torture.

The police criminal complaint noted ten dogs had endured prolonged deprivation of food, veterinary care, and shelter and suffered from emaciation, flea infestations, dental disease, tapeworms, hair loss, eye infections, Brucellosis, pyometra (pus-filled cysts in the uterus) and dehydration.



Records detailed 48 dogs kept in a mobile home with a caved in floor, debris, torn up furniture, feces and urine. One dog, named “Birdie,” was being kept in a bird cage, while others were eking out their existence under the floorboards. Inspectors documented dogs with torn ears and a missing limb, pregnant dogs who aborted late into their terms because of infection, and dogs who had to be euthanized.

“Multiple dogs had behavioral issues (mental health) as a result of the poor living conditions and trauma to which they were subjected,” inspectors wrote.

None of the dogs were licensed or vaccinated. All of the dogs were seized and turned over to the A.N.N.A. shelter.

Multiple people filed consumer complaints against another unlicensed kennel alleging they purchased sick dogs – including a puppy who reportedly had



tartar, plaque, mats, and a collapsed trachea, while other buyers alleged health conditions including worms and fleas. Inspectors found 29 dogs on-site and cited the kennel for operating illegally. The breeder allegedly was selling via a personal web page.

### Other consumer complaints also occurred in Venango County:

- When a complainant alleged purchasing a dog with health issues from a Venango County breeder, officers said the kennel was unlicensed and the customer therefore wasn't protected by the puppy Lemon Law.
- Another complaint said the purchaser put down a deposit but never received a dog. Inspectors uncovered the unlicensed kennel had transferred or kept at least 45 dogs in a calendar year and cited her for operating illegally and inadequate rabies vaccinations.

## WARREN COUNTY

A tip from the Humane Society alleged the kennel owner kept dogs outside without proper shelter at a property in Warren County – the inside of which they also said was bad.

State inspectors found 35 dogs between two properties. They seized 22 of the 24 dogs at the first property and 17 of the 19 dogs at the second property, assisted by the state police.

The kennel owner pleaded guilty to illegally operating a kennel and inadequate rabies vaccinations and licensing, according to public records.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY

A Washington County unlicensed kennel called Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement and asked if he could obtain a puppy less than 8 weeks old, with inspectors reporting he seemed “surprised” that doing so would be illegal. The breeder informed inspectors he had no license, and inspectors noted he would be operating illegally if he exceeded 26 dogs in a calendar year.

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY

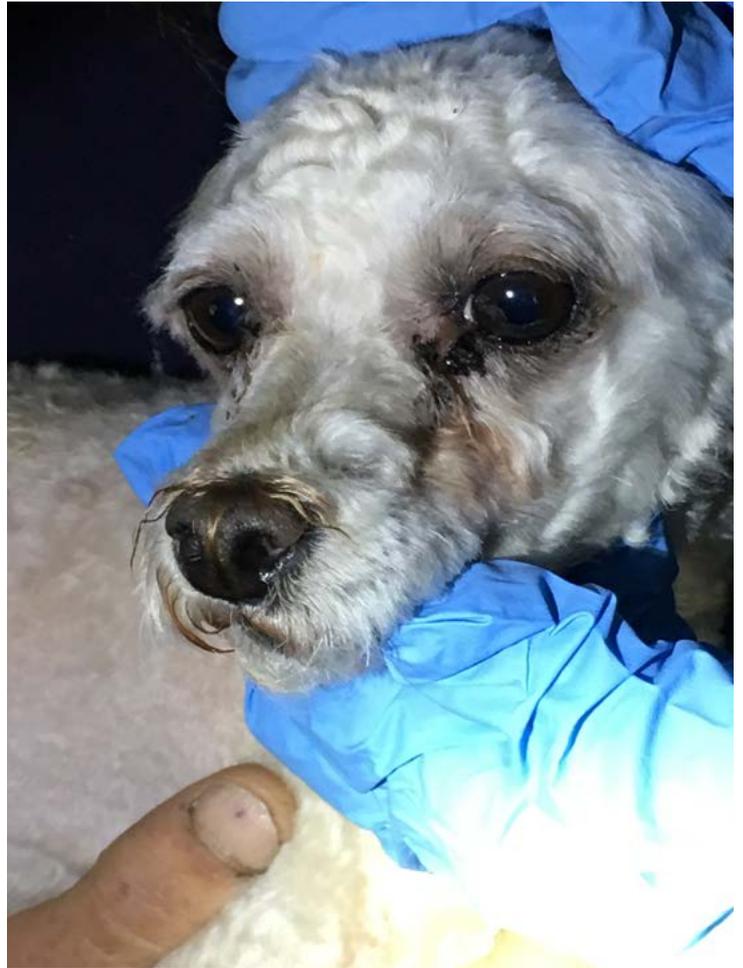
One kennel in Westmoreland County was cited for illegally operating, with no additional details available in the public records documents.



## YORK COUNTY

One York County breeder advertising purebred German shepherds became the subject of a police criminal complaint following a tip off and an investigation.

The complaint from a concerned member of the public listed the facility's address and alleged, "There is a puppy mill. We're looking to adopt a puppy and found these people. They have multiple litters of puppies in the home... They locked a female and a male in the shed so they will breed. They ask for \$485 per puppy. The dogs are running through glass and live in their own feces. The puppies smell like feces too. There is dog poop throughout their own home and through the yards."



Inspectors noted in public records documents the breeder was a repeat offender they had noticed selling German shepherds via Craigslist, with prices ranging from \$385 to \$895. Inspectors noted that when they served a search warrant the man became "argumentative" and "had to be tased twice," according to public records documents.

Citations include selling puppies less than 8 weeks old, reckless endangerment, disorderly conduct, harassment, and illegally operating a kennel, according to public records documents.

At another kennel, inspectors discovered *Brucellosis canis* – a bacteria that can cause infertility, anorexia, weight loss, pain, lameness and muscle weakness in dogs. They also documented dogs with dental disease, overgrown nails, lethargy, ear and skin issues, and neurological disease.

Those dogs included Kermit, a golden retriever observed circling in his enclosure with a head tilt and weak muscle control, whom the breeder said he had obtained that way but whom he also had been using for breeding.



Inspectors also observed Rosie, a red and cream labrador, lying down at the entrance to the barn who appeared “reluctant” to move. Upon closer inspection, the officers noted several lesions on her muzzle, a mammary mass and a stiff gait.

Lilly, a cream poodle, had advanced dental disease with gum recession, calculus, root exposure and pus-filled discharge, while Blackie, a black poodle, was shaking her head and had brown and black discharge from both ears, according to public records.

The kennel owner was selling dogs from \$200 to \$1,600 on Greenfield Puppies.

The York SPCA asked for state inspectors’ assistance with another unlicensed kennel, where they discovered the owner had bought or sold at least 137 dogs and puppies in a single calendar year.

### Other issues in York County:

- A kennel selling Australian shepherds on Greenfield Puppies was cited for operating illegally after transferring or keeping more than 26 dogs without a license, as well as for inadequate rabies vaccinations.
- A kennel cited for exceeding the number of dogs permitted who told inspectors she hadn’t realized she needed a license
- A kennel selling goldendoodles on Facebook, PuppyFind and a personal website fined for exceeding the number of dogs permitted without a license.
- A kennel cited for exceeding the number of dogs bought or sold without a license who was selling Doberman pinschers for \$1250



# DEMAND FOR 'BREEDER' DOGS: THE SOCIAL IMPACTS AND COSTS TO CONSUMERS



The COVID-19 pandemic led to a dramatic increase in the number of people seeking out companion animals.

That pandemic years also saw an uptick in unlicensed backyard breeders — including those who sold sick animals to unsuspecting consumers, news reported.

Consumers may take at face value breeders' claims to be "responsible" or feel reassured by guarantees of healthy puppies or full refunds.

But our investigation found that many of the unlicensed kennels that showcased certificates for purebred registries, promised health guarantees or refunds, or claimed to raise their puppies "with love" kept the dogs in gruesome conditions or sold ill or dying dogs to buyers, then dipped out when the complaints or questions started rolling in.

## Some of the puppies impacted, as alleged in consumer complaints filed by Pennsylvanian purchasers:

- ✓ An English bulldog puppy purchased for \$2,200 who reportedly died two days after a veterinary check up
- ✓ A puppy with a cough, congestion, diarrhea and lethargy at the time of purchase from an Adams County kennel who then developed heavy breathing, constant trembling, and seizures and who tested positive for pneumonia and roundworms

- ✔ A puppy purchased from a pet store sourcing its dogs from an illegal kennel in Lancaster County who tested positive for Giardia and parvo and passed away soon after purchase
- ✔ Two puppies who tested positive for parvovirus purchased from two illegal kennels in Lancaster County
- ✔ Two dogs purchased from an illegal kennel in Lawrence County allegedly showing genetic defects and aggressiveness
- ✔ A 7-week-old puppy purchased for \$1,100 from a Lebanon County breeder, who cut off all contact with the buyer after reports that the puppy who wouldn't eat, had diarrhea and seizures, and passed away even following emergency veterinary care
- ✔ A puppy who tested positive for worms and Giardia purchased from another Lebanon County breeder
- ✔ A puppy who had tartar, plaque, mats, and a collapsed trachea, and other puppies with worms and fleas purchased from a Venango County breeder
- ✔ A puppy purchased with unspecified health issues from a Venango County breeder, with officers telling the concerned consumer that since the purchase was from an illegal kennel there were no protections under the puppy Lemon Law
- ✔ A dog never delivered after the buyer put down a deposit with a Venango County illegal kennel

As we hope this report has shown, unlicensed breeders mean suffering and neglect for animals, suffering and heartbreak for duped consumers, and overstrained shelters that step up to take in massive numbers of dogs when inspectors do shut down the kennels and seize the suffering animals.

If you already have purchased a sick puppy or dog, or you know someone who has, please report the facility and the owner to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, your state department of Agriculture, and your state Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

If you suspect animal cruelty or an unlicensed kennel, please report those details to your local animal control, Humane Society, police department and county sheriff's office.



# PENNSYLVANIA CAN DO BETTER



Citations included in the public records documents Lady Freethinker received showed that officials often requested minimum fines for offenses – including for inadequate rabies vaccinations or operating illegally.

At a time when Pennsylvania's Dog Bureau has made recent headlines for speaking up about [a lack of funding](#), not issuing maximum fines for kennels that are illegally operating – while seeking to raise licensing fees for responsible dog guardians – sends exactly the wrong message.

Dog wardens must start taking decisive and consistent enforcement action against unlicensed kennels and unlicensed breeders, for both



first-time and repeat offenders – especially since these unlicensed kennels have proven to be hotbeds of dog suffering often run by people who don't follow minimum welfare standards or rules.

Legislators also must start taking the state's continued reputation as a "puppy mill capital" seriously. Proposing legislation to make positive change for animals is laudable but meaningless if bill sponsors don't follow through by keeping the issues at the forefront of the legislative body's attention and relentlessly pushing for timely passage – rather than introducing, and re-introducing, the same needed amendments from one legislative session to the next.

Five states – California, Illinois, Maine, Maryland and Washington – already have passed full-state measures banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

Meanwhile, only six municipalities within Pennsylvania – Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Wilkinsburg, Sharpsburg, Bellevue, and Allentown – have in place humane pet sales ordinances, which prohibit pet store sales from breeding mills, [according to animal welfare nonprofit Best Friends](#).

Pennsylvania's suffering and dying dogs don't have any more time to wait for change.



# OUR CALL TO ACTION

We are asking the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to start enforcing strict and significant penalties against breeders and unlicensed kennels that violate state laws or cause animals to suffer.

We sent our [petition](#), which has now been signed by at least 37,000 people, to legislators asking for swift passage of [Victoria's Law](#) before this legislative session ends.

And we're also asking Pennsylvania residents – and all prospective pet parents – to adopt new companion animals from shelters, small rescues, or other reputable nonprofits.

These types of organizations are often at capacity, or stretched for space, while constantly confronted with abandoned, surrendered, or abused dogs. The result is that no-kill shelters often have to turn away animals in need of love and care, while county shelters often instead euthanize animals to make room – with the ASPCA estimating 920,000 healthy shelter animals are killed in the United States each year.

Shelter staff know the animals' personalities and can help you find the right fit for your lifestyle, as well as any behavioral issues that might be a deal breaker. Shelters also often require meet-and-greets prior to adoption so you can interact with the dog to make sure their claims are true and that you and the dog like each other.

We encourage people seeking a particular type of companion animal – such as a dog whose fur is hypoallergenic – to do a little digging, as many rescues exist in the country that specifically rescue certain breeds of animals.



Always make sure to do your research, however, to ensure that the rescue is legitimate and not posing as a “front” for puppy mills. Checking how long the agency has been in business, verifying nonprofit status through your Secretary of State’s Office or a free search tool like Guidestar, and asking hard questions about where the rescue sources its dogs and puppies is a good starting point.

While we at Lady Freethinker believe that every animal has a right to be here and has worth simply by existing, the bottom line is that buying from breeders contributes to animal suffering by fueling the demand for certain breeds. Treating dogs as commodities rather than individuals sets the stage for abuse and neglect by those seeking to maximize profits while reducing financial costs – at the expense of the animals’ well-being.

With over 3 million dogs entering United States animal shelters each year, buying from breeders instead of adopting also fuels the overpopulation crisis, and means a dog in a shelter waiting for a loving home loses their chance.

Finally, if you already have purchased a sick puppy from a breeder, know someone who has, or suspect animal cruelty, please always SPEAK UP for these innocent animals by reporting to the correct authorities.

