

Where Florida Pet Stores Get Puppies

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The Dirty Secret Behind Florida's Love of Puppies

With miles of dog-friendly hiking trails, beaches and parks, year-round outdoor restaurants and tons of doggie spas and daycares, it's obvious why Florida is often ranked as one of the most pet friendly states. But Florida is also home to the most puppy-selling pet stores in the nation – and those puppies come from horrific and cruel commercial breeding facilities.

Florida pet stores frequently advertise that they “screen and vet” a network of “responsible breeders” and that the puppies are “top quality.” But in reality, pet stores get their puppies from commercial breeding facilities (a.k.a. puppy mills) primarily located in the

Midwest. About half of these puppies come not from breeders at all but from dog brokers. These middlemen buy high volumes of puppies from both licensed and unregulated breeders and then resell and transport the puppies to pet stores.

This report describes in detail where Florida pet stores really get their puppies – the pipeline of commercial breeders, brokers, and transporters who ship puppies to pet stores to be sold to the public. It also provides indisputable evidence that this business is built on deception, exploits animals and consumers, and perpetuates puppy mill cruelty.



These puppies at Daniel Gingerich's Iowa facility were kept in too small cages stacked on top of each other.

Where Did the Information in This Report Come From?

There is no centralized database or public reporting of the origin of puppies sold in Florida pet stores. Florida state statute § 828.29¹ requires that dogs entering the state be accompanied by a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI). Copies of these CVIs are to be submitted to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS).

Through public records requests from FDACS, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) received over 90,000 puppy import records for the period of August 2019 to June 2023. Each CVI includes information such as the age, sex, breed, color, and health record of the dogs shipped, the names and addresses of the consignor or seller and the consignee or purchaser, and the shipping approval by the veterinarian. The ASPCA analyzed these import CVIs provided by FDACS, which detail the movements of tens of thousands of puppies over the four-year period.

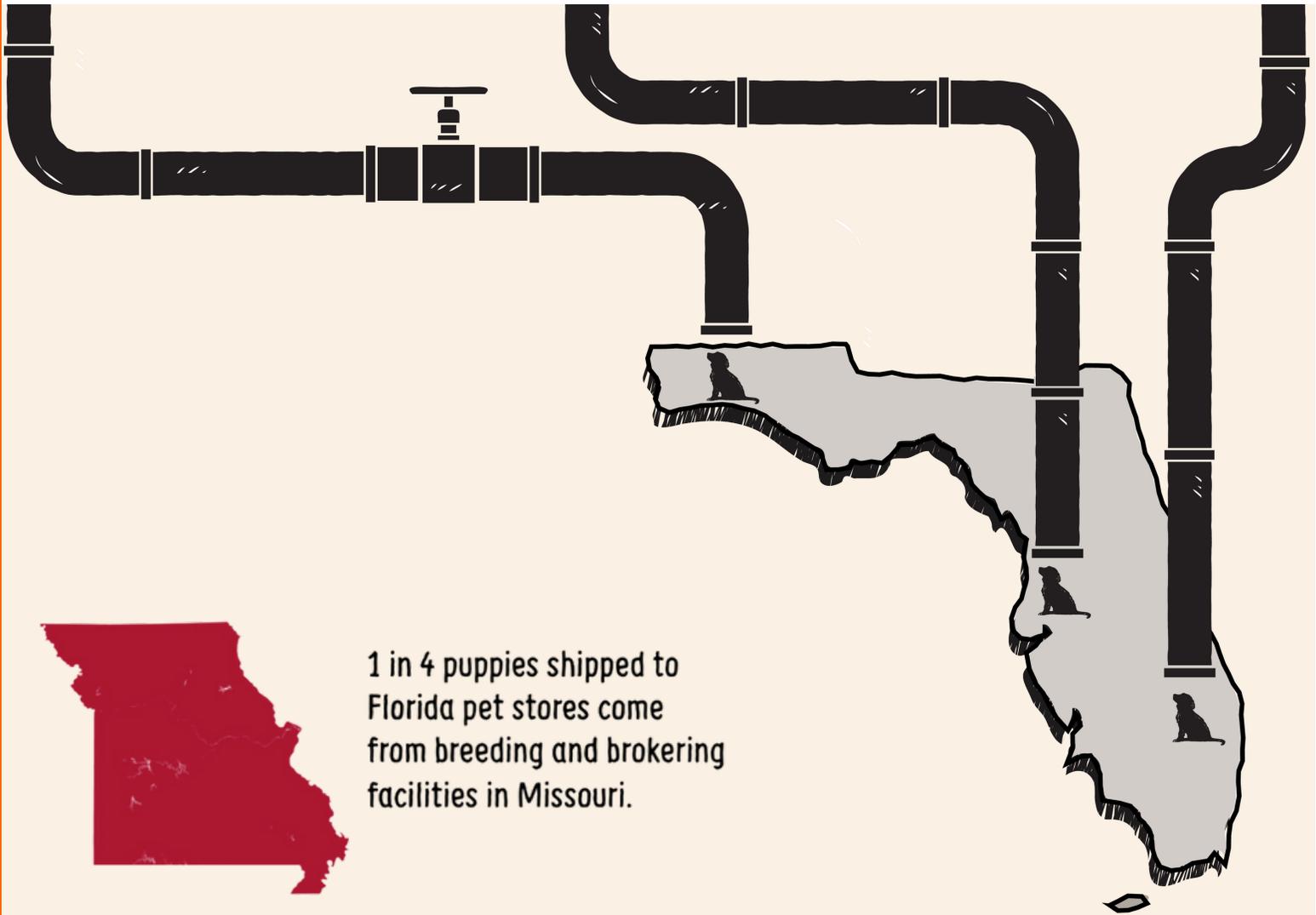
In addition, the ASPCA has reviewed official breeding facility inspection reports created by federal and state agencies that oversee commercial dog breeders and dealers. Commercial dog breeding is regulated on the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Those who breed or sell dogs wholesale or “sight unseen” must be licensed by the USDA. This includes both breeders who sell to pet stores or third parties for resale, and dog dealers who buy puppies from breeders for resale. Breeders who have fewer than four breeding females or who sell directly to consumers in person are not required to be licensed by the USDA.

The USDA is required to inspect the licensed facilities of dog breeders and dealers to ensure they are complying with the Animal Welfare Act, the only federal law protecting animals in commercial facilities, but there are significant problems with the process.² Often many months or years pass between inspections because there is no requirement for inspection frequency, and even if the USDA finds animal welfare violations in its visits, typically there is no penalty and the facility can continue operating as usual.

The ASPCA requested and reviewed documentation related to USDA-licensed facilities, including routine inspection reports that document inspectors’ observations and the number of dogs in inventory, enforcement actions, and photographs and videos taken of the facility during inspections. Although this report refers to documented violations of care, a USDA designation of a facility as “compliant” is not an indication that the facility provides humane care or even meets the minimum standards of care required by the law. The USDA’s failure to document violations and take action against the facilities it licenses has been widely reported.³

This report also includes information from public complaints and state investigations of pet stores conducted by Florida’s Department of Agriculture and Markets received by open record request. All inspection photos in the report were provided to the ASPCA through state or USDA records requests. Copies of these records are available upon request.

Where Do Puppies Sold in Florida Pet Stores Come From?



The Midwestern region of the U.S. collectively is the largest exporter of puppies to Florida pet stores, with Missouri being the top source.

More than 50% of all puppies shipped into Florida were from commercial puppy brokers, who function as “middlemen” in the puppy mill pipeline.



Largest State Exporters of Puppies

1. Missouri
2. Indiana
3. Ohio
4. Arkansas
5. Kansas

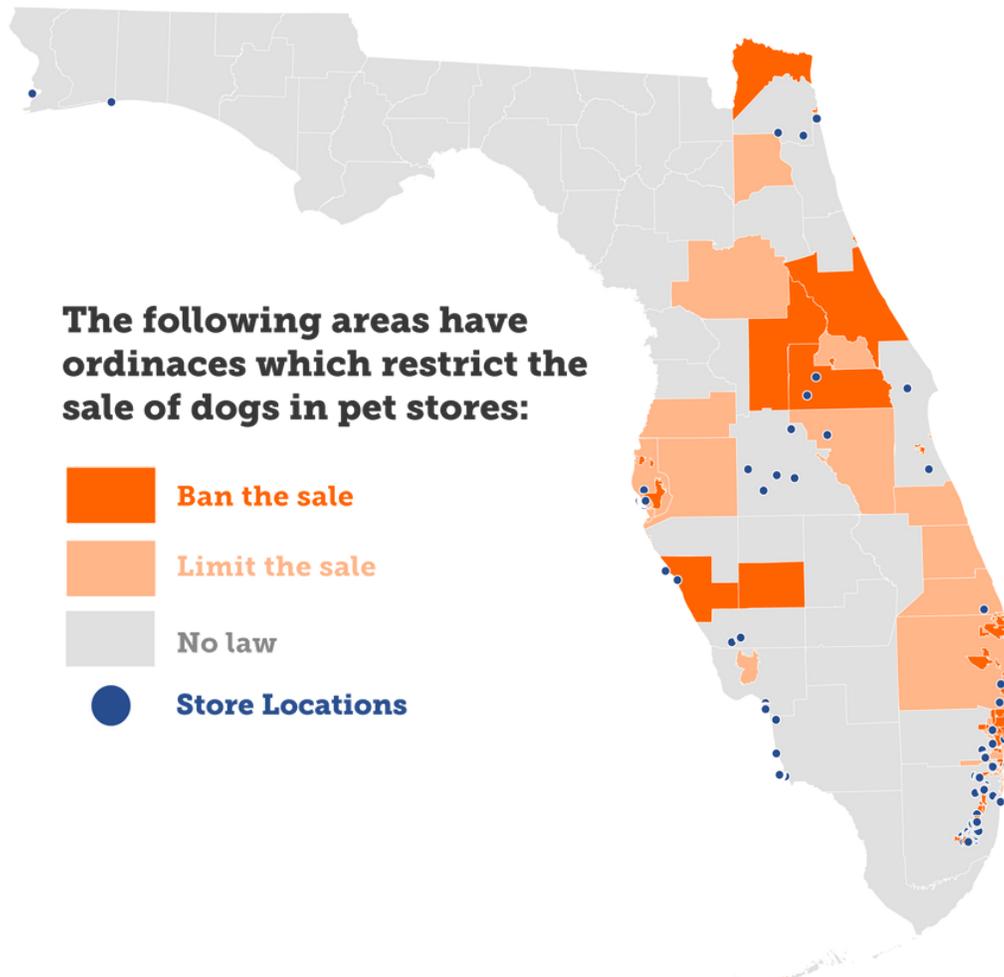
Florida Laws on Selling Puppies in Pet Stores

The state of Florida has minimal laws in place to protect dogs sold in pet stores. Florida state statute § 828.29 requires that dogs sold in the state must be at least eight weeks of age and be accompanied by a Florida health certificate. F.S.S. § 828.29 outlines obligations required of the consumer and pet store in the event a purchased dog is ill or impaired. There are no other state laws that affect or limit the sale of puppies by pet stores.

However, in response to growing concerns about the health and welfare of pet store puppies, dozens of local governments, including cities, counties and municipalities within the Sunshine State have enacted their own laws or ordinances aimed at ending the sale of cruelly bred dogs in their communities. Some of these laws do not allow the sale of any dogs in pet stores, while others attempt to restrict sales from certain suppliers. Other laws allow existing stores to continue to operate, but they prohibit new stores from opening in the area.



These puppies at Davis Kennel in Missouri were kept in cages much too small for them to be able to comfortably rest or move around.



Commercial Breeders and Dealers Supplying Florida Pet Stores

The following commercial breeders and dealers have supplied puppies and dogs to Florida pet stores:

Angela Fields is a commercial breeder in Missouri who keeps over 160 dogs in her facility at a time.

Annette Moeller is an Iowa commercial breeder who has a history of violations, including one where inspectors observed the feet of three nursing puppies falling between openings in the floor of their enclosure. Moeller often has up to 200 dogs or more at a time.

Bennie Redmond of **Krak-R-Jax Kennel** is a commercial breeder in Missouri with a history of violations for improper documentation of dogs and for not being available for a USDA inspection.

Bill Nored is a broker who operates **Dryfork Kennel** in Arkansas. He has a history of violations, including not being available for USDA inspections. He has been documented for various veterinary issues, including a dog with severely matted fur and a mass the size of plum on her belly. Inspectors have reported puppies' paws falling through the wire flooring of their cages, a severe accumulation of dirt, flying insect nests on the ceiling and doors of the facility, and enclosures that were much too small for the dogs inside them.



This Pomeranian at Bill Nored's facility had an opaque, red eye with a jelly-like protrusion.

Blue Ribbon Puppies is a dealer that operates in Indiana and is one of the largest suppliers of dogs to Florida pet stores. The Centers for Disease Control identified Blue Ribbon Puppies as one of the puppy brokers in a multi-

state, multi-drug resistant *Campylobacter* disease outbreak caused by contact with puppies sold at pet stores.⁴ Over 100 people fell ill due to this antibiotic-resistant strain, and Florida had the second-highest number of infections nationally.

Brandon and Tina Hough, operating under the name **Hough's Kennel**, have been in business on and off in Missouri since at least 2002. They frequently have failed to be present for USDA inspections, and they've been documented with an infestation of flies in the buildings and pens where their dogs are kept.

Brian Lichirie operates a dog breeding and brokering operation in Iowa with nearly 600 dogs. Lichirie has close ties to Steve Kruse, a notorious dog dealer who has accumulated over 40 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Lichirie takes Kruse's puppies after they are born to his facility to sell them to pet stores across the country.



This Bulldog at Steve Kruse's facility had an eye condition that was left untreated.

Candy Fields is a commercial breeder in Missouri with a history of failing to provide veterinary care. Inspections noted dogs who had teeth encased in plaque and tartar, and who had discharge coming from their ears.

Cedar Hill Kennel, operated by **Mattie and Perry Bontrager**, is a commercial breeding facility in Wisconsin with multiple violations documented by the USDA, including dogs with various untreated medical issues. The USDA also found that Cedar Hill Kennel shipped puppies less than eight weeks old to a pet store in violation of federal law.

Daniel Gingerich, one of the most notorious puppy mill owners in the country, operated a USDA-licensed breeding facility in Iowa from 2019 to 2021. After receiving his license, Gingerich refused to let the USDA on his property for months, and he moved dogs to multiple facilities across the state without disclosing that information to the USDA. When the USDA finally inspected Gingerich a year later, they found emaciated dogs, dogs with abnormal eye, ear, skin, tail, and leg conditions, dogs in heat distress, dogs without water or with moldy food, dogs with untreated wounds and lesions, dogs with painful matting, dogs with contagious illnesses such as parvovirus and distemper, and dogs without enough space to turn around in their cages. The USDA continued to document issues like these for months. During this time, Gingerich was permitted to operate – buying, breeding, and selling thousands of dogs – until the U.S. Department of Justice finally stepped in and his license was closed. Gingerich sold hundreds of dogs to pet stores across the country, including at least 19 stores in Florida. Gingerich was eventually arrested in connection to his breeding operation and pled guilty to one count of animal neglect with serious injury or death and one count of animal neglect with serious injury.

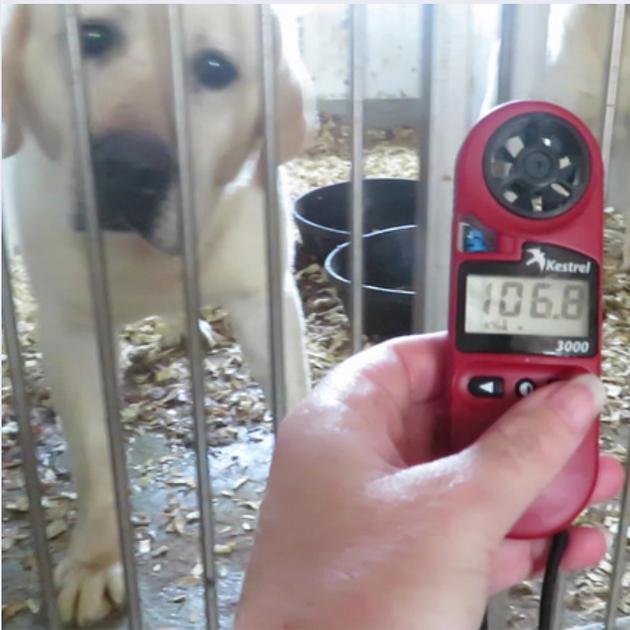
Davis Kennel, operated by **Rachel, Vickie, and Virgel Davis**, is a facility in Missouri that keeps around 100 dogs at a time. Federal inspectors have documented dogs with major dental problems, dogs living in unlawfully small cages, dogs without access to water, and dogs housed in filthy enclosures with bird droppings crusted on top. They also have failed to make the facility available for federal inspections on multiple occasions.



This puppy at Davis Kennel did not have enough space in her cage for her to be able to move around.

Elizabeth Cox is a commercial dog and cat breeder in Missouri who holds around 100 dogs at a time.

Henry Sommers operated a facility in Iowa for over a decade, accumulating over 75 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Inspection reports showed dogs were kept in dirty, wire cages with exposed and pointed wires. Some cages were so small dogs weren't able to stand. Puppies' feet fell through cage flooring, and an intense smell of feces and urine was prevalent throughout the facility. Sommers repeatedly failed to provide veterinary care to his dogs and even euthanized dogs himself in a manner the USDA noted could "cause a prolonged and painful death." In 2022, Sommers pled guilty to two counts of animal neglect with serious injury or death in connection to his breeding operation.



Hundreds of dogs at Daniel Gingerich's facility were kept in swelteringly hot conditions without any means of temperature control during an extreme Iowa summer.



This Yorkie with feces coated in her fur was one of many dogs with veterinary or husbandry concerns at Henry Sommers' puppy mill.

Holly Burch is a breeder in Oklahoma who often has failed to make herself available for USDA inspections. She typically has about 100 dogs in her possession at a time.

JAKS Puppies, Inc. is one of largest puppy brokers in the country, selling and shipping puppies to pet stores in more than 20 states. The state of Iowa sued JAKS Puppies, Inc. in 2019,⁵ alleging they illegally laundered hundreds of designer puppies through sham Iowa nonprofit “rescues” to pet shops in states and cities that had prohibited the sale of commercially bred dogs. The organization, Hobo K9 Rescue, was licensed as a nonprofit but had the same address as JAKS Puppies, Inc., and was operated by JAKS Puppies’ owners. The lawsuit accused Hobo K9 Rescue of misleading consumers about the true source of the puppies and abusing their Iowa nonprofit status to circumvent state and local laws prohibiting the sale of commercially bred dogs. The nonprofit was dismantled, and the owners were fined. JAKS Puppies was sued again in 2021⁶ by the Animal Legal Defense Fund, along with a network of individuals and businesses, for conspiring with California pet stores to sell puppy mill dogs intentionally mislabeled as rescues.



This dog, shipped by JAKS Puppies Inc. without any regard for the conditions he would be kept in, was housed in an enclosure so tiny he could not stand up fully.

Jenina Fortner from Kansas brokers a variety of animals and frequently violates the Animal Welfare Act. Reports show dogs housed in outdoor enclosures without wind or rain protection, guinea pigs and hamsters with major veterinary problems, and dirt and grease accumulating in dog enclosures. She was involved in a rare USDA enforcement action in May 2022 when she agreed to pay a \$1,000 fine after inspectors documented multiple hamsters with paralysis or leg injuries so bad that they were dragging their legs behind them.

Joyce Cairns is a commercial breeder in Kansas with over 100 dogs. She has a history of unacceptable animal care, including dogs kept outdoors in 11° F without adequate protection from the cold. Additionally, inspectors documented that water was too frozen to be drinkable, dogs had dental disease and heavily matted and dirty coats, dogs were living in jagged metal enclosures in which screws were protruding at dogs’ eye levels, food buckets were without lids which could lead to contaminated food, floors were wet and soiled with feces, a dog had hair loss and exposed skin that was “thick and scaly,” a dog had green eye discharge, a dog was very thin with the spine “visually protruding,” and a dog was severely emaciated with no appreciable body fat.



These dogs in Joyce Cairns’ facility were kept in an outdoor enclosure with a wet cement floor soiled in feces.

Judy and Jeffrey Gray are commercial breeders in Missouri with over 200 dogs. Their facility has been documented as having dirt and grime building up over the dog enclosures as well as dogs with eye problems who were not given veterinary care.

Justin and LaNae Jackson operate a large-scale commercial operation in Kansas with nearly 400 dogs. The USDA has cited them for many problems, including multiple underweight and sick dogs, rusty kennels and broken floors, limited shade and shelter in housing, grime and rust in the feeders, a dog with an open ear wound, and a dog with a swollen mass in between the toes.



At Justin and LaNae Jackson's facility, this German Shepherd had an open wound at the top of her left ear that was moist, red, and inflamed, with discharge coming out of it.

Kenny Knepp is a commercial breeder in Indiana with a history of USDA violations and has been cited for veterinary care violations, including a dog with chewed up ear tips on both ears and a dog with excessive tartar buildup on her teeth. He has up to 315 dogs at a time.

K&E Kennels in Iowa, operated by **Jake Kruse**, has a history of violations, including dog enclosures with sharp corner edges, open trash cans, and brown debris and caked food in the feeders. He also often fails to make his facility available for USDA inspections.

Lanes Little Gems in Ohio is a brokering facility established in 2022 whose owners already failed once to make themselves available for inspection, despite this being a requirement for licensure under the Animal Welfare Act. In addition, as with many brokers, they have very few animals present during inspections despite the high number of dogs they sell, so it is difficult to assess the actual well-being of dogs in their facility.

Leroy and Martha Jean Yoder are commercial breeders from Indiana with a history of violations such as debris all over the dog enclosures, grime on the walls and doors of the kennels, no lighting in the facility, and lack of proper documentation of the animals.

Linda Miller-Riggs typically has about 100 dogs in her Missouri facility. She has a history of violations at her facility, including dogs with significant browning material all over their teeth and dogs housed in enclosures with dangerous, sharp, exposed wire.

Little Puppies Online is a dealer in Ohio that typically holds about 100 dogs. They were documented as routinely and knowingly acquiring puppies from illegal, unlicensed businesses. Additionally, inspectors documented that the facilities where dogs were housed reeked of ammonia to a degree that the USDA inspector could smell it strongly through an N95 mask.

Lonnie and Shelly Cox of **Big Creek Kennel** have a large breeding operation in Arkansas. They hold up to 150 dogs at a time.

Lorilee Thomas, a.k.a. **Puppies Extraordinaire**, is a broker operation in Kansas with nearly 800 dogs. They have a history of problems, including puppies' feet falling through the mesh floor of enclosures, broken floor support, gaps in enclosures, worn and rusted walls of enclosures, exposed wires and metal pieces inside cages, and greasy build-up in enclosures.

Lovable Gold Star Puppies is a dog broker in Indiana. Despite buying, selling and shipping hundreds of dogs, there are rarely animals present when USDA inspects this facility, which means in addition to not knowing where the animals come from, there is little transparency around the conditions in the facility, or during transport from the commercial breeder or to stores.

Mahlon and Fannie Schrock have a breeding facility in Missouri with a history of violations and nearly 100 dogs at a time.

Marvin Nisley is a commercial breeder in Iowa who was cited for various veterinary issues including a dog's bottom covered in feces and a dog with loose teeth.

Mary Ann Smith of **Smith's Kennels** in Missouri rarely made herself available for USDA inspections, making it impossible to know the treatment of the dogs at that time. When she was available, it was repeatedly documented that dogs did not have access to water, and mice—live and dead—were noted around the facility along with rodent feces.

MG Cattle is an Iowa dog dealer. The facility has only been inspected one time since 2019, and despite evidence of multiple shipments of puppies, there was no breeding stock observed at the inspection.

Nathan Steury in Michigan has been cited by the USDA for transporting puppies before they were eight weeks old, lack of proper documentation and identification for his dogs, and not being available for USDA inspections.

Patty and Mike Talcott operate a facility in Indiana. The USDA has documented multiple dogs with untreated medical conditions, including a pregnant Bulldog with green and brown discharge around her eyelids, puppies with eye discharge, coughing and raspy breathing, and an emaciated puppy.

Phil and Yolanda Weymouth are commercial breeders in Arkansas with over 300 dogs. The USDA has cited them for enclosures that were too small for dogs to stand, flooring that allowed puppies' paws to fall through, and hair and dirt accumulating under the enclosures.

Phil Hoover operates a massive breeding facility, **Show Me Puppies**, in Missouri with over 550 dogs at a time.

Pinnacle Pet is a major Missouri-based commercial puppy broker operating under a variety of business names including Sobrad, Puppy Travelers, Northeast Transit LLC, West Transit LLC, Florida East Transit LLC, Florida West Transit LLC, and more. The USDA cited this broker for nine puppies overheating in a truck in 2015 when the air conditioning malfunctioned. Eight of the nine were dead by midnight after lack of timely medical care. The rest of the puppies were transported for sale to pet stores without first being examined by a veterinarian, and one of those puppies was found dead on the transport vehicle before arriving to the pet store. Pinnacle Pet has also been cited for lack of proper space for the dogs during transport because the dogs couldn't turn around while standing or stand or sit in a normal position. Pinnacle Pet's CEO serves on the Board of Directors of the Pet Advocacy Network, a trade group that regularly lobbies on behalf of the pet industry.



This pregnant Bulldog at the Talcott facility had a cloudy left eye with green discharge and brown crusty material. A veterinarian had not been contacted for her condition.



At Pinnacle Pet, this Scottish Terrier was documented by inspectors to be lethargic, withdrawn, and underweight, with skin that remained "tenting" after examination indicating the animal was dehydrated.

Precious Paw, owned by **Gaynetta Snyder and Scott Wheatcraft**, is a commercial breeding facility in Missouri with nearly 300 dogs at a time.

Preferred Canines and **Golden Seal Canines** use the same Ohio address, and both are operated by **Abe N. Miller**, who has bred and sold puppies under at least 10 different business names. Miller has a long history of USDA violations dating back to 2006.⁷ The USDA has cited him for buying puppies from unlicensed breeders, transporting underage puppies, and failing to provide veterinary care.

R Family Kennel, owned by **Derek and Sandra Rottinghaus** in Kansas, had 212 dogs at the last inspection and has a history of violations that aren't available to the public.

Raymond Lawson is a Missouri-based commercial dog breeder with over 100 dogs and a history of USDA violations. Federal inspectors noted very high levels of ammonia at his facility, causing irritation to the nose and throat to one of the inspectors. There were no windows or doors opened in the facility and no vents. Water receptacles were frozen, and the inspector noted "several of the receptacles had lick spots" in the ice "where the dogs were attempting to drink." When dogs were given water, they drank immediately, and some drank for "more than 20-60 seconds."



This Shiba Inu at Raymond Lawson's facility was seen shaking and tilting her head. She winced and pulled away when they tried to touch her ear, which was inflamed with heavy discharge. A veterinarian had not been contacted.

Inspectors noted a Shiba Inu shaking her head and tilting it to the right with "very wet, heavy, and yellowish discharge" in the ear that "adhered to the hair around the ear" with the skin appearing "reddened and inflamed." Other violations were issued for standing wastewater on the ground, a mixture of "feces, food, green and black slimy material, and crawling, wiggling and flying insects."

Rebecca Eiler of **Creek Side Enterprises** or **Creek Side Kennel** in Kansas has nearly 600 dogs at a time. This facility has been linked to another problematic dog breeder, Jeff Fortin. Eiler and Fortin had 1,200 dogs die after a highly contagious disease outbreak at their facility.⁸ Eiler was previously co-owner of a large dog breeding facility in Nebraska that has a history of animal welfare violations, including dogs without protection from the cold and frozen water bowls.

Richard and Cindy Jensen operate a breeding facility in Kansas with a history of violations, including dirt and feces accumulating in the enclosures, lack of annual veterinary exams, and gaps in the outdoor enclosures. At their last inspection, they had over 340 dogs.



Dogs were kept outdoors at Richard and Cindy Jensen's facility with large puddles of standing water without any drainage.

Rose's Cuddly Canines is an Indiana-based breeding facility run by Marilyn and Darrell Graber. Previously known as Walnut Ridge Cuddly Canines, they canceled their original license in 2017 after an inspection found a female Pug with a large, oozing mass. Now they operate under a new license, which creates the appearance of a "clean" inspection history.

Select Puppies LLC is an Iowa based broker operated by **Brian Mohrfeld**. Mohrfeld has operated as a puppy broker under several business names, canceling his license and relicensing several times. While operating under the name Perfect Puppies, he was cited for buying over 500 dogs from unlicensed breeders. Brian Mohrfeld and Select Puppies are named as defendants in PetConnect Rescue, Inc. v. Salinas, an ongoing California lawsuit alleging that both were involved in transporting puppies for the “puppy laundering” scheme where puppies were brought into the state, fraudulently represented as “rescues,” and sold in California pet stores. At its last federal inspection, Select Puppies had nearly 200 dogs.

Sharon Rich had a breeding facility in Missouri. According to federal inspection reports, she housed dogs in outdoor facilities without any protection from the weather and failed to provide veterinary care.

Sheila Bealmer is a high-volume breeder in Missouri with nearly 200 dogs at a time.

Shea and Leah Bailey operate an Arkansas breeding facility where they have over 120 dogs at a time.

Tiffanies LLC is a Missouri-based puppy broker and breeder. In 2018, a Missouri state inspector found that 35 puppies had died at the facility, including several from the highly contagious parvovirus, without receiving any veterinary care. During the inspection, the owner admitted that puppies with parvovirus are rarely taken to a veterinarian because, the owner said, “most die within 24 hours.”



This Shiba Inu at T&C Steffensmeier Kennels had an untreated swelling on her back leg, which was red and covered in discharge.

Twin Springs Kennel, owned by **Marty Clinton**, has over 180 dogs at a time and a history of violations. USDA inspectors found a too-small Chihuahua puppy in very poor condition, “almost nonresponsive to the littermate trying to play with him.” No follow-up veterinary care had been given even though the original treatment for the puppy was not working. Inspectors also reported various dogs with severely matted fur.

T&C Steffensmeier Kennels is owned by **Tom and Carla Steffensmeier** in Iowa. At a recent inspection where more than 200 dogs were inventoried, the USDA documented 12 violations of the Animal Welfare Act, including a large amount of rodent feces and other waste under cages, insects on the dog feeders, dangerous cages with sharp edges and points of the wire enclosures exposed, and dogs whose feet were stuck in the floor of their enclosure.

Valleyview Premium Puppies in Iowa used multiple different license numbers and names, but all had the same address and were run by **Lloyd and Loren Yoder**. The USDA cited them dozens of times over the years for: loose wire wrapped around dogs’ legs, shotgun shells on the ground of enclosures, standing water and heavy buildup of feces in enclosures, two severely emaciated dogs, dogs with open wounds, and more, before allowing them to cancel their licenses in 2022 without any repercussions. A year later, at a point during which the operation was under more direct state oversight, the dogs were finally rescued. The conditions were so terrible, however, that at least nine died in the days after the rescue.⁹



At Valleyview Premium Puppies, this Old English Sheepdog was emaciated, with her bones protruding and easily felt beneath her fur and feces coating the hair under her tail.

Pet Stores who Bought Dogs From Above Commercial Breeders and Dealers

Florida Pet Store	Location(s)	Suppliers
All About Puppies	Lakeland, Largo	Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire, Brandon and Tina Hough, Scott Wheatcraft
Beautiful Puppies	Coral Springs	Lonnie and Shelly Cox/Big Creek Kennel, Justin and LaNae Jackson, Joyce Cairns, Henry Sommers
Beverly's Pet Center	Pembroke Pines	Preferred Canines
BFF Puppies	Orange Park	Rebecca Eiler/Creek Side Enterprises, JAKS Puppies, Pinnacle Pet, T&C Steffensmeier Kennels, Brian Lichirie, Select Puppies
BIYU Puppies Boutique	Hialeah	Brian Lichirie, JAKS Puppies, Pinnacle Pet
Blue Sky Puppies/Forever Love Puppies	Miami, Clearwater, Clermont, Lauderdale Lakes, Pembroke Pines	Yolanda Weymouth, Mary Clinton/ Twin Springs Kennel, MG Cattle/Gina Steffensmeier, Patty Talcott, Angela Fields, JAKS Puppies, Mary Ann Smith, Select Puppies, Annette Moeller, Valleyview Premium Puppies
Breeders Pick Orlando	Titusville	JAKS Puppies, R Family Kennel, Tiffanies LLC , Justin and LaNae Jackson, Select Puppies, Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire
Chews a Puppy	Ocoee	MG Cattle/Gina Steffensmeier, Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Brian Lichirie, JAKS Puppies, Justin and LaNae Jackson, T&C Steffensmeier Kennels, Select Puppies, Daniel Gingerich
Coastal Pups/Florida Fur Babies	Punta Gorda	Lanes Little Gems
Diamond & Doggies	Lauderdale-by-the-Sea	JAKS Puppies, Judy Gray, Brian Lichirie, Rebecca Eiler/Creek Side Enterprises, Mary Ann Smith
Elegant Puppies Inc	Pembroke Pines	Davis Kennel, Select Puppies, Roses Cuddly Canines
Epic Puppies	West Park	Davis Kennel, Joyce Cairns, Judy Gray, Mary Ann Smith, Daniel Gingerich
Florida Little Puppies Online	Naples	Little Puppies Online

Glamorous Puppies	Miami	Davis Kennel, JAKS Puppies, Justin & LaNae Jackson, Daniel Gingerich, Henry Sommers, Select Puppies
Gorgeous Puppies & Kittens	Miami	Judy Gray, Raymond Lawson, Mary Ann Smith, Joyce Cairns, Select Puppies, Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire, Daniel Gingerich
Heavenly Puppies	Boca Raton	Judy Gray, Daniel Gingerich, Mary Ann Smith
Honey Pets	Davie	Davis Kennel, Daniel Gingerich, Rebecca Eiler/Creek Side Enterprises, Annette Moeller
Imperial Puppies	Miami	Lorilee Thomas, Daniel Gingerich, Justin and LaNae Jackson, Joyce Cairns
King of Grooming Puppy Sales	Miami	Scott Wheatcraft, Judy Gray, Blue Ribbon Puppies
Lil Rascals	Fort Meyers	Daniel Gingerich, Justin and LaNae Jackson, Linda Miller-Riggs
Love My Puppy	Boca Raton	JAKS Puppies, Nathan Steury/Peaceful Paws, Daniel Gingerich
Luxury Puppies	Miami	Judy Gray, Lonnie and Shelly Cox/Big Creek Kennel, Davis Kennel
Nessy's Puppies of Kendall	Miami	JAKS Puppies, Joyce Cairns, Judy Gray, Roses Cuddly Canines, Justin and LaNae Jackson, Brandon & Tina Hough, Daniel Gingerich
Pet Kingdom	Fort Meyers	Phil Hoover, JAKS Puppies, Bennie Redmond/Krak-R-Jax Kennel, Angela Fields, Daniel Gingerich
Petland Bradenton	Bradenton	Lovable Gold Star Puppies, MG Cattle/Gina Steffensmeier, JAKS Puppies, Roses Cuddly Canines, Mary Ann Smith, Select Puppies, Daniel Gingerich
Petland Davie	Davie	Blue Ribbon Puppies, Loveable Goldstar Puppies, Marvin Nisley
Petland Fort Myers	Fort Myers	Lovable Gold Star Puppies, Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Patty Talcott, Angela Fields

Petland Jacksonville	Jacksonville	Pinnacle Pet
Petland Kendall, Naples, Pembroke Pines, & Largo	Kendall, Naples, Pembroke Pines, Largo	Loveable Goldstar Puppies, Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Blue Ribbon Puppies
Petland Pensacola & Fort Walton	Pensacola, Fort Walton	Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire, Blue Ribbon Puppies, Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines
Petland Sarasota	Sarasota	Lovable Gold Star Puppies, Dusty Road Kennel, Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Patty Talcott, Angela Fields, Select Puppies
Puppies & Rescues	Pembroke Pines	Brian Licherie, JAKS Puppies, Annette Moeller
Puppies by Z./P by Z	Doral	Brian Licherie, K&E Kennels, Tiffanies LLC, Daniel Gingerich
Puppies Direct	Miami	Pinnacle Pet, JAKS Puppies, K&E Kennels
Puppies Galore & More	Jacksonville	Pinnacle Pet, JAKS Puppies, Linda Miller-Riggs
Puppies Plus	Melbourne	Pinnacle Pet, Select Puppies
Puppies Secret	Miami	Smith, Justin & LaNae Jackson, Joyce Cairns, Henry Sommers, Select Puppies, Daniel Gingerich
Puppies St. Pete/Puppy Town	Largo	Pinnacle Pet, Kenny Knepp, Leroy & Martha Jean Yoder
Puppies To Go	Miami	JAKS Puppies, Phil Hoover, Select Puppies, Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire
Puppies World of Miami/Harry's Puppies	Doral	Daniel Gingerich, Justin and LaNae Jackson, Joyce Cairns, Brandon and Tina Hough, Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines
Puppy Avenue	Jacksonville	Nathan Steury/Peaceful Paws, Pinnacle Pet, Bill Nored, JAKS Puppies, Bennie Redmond/Krak-R-Jax Kennel
Puppy Boutique of Bartow & Lake Hamilton	Bartow, Dundee	Davis Kennel, Mary Ann Smith, Rebecca Eiler/Creek Side Enterprises

Puppy Buddy/Palm Beach Puppies	Boca Raton	Blue Ribbon Puppies, Lonnie and Shelly Cox/Big Creek Kennel, K&E Kennels, Select Puppies, Daniel Gingerich
Puppy City	Miami	Davis Kennel, Kenny Knepp, Sharon Rich
Puppy Place USA	Miami	Richard and Cindy Jensen, Raymond Lawson, Leroy and Martha Jean Yoder
Puppy Plus	Parkland	Holly Burch, Candy Fields, Angela Fields
Quality Doggies' Inc.	Miami	Daniel Gingerich, R Family Kennel, Justin and LaNae Jackson
Royalty Puppies	Miami	Judy Gray, Bill Nored, Daniel Gingerich, Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire
Seaside Pup	Naples	Lanes Little Gems
South Paw Puppies/Your Puppies FL	Largo	Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Mahlon and Fannie Schrock
Star Pups	West Palm Beach	Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Mattie & Perrie Bontrager, Daniel Gingerich
Sunshine Puppies/Coastal Puppies	Largo, Clearwater, Bradenton	Pinnacle Pet, Justin and LaNae Jackson, Mahlon and Fannie Schrock, Cindy Jensen, Kenny Joe Knepp
Teacup Puppy Boutique	Davie	Roses Cuddly Canines, JAKS Puppies, Henry Sommers, Select Puppies
The Noble Paw	Stuart	Shea & Leah Bailey, Mattie and Perry Bontrager, Elizabeth Cox
Tiny Paws Teacup & Toy Puppy	Aventura	Davis Kennel, Tiffanies LLC, Judy Gray, Mary Ann Smith
Waggs to Riches	Boca Raton	JAKS Puppies, Davis Kennel, Judy Gray, Select Puppies
Wags About You	Stuart	Jenina Fortner, Lonnie and Shelly Cox/Big Creek Kennel, Holly Burch
Wet Kisses Pet Company	Lake Worth	Brandon & Tina Hough, Angela Fields, Sheila Bealmer
World Famous Puppies/The Puppy Store	Doral	Preferred Canines/Golden Seal Canines, Sheila Bealmer, Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire

The Truth About Florida Pet Stores

In addition to selling dogs from commercial breeders, some puppy-selling pet stores in Florida operate with deceit, selling sick puppies and conducting fraudulent payment practices. Multiple complaints have been filed with the Better Business Bureau and Florida Department of Agriculture against pet stores across the state. Consumers say that their puppies fell ill within hours of bringing them home or that they were tricked into paying thousands of dollars for a puppy when they were told an entirely different price at the beginning of the process. Below are some examples of these complaints:

Blue Sky/Forever Love Puppies are part of the same franchise and have many stores across Florida. They have been the subject of dozens of complaints to the Florida Department of Agriculture and to the Better Business Bureau. Many consumers claimed their puppies became very sick shortly after purchase. Forever Love Puppies in Pembroke was ordered to pay back a portion of the thousands of dollars a consumer spent on a puppy after that puppy ended up being very ill.

Petland stores across Florida, which are part of the Petland franchise, have accumulated dozens of complaints for selling consumers sick puppies and charging enormous fees for the dogs. The Florida Attorney General settled with Petland Orlando East and Petland

Waterford Lakes, and the stores were required to pay more than \$200,000 in refunds in December 2022 to consumers who unknowingly bought sick or dying puppies.¹⁰ These two stores also participated in puppy laundering (the purposeful masking of where the puppies came from) and charged \$1,500 to \$9,000 to misinformed customers. Additionally, Luis Marquez, owner of several Petland stores in Florida, was arrested in August 2023 after he failed to appear in a Texas court in response to the city's allegations that Petland was selling pets in violation of the Houston ordinance.¹¹

All About Puppies has various complaints on the Better Business Bureau website¹² from consumers who claimed the puppies they bought turned out to be very sick. One consumer complained to the Florida Department of Agriculture that the puppy they purchased had seizures, renal failure, and ended up needing to be euthanized.

Chews a Puppy has many complaints on the Better Business Bureau website¹³ from consumers who claim their puppies were sold under a different breed name, puppies were sick shortly after purchase, and that the store lied about the true prices of the puppies until after papers were signed. A complaint to the Florida Department of Agriculture also claims deceptive pricing.

FORT MYERS

Dozens of puppies heading to local Petland found in filthy conditions

Lee County Domestic Animal Services seized 24 puppies from a Petland store on College Parkway right as they were dropped off last week.

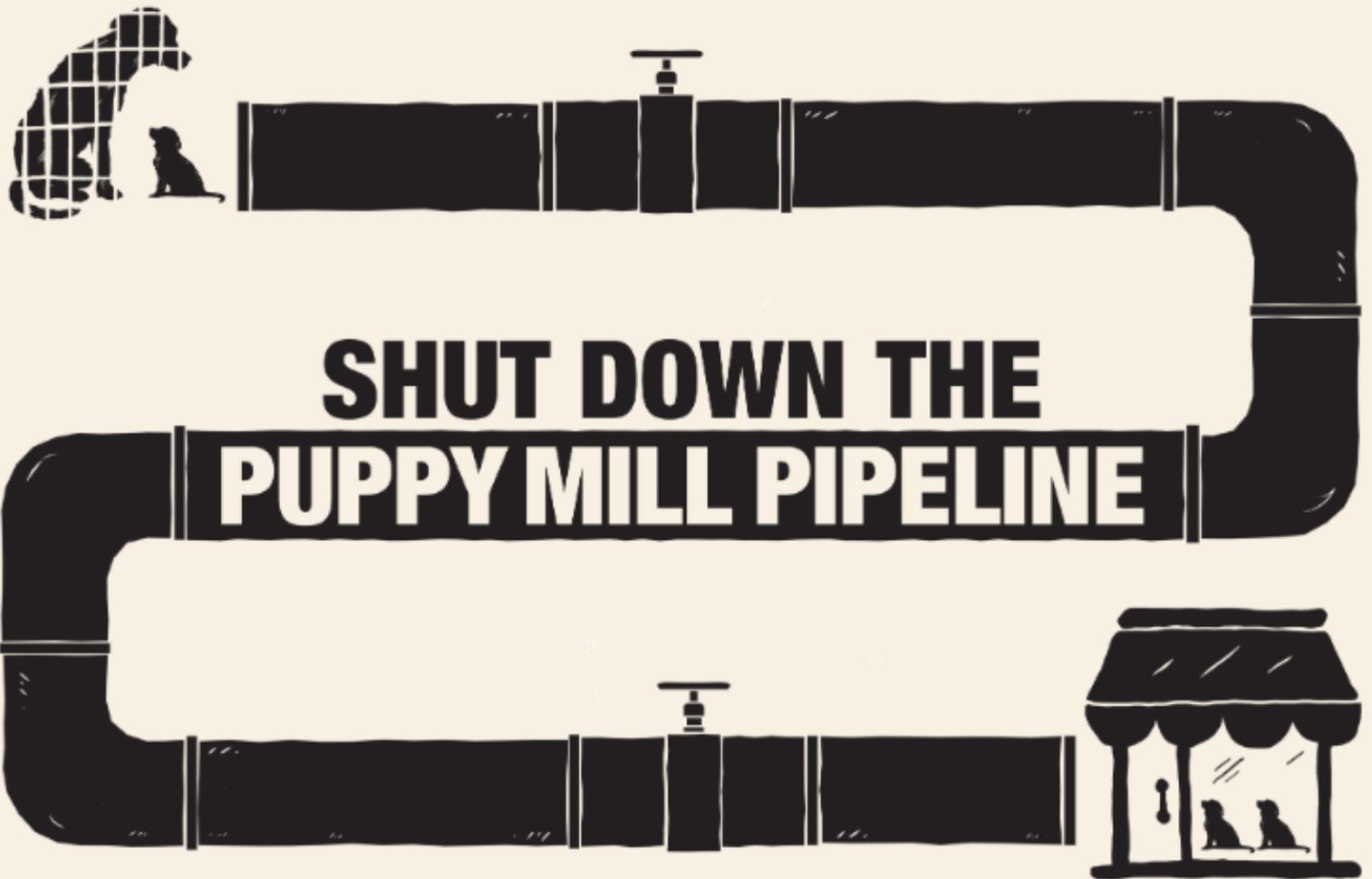
WINK Digital Media, February 23, 2018

Florida attorney general says Petland store sold sick puppies as 'high quality, healthy'

Miami Herald, May 20, 2020

Florida's Puppy Mill Pipeline

A close look at puppy-selling pet stores in Florida reveals an uncomfortable truth — they have been allowed to misrepresent, deceive, and blur the reality of where their puppies come from. And while communities and states around the country have enacted laws to shut down the puppy mill pipeline, Florida has become one of the largest remaining outlets for puppy mills. How can this go on in a state that loves dogs so much?



Endnotes

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