



Dealing Dogs – A Closer Look at Pennsylvania Kennels An Animals' Angels Investigation

A. Introduction:

Right now, there are thousands of USDA-licensed breeders operating in the United States. Some of these operations are so large that they have 1,000 dogs breeding at the same time. What's not included in this figure is the number of unlicensed puppy mills that exist; the ones the USDA has not approved and does not know about.

Pennsylvania, and especially Lancaster County, is still considered the “Puppy Mill Capitol of the East” by many. However, the number of licensed puppy mills has steadily declined since the passage of a 2008 law regulating kennel standards. Under Pennsylvania law, licensed kennels are also subject to a mandatory inspection twice a year, which helps to ensure a certain minimum of oversight. Unfortunately, poorly managed kennels still exist and many of them have decided to run their operations unlicensed to avoid inspections – or are simply absorbing fines against them as a cost of doing business.

Animals' Angels requested information regarding 2015/2016 kennel inspections and citations from the Pennsylvania authorities in charge. This information combined with our own research and investigation, showed that there is still much room for improvement and several kennels that should not be allowed to operate.

B. Investigations:

1) Weaver Kennel, Lewisburg, PA

License #: 03232

Status: Open

Last License Issued: 2017

License Type: 101-150 dogs

Findings:

“Skippy”, a female, adult, yellow Labrador retriever-type dog, was observed to be shaking her head and scratching her ears often during our visit. When she shook her head, fluid could be heard moving in her ears. Upon closer inspection, dark brown/black discharge and an odor were present in her ears. Both ears also had moderate erythema and swelling.

Dog #013-532-810, a female, adult, tan-and-white Jack Russell terrier-type dog, was observed to have a lesion on her right cheek. She had a quarter-sized cutaneous lesion with purulent crusts and a dorsal draining tract below her right eye. Closer evaluation revealed

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grade 4 periodontal disease with significant gingivitis, gingival recession and possible root exposure. Her right, upper, first molar was loose. It could not be determined if the cause of this lesion was due to a tooth root abscess.

A male adult, yellow Labrador retriever-type dog was observed to have periocular alopecia and scabbing around his right eye. Moderate erythema and swelling were present periocularly as well, along with mild conjunctivitis and blephrospasm in his right eye. There were also scabs observed above this dog's left eye.

013-379-797, a female, adult, tan-and-white Jack Russell terrier-type dog, was observed with advanced grade 4 periodontal disease. Significant calculus, gingival recession, purulent discharge, and root exposure were present along with loose teeth. She had a draining tract on her right cheek at the level of her fourth, upper premolar.

#013-537-005, a female, adult, tan Lhasa Apso-type dog, was observed with grade 4 periodontal disease. Significant calculus and gingivitis were observed. This dog was also observed to have 'rubber jaw.'

Numerous dogs, especially the West Highland White terrier-type dogs and the Jack Russell terrier-type dogs had long toe nails and were in need of grooming.



Filthy Cage



Lesion on cheek

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Horrific Dental Problems



Overgrown Nails



Filthy Food



Overgrown Nails

The Pennsylvania Dog Warden ordered veterinary inspections for all these animals. Three of them were euthanized. A citation was issued. The kennel remains operational and has received a 2017 kennel license.

2) The Pet Shop, Easton, PA

License #: 04301

Status: Open

Last Issued License: 2017

License Type: 501 or more dogs

Findings:

The inspection revealed that the kennel was not kept at an appropriate room temperature to maintain health and well-being of the dogs. A German Shepherd puppy was confined in a

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cage that was too small for her. The puppy was also found lethargic and coughing. A review of the pet store purchase documents showed that most dogs were obtained from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Minnesota, all known for their countless puppy mill operations. Citations were issued. Follow up visits to the facility showed no further violations.



Frigid temperature in kennel



Puppy in cage too small for breed

KENNEL TAG NAME AND PARENTAGE	SEX	AGE	COLOR	DISTINCTIVE MARKS	SEX TYPE	ARRIVAL DATE	ACQUIRED FROM NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE OF REMOVAL
							NAME	ADDRESS	
6855	M	10/4	Black with white paw	14597-001 Spots	Jack/ Schnauzer	10/3/14	Fulton Enterprise 603 S. Broadway Alden, MN 56009		12/30/14
6856	M	10/4	Black	14-047	Male	10/3/14	Hollie Kanke 16464 441 st Ave Florence, CO 80502		12/14/14
6857	M	10/4	Black with tan	1-91	She	10/3/14	WAWES KENNELS 18085 Hwy 5 LeBelle, MO 63447		12/18/14
6858	M	10/4	TRI	14-038	She	10/3/14	King 11305 Centerville KS Williamsburg IN 47393		12/5/14
6859	M	10/4	Purple	14-035	Aust. Sinc.	10/3/14	Ell King 11305 Centerville KS Williamsburg IN 47393		12/17/14
6860	M	10/4	Red	141926-09	German Shep.	10/3/14	Shadow Kennels 18085 Hwy 5	Turned	12/19/14
6861	M	10/4	Black	141926-00	Teddy Bear	10/3/14	Shadow Kennels 18085 Hwy 5		12/5/15
6862	M	10/4	Yellow	141756-11	Lab	10/3/14	Shadow Kennels 18085 Hwy 5		12/6/14
6863	M	10/4	Black with white	14968-01	Cav. Kings Charles	10/3/14	CC INC 17972 Butternut Ave LeBelle MO 63447		12/6/14
6864	M	10/4	Tan with white	14969-01	Beagle	10/3/14	CC INC 17972 Butternut Ave LeBelle MO 63447	TRANSFER	12/6/14
6865	M	10/4	Cream	14805-03	Border	10/3/14	Fulton Enterprise 603 S. Broadway Alden, MN 56009	Return	12/7/14
6866	M	10/4	Grey white	14721-00	Shih Tzu	10/3/14	Whispering Oaks 3090 Chase Rd Coffeyville, KS 67337	TRANSFER	12/7/14
6867	M	10/4	White with tan	14029-01	Frenchie	10/3/14	CC INC 17972 Butternut Ave LeBelle MO 63447	Return	12/7/14

Records show puppies were sourced from Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and South Dakota

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3) Springside Kennel, Paradise, PA

License #: 11769

Status: Open

Last Issued License: 2017

License Type: 251-500 dogs

Findings:

The inspection found a two-month old golden doodle litter lifeless, emaciated and plagued by diarrhea. No citation was issued.



Lifeless Golden Doodle Puppy



"Play" Pens



Outdoor Pens



Outdoor Pens

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4) Shade Mountain Kennel, Beaver Springs, PA

License #: 04593

Status: Open

Last License Issued: 2016

License Type: 251-500 dogs

Findings:

The inspection revealed the primary housing area and the exercise area did not meet the minimum space requirements. There was also an accumulation of feces surrounding the exercise area and the drain system.



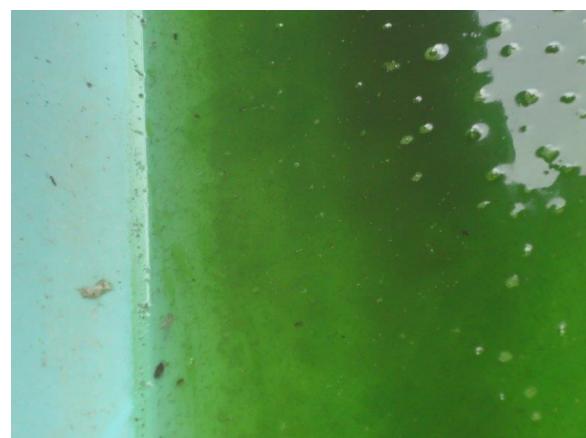
Outdoor Pens



Indoor Pens



Dog in Indoor Confinement



Algae Infested Water

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Accumulation of Feces



Exercise Area without Solid Flooring

The records showed that dogs younger than eight weeks of age were sold in violation of Pennsylvania dog law and that the required veterinary inspections were past due. Exercise area did not have solid flooring causing the dog's feet to fall through holes in flooring. A citation was issued in 2015. In 2016, despite the fact the several of the problems still existed, no further citation was given.

5) Rippling Run Kennel, Sewickley, PA

License #: 01096

Status: Open

Last License Issued: 2017

License Type: 26 or more dogs at any time

Findings:

The investigation revealed rodent dropping on counter tops and in cabinet drawers. Bags of food and boxes of treats were left open and accessible to rodents. There was an excessive amount of clutter, dust & debris on cabinets in corners, on cabinets, under utility sink, etc.

Furthermore, an excessive amount of feces was found in the outside play yards along with several bags of feces lined along the building just out of reach of the dogs. These bags had a strong odor and were attracting flies. There was a strong ammonia odor within the kennel building with an ammonia strip reading of 20+ ppm. Citations were filed in 2015 and 2016.

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Inside Pen Area



Rodent Droppings



Open Dog Food & Chaos



Bags full of Feces



Pen with Dog and Clutter

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6) John Huyard's Maltese World, New Holland, PA

License #: 10465

Status: Unknown

Last License Issued: 2015

License Type: 51-100 dogs

Findings:

The investigation revealed debris, excreta, and dirt built up throughout the primary enclosure(s). The overall conditions inside the shed where dogs are kept were dirty and unmaintained with dust, hair and cobwebs located throughout the shed.

The records of dogs in kennel were incomplete, no current rabies vaccination for all 5 adult dogs on the premises could be found. Three dogs were severely matted and needed their nails clipped.

On January 13, 2016, inspectors found an adult Maltese type dog and a puppy shivering inside a crate in the barn. The temperature was approximately 37 degrees inside the barn area. A cruelty referral was made.

On January 28, 2016, the same animals were found in the same barn despite frigid temperatures. Another cruelty referral was made. Citations were filed in 2015 and 2016.



Dogs living in filth

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7) Garden Spot Puppy Haven, Parkersburg, PA

License #: 06301

Status: Open

Last License Issued: 2016

License Type: 151-250 dogs

Findings:

The investigation revealed that the kennel owner sold dogs under eight weeks of age. A build-up of dirt, hair and feces was noted in the outside exercise area. Nursing dams did

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not have the required floor space or an exercise area with solid flooring. The data logger in the adult building showed multiple days where the heat index was greater than 85 degrees and humidity levels greater than 70%. Multiple dogs were found with matted hair. No fresh air was provided for dogs in adult building. Citations were issued in 2015, 2016 and 2017.



C. Conclusion

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is responsible for monitoring the conditions for breeding dogs and puppies in commercial kennels. The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is part of the Department of Agriculture and the regulations dealing with commercial kennels are part of PA's Statutes and Consolidated Statutes. [Title 3. Agriculture. Chapter 8 Paragraph 459 et seq.] Cases of animal cruelty remain the responsibility of law enforcement and are referred to them by the dog warden.

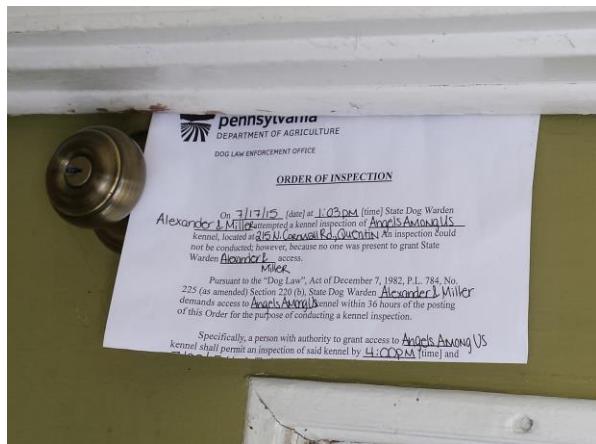
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The Pennsylvania regulations are, in many ways, better and more specific than protection laws in many other states. However, as shown in the examples mentioned above, there is still room for improvement.

Examples:

- According to the PA regulations, the “dog warden” is required to inspect every commercial kennel at least twice per year. (§ 459-218) However, when the dog warden arrives on site and nobody appears to be on the premises to grant him access, he then leaves a note requesting access to the premises within 36 hours. This procedure opens the door for questionable kennel operators to quickly clean up their kennel and get rid of problematic/sick dogs before the dog warden has a chance to return to the kennel.



Example of Inspection Notice left at Kennel

- Also of concern is the fact that while a kennel is licensed by the state, the kennel operators are only required to allow the twice-yearly inspections, not random welfare checks. In case a complaint is made and the kennel already passed the annual inspections, a search warrant is needed to access the kennel.
- The improvement of existing regulations in recent years has caused a steady decline of large-scale commercial breeders in Pennsylvania. However, some of those still in existence have slid into unregulated and under-the-radar breeding operations exploiting licensing & legislative loopholes.
- Lastly, Pennsylvania's anti-cruelty laws and punishments are way too weak and too rarely enforced which results in a group of repeat offenders who just don't care and look at paying their fines as the cost of doing business.

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