

☞ **09hr_SC-SBEPTCCP_sb0208_pt03**



Details:

(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Small Business, Emergency
Preparedness, Technical Colleges, and Consumer
Protection (SC-SBEPTCCP)**

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**



Dog Federation of Wisconsin
742 S. Indiana Ave.
West Bend, WI 53095
Doglaw@dfow.net
www.dfow.net

Date?

Good Morning / Good Afternoon

My name is Joy Brand and I am president of the Dog Federation of Wisconsin. I would like to thank the chairmen, committees and authors for this opportunity to comment on Substitute Amendment 1 to AB-250 and SB-208 at this joint public hearing.

The Dog Federation of Wisconsin represents member dog clubs and individual members whose passion is our dogs. Our members represent many different professions in their full-time and retired working lives. Our dogs are used in many different activities; including but not limited to hunting, obedience, service, sledding, breeding, law enforcement activities, as well as pampered pets. We take all aspects of our dogs seriously.

Dogs are versatile animals. They are our companions, protectors, workers, hunters and helpers. In order for our breeds to accomplish what they are bred for, we need the flexibility and freedom to choose the best environments and opportunities for them.

Without the ability to select for appropriate situations and environments, hunters may not have dogs happy to hunt. Dogs not accustomed to training or living in different outdoor environments may not wish to work in the out-of-doors. Dogs not subjected during training to snow or rain storms may not want to track down criminals or to find a lost person. Dogs not exposed to linoleum may not wish to walk on slippery floors to help the blind or the disabled. Dogs not trained or placed in appropriate environments may balk at unaccustomed activities rather than doing their job at hand; the job they were selectively bred for.

I would like to thank Rep. Jeff Smith & Senator Kreitlow for their enthusiasm in taking on this multi-faceted piece of legislation. I am sure they found out during this endeavor that because of the many facets of the industry, that there were many different stakeholders involved. I would like to thank them for listening to our suggestions and incorporating some of those suggestions into Sub-Amendment 1 of AB-250.

DFOW has respect for the process which makes the laws in the State of Wisconsin. Our members have come into this process with a lot of trepidation and fear, especially the original version of AB-250. Trepidation because they didn't ask for this legislation, they were pulled in. Fear of the unknown because many of our members would prefer to do what they do best and hope the rest sorts itself out.

This is technically my second written statement as after our DFOW information meeting last Wednesday, I wasn't quite certain how the members of our clubs would vote. That is how contentious this legislation was. I had originally started writing my statement of opposition. I am here today to state for the record, that the Dog Federation of Wisconsin will support Sub-Amendment 1 of AB-250, as currently introduced. SB-208 which has not yet been amended is NOT supported in its current wording.



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Everyone, including the DFOV membership, acknowledges the need for appropriate animal husbandry when raising our dogs. Like the wonderful farmers in our State of Wisconsin, we can't produce quality animals used for the purpose they were raised if we do not follow appropriate husbandry practices.

We greatly appreciated the authors change in the amendment to remove the seizure wording. Let me explain why. Inspections at numbers low enough to be in a home environment will find many things not found in commercial facilities. Dogs that are seniors (10-15 years of age or older) will be found there. Dogs that have chronic health conditions and those recovering from serious illnesses can be found in a home. Within the last two months, I had a dog that developed auto-immune mediated hemolytic anemia and almost died. When she came home after 11 days in the hospital, she was bones covered with fur. Anyone inspecting a home during her convalescence could have wrongly assumed that she was being neglected. Her seizure would have jeopardized her recovery and subjected her to stresses that could have ended with her dying away from her family. Today, she is thriving. She is starting to gain weight, but it comes with careful management and it will take time. I asked my veterinarian for a letter of explanation just in case someone saw her and reported us.

We also appreciate Rep. Smith and Senator Kreitlow's compassion in understanding our concerns over false accusations and anonymous complaint issues. We were assured that DATCP's existing procedures and guidelines would be followed to prevent breeders, who might need to be licensed, from being unduly subjected to unnecessary and harassing complaints.

In closing, while I know this has been a hard journey for all concerned, we have always worked to do what is right and just. Legislation introduced in the past had fatal flaws which were insurmountable. DFOV is very pleased to have been consulted on this bill and we continue to offer our expertise to legislators in regard to dogs.

Again, I would like to thank you for allowing DFOV to comment.



Dog Federation of Wisconsin
742 S. Indiana Ave.
West Bend, WI 53095

We own dogs and we vote!

For dog related issues that are brought to the legislature, please contact the Dog Federation of Wisconsin with any questions you may have.

To Contact Specific Individuals:

Gary Goyke Legislative Representative	Joy Brand President	Tracey Johnston Vice President
(608) 237-8108 gnregoyke@mailbag.com	(414) 254-9057 Joy@dfow.net	(262) 424-2694 Tracey@dfow.net

As of September 21, 2009 DFOW represents the following member clubs

Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc. + Alaskan Malamute Club of Wisconsin, Inc. Badger Golden Retriever Club Badgerland Basset Hound Club, Inc. + Badgerland Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club Badgerland Miniature Pinscher Club, Inc. + Boxer Club of Milwaukee, Inc. + Central Wisconsin Sporting Spaniel Club Combined Specialty Clubs of Greater Milwaukee ++ Doberman Pinscher Club of Greater Milwaukee English Cocker Spaniel Club of Southeastern WI Fancier Cocker Spaniel Club of SE WI Fox River Beagle Club German Shepherd Dog Club of Wisconsin German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Wisconsin + Great Dane Club of Milwaukee, Inc. + Greater Milwaukee Lhasa Apso Club + Greater Milw. Norwegian Elkhound Association Greater Milwaukee Poodle Club Greater Milwaukee Samoyed Fanciers, Inc. + Greater Milwaukee Shetland Sheepdog Club Green Bay Shetland Sheepdog Club Irish Setter Club of Milwaukee, Inc. K-9 Obedience Training Club Kenosha Kennel Club, Inc. Kettle Moraine Kennel Club	Milshore Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc. + Milwaukee Bulldog Club Northern Flyway Golden Retriever Club Old English Sheepdog Club of Southeastern Wisconsin Oshkosh Kennel Club Packerland Kennel Club Paper Cities Kennel Club Samoyed Association of Madison, Inc. Shih Tzu Club of Wisconsin's Fox Valley Shih Tzu Club of Southeastern Wisconsin + Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Greater Milwaukee + Southern WI Sporting Spaniel Club The Chihuahua Club of Greater Milwaukee, Inc. + Waukesha Kennel Club West Allis Training Kennel Club Western Waukesha County Dog Training Club Winnegamie Dog Club Wisconsin Chow Chow Club Wisconsin English Springer Spaniel Association Wisconsin Interstate Search and Rescue K-9 Team ++Combined Specialty Clubs of Greater Milwaukee represents these individual clubs (+). In addition to our member clubs, there are many individual members within the DFOW organization.
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Corporate Sponsors

Cedar Creek Pet Resort

Olympia Conference Center

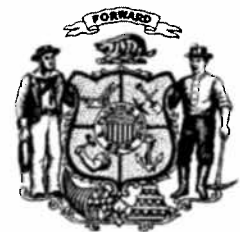
Websites of interest:

www.dfow.net
www.NAIAonline.org
www.akc.org
www.ukcdogs.com
www.akcchf.org
www.adoa.org

Dog Federation of Wisconsin
National Animal Interest Alliance
American Kennel Club
United Kennel Club (Kalamazoo, MI)
American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation
American Dog Owners Association



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Date?

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Testimony of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Regarding SB 208 and AB 250 Involving the Sale of Dogs

Chairman Wirch and Chairman Hintz and Members of the Senate and Assembly Consumer Protection Committees, thank you for the opportunity to testify here today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. My name is Corky Meyer. I am a Past President of the Federation and currently a member of the Board of Directors of the organization. I have been very active in hunting various game animals with dogs, raise dogs myself, and am active with several sporting dog organizations.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation is comprised of 168 hunting, fishing and trapping organizations including several involving the use and training of sporting dogs. Some of the specific groups belonging to the Federation include: the Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs, Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dog Clubs, Wisconsin Coon Hunter Association, Wisconsin Association of Beagle Clubs, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Wisconsin Sharp-Tailed Grouse Society, Wings Over Wisconsin, the American Wild Turkey Hunting Dog Association, the Badger Dachshund Club, Central Wisconsin Shoot to Retrieve, Green Bay Duck Hunters Association, Little Wolf River Houndsmen Club, Manitowoc County Coon Hunters and the Sugar River Coon Hunters.

As you can tell from this list, the Wildlife Federation and its members have a tremendous interest in issues regarding the breeding and selling of dogs. Many of our members engage in those activities.

The Wildlife Federation and its members strongly support the humane treatment of animals. We value greatly the dogs that we own, breed and sell. Our sales are mainly to other people who share the same values and are engaged in the sporting activities that we so thoroughly enjoy. Most of our sales involve direct contact with buyers who are very interested in having the dogs engage in sporting activities. The transactions are between careful buyers and sellers, usually done first hand and with a great deal of respect for the purposes of both the buyer and seller. In virtually all situations, our members engage in relatively few transactions compared to the problem breeders that this legislation has been described as addressing.

Our members are very concerned about and opposed to the inhumane practices of "puppy mills" that have been heavily in the press. They do not represent the practices and values of our members.

We did however, oppose the initial versions of SB 208 and AB 250 because the legislation cast too large a net and captured many thousands of sporting dog owners who are not the problem in terms of inhumane treatment of dogs.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with Senator Kreitlow, Rep. Smith, their staffs and other organizations to help tailor the bill to address the real "puppy mill" problems that have caused the necessity for this legislation. They have listened and the substitute amendment, LRB 0095/2 addresses the main concerns that we had about the bill. The definition of "dog breeder" excepts dog breeders who breed and raise dogs and sell 25 or more dogs in a year if all the dogs are from no more than 3 litters. This provision means that the great majority of sporting dog owners will not need to be licensed under the law. Obviously the humane treatment of animal's statutes would still apply to all dog owners.

Because of this and other changes in the bill, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation no longer opposes the bill. If adopted, we will continue efforts to work with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, its Board, and the Legislature in drafting reasonable regulations for implementing the legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

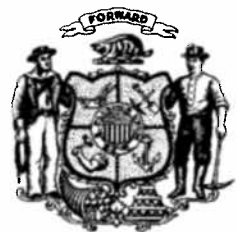
Submitted by:

Corky Meyer
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

September 23, 2009



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Date?

Untitled

Testimony - Jodi Hunter 736 Prairie Ave Janesville, WI 53545

Re: Support AB-250/SB-208, Smith/Kreitlow Commercial Dog Breeder Licensure Bill

Senator Wirch, Representative Hintz, and distinguished members of the committees, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to address AB-250-/SB208.

I am here to tell of my personal experience with contracting Campylobacter after bringing home a contaminated, 3-year-old dog from the dog auction held on March 11, 2009, in Thorp, WI. Campylobacter is a contagious bacteria found in dogs living in filthy, fecal-contaminated environments; this was obviously how this dog had been living in view of the filthy condition the dog was in at the time of purchase.

March 12: The day after the auction, I took the dog to the vet. Because she had diarrhea, she was tested for giardia and results were positive; even though this dog was sold with a USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service record. Giardia is a contagious parasite, also transferable to humans. She was put on antibiotics and sent home. Her condition only improved minimally. March 22: I was sick with fever and headache. March 25: I was taken to the urgent care with severe abdominal cramps, bloody diarrhea, and fever where I received IV fluids for dehydration and antibiotics. I was treated for gastroenteritis and sent home. March 27: Doctor called advising lab results confirmed stool positive for Campylobacter and had to be reported to Rock County Health Department due to the highly contagious nature of this bacteria. My antibiotics were switched. April 1: Rock County Health Department questioned my whereabouts to determine where I had contracted this infection. I explained to them that I had been at the dog auction and brought a filthy dog home that had feces over her body and she had to be cleaned immediately. In the meantime, the dog was still on antibiotics for giardia, which in hindsight was masking her eventual diagnosis of Campylobacter, (testing for Campylobacter was not initially done as this is not routine). After dog's antibiotic for giardia was completed, she became increasingly lethargic and ill. April 22: Dog vomiting pure blood with nothing but blood in her stools. She was dehydrated. She was taken to the vet again. Vet tested dog for Campylobacter and was positive. She ended up being on antibiotics for close to 2 months.

Enclosed is a statement from Dr. Sokhey at Prairie Animal Hospital stating it is his opinion that the dog was sold with contagious diseases to humans. Also enclosed are my urgent care visit records and Rock County Health Department records verifying my illness as well as Campylobacter Fact Sheet.

I believe it is crucial this committee votes in favor of this bill to enforce healthy living conditions for these animals and to ensure public health is not in jeopardy as a result of purchasing a sick animal.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue and your commitment to the health of all Wisconsin residents.

FORM APPROVED OMB NO. 0579-0036

1. DATE OF DISPOSITION

2. PAGE

☒ SALE ☐ EXCHANGE OR TRANSFER ☐ DONATION

3-11-00

1 OF

Buyer's Copy to accompany shipment. It must be retained by Buyer

3. SELLER OR DONOR (Name & Address)

Calvin Zimmerman
113575 Koser Ave.
Thorp WI 54721

4. BUYER OR RECEIVER (Name)

Jasaw Taney
14003 Richmond
Hermosa IL 60033

3A. DEALER'S LICENSE NO. OR RESEARCH FACILITY REGISTRATION NO. (Seller)

75-A-0300

4A. USDA LICENSE NO. OR RESEARCH FACILITY REGISTRATION NO (if any)

5. IDENTIFICATION OF EACH ANIMAL BEING DELIVERED (See reverse for Breed Abbreviations for Dogs and Cats) * If mixed breed, list 2 dominant breeds

COMPLETE ITEMS A THRU G FOR EACH ANIMAL

[illegible]

6. DELIVERY BY (Check one and complete applicable Items 7 and 8.)

☐ **COMMERCIAL SHIPPER**☐ BUYER'S VEHICLE☐ SELLER'S VEHICLE

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPANY OR FIRM (Include Zip Code)

8. NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF TRUCK DRIVER (Include Zip Code)

9. RECEIVED BY


10. SIGNATURE _____

11. TITLE

12. DATE

In my opinion, the yorkshire terrier bought on March 11, 2009, at Thorp Dog Auction, current owner Jodi Hunter, was sold with contagious diseases to humans. On March 12, 2009, the dog was brought to my clinic and tested positive for Giardia. March 23, 2009, this dog still was no better and vomiting blood and had bloody stools. She was then tested positive for Campylobacter. It is my understanding the owner was also tested positive with Campylobacter as a result.

Thank you



M. S. Sokhey, DVM
Prairie Animal Hospital
Beloit, WI 53511

MEDICAL AND

HEALTH RECORD

HONE 752-1371

ITS Godi Hunter

PATIENT NAME Kaylee

BREED

Yorkie

SEX

ALTERED

DATE

DESCRIPTION

Black + Tan

D.O.B.

10/16/06

ADDRESS

734 Prairie Ave
Beloit, Wis

D-H-L-P-P

3-12-09 4/2/09

RABIES

2-19-09

P-R-C-Pn

HEARTWORM EXAM

3-12-09

FECAL FLOTATION

FECAL RESULTS

X-RAY ON FILE

LYME

INTRA TRAC II

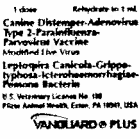
FOLLOW
LEUKEMIA

DATE

Rabies done @ Willow Springs Garden, Wausau, WI

DESCRIPTION

12/08/21



Recently adopted/received
from an Auction.
Heavy debris - AU.

Mod. dental faeces + halitosis.

Advised dental prophyl.

P/E - normal. No visible

Giantia Snap Test - Positive.

Advised on zoonotic potential Rec to
wash hind end q time after defecation

Vacc 80 Shoulder

Blood to Antech for Superchem / CBC + HMA

- Tab Clavamox (62.5mg) + Tab BID po
Start 3 Days before dental prophyl.
- Panacea Penicillin x 3 Pkts - Give 1 Packet
BID po with food.

anals
temp 101.3°F
ears ⊗
mouth /
teeth ⊗
heart /
focal
lungs /
skin /
weight 5#

3-13-09

Discovered bloodwork - normal. HMA - Negative.

3-14-09

Answered few questions regarding
Dental teeth.

ANTECH DIAGNOSTICS

2601 West 22nd Street Oak Brook IL 60523 Phone: 800-745-4725

Prairie Animal Hospital2770 Prairie Ave.
Beloit, WI 53511
Tel: 608-365-7400
Fax: 608-365-6549Client # 77015
Chart #

Accession No.	Doctor	Owner	Pet Name	Received
CHBC33484268	SOKHEY	HUNTER	KAYLEE	04/23/2009
Species	Breed	Sex	Pet Age	Reported
Canine	Yorkshire Terrier	SF		04/28/2009 02:08 PM

Test Requested	Results	Reference Range	Units
CAMPYLOBACTER			
Final Report	04/28/2009		
MODERATE GROWTH CAMPYLOBACTER SPP ISOLATED			

3/25/2009

Component Results

Component	Value	Flag	Low	High	Units	Status
White Blood Cell	10.1		3.6	11.0	X(10)3	Fin
RBC	3.98		3.80	5.20	X(10)6	Fin
Hemoglobin	12.6		12.0	16.0	gm/dl	Fin
Hematocrit	36.0		35.0	47.0	%	Fin
MCV	90.3		80.0	100.0	fl	Fin
MCH	31.7		26.0	34.0	pg	Fin
MCHC	35.0		32.0	36.0	gm/dl	Fin
RDW	12.6		11.5	14.5	%	Fin
Platelet Count	268		150	440	X(10)3	Fin
MPV	8.5		7.4	10.4	fl	Fin
Neutrophil	78.8	H	45	74	%	Fin
Lymphocyte	11.6	L	22	50	%	Fin
Monocyte	9.3		1	12	%	Fin
Eosinophil	0.1		0	6	%	Fin
Basophil	0.2		0	1	%	Fin
Neutrophil Abs ct	7.9	H	1.4	6.6	X(10)3	Fin
Lymphocyte Abs ct	1.2		1.2	3.5	X(10)3	Fin
Monocyte Abs ct	0.8	H	0.0	0.8	X(10)3	Fin
Eosinophil Count	0.0		0.0	0.5	X(10)3	Fin
Basophil Abs ct	0.0		0.0	0.2	X(10)3	Fin
Differential	Automated					Fin

Lab and Collection

CBC WITH DIFFERENTIAL (Order #2886433) on 3/25/09 - Lab and Collection Information

Result History

CBC WITH DIFFERENTIAL (Order#2886433) on 3/25/09 - Order Result History Report

Result Summary for CULTURE STOOL**Result Information**

Status	Provider Status
Edited (4/1/2009 11:17 AM)	Reviewed

Entry Date

4/1/2009

Component Results**CLINICAL REPORT:**

Specimen: Stool

Collected: 03/25/2009 11:55

Status: Final Last Updated: 04/01/2009 11:17

Specimen Type (Final)
Semi-Solid stool

Culture Result (Final)
No Salmonella or Shigella isolated

Isolate #1 (Final)
Campylobacter species Isolated

Shiga Toxin (Final)

HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

1000 Mineral Point
JANESVILLE, WI 53548

14418

Referring Laboratory Mercy Hospital Janesville			Date Submitted 03/30/2009 06:09
Address 1000 Mineral Point Ave			
City JANESVILLE	State WI	Zip Code 53548	Phone # 608-756-6761
Physician LINDAHL, STEPHEN A			Phone #
Address 1010 N WASHINGTON			Fax #
City JANESVILLE	State WI	Zip Code 53545	
Patient Name HUNTER, JODI S		Encounter # C5626435	Sex Female
Address 736 PRARIE AVE			Race
City JANESVILLE	State WI	Zip Code 53545	Age 46Y
Clinical Condition or Expected Disease <i>phone</i> <i>608-752-1371</i>			
Description of Specimen Stool		Accession # 090840621	Date Collected 03/25/2009 11:55
Test Requested CULTURE STOOL			Date Reported 03/29/2009 12:00
Laboratory Results ***Campylobacter species Isolated***			

CONFIDENTIAL

ACUTE & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CASE REPORT
Information for completing this form on reverse side

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA PATIENT INFORMATION	
Case Identification for all Category I and II Diseases	
Patient's Name (Last) HUNTER (First) JODI (M.I.)	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) 11/30/1962 Age 46 Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Patient's Address 736 PRAIRIE AVE City JANESVILLE State WI Zip Code 53545	
County of Residence ROCK	Home Telephone (608) 752-1271 Work Telephone ()
Patient's Parent / Guardian if patient is a minor (not needed for STD)	Patient's Employer & Occupation or School, Day Care, Institution MOCK - MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST
Race: <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Hawaiian or Pacific Islander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify:	Ethnicity: <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino
Patient Pregnant? If yes, Due date (mm/dd/yyyy) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Patient Died of This Illness? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Patient Hospitalized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
MORBIDITY DATA	
Disease / Organism CAMPYLOBACTER Date of Onset 3/22/09 Specimen Type STOOL	Outbreak Related? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Underlying Medical Condition? <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Lab data (test name, test date, test result; include confirmatory tests) STOOL CULTURE - CAMPYLOBACTER SPECIES	Immunization data (immunization name and date(s))
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES	
Complete appropriate section for specific disease(s)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Syphilis <input type="checkbox"/> Primary (chancres present) <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary (skin lesions, rash, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Early Latent (asymptomatic, < 1 yr) <input type="checkbox"/> Late Latent (over 1 yr duration) <input type="checkbox"/> Neurosyphilis <input type="checkbox"/> Cardiovascular <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Congenital	<input type="checkbox"/> Gonorrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Asymptomatic <input type="checkbox"/> Uncomplicated Urogenital (Urethritis, Cervicitis) <input type="checkbox"/> Salpingitis (PID) <input type="checkbox"/> Ophthalmia/Conjunctivitis <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Arthritis, skin lesions, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Resistant Gonorrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Penicillinase-Producing <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Type and Amount of Treatment	
ENTERIC DISEASES AND HEPATITIS	
Campylobacter, Cryptosporidia, E. coli, Giardia, Hepatitis A, Salmonella, Shigella, Yersinia	
Check below if patient: Yes No Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> is a food handler. <input type="checkbox"/> attends or works at a day care center. <input type="checkbox"/> is a health care worker. <input type="checkbox"/> is in contact with animals. Specify animal: DOG <input type="checkbox"/> drinks unpasteurized milk. <input type="checkbox"/> traveled out-of-state. Location / dates:	Other:
Hepatitis B and C Laboratory Results	
HBsAg <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative anti-HBs <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative anti-HBc <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative anti-HBc-IgM <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative HepC-EIA <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative HepC-RIBA <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative HepC-PCR <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative	
TUBERCULOSIS	
Mycobacteriology Specimen type and date collected (mm/dd/yyyy) Smear <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not done Nucleic acid amplification <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not done <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate Culture <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Not done If culture positive: <input type="checkbox"/> M. tuberculosis complex <input type="checkbox"/> Atypical Mycobacteria. Specify:	Chest X-ray and CT Scan Chest Xray <input type="checkbox"/> Not done <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal For abnormal CXR: Evidence of cavity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Evidence of miliary TB <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Chest CT or other imaging study: <input type="checkbox"/> Not done <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Abnormal For abnormal CT or other study: Evidence of cavity <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Evidence of miliary TB <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Tuberculin Test Mantoux <input type="checkbox"/> Not Done Date Done (mm/dd/yyyy) Result (mm induration) <input type="checkbox"/> Positive _____ mm <input type="checkbox"/> Negative _____ mm If negative, anergic? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Blood Assay Date Done: <input type="checkbox"/> Positive <input type="checkbox"/> Negative <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	
Treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Isoniazid <input type="checkbox"/> Rifampin <input type="checkbox"/> Pyrazinamide <input type="checkbox"/> Ethambutol <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: Date started (mm/dd/yyyy)	
VARICELLA AND COMMENTS	
Varicella Severity Estimate: <input type="checkbox"/> Mild (<50 lesions) <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate (Approx. 50-499 lesions) <input type="checkbox"/> Severe (Approx. 500+ lesions) Epi-Linked to Another Varicella Case? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown Epi-Linked Case Name:	
Comments: MOCK - MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST	
Date rec'd by LHD 3/30/09 Date sent to DPH 04/01/2009	
REPORTING SOURCE (REQUIRED)	
Agency Reporting (Name & Address) MOCK - MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST	Date reported 3/30/09 Telephone No. (608) 752-6161
Attending Physician (Name & Address) DR. STEPHEN LINCOLN	Date of Interview 4/1/09 Physician Telephone No. (608) 752-6161

Campylobacteriosis (*Campylobacter* sp.)

Disease Fact Sheet Series

What is campylobacteriosis?

Campylobacteriosis is a bacterial infection that affects the intestinal tract and, in rare cases, the bloodstream. It is the most commonly reported cause of bacterial diarrhea in Wisconsin and the United States. Most cases are seen in the summer months and occur as single cases or outbreaks.

What are the symptoms of campylobacteriosis?

Campylobacteriosis may cause mild or severe infection. Most people who become ill with campylobacteriosis get diarrhea, cramping, abdominal pain, and fever within 2-5 days after exposure to the organism. The diarrhea may be bloody and can be accompanied by nausea and vomiting. The illness typically lasts 1-week. Some persons who are infected with *Campylobacter* don't have any symptoms at all. In persons with compromised immune systems, *Campylobacter* occasionally spreads to the bloodstream and causes a life-threatening infection.

How are the bacteria spread?

Campylobacter are generally spread by eating or drinking contaminated food or water, unpasteurized milk, and by direct or indirect contact with fecal material from an infected person, animal or pet (especially puppies and kittens.)

Where is *Campylobacter* bacteria found?

Many animals including pigs, cattle, dogs and birds (particularly poultry) carry the bacteria in their intestines. These sources in turn may contaminate meat products (particularly poultry), water supplies, milk and other items in the food chain.

For how long can a person carry the *Campylobacter* bacteria?

Generally, after being infected people will continue to pass the bacteria in their feces for a few days up to a week or more. Certain antibiotics may shorten the carrier phase.

Do infected people need to be excluded from school or work?

Most infected people may return to work or school when their stools become formed provided that they carefully wash their hands after toilet visits.

What is the treatment for campylobacteriosis?

Most people infected with *Campylobacter* will recover without treatment. Infected persons should drink plenty of fluids as long as the diarrhea lasts to prevent dehydration. Antibiotics are occasionally used to treat severe cases or to shorten the carrier phase, which may be important for food workers, children in day care and health care workers. Since relapses occasionally occur, some physicians might treat mild cases with antibiotics to prevent a recurrence of symptoms.

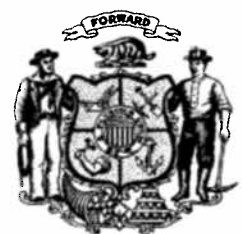
How can campylobacteriosis be prevented?

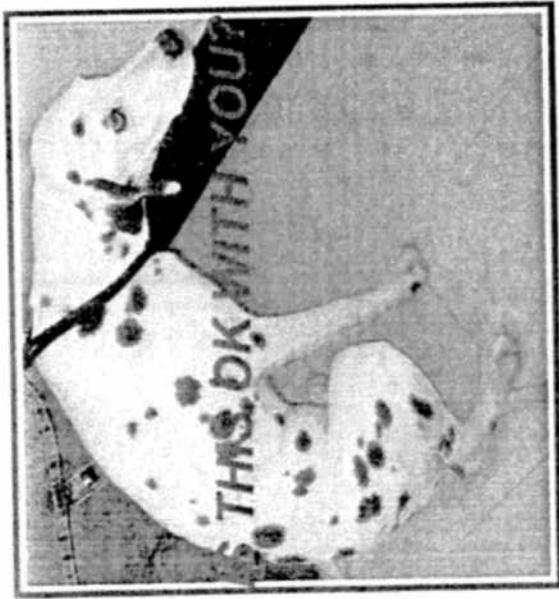
1. Always treat raw poultry, beef, or pork as if it is contaminated, handling accordingly:
 - Promptly refrigerate foods at < 40 degrees Fahrenheit; minimize holding time at room temperature.
 - Cutting boards and counters used for food preparation should be washed and disinfected immediately after use to prevent cross contamination with other foods.
 - Avoid eating raw or undercooked meats.
 - Ensure that the correct internal cooking temperature is reached, particularly when using a microwave.

- more -



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





This frightened little Dalmatian awaits her fate in a shelter after her rescue from a Dexter, WI, puppy mill raid. She is one of 75 dogs who were kept, several to a kennel, in a 20' x 20' room in a barn. Her feet and tail are permanently stained from the urine and excrement she was forced to live in.

BUT THAT'S OK, the breeder told reporters; "I went into it more to give me a livelihood...I'm not ashamed of nothing I've done." (8 Mar 08: [Wisconsin Rapids Tribune](#))



If you bought an Italian Greyhound at a petstore, this might have been his father. Teddy was a puppy mill stud. He only had one eye, and his teeth were so infected that they had rotted away part of his jaw. When he was thrown away at age 6, he came to rescue with an untreated, badly broken leg.

BUT THAT'S OK, the breeder tells us with a wink; he more than got his money's worth out of a defective pup by putting him to work producing puppies himself. After all, you don't need two eyes, all your teeth, or four legs to make puppies.

Wisconsin needs legislation that would ensure that animals will receive proper care before it reaches a criminal level. Many people think that DATCP oversees the humane treatment of animals in conjunction with local authorities. In reality, DATCP has **NO** authority, other than to serve as a resource to the local authorities. Moreover, given the lack of guidelines within Chapter 951: Crimes Against Animals, an animal must be almost dead before it is considered a crime.

AB-250/SB-208, the Commercial Dog Breeders Licensure Bill, would meet this need!

Wisconsin needs legislation that provides the manpower to investigate, inspect and fine those who do not stay in compliance. DATCP receives hundreds of calls each year complaining of puppy mills and other breeders of pet and exotic animals, the heartbreaking conditions pets come from, and the health of these pets -- but currently has no authority to act on those complaints. The public wants something done about the problem.

AB-250/SB-208, the Commercial Dog Breeders Licensure Bill, would meet this need!

IS




THIS OK WITH YOU?

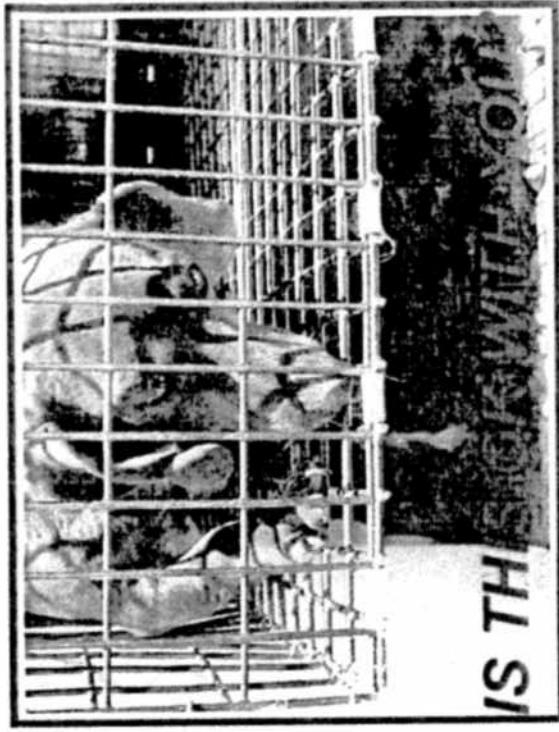
The "breeder" wears heavy coat and gloves against the WI chill, while the pups huddle together on a wire mesh floor in a wire mesh cage. Yes, that is snow you see on the corrugated metal roof and on the ground.

BUT THAT'S OK, the breeder tells us; "They were outside for a million years. It's only the last 200 that people have been putting 'em in the house."

Wisconsin needs legislation that will keep "direct to public" sellers of pets from operating "under the radar." Breeders like the one pictured above may have over 500 dogs in their care, but currently have NO regulation. Because of this, many of these puppy mills not only get away with keeping dogs in horrendous conditions, but they also operate under the radar screen of state taxes, both personal income and state sales tax. Pets are a taxable item in Wisconsin. People who sell pets directly to the public through classified ads, the Internet, at roadside stands and flea markets are neither reporting their income or collecting and submitting sales tax to the State Department of Revenue.

AB-250/SB-208, the Commercial Dog Breeders Licensure Bill, would meet this need!

 Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project * P.O. Box 516 * Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
www.NoWisconsinPuppyMills.com * info@NoWisconsinPuppyMills.com

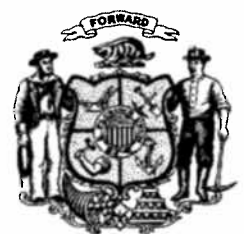


"The cages were approx 1.5 feet high and 2 feet deep and 2 feet wide. The cage floors were of approx. 1.5" x 1.5" coated wire. No solid surface for support. The buildup of feces and urine were beyond comprehension.... the urine puddle beneath the Mama Doxie was cheese-like in consistency. The collection tray was full of mold... The foul odor and flies were beyond comprehension. It made me sick to hear her whimpering as she looked at me... like what did I do to deserve this?" (F. Menish, A Silver Lining Awakening)

BUT THAT'S OK, the "kennel" owner tells us. Her place is licensed by the USDA, and she complies with all of their minimum standards.

Wisconsin needs legislation that provides rule making authority to set standards for pet facilities -- including proper shelter, ventilation, proper flooring, areas large enough for breeding and nutrition. People spend a lot of money on pets and they should be able to purchase an animal that has been properly cared for. No one wants to purchase a puppy or other pet and have it end up sick, aggressive or die at an unexpectedly young age. They should also be able to rest assured that the parents of their puppy aren't suffering like the Mama Dachshund pictured above.

AB-250/SB-208, the Commercial Dog Breeders Licensure Bill, would meet this need!





Dog Federation of Wisconsin
742 S. Indiana Ave.
West Bend, WI 53095
Doglaw@dfow.net
www.dfow.net

Date? Companion to SB208

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Representative Smith for his substitute amendment 1 for AB 250. I've been involved with various legislative efforts regarding breeder licensing since 2004 and this is the first time in my experience that a bill's authors have fully researched the bill that they are supporting. I can't thank Representative Smith and Senator Kreitlow enough for their efforts in determining the real issues and protecting the constitutional rights of constituents.

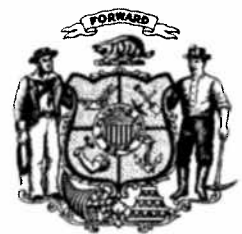
As previous speakers have stated, the Dog Federation of Wisconsin supports substitute amendment 1 for AB 250. This support was not without controversy among our membership. Unfortunately in other States, irrational restrictions and even constitutional violations are occurring. Many of our members are aware of these issues and were truly concerned that the same thing could happen in our State.

We have faith in the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. They have successfully managed other animal enterprises in our State for many years. With their existing policies in place, we know that they are capable of managing a dog breeder licensing program that will benefit the State of Wisconsin citizens.

Respectfully,
Tracey Johnston
DFOW Vice President



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Dkt? SB 208?

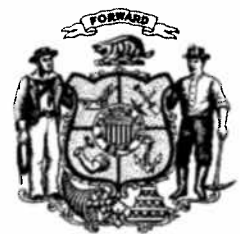
Five years ago I found about the abuse of dogs in puppy mills in Wisconsin. I have protested at the Thorp dog auctions. There, I have witnessed the callous cruelty these animals suffer. They are dirty, frightened, with untreated ear infections, ear mites, cherry eye, prolapsed uterus and more. The other victims are the consumers that unwittingly support the abuse paying large amounts of money for a puppy that will often have health and/or behavior issues due to disregard for breeding and the health and well being of the parent animals. There is hope for the dogs in the wire floor cages throughout Wisconsin. A new law, the Commercial Dog Breeders Licensure Bill was written with input from reputable breeders, veterinarians, rescues, humane societies, animal control, retail dog sellers, and sporting groups. It will be self-sufficient with funding from licensing and fines for required inspections. A person who sells 25 or more dogs per year should be considered as being in the business of selling dogs for profit. Inspections are necessary to guarantee compliance with humane standards. Fines are needed to deter those who will see if they can get away with continuing the inhumane standards now allowed.

This bill is good for Wisconsin. Abuse of animals is wrong and brings us all down to a lower level when it is allowed. The puppy mill operators will be treated fairly. They will have 18 months to comply with humane standards. It's time for them to be fair to the animals and the people of Wisconsin.

Michelle Hyllested
620 West Marshall St
Rice Lake WI 54868
715-234-7277



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Speaker: Maria-Christina Jackson, Madison, WI

Date? SB 208?

According to Michael Glass, national representative for America's Pet Registry which promotes pet ownership and commercial pet breeding, the main case against this bill:

- "It could lead to increased regulation of breeding operations in the future that could shut down well-run businesses."
- "What will be the unintended consequences."

Any *reputable* business would welcome increased regulation that shines a more positive light on the industry as a whole.

Any person who truly cares about the *welfare of dogs born into this business* would value that *all* dogs – not the just ones in their business – be born and raised in humane, caring and enriching conditions.

I question the motives of any person in the dog breeding business that does not support this bill. The dog-buying public is smart enough and compassionate enough to feel the same way.

online (Kasey's Story)
(Date?) (SB 208?)

Good morning ladies and gentleman.

I am a disabled police officer who decided last year after losing a beloved family 16 year old family pet from old age and cancer, to adopt a puppy from a "rescue" one that needed us as much as we wanted them. My search led me to Thyme and Sage Ranch in Richland County, Wisconsin.

My son and I found a beautiful puppy that we later named, Kasey. After having Kasey on hold for almost 4 weeks we were told Kasey would be available for pickup the weekend of June 7, 2008. While we were ready we received an email a week early than expected that said we could come to get Kasey. On May 31st, 2008, my family and I drove to pick up Kasey. I was a bit stunned when I got to the "rescue" that the conditions were less than organized and the puppy smelled awful and was filthy. Of course the woman, Jennifer, that I had exchanged emails with and sent the deposit too, was also very dirty and seemed a bit disheveled. Jennifer gave us Kasey and then asked me to wait until she had time to "check us out".

After waiting and watching some puppies play on the ground in a make shift pen with geese running around near the puppies and a stagnant pond, Jennifer came back to me and said she was ready. She went to a box sitting near the house and took out a piece of copied paperwork and started to place checks into boxes where it appeared there should be vaccination records. Jennifer acted a bit lost and had to think twice about the day that Kasey was vaccinated and finally decided it was the day before, being May 30, 2008. There were no vial tags, as I seen on the paperwork for previous puppies and I myself completed what I could from what she said when I got to my car. My pets before had come from a humane society or a private individual so I figured this was normal for a "rescue".

After paying Jennifer the remainder of the cost quoted to me for Kasey, a total of \$350, she then gave me a couple pieces of paper that spoke of parasites and mentioned that Kasey *might* get parasites if she was stressed out in her new environment. Jennifer went on to tell me that they had withheld food and water from her for the day so that she would not be uncomfortable on the way home. Of course she then said to me that I should stop and water Kasey on the way home. I found this confusing but with the excitement, I didn't have another thought about it until a week later.

The 31st of May last year was a Saturday and after the long drive home and stopping a couple times so that Kasey would be comfortable, we got home early evening. Kasey never really ate good and even though I called Jennifer the next day she didn't say much but suggested some things to try to get Kasey to eat. By Wednesday of the next week, the fourth day Kasey was in our house, she was sleeping more and had some loose stools. Overnight Kasey got very ill. When I went to get her out of the crate, Kasey could not stand and was very lethargic. I called my vet immediately Thursday morning and the vet said to bring her right in.

My vet is one that we have entrusted with our animals for at least 5 years prior and he had recently treated our older dog for dental issues and regular vaccinations. My vet had saved the dog we lost a few months prior for cancer at least three times prior and he is the vet that handles our canine officers from the department I worked for prior to getting hurt on the job. Dr. Sokey told me that that Kasey had the worst case of parasites he had ever seen. He went on to look at the paperwork I presented to him from Jennifer and said that was sure that Kasey actually came from a puppy mill and not a "rescue". Kasey spent the day at the vet's office and when she perked up they let me bring her home.

I did call Jennifer again but had to leave a message. Jennifer called me back and I asked her again about Kasey's vaccinations and the information she had given me when I brought Kasey home. Jennifer changed the day that Kasey had been vaccinated and what brand of vaccinations was used. This is important because I clearly asked Jennifer if Kasey had been vaccination for the Parvo disease. At this point Kasey did not present all the normal symptoms of dogs that

contracted Parvo. We did bring her home that evening after she perked up and although I slept with her, fed her and cleaned her up myself, and made sure that no matter what happened she drank water to keep her hydrated, Kasey again relapsed by Saturday morning. Now she presented all the symptoms and even though I clearly double checked three days before Jennifer assured me that there was no reason we should suspect Parvo and that ALL of Kasey's littermates went home well and were doing good. As soon as the vet's office opened we ran her in again and although I had contact with Jennifer and she said it could not be Parvo a snap Parvo test was done and the results were a strong positive. Sadly even though we were able to get an IV in her little paw, Kasey died on Sunday night.

To say my family was devastated is an understatement. We had lost two "furry children" in less than 4 months. Sadly I believe we could have saved Kasey had Jennifer been honest with us. Had I been told earlier in the week when I called her, we might have had a chance to save her from the damage the disease caused from mid week until Saturday. But she would not even suggest that we might want to test her "just in case". When I called Jennifer from my vet's office Jennifer instead blamed my care and said that my vet was looking to line his pockets. Kasey was less than 1.5 pounds when she died and was not dehydrated. My vet said that it is not uncommon for dogs to get Parvo when they have been in puppy mills and since the disease take 10-14 days to show symptoms, he felt that she must have contracted it before coming to our home.

Unfortunately much of what was said when in Jennifer's company about the parasites and her inability to keep her stories straight about Kasey was starting to make sense. But it was too late and when I emailed Jennifer again about Kasey's death, she refused any refund of the adoption fees and/or to the almost \$700 vet bills. You should know that my fees were actually on the low end, many of the victims of Jennifer's were double or triple what I spent and many of the pets died anyway.

Since losing Kasey I have focused on making sure that not only did my puppy NOT die in vain, I wanted to make sure that all animals had a voice. I spent the last 15 months trying to get someone to pay attention to this issue and in May 29009 this particular "rescue" was raided. Jennifer is now awaiting a trial for many of the medical issues that I knew attacked my puppy's system. I have educated myself on all the parasites and Parvo not to mention mange and some other significant medical problems animals can have that come from puppy mills.

Many of these things could have been prevented with proper vetting and good health care from the start. Instead Jennifer continued to by more animals and sells them to unsuspecting human victims like myself. I know of two other puppies of different breeds that were adopted the same day my Kasey was and died of the same illnesses within a day or two of Kasey. Jennifer of course again lied since she said I was the only one that had a sick dog that died.

Had this woman been a legitimate rescue she would have shut down her "rescue" and quarantined all animals, young and old, and treated them with antibiotics for two weeks before adopting out another puppy. Jennifer would NOT have allowed the geese to mix with the animals since they used the small pond not far from the driveway.

It was clear to me too that they had withheld water so that she would not have loose stools when we picked her up. I believe now that Jennifer knew that Kasey might not make it through the week and had been exposed to the Parvo. Funny Jennifer told me that she all Kasey's litter mates had left already when I arrived and she keep her in the back of a pickup truck so she could stay warm...It was a beautiful spring day and although there was a breeze I do not believe it would have been too cool for her. The others I have found as victims like myself said each of their dogs too came from different parts of the house or grounds. None were kept in the pen in the front yard.

These parasites are transmittable to humans and it was obvious this did not matter to her or she would not have adopted them out to anyone let alone those with small children or weakened

immune systems. The parasites come from many different sources including the feces from birds and stagnant water. Both of these were available and in eyesight when I was there. Sadly the puppies on in the pen could have eaten feces from the birds and near the puppies on the ground.

Sadly this woman is nothing but a "puppy mill broker" using the word "rescue" as a guise to make money. Within a few days, I found that this woman had a long list of victims, both human and furry. I have a group of victims that lost pets before I lost my Kasey as just as many since. Jennifer only allowed people on her property that called ahead and requested a visit. Both the DNR and the Dane County Humane Society advised me she had too many animals. All parties were able to see the conditions after she spent some time cleaning them up.

In May almost 400 animals were confiscated and everything I had informed the sheriff's department, the DA's office, the county board of supervisors and anyone else I had talked to for almost a year, found that the conditions were deplorable. Had an inspection not been done unannounced Jennifer would have again been able to clean things up some and move sick animals to another location.

We need more laws to prevent the abuse that will continue to happen if you don't act soon. These are living, breathing beings...NOT property.

As an elected member of my community, it is up to us to make change and though I am only a small voice for animals and children, I will continue to do what I can to get legislation passed to make this world a better place for those animals we chose to make family members.

Please, I beg you take a stand and be a supporter for our furry children. I have two sons, one deployed now in Iraq and a 16 year old, but when my children are off and gone on their own, these little ones with no voice will be those that give me comfort. We fight for rights for our children until they can stand on their own, why not do the same for those that will NEVER be able to tell their sad stories..... Sadly many won't make it to forever homes but those that have a chance are counting on people like you to make a difference in their lives.

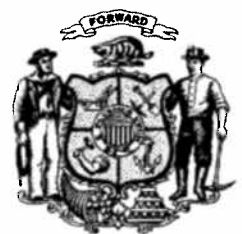
Respectfully,
Penny L. Evans
Rockton IL

Email
NROPEN@charter,
ne

(815) 624-6271 Home phone
(815) 378-5093 Cell phone



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY
Christine Sinicki
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Date? SB 208?

Honorable Chairman and Members:

Thank you for considering my comments in support of this important legislation. Having worked closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to address problem areas relating to this issue, I am confident that the bill before us today is the right legislation for dogs and dog lovers here in Wisconsin.

My involvement with this issue stemmed both from the sheer volume of constituent contacts I received through my office, and my own personal experience of working at a pet store many years ago in Milwaukee. As public outcry over unethical, substandard and inhumane breeding and grooming practices increased, so did my constituency's interest in seeing decisive action at the state level.

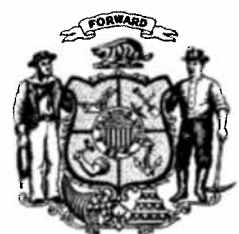
The conditions in some of these dog breeding operations are troubling to me. Animals are kept confined in small cages—sometimes several to a cage. These cages are poorly maintained and rarely cleaned, and the dogs develop health problems from being forced to live in filth and squalor. They are rarely given enough food, water, and attention. This lack of attention is perhaps the most troubling aspect. Because the dogs have not had the experience of being around people, they are often unable to socialize properly as adults, and so they become unadoptable and wind up in a humane society to be euthanized.

This bill takes into account the needs of all animal lovers. For families looking for a new pet, this legislation provides assurance that their dog is healthy and well-adjusted. For breeders, this legislation clears the market of competition with irresponsible breeders who cut corners to save money at the expense of their dogs' health.

In conclusion, I want to thank Rep. Smith and Sen. Kreitlow, as well as my friends from the other side of the aisle, Sen. Darling and Rep. Lothian, for their hard work and strong leadership on this issue.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



A Thyme & Sage Victim Kasey Evans



Born 04/05/2008

Adopted 05/31/2008

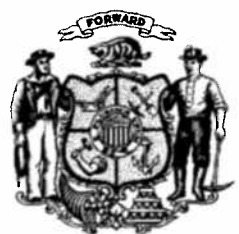
Died 06/08/2008

Penny Evans
nropen@charter.net

The Petition Site
www.thepetitionsite.com/1/see-that-jennifer-petkus-receives-proper-punishment



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



SPECIAL REPORT Our
state's horrific puppy mills
by Mary Vande Kamp Nor

Rock Dees
Said: Why?
by Justin Slade

Talk Radio
Reader Outrage

JANUARY 2005 \$5.00

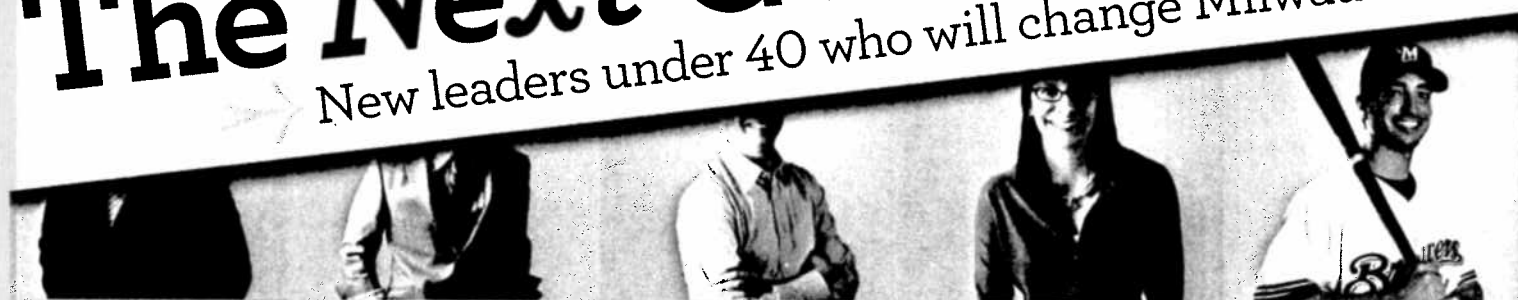
Milwaukee

MAGAZINE



The Next Generation

New leaders under 40 who will change Milwaukee.



MILWAUKEEMAGAZINE

content

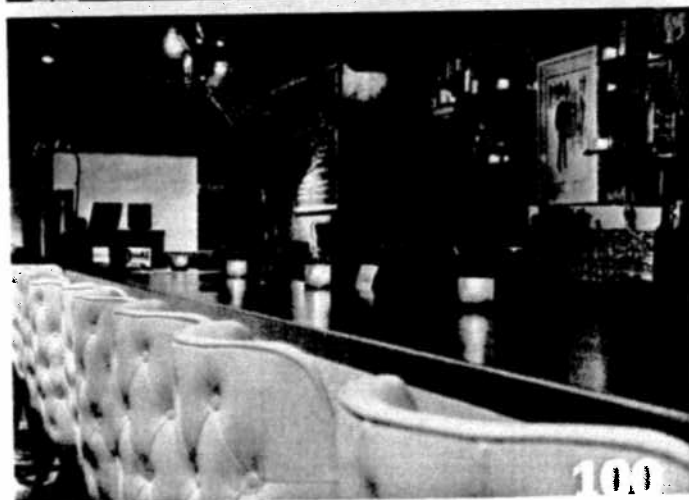
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Puppy

Hell

Lax regulations have made Wisconsin a haven for Amish and Mennonite puppy mills – breeders who turn out physically and mentally deformed dogs.

BY MARY VAN DE KAMP NOHL
PHOTOS BY TOM BAMBERGER

Life was a struggle for Wallace Havens. He worked days inseminating cattle for a breeding company, nights manning a motel front desk. His wife turned the family home into a day care center. Money was tight. Then, Havens invented a lubricant used in breeding dairy cattle and put his wife and kids to work bottling it at the kitchen table. Soon, they'd saved enough to buy a 120-acre farm in Kingston, Wis., a rural enclave 90 miles northwest of Milwaukee.

Havens began raising hedgehogs and miniature donkeys. He tried – and failed – to cross an Asian leopard with a Bengal tiger. Then he hit on the mother lode: breeding dogs. His first experiment was crossing a cocker spaniel with a poodle, creating a “cockapoo.” It had the mellow personality of a cocker spaniel, but the nonshedding coat of a poodle. It became an instant hit.

Havens kept experimenting. He tried crossing a Lhasa apso with a cocker spaniel, then a Shar-Pei with a basset hound. Both attempts produced offspring so ugly that no pet store wanted them. But his goldendoodles (a golden retriever/poodle mix invented by another breeder) commanded \$1,500 a puppy.

By 1987, more than a decade after getting into puppy breeding, Havens began marketing puggles, a pug/beagle cross, as the ideal apartment-sized dog without the girlish fru-fruness of most small breeds. When Hollywood stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Uma Thurman posed with their puggles in the late 1990s, the dog took New York's upper class by storm.

By 2005, Havens was producing 35 hybrids, and his Puppy Haven Kennel was one of nation's largest commercial dog-breeding operations, part of a \$14 billion-a-year American industry turned upside down by the craze for “designer dogs.” They were now fetching up to \$3,000 – often more than purebreds – and Havens was selling 3,000 and 4,000 puppies a year to clients like Sylvester Stallone and “Sopranos” star James Gandolfini, and to chi-chi pet stores in Florida, California and Chicago.

Marie Claire magazine named one of Havens' hybrid inventions, the miniature St. Bernard, one of the most desirable Christmas gifts of the year. *The Wall Street Journal* profiled him in a page-one feature. CBS interviewed him on “Sunday Morning.” By February 2007, you couldn't “swing a dead cat in New York without hitting a puggle,” *The New York Times Magazine* raved in an article about hybrid dogs. The story described Havens as both the “inventor” of the puggle and “a strange kind of Noah” with a boatful of pups in rural Wisconsin.

But there was a dark side to the designer dog craze: “ramped-up production

PRODUCTION LINE
The maternity ward
at a puppy mill called
Puppy Haven.

at inhumane, large-scale 'puppy mills,' " as the *Times* article noted. It didn't portray Havens as part of this problem, but he clearly was.

By then, a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspector had written up Havens for leaving hundreds of dogs in wet and freezing conditions, for excessively matted dogs lacking proper grooming, and sick and injured ones without veterinary care. Havens kept his puppies in wire-floored cages, an inspector noted, where their paws slipped through the openings and became injured and infected.

In August 2006, the American Kennel Club banned Havens from registering dogs with the organization for 10 years – the harshest penalty it hands down. The Humane Society of the United States added Havens to its "Hall of Shame." This, in turn, brought media

Some of the worst puppy mills are operated by Pennsylvania Dutch-speaking Amish and Mennonites, many of whom have moved to Wisconsin because state regulations are much laxer here. "Pennsylvania used to be the puppy mill capital of the world," says Carol Sumbry of the Elmbrook Humane Society. "But we have pretty much rolled out the welcome mat for them here in Wisconsin."

It was Havens who helped roll out the mat. As founder and president of the Wisconsin Professional Pet Breeders Association, he mentored 50 Amish and Mennonite farmers, many transplants from Pennsylvania's notorious Lancaster County. His group also fought legislation that would raise standards for commercial breeders.

"Wisconsin is like the Wild West for puppy mills. There are no laws," says Jana

treatment of animals have pushed for legislation, only to face fierce opposition from high-powered lobbyists and even the puppy lovers of the Dog Federation of Wisconsin. Ultimately, both Republican Gov. Scott McCallum and his Democratic successor, Gov. Jim Doyle, have vetoed reform bills. All of which has helped encourage ever more puppy millers from Pennsylvania to move here.

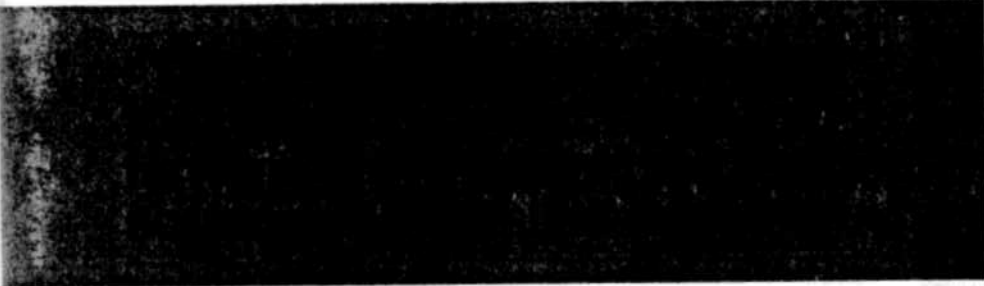
Lancaster County is a mostly rural area in eastern Pennsylvania just 90 miles from Philadelphia. Its picturesque Amish farm country was made famous by the 1985 Harrison Ford film *Witness*, but the county also has a reputation as the "puppy mill capital of the United States." Its dog breeders are almost entirely Amish or Mennonites, reports a 2005 article in the *Lancaster Sunday News*.

According to Libby Williams, the founder of New Jersey Consumers Against Pet Shop Abuse, the Amish and Mennonites were originally dairy farmers who needed a second income when milk prices dropped. At a November 1981 meeting attended by several hundred of these farmers, they learned they could raise and sell puppies with little or no overhead and make a fortune.

By the mid-1990s, Lancaster had the largest concentration of wholesale dog breeders in the country. Total 1996 sales approached \$5 million. By 2004, the county produced over 200,000 dogs a year, but Lancaster County was changing.

The Mennonites and Amish are members of Christian fellowships that "value simplicity, community, separation from the world and separation of church and state," says Donald B. Kraybill, a senior fellow at Pennsylvania's Elizabethtown College and a national expert on these plain sect groups.

But urban sprawl and post-*Witness* "Amish Country" tourism were ending the isolation of Lancaster County. With more traffic came more scrutiny and several highly publicized cases of canines kept in deplorable conditions. One puppy mill bust, filmed by the television show "Animal Cops," showed a filthy farm with more than 300 dogs silenced by the Amish farmer who "de-barked" them by pushing a pipe down their



attention: WTMJ-TV news did a hidden-camera investigation showing how a Havens puppy had its paw chewed off by an overstressed mother forced to repeatedly breed.

In time, Havens' style changed. He sold his entire breeding stock to the Wisconsin Humane Society and became a reformer. He began to be portrayed as a kind of folk hero, though he had helped build and protect a growing industry of puppy mills.

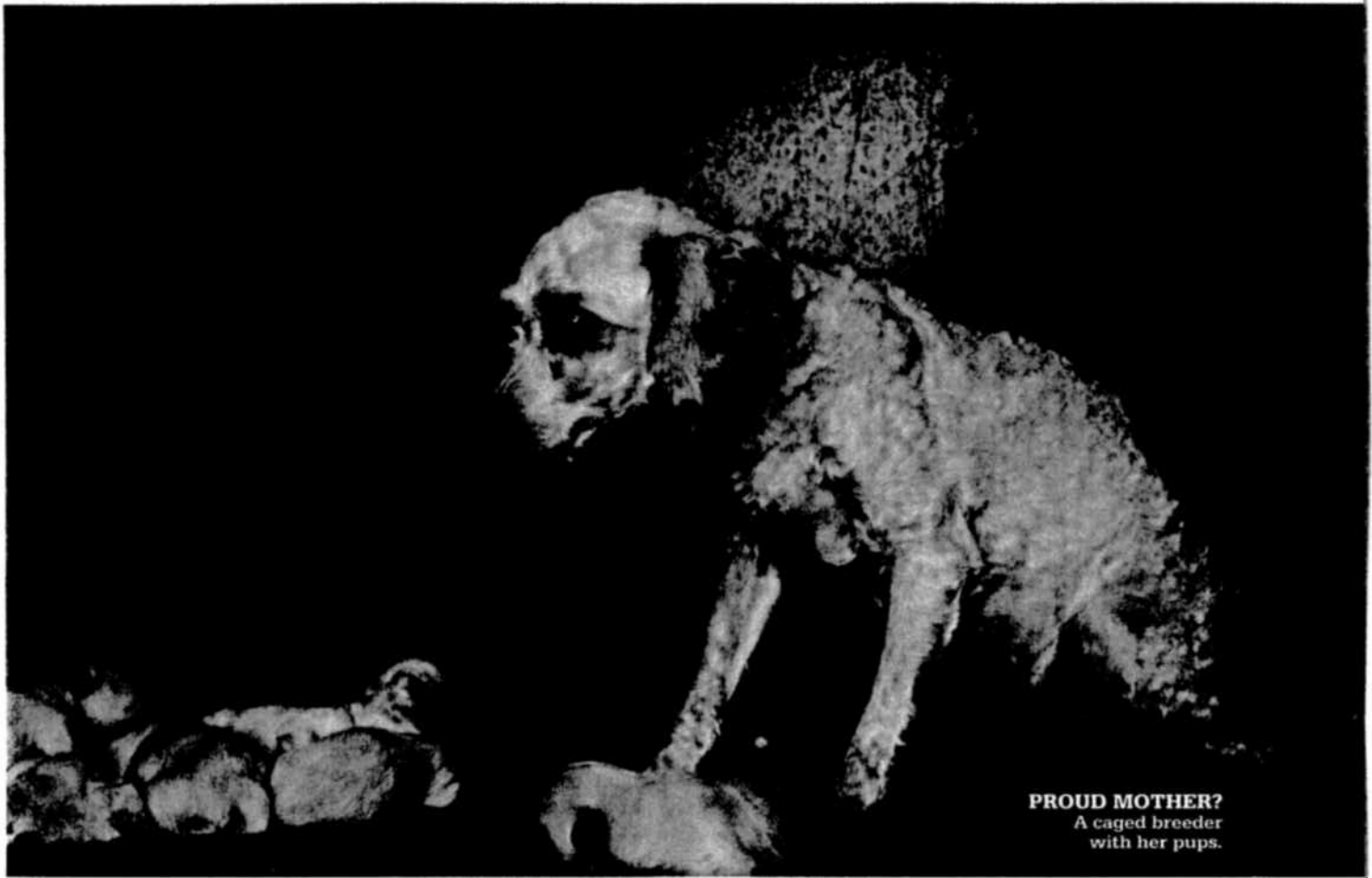
Many mills operate without regard for sound breeding practices or the dogs' physical and emotional health. The result is often sick puppies and "breeder" dogs that live a miserable existence in horrific conditions. The puppy mills often operate in near-secret, part of an underground economy, and pay no taxes. They defraud consumers, who are left with costly veterinary bills when they unwittingly buy badly bred dogs and suffer considerable emotional heartache.

Kohl, author of a new book on puppy mills titled *A Rare Breed of Love*.

Dr. Yvonne Bellay, the state's highest-ranking veterinarian, told the legislature last year that "Wisconsin is one of the few states without any laws regulating large-scale dog-breeding operations that sell directly to consumers."

As a result, the state's puppy mill industry is booming. The number of commercial dog-breeding operations in Wisconsin that sell to middlemen increased 300 percent between 1999 and 2007, according to a legislative task force. The state's Fiscal Bureau estimates there are 500 Wisconsin dog-breeding operations selling 50 or more dogs a year, yet federal records show only 68 of them are subject to USDA licensing.

Remarkably, in a state known for its strict animal husbandry standards for dairy farmers, attempts to regulate dog breeders have gone nowhere. For almost 10 years, advocates for the humane



PROUD MOTHER?
A caged breeder
with her pups.

throats to rupture their vocal cords.

This triggered protests involving celebrity dog lovers like *The Exorcist* star Linda Blair. The state increased its inspections and there were more horror stories. "The public perception of the Amish and Mennonites and their peaceful, quiet way of life is a long way from the reality of these puppy mills," says Williams.

The increase in scrutiny helped provoke an exodus of the farmers from Lancaster County. By the late-1990s, Wisconsin had become a prime destination. It already had small Amish and Mennonite settlements, plenty of abandoned dairy farms, and a ready market of rural cheesemakers for Amish farmers who still shipped their product in old-fashioned milk cans. Wisconsin was also known for a historic U.S. Supreme

Court ruling that said the state couldn't force the Amish to send their children to high school. If any state seemed like it would be welcoming to the plain sect people, it was Wisconsin.

By 2004, *The Washington Post* took note of "whole communities from Lancaster ... relocating to Wisconsin, where land is two to three times as cheap and the influences of modern society are less pressing."

Of more than two dozen U.S. affiliations of Amish and Mennonites, two of the most traditional sects – the Old Order Amish and Groffdale Conference or "Horse and Buggy" Mennonites – migrated to Wisconsin, says Kraybill. So did one of the sects most receptive to modern technology, the New Order Amish.

The Horse and Buggy Mennonites

settled in Clark County, where they use steel-wheeled tractors to farm. The metal wheels make them impractical for long distances, something that might undermine the community by encouraging travel and exposing church members to outsiders.

Between 1992 and 2008, Wisconsin's Amish population grew 117 percent to 15,525. Today, only Pennsylvania and Ohio have more Amish settlements. "Wisconsin was sort of a hot spot for immigration," says Kraybill.

Much of the migration was to rural areas just northeast and southeast of Eau Claire in Clark, Taylor and Chippewa counties, and most of the immigrants began to operate dairy farms. In 2004, UW-Stevens Point researcher John A. Cross found that 80 percent of Wisconsin farmers with traditional Amish and Mennonite surnames operated dairy farms. By 2012, he predicted, they will make up 15 percent of the state's milk producers.

WUWM
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Mary Van de Kamp Nohl discusses this story on WUWM's
"Lake Effect," Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. and again at 11 p.m.



PLAY TIME?
Outdoor cages at
Puppy Haven.

As in Lancaster County, many of these Amish and Mennonite dairy farmers also breed dogs as a side crop. Others breed puppies as their main business, with several family members raising a “puppy crop.” *Milwaukee Magazine* compared federal and state records and found more than 40 percent of the state’s USDA-licensed wholesale dog breeders also hold a milk producer’s license.

Wisconsin’s dog-breeding industry is now centered in Clark and Chippewa counties, which host more than half of the state’s USDA-licensed dog breeders. But experts say many others are unlicensed and keep to themselves. The central artery for the breeders is state Highway 29 with its hamlets of Stanley, Withee and Thorp.

“Dog breeding is a cash crop for many people along the Highway 29 corridor, and most of them are Mennonite,” says Clark County Humane Society Executive Director Chuck Wegner. (Those who aren’t Amish or Mennonite are often called the “English” by the plain sect people.) “They produce as many puppies as they can, for as little money as possible. Poor nutrition, veterinary neglect and inbreeding are rampant.”

The Amish and Mennonites don’t think

of animals as pets, says Steve M. Nolt, an expert on their culture and a scholar at Indiana’s Goshen College. “They think of them as work animals. Not exactly a commodity, but not as a member of the family in the way most Americans think of pets. They would not go to any means necessary to cure or save an animal’s life.”

“I don’t think the Amish mean to be doing cruel things to these animals,” says Marti Houge, who runs a rescue shelter for dogs in Columbus, Wis. “They just look at their dogs as another form of livestock to make money off of.”

Mennonite and Amish breeders contact Houge when they want to get rid of a dog. Houge typically spends \$500 to \$600 in veterinary bills on dogs she rescues and a year socializing them before they can be placed in a home – if ever.

She’s been inside seven or eight plain sect breeding operations and has retrieved dogs with anaplasmosis (a Lyme-like disease), uncut toenails curled like elbow macaroni, crooked legs from lives spent in cages shorter than they are and jaws eaten away by infection.

Houge says she got a call to pick up an older Bichon from an Amish farm near Pardeeville last winter. She found the breeder’s dogs in a chicken coop without

heat or electricity, and in cages stacked two and three high. Each dog’s access to the outside was a 2-by-3-foot space “like a birdcage,” and the dogs were so filthy and unkempt, “you couldn’t tell one breed from another,” she says.

More startling still was “an idyllic-looking little Amish farm,” as Houge recalls it, where all the dogs were kept inside a windowless barn. “There was no electricity, no fresh air, no kennel runs. They live their entire lives in that dark barn, and when the farmer went in there, the barking sounded almost like screams. Like something from hell.”

Auctioneer **Kenneth Z. Stauffer** is in his full-salesman mode, bellowing from a perch overlooking a crowd peppered with the black-felt bowlers of Mennonite breeders and salted with pale-straw Amish hats. The item for sale is a 3-year-old Pekingese that’s propped on the table by a farm boy in jeans and suspenders who pivots the dog sideways, extending its tail with his hand.

“Proven breeder,” the auction catalog reads, failing to note the dog’s serious underbite, something that would keep a conscientious breeder from breeding her.

"This one's in heat today," the auctioneer effuses. "Take her home and breed her!" The bidding begins. "Do I hear 300? 300! Do I hear 350?" He prods the crowd that rings his pulpit and rises up a wall of bleachers across a cavernous room.

Another bidder bites.

"I've got 350. Do I hear 4?" At \$450, Stauffer brings the gavel down. The dog with the underbite that had belonged to one Mennonite breeder is sold to another. "You're done," Stauffer nudges the dog's handler, and another strong-jawed Mennonite boy takes his place with a 3-year-old male Pekingese, another "proven breeder."

Auctions like this have been held twice a year since 2006 at Horst Stables in Thorp, Wis. Dog auctions are illegal in Lancaster County, Pa., the former home of Stauffer and his employer, auction company owner Leon Z. Horst. But here, they provide a wholesale outlet for breeders. For the Amish and Mennonites, they are also family outings with grandma and all the kids. For outsiders, they offer a rare glimpse inside an insular culture.

Some dogs are auctioned to breeders looking to increase their stock of a particular breed. Some to individuals looking for pets. Some are sold to "brokers" — wholesalers who buy in bulk and then sell to pet stores or over the Internet. Ironically, most of the auctioned dogs are actually bought by humane societies and rescue groups looking to save poorly bred puppies and mother dogs that have bred litters until exhaustion.

At this auction last fall, representatives of at least a dozen rescue groups donned baseball caps — so they wouldn't accidentally bid against each other — and bought as many dogs as they could afford to keep them from going to another puppy mill. In the end, two-thirds of the Thorp dogs were sold to rescuers.

Most puppies produced by Wisconsin's Mennonite and Amish breeders aren't auctioned. They're sold directly to brokers, just as in Lancaster County. They are the key link to puppy mills: Humane Society officials say 90 percent of pet shop dogs come from brokers who have bought them from puppy mills (though pet shops deny this). H&H Hunte Corp., the country's largest puppy broker and the first to come into north-central Wisconsin, uses

temperature-controlled semitrailers filled with cages to pick up puppies.

Other brokers include Iowa's Oleo Acres, a woman named Penny Rich from Gurnee, Ill., and another woman from Madison who sells puppies out of her basement. All three "just stick 'um in little boxes in a van," Mennonite breeder Leah Martin told Frank Schemberger, an undercover investigator for the The Wisconsin Puppy Mills Project, Inc. Schemberger used a hidden camera to record such moments, as the Amish and Mennonites don't like to be photographed.

Big brokers, however, have certain standards. A sick puppy won't survive a long haul, and pet shops don't take home-ly dogs, so both end up getting sold at dog auctions and become breeders of the next generation of dogs. The menagerie for sale at this auction included two black puggles with hernias, a French bulldog born with one ear, a 3-month-old Yorkshire terrier with only one testicle and a badly bow-legged bulldog.

Terri Woodcock, head of the Wisconsin Retired Breeders Rescue based in Au-

the auction exhibited varying degrees of concern for their stock. A 30-something Amish man with a bushy black beard separated his goldendoodle and Teddy bear (Shih Tzu/Bichon) pups from the other dogs, brushed them and fluffed their coats. Then he made sure that all of his dogs had water — they were the only ones in the auction that did.

A middle-aged Mennonite man represented the opposite extreme. One breeder warned him a Yorkie he was selling was "real grey. It's going to go hypoglycemic if you don't get some honey into it quick," she said.

Hypoglycemia "must be treated as an emergency or a puppy's condition will deteriorate rapidly," according to the book *Dog Care*. "The puppy's body must have sugar as quickly as possible. Untreated, it can cause coma, seizures, brain damage and death."

But when the observer left, the breeder grumbled she'd cost him a sale, then he walked away, too. Later, one of the farm boys propped up the lethargic puppy, and Stauffer sold it.



gusta, Wis., has seen auction sales of boxers with brucellosis (a highly contagious, often fatal disease that can spread to humans), dogs with jaws half-rotted away, and a 7-month-old Chihuahua so emotionally traumatized that seven months later, "it still poops or pukes whenever it sees a person," says Woodcock, who bought the dog.

To Humane Society activist Wegner, the saddest cases he's seen at the auctions are spent breeders. "These are dogs that, after six years of living in a windowless, lightless barn, just give up. They no longer have any hope in their eyes. I know what it takes to break a dog's spirit, and these dogs have been through hell."

The Amish and Mennonite sellers at

Emily Gray is a 24-year-old Milwaukee resident who heard about Carol's Canines from one of her East Side neighbors. Its Web site promised purebred puppies that conformed to breed standards and designer dogs with "exceptional temperaments." But the biggest selling point was the photo gallery of irresistible puppies.

Gray called to inquire. A woman named Sue answered and invited Gray to her home in East Troy. She said some of the puppies Gray saw on the Web site were "still with their mothers and not ready yet" and told Gray she could only see five dogs.

Gray was ushered into Sue's living room

while she went to the basement to get the puppies. "It seemed odd," Gray says now. "I was afraid it might be a puppy mill." But like thousands of others, she forgot her concerns when she saw the puppies.

Gray fell for a 10-week-old female schnoodle (schnauzer/poodle mix). "She put out her arms and legs like Superman when we picked her up," Gray gushes. The pup's shyness should have set off warning bells, but it charmed her, and she paid \$476 for the dog that she named Penny. Under the sales contract, Gray had three days to return Penny if her vet found something seriously wrong.

Penny seemed healthy. "But the vet said Penny had had a lot more shots than they're used to seeing," says Gray. To-

(nowisconsinpupmills.com), and she calls Carol's Canines "a known front for puppy mills."

Carol's Canine's operates a store at 9501 W. Greenfield Ave., but it is only open on weekends. During the week, it sells dogs out of a home to customers like Emily that are attracted by its Web site. When *Milwaukee Magazine* visited the store, we found 24 puppies in clean cages with comfortable bedding. Manager Sue Anderson denied relying on puppy mills and said her dogs come from seven north-central Wisconsin breeders.

One big national chain is Petland, which has three pet shops in Wisconsin. A recent study by the U.S. Humane Society found that Petland is "the nation's largest retail supporter of puppy mills."

At the Petland store on Silvernail Road in Pewaukee, we found more than a dozen puppies for sale. A new shipment had just arrived "on the truck," the clerk said. Many Petland stores rely on Hunte Corp., and two Mennonite breeders told undercover investigator Schemberger that they sold pup-

pies to Hunte. But the Petland clerk said her dogs come from Iowa or Minnesota.

Because brokers buy from mills just once a month, they often buy pups when they are 5 or 6 weeks old, before the 8 weeks puppies need to learn valuable lessons from their mothers and litter mates—like bite inhibition. "When they leave the mother too soon, they have social issues, problems with house-training, fearfulness—not all dogs bite because they're aggressive. With many, it's fear," says Oconomowoc veterinarian John Hallett.

Linda Bliefert, who teaches puppy-training classes at The Hallett Veter-

inary Clinic in Oconomowoc, recalls the case of a pug named Mario: "He went into a seizure from fear when someone carried him. He'd also get very aggressive. That's unusual for a pug, but it was the result of his life in a mill and then a pet shop," she says.

Puppy mill dogs often have emotional disorders—including a kind of post-traumatic stress disorder—that are even worse than their physical problems. "You get them home and you see flight, fright, or they just freeze," Bliefert says. "People see that and say, 'Someone was mean to him,' but it may just be that he's never been exposed to any people."

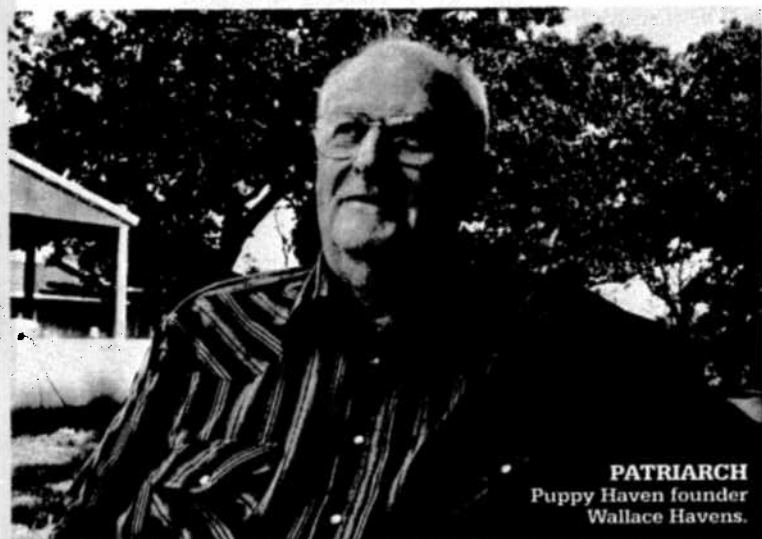
Besides those bought from stores and Internet sites, puppy mill dogs are also sold to unwitting consumers at the West Allis Farmers Market, Seven Mile Fair and St. Martin's Festival, says Wisconsin Humane Society Executive Director Victoria Wellens.

"I would say virtually all pet store puppies come from puppy mills," says Kathleen Summers, who is deputy director of the U.S. Humane Society's Stop Puppy Mills Campaign. "We get hundreds of calls every year from people who have purchased sick puppies from pet stores. About 20 percent report the puppy died shortly after purchase."

The road to Puppy Haven leads off a county trunk in Kingston, Wis., past a bucolic farmstead where an Amish farmer uses a horse and plow. Puppy Haven had long been run by Wallace Havens, the superstar of designer dogs who had now decided to sell his entire operation to the Wisconsin Humane Society.

As the WHS rescue van approached Puppy Haven last July, it encountered barking dogs in chain-link runs, kennel after feces-littered kennel. Doggie doors clanged as frenzied canines scurried about.

A pregnant schnauzer in cage 131 hobbled on a gimpy leg, a cavalier King Charles spaniel in cage 137 appeared to have a large tumor, or perhaps just a badly gnarled coat. A 3-year-old beagle, a card attached to her kennel noted, had already produced four puggle litters—22 puppies—and was pregnant again. A homely black mutt with the body of a wiener dog and



PATRIARCH
Puppy Haven founder
Wallace Havens.

day, at 18 months, Penny has "really bad, out-of-control allergies even on medication, which she will have to take the rest of her life," Gray says. She scratches her ears until they bleed and develops "hot spots" where she chews off her fur.

Her kneecaps move in and out of place—a hereditary defect avoided by careful breeding—as well as chronic runny eyes and a benign tumor on her back. Gray had to hire an animal behaviorist to help train Penny. The trainer attributed Penny's problems to being bred in a puppy mill.

Eilene Ribbens is the founder of The Wisconsin Puppy Mill Project

HOW CAN YOU AVOID BUYING A PUPPY FROM A PUPPY MILL? AT ALL COSTS, AVOID THE FOLLOWING: ANSWERS, AND MORE COVERAGE OF THIS ISSUE, AT WWW.WISCONSINPUPMILLS.COM

the too-big head of a Scottie – perhaps another Havens experiment – spun in insane circles. It was easy to see why animal advocates call such operations concentration camps for dogs.

For years, says Woodcock, head of the Wisconsin Retired Breeders Rescue, she would pick up Havens' burned-out 5- and 6-year-old breeders. That is, until the local Amish and Mennonite farmers started paying \$50 a dog to get a few more litters out of them. After that, Woodcock says, she had to pay \$50, too – "and always in cash."

Over the years, Woodcock says, Havens sold her a starving dachshund pup with a swollen belly – separated from its mother too young, it had no teeth to chew dry food; a goldendoodle puppy whose bowed legs straightened with two weeks of quality feed; and a Lhasa apso/Shih Tzu mix with paralyzed back legs. Three puppies from Havens died after Woodcock got them to her vet, she recalls: They had giardia, canine herpes and a strain of salmonella associated with cows.

"Almost every one of Wallace's dogs ended up toothless because of the crap they fed them. It was the cheapest stuff he could find," she says.

On one visit, Woodcock witnessed one of Havens' Amish employees kicking a cowering dog into the corner of a chain-link fence. Others, she says, "cut the puppies out of pregnant dogs" and threw the mothers in a ditch with other dead dogs. "All puppy mill dogs are scared, but the most frightened are from Amish and Mennonite breeders," Woodcock says, "and when Wallace had the Amish working for him, his dogs were terrified, too."

Some animal activists, like those at the Humane Animal Welfare Society in Waukesha, argue that the rescue of these dogs just helps millers by opening up cages for new dogs to be exploited. But the Wisconsin Humane Society defends the practice. "It's a way to humanely treat at least some mill dogs," says Wellens.

In 2004, the WHS agreed to take 75 of Havens' dogs. By 2008, Havens was eager to retire and offered to sell his entire operation. Thus, the rescue van's trip to Puppy Haven last July.

This would be the biggest rescue in history by any U.S. animal welfare organization. The state's other humane societies

immediately condemned it. But the deal was made.

Havens offered to sell Puppy Haven for \$2.4 million. Ultimately, he and the WHS settled on a sales price with "a substantial discount," says Wellens. Neither side will disclose the actual amount.

"Most of the adult dogs had multiple conditions, with many resulting from allowing dogs with genetic defects to be bred over and over – including knee, eye and hernia problems," says WHS veterinarian Randall Zeman. "There were quite a few with intestinal parasites and ear problems that were also the result of neglect ... [and dogs with] severe dental problems with their teeth literally rotting out of their mouths."

By late October, 75 percent of Havens' 1,630 dogs had been adopted. But it wasn't easy. Many older mill dogs have never walked on solid ground, worn a leash or been petted. "Some of the puppy mill dogs will make wonderful pets; others never will," says Debby Lewis, president of the Wisconsin Federated Humane Societies, Inc.

Wisconsin is home to nearly 200 dog rescue groups, ranging from large kennels to networks of foster homes. Some are part of an underground railroad transporting dogs from shelters in the South with "96 percent kill rates," says Wellens.

But rescue groups are also unregulated, and some are actually fronts for brokers looking to cash in on the "rescued" dogs.

The USDA does have some requirements for dog breeders who sell to brokers, but Cynthia Neis, the regional USDA representative, says the law she enforces is toothless. "I can't even officially take dogs off the auction list ... I can only say, 'I will write you up,'" she says.

The U.S. Humane Society says USDA records show many federally licensed breeders get away with repeated violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Violators are rarely fined. Few have their licenses suspended. And the law, last updated in 1970, is ill-suited for the Internet age and mass producers of designer dogs. But Wisconsin animal advocates say Neis is also part of the problem because she's "too friendly" with breeders.

Schemberger's hidden-camera investigations have captured three Mennonite breeders saying Neis counseled them not

to let anyone inside their barns. The idea is to keep out Humane Society representatives, says one Mennonite.

"If the legislature knew what was going on behind those doors, there would be legislation so fast," says Clark County's Wegner.

Asked about her relationships with those she regulates, Neis says, "You can come in and bang heads together or you can be approachable, and that way, I have people call me and ask 'Can I do this or that?' We're administrative law. All I can say is 'Here's an administrative ticket for \$75.'"

In her nine years with the USDA, Neis admits, she's never shut down any breeder. But she says her reports have pushed some to get out of the business.

But do they really get out? Tammy Kautzer was a notorious puppy miller in Clark County who was the subject of a 2007 undercover investigation by WTMJ-TV that caught her selling a sick 4-week-old puppy. She subsequently dropped her USDA license. Now unregulated, she told Schemberger she currently sells puppies over the Internet and via ads placed in Madison, and gets "\$300 a puppy, instead of the \$100 or \$200 brokers paid" when she was a USDA breeder.

"Most of the people who have the really bad kennels stay out of sight and don't let anyone on their property," Havens says.

In Pennsylvania, state inspection reports are posted on the Internet, but in Wisconsin, even Neis' reports, which are public record, are not readily available. *Milwaukee Magazine* repeatedly asked Neis and the USDA for records showing the 10 Wisconsin dog breeders most often cited for USDA violations in September. They still haven't responded.

On July 24, 2008, an Amish dog breeder in Pennsylvania named Elmer Zimmerman used his .22-caliber rifle to kill the 70 cocker spaniels, poodles and Shih Tzus he owned. Then he threw them onto a compost pile. His brother, Ammon Zimmerman, who operated his own kennel next door, shot his 10 dogs, too.

The Zimmermans did that at least partly in reaction to the increasing pressure on puppy mills in Pennsylvania. Elmer called state enforcement agents

(who had offered to have the Humane Society take his dogs) and said, "You don't have to worry about these dogs anymore."

The shooting incensed people across the state, dramatizing the need for better protection of puppies, says Jessie Smith, Pennsylvania's special deputy secretary of dog law enforcement. "It was proof there are commercial kennel owners who really don't care about their dogs."

Under Gov. Ed Rendell, a Democrat first elected in 2002, the state had been gradually tightening oversight. His family has two golden retrievers, including Maggie, a breeder dog he adopted.

Rendell had fired all 14 members of the state Dog Law Advisory Board and appointed new ones. He created six new enforcement positions, including a special prosecutor and "a SWAT team" to prosecute animal cruelty laws. The number of citations issued against Pennsylvania dog breeders increased 500 percent in 2007. The state revoked the licenses of 21 breeders, says Smith.

Kennels with more than 25 dogs were already inspected, but Rendell proposed tough regulations to catch parts of the industry slipping through the cracks — like Internet sellers. In reaction to the Zimmerman dog massacre, more than 16,000 calls and letters flooded in to support Rendell's bill. It passed both houses of the Pennsylvania legislature unanimously. On Oct. 10, 2008, with his dog Maggie by his side, the governor signed the nation's toughest dog protection bill into law.

The situation in Wisconsin could hardly be more different. State statutes address crimes against animals, but do not define what constitutes "cruel" treatment, nor what is "adequate" and "sufficient" food, water, shelter, space or sanitation. That makes prosecution difficult, so law enforcement gets involved in only the most egregious abuse cases, says Lewis.

In 2001, outrage over a WTMJ-TV investigation into Wisconsin puppy mills helped persuade legislators to pass a law regulating many pet breeders for the first time. The bill required the licensing of Wisconsin pet breeders who sell 25 or more dogs a year and creat-

ed seven new state inspectors to enforce the standards. But Gov. Scott McCallum used his line-item veto to remove the penalties for violating the new standards, saying they were onerous to dog owners. He also vetoed higher dog license fees to fund the inspectors. Capitol insiders say McCallum caved in to a last-minute phone blitz by the Dog Federation of Wisconsin, which also pressured big Republican donors. (McCallum did not return our calls.)

The remainder of the bill was to take effect in February of 2004, but in 2003, Gov. Jim Doyle took an unprecedented constitutional step, using his partial-veto power to craft new wording in a budget bill that effectively repealed the earlier law regulating dog breeders. Citing the state's deficit, he said there was no money to fund the inspections and regulation.

"It sent a terrible message to the state and the rest of the country," says Elmbrook Humane Society's Sumbry.

Chairing the joint finance committee, state Sen. Alberta Darling (R-Milwaukee) wrote the legislation into the next biennial budget, but Doyle vetoed the entire provision. Doyle spokesperson Carla Vigue says the budget provision "failed to provide penalties and [enforcement] funding."

State Rep. Tom Lothian (R-Williams Bay) says funding should not be an issue. "My guess is most sellers of these dogs aren't paying sales taxes and probably no income tax, so the increased tax collections and registration fees would offset enforcement costs."

But another attempt to pass legislation also failed. "It was the hottest issue we've ever touched in the legislature," says Lothian.

A key opponent was the Dog Federation of Wisconsin, a group that mostly represents dog owners in the state's southeastern corner. The bill sought to cover breeders producing 25 or more dogs a year, but the Federation wanted only those selling more than 100 to be licensed, Lothian says.

Federation President Joy Brand is office manager at Great Lakes Rubber & Supply. She has three cocker spaniels and lives in Slinger. She has tried, and failed, to get Slinger officials to allow her

to own more than the municipal limit of three dogs. Brand, say Capitol insiders, portrayed the bill's backers as "animal rights wackos" who would next want to free all the dogs, cats and cows in the state. Brand wrote the *West Bend Daily News* to warn, "The legislation will affect YOU, the average dog owner."

The Federation rallied more opposition: former state Sen. Bob Welch, now a lobbyist, representing state bear hunters; former DNR chief George Meyer, representing trappers and bird hunters; a sled dog owners group and others — all afraid of a slippery slope that would have every dog owner ultimately face licensing and inspections.

In October of 2007, arch-enemies Brand and Puppy Mill Project founder Eilene Ribbens joined a task force organized by state Sen. Steve Wiecek (R-Appleton) to draft compromise legislation. The group had so many stakeholders with so many different agendas that the proposed bill was an unwieldy 17 pages long and left little discretion to state inspectors.

The Federation hired Gary Goyke, a former legislator and top lobbyist perhaps best remembered for his 1990 conviction on four felony counts of money laundering campaign contributions to state legislators.

Goyke says the Federation's members now agree that "existing USDA standards are not sufficient." Yet the federation's Web site continues to warn that tighter regulation of breeders poses a "real threat" to the rights of dog owners. "For Joy [Brand], it's almost a constitutional issue," Goyke says.

Meanwhile, Wisconsin's lax laws continue to make it a beacon for the worst sort of puppy millers. Even Wallace Havens has come around to see the problem. Today, he still runs a breeders group and says he knows at least two puppy millers who moved here to escape Pennsylvania's regulations. Their kennels are so bad, he says, he doesn't want them in his group. "People like that give us a black eye," he says. "They need to be regulated." ■

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