

Animals' Angels USA

PO BOX 1056

Westminster, MD 21158

Phone 410-848-3153 * Fax 410-848-0213

www.animalsangels.org



Farmerstown Dog Auction, OH

January 15, 2011

1. General Information

Date:

January 15, 2011

Mean Temperature:

30 Degrees Fahrenheit

Market schedule:

Monthly

Location:

Farmerstown Sale Barn

2807 State Rte. 557

Baltic, OH 43804

Managed by:

Harold K. Neuhart (Seneca View Kennel)

11160 Rich Street

Senecaville, OH 43780

740-685-5941

Dogs sold according to auction catalogue:

504

Breeds:

Schnauzer, Pomeranian, Chihuahua, Pekingese, Lhaso Apso, Cocker Spaniel, Bichon Frise, Shih Tzu, Havanese, Terrier, West Highland White, Maltese, Brussels Griffon, Dachshund, Poodle, Silke Terrier, Italien Greyhound, Beagle, Yorkshire Terrier, Boston Terrier, Golden Retriever

Out of State Sellers:

Clearwater Kennel

B-Certificate # 41-B-0190

24302 Highway 10

Cushing, MN 56443

Lael Barkman, IN

338 dogs were sold by Clearwater Kennel. USDA reports from 2009 and 2010 kennel inspections indicate numerous violations and substandard conditions for the animals.

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www.animalsangels.org**Example:**Inspection Report August 10, 2010:

- 8 dogs had nodular lesions on feet
- 2 dogs observed with mucous discharge from eye and inflammation
- 2 dogs observed with alopecia throughout their bodies, dog #486 had dry, flaky skin and dog # 487 had scabs around the eyes.
- A female dog with puppies was thin, the bones of hips and spine were readily apparent.
- 1 dog observed with soiled mats throughout his body.
- 1 dog observed with excessive eye drainage that has become glued to skin, it appeared that the skin would rip if pulled too hard.
- The ambient temperature in indoor kennel housing 278 dogs was 90 Degrees Fahrenheit. The heat index reading was 104.5 Degrees.
- Some areas of the kennel are not being cleaned often enough. There was an accumulation of feces, urine and other waste underneath the raised runs...mold was present on much of this accumulated waste.
- Expired vaccines were found intermingled with other vaccines currently in use.

2. Observations**Notice: All pictures and video footage were provided to Animals' Angels by an anonymous source.**

1/15/11

8:00am

Two police cars parked in the parking lot. At the entrance to the auction barn, three officers from the local Sheriff's Department were observing everyone entering the auction. Signs were posted: "No cell phones or cameras in auction ring and trailers; subject to personal search"

*Police Officers and sign at auction entrance**Police cars in parking lot*

Auction visitors were allowed to look at the dogs before the sale starts. The dogs were kept in three 48 ft long and 13ft 6 inches high trailers. Four rows of cages were stacked on top of each other. In each trailer, a small propane heater was running. However, it was a very cold day and every time one of the trailer doors opened, more cold air came in. In two of the trailers, the propane tanks temporarily ran out of propane. Several dogs were observed shivering, especially in the bottom rows of the cages.



Propane heater running in trailer #1



Double tank heating element with no tank in trailer #2



Double tank heating element with no tank trailer # 3



Poodle shaking in corner of cage

9 CFR Sec. 3.3 Sheltered housing facilities

Definition: **Sheltered housing facility** means a housing facility which provides the animals with shelter; protection from the elements; and protection from temperature extremes at all times.

(a) Heating, cooling, and temperature.

Sheltered housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently heated and cooled when necessary to protect the dogs and cats from temperature or humidity extremes and to provide for their health and well-being.

The ambient temperature in the sheltered housing facility must not fall below 50 [deg]F (10 [deg]C) for dogs and cats not acclimated to lower temperatures, for those breeds that cannot tolerate lower temperatures without stress and discomfort (such as short-haired breeds), and for sick, aged, young, or infirm dogs or cats, except as approved by the attending veterinarian.

Dry bedding, solid resting boards, or other methods of conserving body heat must be provided when temperatures are below 50 [deg]F (10 [deg]C).

The ambient temperature must not fall below 45 [deg]F (7.2 [deg]C) for more than 4 consecutive hours when dogs or cats are present...

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The smell of feces and urine was quite strong. Exhaust fans at the end of each trailer provided some ventilation, but not all of them were running. Water bowls had been placed in most of the cages. However, many dogs were very agitated and had overturned their bowl and spilled all the water.



The behaviour of the dogs varied, some dogs were running frantically from one side of the cage to the other, while other dogs appeared lethargic or scared.



Some dogs appeared to have mucous discharge from their eyes and skin irritations.



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The cages had wire floors with no resting boards. The dogs had to stand, walk and lay down on wire forcing their toes to spread out unnaturally. Several dogs were observed with lesions between their toes and overgrown nails.



9 CFR Sec. 2.40 Attending Veterinarian and Adequate Veterinary Care

(b) Each dealer or exhibitor shall establish and maintain programs of adequate veterinary care that include:

(1)

(2) The use of appropriate methods to prevent, control, diagnose, and treat diseases and injuries, and the availability of emergency, weekend, and holiday care;

(3) Daily observation of all animals to assess their health and well-being;

The last 30 minutes before the dog sale started more and more willing buyers entered the staging area. Several were observed pulling dogs out of cages and handling them very rough, checking their genital areas and teeth.



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The parking lot had filled up with horse buggies and cars. In the back, a rental trailer with Minnesota plates was parked. It is unclear if this is the trailer that was used by Clearwater Kennel to transport dogs. However, during a September 2010 USDA inspection, Clearwater Kennel was cited for failure to maintain records documenting the method of transportation for their dogs. Additionally, Clearwater Kennel was cited at the November 21, 2009 Farmerstown auction for transporting dogs in a cargo trailer without proper markings and without securing the crates.



The auction ring was crowded with what appeared to be mainly Amish and Mennonite families. After the equipment sale was over, the dogs were carried in to the auction ring individually and placed on a table in order to be briefly checked by a veterinarian. Some dogs sold for as low as \$25. Harald Neuhart, maintained a prominent presence and announced the next dog auction would be held on February 25, 2011.

**Conclusion:**

The video evidence provided to Animals' Angels documented several welfare concerns. Puppy Mill auctions like the one in Farmerstown provide large scale breeders with an easy disposal of their no longer wanted "inventory", "breeder" dogs that have spent their life eating and relieving themselves in the same 2 by 2 foot cage.

Please support the 2011 Ballot Initiative in Ohio to ban these auctions for good! For more information please visit www.banohiodogauctions.com