

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB: NO LONGER “THE DOG’S CHAMPION?”

AKC SHOULD STAND UP FOR DOGS, NOT PUPPY MILLS

The AKC has historically billed itself as “The Dog’s Champion,” the gold standard registry for purebred puppies. The AKC’s mission includes advocating for advances in “canine health and well- being” and working “to promote responsible dog ownership.”¹ Yet with all its emphasis on proper dog and puppy care, in recent years the AKC has opposed the majority of initiatives designed to prevent cruelty at large-scale breeding facilities known as puppy mills. In contrast to its vague public statements condemning substandard kennels, over the past 5 years the AKC has opposed more than 80 different bills and ordinances designed to require large-scale puppy producers to adhere to stronger care standards or oversight, and has even supported bills that would weaken current puppy mill regulations.

While the majority of breeders who register dogs with the AKC uphold high standards and are in compliance with the law, the AKC seems to spend an inordinate amount of time and resources covering up for the bad apples among them – resources that could be better spent focusing on promoting healthy well-raised dogs and high-quality breeders.

In 2012, The AKC’s Government Relations Department rallied its supporters to oppose bills like the following:

- Bills in West Virginia, Iowa, Ohio and several other states that would have required puppy producers to comply with basic care standards, such as regular feeding, cleaning, minimum space requirements, safe housing and veterinary care;
- An ordinance in Shelby County, Tennessee that would have prevented dogs from being left in hot vehicles for more than an hour (an AKC article called it “unwarranted”);



This breeding operation was closed by North Carolina authorities in May 2012. The operator had registered 91 litters with the AKC since 2008 and the kennel had been inspected by the AKC in 2011. The owners have been charged with animal cruelty.

¹ AKC website, June 20, 2012

- A bill in Rhode Island that would have prevented dogs from being tethered or confined to cages for more than 14 hours per day;
- Bills in three states that would have prevented owners from debarking dogs without a medical reason, and requiring that the procedure only be performed by a licensed vet;
- An ordinance in Porter County, Indiana that would require breeding kennels to adhere to the care standards outlined in the Animal Welfare Act (AKC's Chair called the basic standards "burdensome");
- A bill in Massachusetts that would have allowed a court to order animals to be seized from persons charged with animal cruelty, with the suspect responsible for the costs of caring for them if convicted; and
- A Louisiana bill that would have prevented breeding facilities from keeping dogs continually in stacked, wire-floored cages.

Most recently, the AKC has been lobbying breeders to oppose a proposed USDA rule that would regulate Internet puppy sellers under the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), even though the proposal includes exemptions for breeders with fewer than five intact females and those who sell puppies directly to buyers they meet in person. In its June 2012 Chairman's Report, the AKC's Chair, Alan Kalter, described the regulations as "onerous." It is unclear what the AKC finds onerous about the AWA regulations, which require only bare minimum standards of care. The regulations simply require that dogs must be given enough space to turn around and lie down, just six inches longer and higher than their bodies, clean food and water, and protection from dirty conditions and extreme temperatures. It also requires that breeders have a written exercise plan and veterinary plan, that they not sell puppies under 8 weeks of age, and other common-sense protections for dogs.

Despite the fact that the proposed USDA rule includes exemptions for small breeders and those who sell only from their homes, the AKC sent misleading emails to its supporters implying that requiring a license of Internet breeders would put good breeders out of business and "take away the public's opportunity to obtain puppies"² from responsible breeders.

Requiring a license will not put a good breeder out of business, nor will it require responsible home breeders to suddenly put all of their dogs in cages, as the AKC has also implied. It will, however, help uncover some of the worst puppy mills in the country. Why is the AKC protecting substandard breeders?



Dogs at Thornton's Kennels, a large-scale breeding facility in NC that sold AKC puppies as well as unregistered puppies. Thornton was convicted of 12 counts of animal cruelty for the condition of dogs found at her kennel. The AKC has routinely opposed stronger kennel laws in NC.

² AKC website, June 20, 2012

DOGS RESCUED FROM LARGE-SCALE AKC BREEDERS

Humane organizations have been called in by law enforcement on numerous occasions to assist in rescuing imperiled animals from large, substandard breeding facilities that registered dogs with the American Kennel Club. These facilities, some of which held hundreds of animals and registered dozens of litters, are just the types of kennels AKC claims to inspect. Many of the operators were subsequently convicted of animal cruelty due to the dire conditions of their animals.

The AKC's response to several prominent examples in North Carolina illustrates the problem. In recent years, a number of puppy mills in North Carolina have been closed down due to cruel conditions, yet for the last four years, the AKC has repeatedly lobbied against public policy changes in the state that would require large-scale breeding facilities to abide by basic standards of care.

In 2009, The HSUS assisted in the rescue of 283 dogs from a facility known as Thornton's Kennels near Goldsboro, NC (photo, page 2). Many of the animals removed from the property were so filthy, matted and encrusted with feces that it was difficult to determine what breed they were. One of the Dachshunds removed had a chain collar that had grown into his neck, while a poodle mix had dental disease so advanced that much of her jaw had rotted away, leaving her unable to chew solid food. A Shih Tzu was in such poor condition that he had to have both eyes removed due to untreated veterinary issues and the effects of strong ammonia (urine) fumes. The owner, Virginia Thornton, self-identified as an AKC breeder, and AKC paperwork was found on the property. Virginia Thornton was charged and convicted of 12 counts of animal cruelty in August 2009. In December 2009, nearly one year after the rescue at Thornton's facility, the AKC suspended Thornton's AKC registration privileges.



The photo on this page and on page 1 show dogs in an AKC-inspected kennel in North Carolina that was closed down in May of 2012. The HSUS assisted local authorities in rescuing 36 Maltese dogs from the facility. Most of the dogs were found confined to small travel-size cages that were stacked three high in a dark shed. The kennel was selling puppies online and had registered 91 litters with the AKC since 2008. AKC had inspected the facility in 2011.

The shed reeked of urine and feces. "Because of the stench and the unsafe ammonia levels, law enforcement would not let us enter the building until they did a reading of the air quality," said Ashley Mauceri, manager of Animal Cruelty Issues for The HSUS Rescue Team, which was on site. "Law enforcement brought in specialists in HazMat suits." The dogs in the back of the narrow, dark shed who were furthest from the door had no access to fresh air. "In order to get some ventilation in there, the fire department had to break one of the windows in the shed," said Mauceri. It appeared that dogs who were more actively breeding were kept inside the cleaner home with their puppies, "while the dogs who weren't currently being used for breeding were basically tossed in the shed and forgotten." The owners surrendered the dogs and have been charged with 30 counts of animal cruelty. At publication time the outcome of the case was still pending.

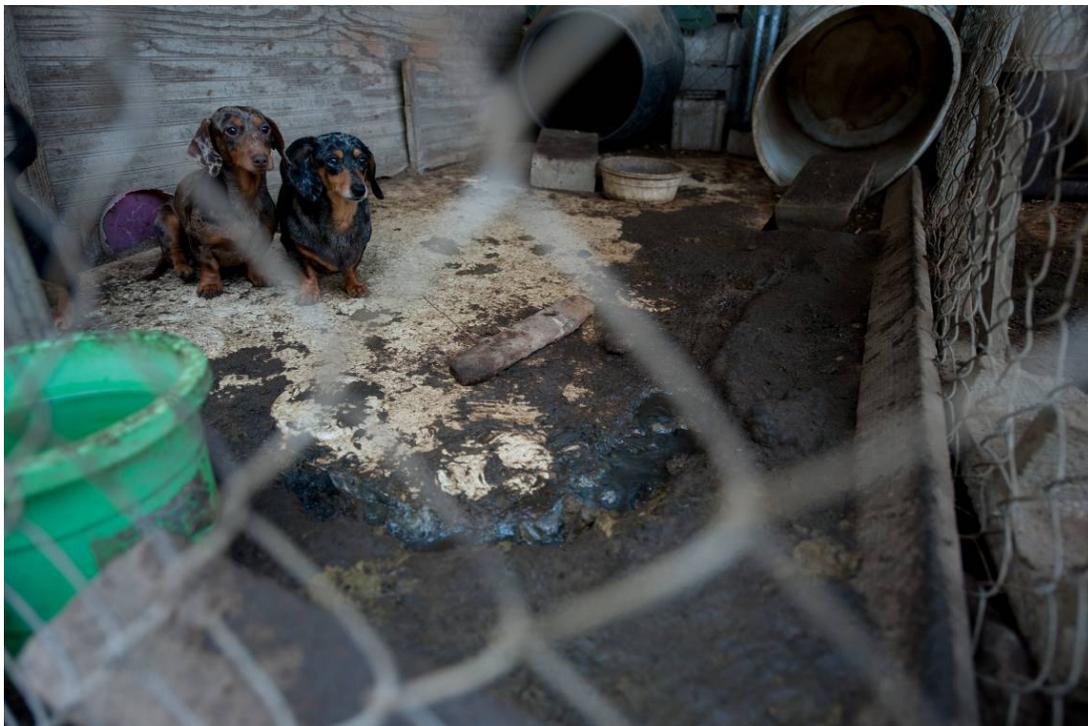
**"THE DOGS WHO WEREN'T
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**– ASHLEY MAUCERI, HSUS
RESCUE TEAM**

In a March 2012 case, more than 80 dogs were rescued from dog breeders Glenn and Joyce Brown in Jones County, North Carolina (photo, page 4). The pair advertised AKC puppies via the Internet and local newspaper ads. Their facility

was inspected by AKC in 2010, at which time they were given a warning letter from AKC for record-keeping violations – not kennel conditions. The AKC’s compliance report indicated that overall cleanliness and kennel construction “needs improvement,” but that overall the Browns’ facility was in compliance with AKC’s “Care and Conditions Policy.” Prior to being shut down by authorities in 2012, AKC records show that Joyce Brown had registered more than 170 litters with the AKC. As shown in Addendum A, it is estimated that the AKC made more than \$20,000 in registration income from this one puppy mill alone. After the animals were seized on March 15, 2012, Joyce Brown was sent a letter from AKC notifying her that her registration privileges were temporarily suspended.

Dogs rescued from the Browns’ facility were found living in overcrowded enclosures awash in feces. Medical conditions observed in the dogs included skin infections, ear infections, heartworm and other internal parasites, severe periodontal disease (some rotted to the bone, causing at least



Dogs at this Jones County, NC facility owned by an AKC breeder had very little floor space available that wasn’t covered in feces. The owners were convicted of 38 counts of animal cruelty earlier this year.

one animal’s jaw to break), flesh wounds from unsafe housing, severely matted fur, eye ulcerations, genetic defects, lack of socialization, upper respiratory infection, and dehydration. The cost to rescue and provide medical care for the animals exceeded \$60,000, not including court and legal expenses. The Browns were convicted on 38 counts of animal cruelty in May 2012.

Despite the many documented problems with commercial kennels in NC, the AKC, through its website and Government Relations arm, has regularly mobilized its supporters to oppose stronger kennel laws in the state. In referencing the defeat of a 2010 NC bill designed to provide oversight of commercial kennels, the AKC announced the defeat with pleasure, calling it “unnecessary.” It is also currently drumming up opposition to the proposed federal change to the Animal Welfare Act regulations that seeks to regulate Internet sellers like the Browns.

SELF-REGULATION IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR NEEDED LAWS

The AKC is the only well-known dog registry organization in the country that claims to regularly inspect its large-scale breeders. While any form of oversight is helpful and should not be disregarded, there are many reasons why a closed and internal system of inspections can’t substitute for legally enforceable public policies.

The regularity with which AKC-affiliated breeders have been linked with substandard facilities demonstrates that AKC’s system of self-managed random inspections is insufficient to protect all its dogs from cruelty.

In a March 2007 Chairman's Report, the Chair of AKC discussed its Compliance Department, which he reported has a protocol of inspecting all breeders who register 25 or more litters once every twelve months, and smaller breeders every 18 months or upon complaint. On its current website, the AKC is a little less specific, claiming: "AKC randomly selects breeders for inspection yearly. In addition to the random selection, AKC inspects breeders based on written, signed and substantiated complaints."

While oversight and accountability programs are helpful, AKC inspections alone have clearly not been enough to prevent numerous puppy mills from keeping dogs in overcrowded, filthy and inhumane conditions. Self-regulation is no substitute for clear state and federal guidelines that answer to the public's right to know.

Issues with AKC inspections include:

- AKC inspectors do not have the ability to enforce any laws, including cruelty laws.
- If a breeder is found to be out of compliance, the only penalty available to the AKC is suspension of that breeder's ability to register new litters with the AKC.
- AKC inspection reports are kept private, with no public transparency. Results of AKC kennel visits and/or lists of inspected breeders are not available to potential buyers via public records requests or on the AKC website.
- AKC inspection regulations are vague, minimal, and do not provide specific, measurable standards for veterinary care, housing, feeding, or exercise. Its newly updated (April 2012) "Care and Condition of Dogs policy" does not ban wire flooring or stacked cages – common conditions at puppy mills.
- The AKC only inspects kennels that produce certain breeds of dogs. They do not inspect non-AKC breeders or breeders of "designer" mixed-breed dogs (for example, "Labradoodles" and "puggles"), which are some of the most popular types of puppies being produced in puppy mills today.

The AKC has taken action to revoke the registration privileges of several puppy mill operators who were convicted of animal cruelty. Unfortunately, the revocations occurred months or even years after the facilities were raided and the animals confiscated by law enforcement. Thus, the suspensions have been ineffective in protecting the animals from harm. Meanwhile, the AKC continues to rally its supporters to oppose any laws that would require commercial breeding facilities to be regularly inspected by a trained, impartial body.

THE AKC IS FINANCIALLY BEHOLDEN TO THE COMMERCIAL BREEDING INDUSTRY

The AKC did not always oppose humane legislation. Prior to the 1990s it sometimes supported measures designed to prevent cruelty and strengthen the enforcement and reach of the federal Animal Welfare Act -- the very regulations that AKC's current Government Relations board refers to now as "burdensome." When and why did the AKC change its tune and start aligning itself with large-scale commercial kennels instead of the traditional small hobby and show breeders?

Today's AKC is beholden to the puppy mill industry to recapture its market share. In 1996, the AKC adopted a "Care and Condition of Dogs policy," and instructed its inspectors to report and ultimately suspend breeders who were found keeping dogs in cruel conditions. It also worked to ensure the accuracy and integrity of its stud books by requiring DNA testing of "frequent sires" (dogs who father dozens of litters).

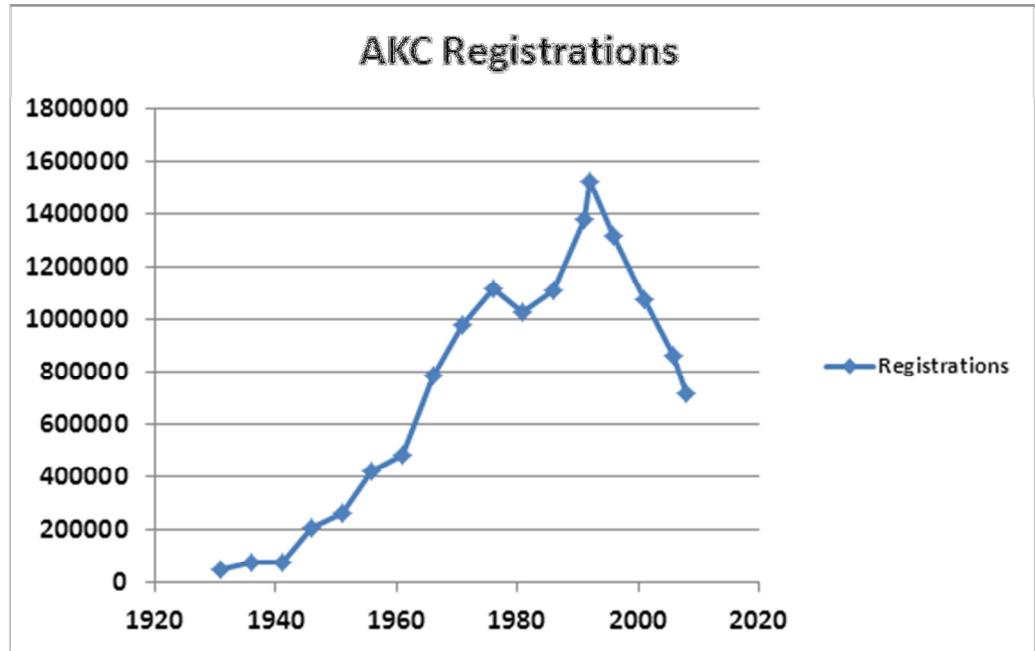
The puppy mill industry retaliated by boycotting AKC, quickly forming "registry" organizations of its own. The new registries were designed specifically to avoid AKC's higher standards and oppose canine welfare legislation.³ By 2000,

³ For example, the APRI (America's Pet Registry, Inc.) mission statement claims to 'condemn' substandard kennels while at the same time stating 'we condemn any and all activities and legislation that infringes upon the individual's right to choice concerning their pets.'

AKC's litter registrations had plummeted. The boycott was spearheaded by the Missouri Pet Breeders Association, Inc., a commercial kennel industry organization which regularly opposes new legislation designed to increase oversight of commercial breeders.

To stem the damage of the boycott and its loss of market share, the AKC created a High Volume Breeders Committee (HVBC), with a mission "to assess the current status of high volume breeding kennels and their role in, and impact on, the AKC registry; to define the appropriate relationship between high volume breeding kennels and the AKC, and to recommend to the AKC Board of Directors actions to implement the committee's findings."

The HVBC set out to make amends with the puppy mill industry. Its emissaries held town hall meetings in primary puppy mill states like Kansas and Missouri, visited and praised the Hunte Corporation, the nation's largest high volume broker (re-seller) of puppy mill dogs, and



ABOVE: Declining registrations may help explain AKC's reluctance to crack down on puppy mills. Source: Daniel R Verdon, DVM Newsmagazine, March 1, 2010.

visited and praised Petland, the nation's largest retailer of commercially farmed dogs. The AKC began offering discount registration coupons clearly aimed at the most frequent breeders. Finally, it removed the "do not buy puppies from a pet shop" tag from its website.

The AKC is now a "platinum sponsor" of the Missouri Pet Breeders Association, the very industry organization which boycotted the AKC for attempting to crack down on puppy mills in the 1990's. In addition to its Government Relations arm and a Canine Legislation Support Fund, the AKC has also formed a Political Action Committee (PAC) that "helps elect legislators who share our commitment to reasonable laws that protect our rights and promote responsible dog ownership and breeding," according to its website. There is no mention of supporting laws that protect dogs from neglect or cruelty.

By encouraging puppy mill operators to regularly register puppies with AKC, the AKC appears to supply the same credentials to substandard breeders as it does to its responsible, premium breeders – breeders whose top priority is canine health and quality. This is a grave disservice to the AKC's best breeders, who devote their lives to producing well-raised puppies and breeding from only their healthiest dogs.

WHEN PURITY EQUALS PAIN: GENETIC PROBLEMS IN PUREBREDS

The HSUS regularly receives reports from heartbroken puppy buyers who have purchased genetically defective pets. Dogs afflicted with congenital and hereditary problems often suffer from chronic pain and have shortened lifespans.⁴ In

⁴ Allen, C. (2010, May). The Purebred Paradox. *All Animals Magazine*

recent years there have been multiple reports and studies⁵ documenting a rising health crisis in many types of purebred dogs, and the effects are not limited to puppy mill dogs alone. AKC and other breed registries have established conformation standards that set a benchmark for the appearance of breeds, yet these standards measure external qualities only. Many dogs who conform “to type” often suffer from a laundry list of genetic and hereditary problems. Some dog lovers believe this is one of the least-discussed but most significant dog welfare issues of our time.

In August 2008, the BBC broadcast a documentary called “Pedigree Dogs Exposed,” which cast a light on breeding practices that result in physical ailments in dogs. The public was deeply disturbed to see footage of purebred dogs in distress, including a pug gasping for air due to its severely flattened face, and a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel writhing in agony due to syringomyelia, a painful disorder caused by the breed’s brain being too large for its skull (a disorder that may affect a third of the dogs of this breed type). The documentary concluded that thousands of purebred dogs suffer acute problems because of the dog fancy’s emphasis on exterior appearance rather than underlying health and well-being.

Yet rather than stand at the forefront of improving breed standards, AKC has been relatively silent on the issue. Some of the most popular AKC breeds tend to have the most disorders:



ABOVE: Likely the result of a “double dapple” breeding, this dog, rescued from a puppy mill in Jones County, NC earlier this year, was most likely born without eyes. She may also be deaf.

- Labrador Retrievers, who have topped the AKC’s popularity list for 20 years, are prone to about 50 inherited conditions, including many different eye and joint disorders.
- German Shepherd Dogs are prone to severe hip dysplasia due in part to a breed standard which requires the withers to be higher than the dogs’ sloping hips.
- Boxers often develop cancer and heart disease very early in life.
- English Bulldogs often suffer from breathing problems, dermatitis, heart disease and extreme heat sensitivity, and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals estimates that 70 percent of them suffer from hip dysplasia.

Although genetic problems are not limited to puppy mill dogs, puppy mill operators rarely perform genetic testing on their breeding animals, which makes inherited disorders even more widespread among commercial, volume-focused

⁵ Bateson, P. (2010). Independent Inquiry into Dog Breeding;

Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC). (2006). Breeding and welfare in companion animals: The companion animal welfare council’s report on welfare aspects of modifications, through selective breeding or biotechnological methods, to the form, function, or behavior of companion animals;

Rooney, N and Sargan, D. (2009). Pedigree Dog Breeding in the U.K.: A major welfare concern?

breeders. Irresponsible producers also focus even more attention on a marketable appearance than on stable genes. For example, The HSUS has received complaints about “double dapple” Dachshunds, dogs who are bred for their striking and unusual coat patterns, but are often prone to blindness and/or deafness. “Double dapple” dogs have been rescued from a number of puppy mills, including the Jones County, NC facility mentioned earlier. The AKC has no rules against registering such dogs, nor does it prevent the registration of puppies who are the result of close inbreeding.

In November 2011, the *New York Times Magazine* published an in-depth cover story on this issue, “Can the Bulldog be Saved?” Author Benoit Denizet-Lewis documented the health and quality of life issues that have affected the English Bulldog breed after decades of genetic manipulation for certain physical traits, such as an unnaturally flat, wrinkled face, which affects the animal’s breathing, and a combination of large head and small hips, which almost always necessitates a surgical birth. As a result, English Bulldogs suffer a high rate of death from respiratory illness and genetic diseases.

AKC does have an affiliate called the Canine Health Foundation, which helps fund research into diseases affecting purebred dogs, but the AKC itself appears reluctant to take a firm stand on simply changing breed standards. A change in the breed standard could help correct the simple design flaws in the Bulldog – for example, by allowing a longer snout and wider hips. The British Bulldog Club has taken steps to revise the bulldog standard for the well-being of the breed, but when questioned for the *New York Times* article, an AKC spokesperson simply said that the AKC had no plans to encourage the Bulldog Club of America to follow suit. In effect, AKC refused to address the issue. Denizet-Lewis implied that the AKC won’t take steps to change the breed standard because today’s bulldogs are one of the AKC’s most popular breeds and therefore bring in a lot of registration income.

CONCLUSION

To say that AKC has done nothing positive for dogs would of course be far from accurate. In addition to its affiliate, the Canine Health Foundation, some of AKC’s beneficial programs include its Companion Animal Recovery program’s Canine Support and Relief fund, which assists with search and rescue and helps pets displaced in disasters, and AKC’s Responsible Dog Ownership programs, which seek to teach dog owners about how to keep their pets safe, avoid accidental loss, and train their pets to be good canine citizens. But these programs only make up a tiny percentage of AKC’s annual outlays. And it’s difficult to understand why the AKC puts effort into programs like these, yet doesn’t take a stronger stand to safeguard dogs in puppy mills.

It’s likely that registration revenues⁶ are behind the AKC’s protection of lower quality, high volume breeders. Yet in protecting them, AKC devalues the identity of the smaller, premium AKC breeders by appearing to give puppy mills the same stamp of approval. Offering only insufficient self-regulation as an alternative to impartial oversight, year after year the AKC has failed to support stronger laws or propose alternative legislation that would help create a practical solution to the problem of animals suffering in puppy mills.

The AKC has failed to protect the dogs it claims to love. If the AKC is to earn its moniker “The Dog’s Champion,” it must stop championing the “rights” of breeders to produce unhealthy dogs and the “rights” of puppy mills to operate sight-unseen. The AKC should return to its original focus of supporting its national breed clubs, dog shows and performance events and ensuring the health and heritage of purebred dogs. AKC should focus its resources on encouraging the public to purchase puppies only from smaller, quality breeders they have visited in person; breeders who raise healthy and well cared-for puppies.

The time has come for the AKC to address the issue of animal suffering head-on. To become “The Dog’s Champion,” the AKC must stop sweeping puppy mills under the rug.

⁶ AKC consolidated total revenues in 2011 were \$59.5 million, 22.88 million of which was from registration fees.

ADDENDUM A: A CASE STUDY

REGISTRATION FEES: THE NUMBERS FROM ONE PUPPY MILL

The AKC takes in approximately 23 million dollars a year in registration revenues, much of which may be coming from puppy mills. The owners of the Jones County puppy mill mentioned in this report sold AKC registered dogs, as well as unregistered dogs. The following statistics are a breakdown of the financial impact a puppy mill may have. These numbers do not include impacts to consumers who purchase sick puppies.

NUMBER OF ADULT DOGS REGISTERED TO AKC	141
NUMBER OF LITTERS REGISTERED TO AKC	174
NUMBER OF DOGS FOUND & SEIZED ON 3/14/2012	88
COST TO REGISTER 1 ADULT DOG WITH AKC	\$30
COST TO REGISTER A LITTER OF PUPPIES WITH AKC	\$25 (plus \$2 PER PUPPY)

ESTIMATE:

Although the puppy mill's website stated that the dogs were sold for between \$600 and \$800 per puppy, this estimate will assume only \$500 was received for each puppy with the average litter having 4 puppies total. We will also assume that only half of the puppy buyers registered their new puppy with the AKC (at \$30 each). This is a conservative estimate for illustrative purposes only.

TOTAL PAID TO PUPPY MILL OPERATOR AT \$500 PER PUPPY	\$348,000
ESTIMATED TOTAL PAID TO AKC FOR ADULT DOGS, LITTERS, AND PURCHASED PUPPY REGISTRATIONS	\$20,412 ^{*7}
COST FOR MEDICAL CARE FOR 88 DOGS SEIZED	\$50,000
COST OF SUPPLIES & STAFF FOR RESCUE (HSUS, JONES COUNTY, SPCA OF WAKE COUNTY)	\$10,000
TOTAL COST TO CLEAN UP PUPPY MILL	\$60,000

^{*7} (141 x \$30=paid by the breeder) + (174 x \$25=paid by the breeder) + (174 x 4 puppies per litter x \$2=paid by the breeder) + (174 x 2 puppies per litter x \$30=paid by the buyer)=\$20,412 (this figure assumes a litter of four puppies and it also assumes that only 50% of puppy buyers will register their puppies)

ADDENDUM B: MORE PUPPY MILLS LINKED TO AKC

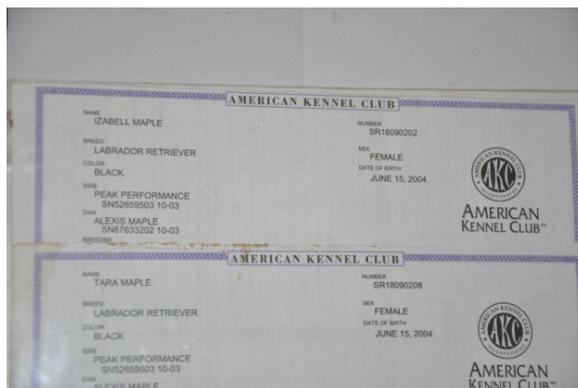
There is no shortage of examples when searching for large-scale, cruel breeding facilities found capitalizing on AKC-registered dogs. While it cannot be proven that the AKC knew about the recent conditions at each of the facilities described below, each one was registering AKC puppies and/or breeding from AKC stock. These examples clearly show a need for stronger oversight of large-scale breeding facilities – the kind of oversight that AKC has routinely opposed.

1. MAPLE'S LABRADORS, BAKERSFIELD, VT

In July 2011, 58 dogs and puppies were removed from a facility near Bakersfield, Vermont



owned by Karen Maple. AKC paperwork was found on the scene for the breeding dogs, including Isabele, who is shown in the two photos above both before and after her removal and rehabilitation. Most of the dogs were found in horrendous conditions. Some of them were in dark enclosures without access to light, food or water. Others were found ankle-deep in feces, and others were dehydrated or severely underweight.



PHOTOS: Above: Before and after photos show the condition of one breeding dog, “Isabele” upon intake, and just a few months later after she was adopted and given proper care. RIGHT: AKC papers found on the scene.

2. MASON CREEK KENNEL – CALDWELL COUNTY, NC

In June 2011, with assistance from The HSUS, authorities raided Mason Creek Kennel, owned by William Thomas Allen, and seized 276 dogs of various breeds who were living in horrendous conditions. Allen advertised his dogs and puppies through the Internet as AKC registered, and his facility had been inspected by AKC in previous years.



Mason Creek Kennels had an “F” rating with the local Better Business Bureau due to unresolved complaints. Medical conditions found in the confiscated animals included skin infections, mange, ear infections, dental and gum disease, heartworm and other internal parasites, tumors, eye ulcerations (burns from high ammonia levels), genetic defects, lack of socialization, flea infestation, upper respiratory infection, dehydration, malnutrition, hernias, and fight wounds.

The cost to clean up this facility and provide medical care for the animals exceeded \$100,000. Allen pled guilty to 104 counts of misdemeanor animal cruelty and two misdemeanor counts of failing to bury deceased animals. Allen's AKC registration privileges were suspended about six months after the rescue, in December 2011.

3. SANDRA AND LEONARD KRUPCZNSKI – PARIS, AR

In March 2009, with assistance from The HSUS, authorities entered the property of Sandra and Leonard Krupcznski, where they found approximately 300 Yorkies, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Akitas, Shih Tzus, Poodles, and Shelties living in deplorable conditions. The Krupcznskis had formerly been licensed by the USDA, but in recent years had dropped their federal license and were apparently taking advantage of the "retail sales" loophole by selling directly to the public. Because they were in a state without any kennel laws, the facility operated without any state or federal inspections whatsoever, allowing conditions to spiral out of control until a large-scale rescue operation and court intervention became necessary.

The Krupcznskis surrendered all of the dogs, and were suspended from AKC privileges half a year later in October of 2009.

4. LANZIE "JUNIOR" HORTON / HORTON'S PUPS – HILLSVILLE, VA

In November 2007, following an HSUS investigation of Virginia puppy mills, The HSUS assisted local authorities in removing approximately 800 dogs from Horton's Pups, owned by Lanzie "Junior" Horton in Hillsville, VA. In addition to finding dogs in deplorable conditions, the investigation revealed that Horton was unlawfully selling puppies to pet stores without a USDA license.



In May of 2008, Horton was convicted on 14 counts of animal cruelty and 25 counts of animal neglect due to the condition of dogs at his kennel. Over a year later, in December of 2009, the AKC suspended Horton's AKC privileges.

Due to his cruelty convictions, Horton was no longer permitted to operate a breeding kennel in Virginia, so he moved his business to Ohio, a state with no kennel oversight laws. AKC has routinely opposed laws in Ohio designed to provide protection for dogs at commercial kennels or set minimum care standards, leaving facilities like Horton's uninspected and unmonitored. Witnesses say that Horton's current property is dotted with large trailer-like buildings, where any dogs he may now own are hidden from view.

5. KATHY JO BAUCK / PUPPIES ON WHEELS – NEW YORK MILLS, MN

Kathy Bauck of Puppies on Wheels was perhaps one of the most notorious puppy mills ever to exist in the United States. Over the years, Bauck sold thousands of puppies to pet stores around the country, and was the focus of numerous investigations and consumer complaints. She also sold AKC registered puppies.

In 2006, Bauck was ordered by the Minnesota State Board of Veterinary Medicine to cease and desist from performing veterinary medicine without a license after puppy buyers complained that she was performing botched surgeries on many of her dogs and then selling them over the Internet. In 2008, she pled guilty to practicing veterinary medicine without a license, served time in jail, and was put on probation. Eventually, in March 2009, Bauck was convicted on state violations of three counts of animal torture and one count of animal cruelty stemming from documented incidents at her breeding facility. Her USDA violations included repeated incidences of animals suffering from untreated illnesses and injuries; dogs

"euthanized" by unapproved methods; deaths due to improper care; puppies kept in outdoor cages in subfreezing temperatures; and dogs found coated in matted, feces-encrusted fur and standing in their own wastes.

In August 2009, the USDA initiated proceedings to revoke her federal license, but Bauck continued to unlawfully sell puppies to pet stores up until August 2011. Despite Bauck's long history of animal cruelty, it wasn't until January 2010 that AKC suspended her registration privileges.

6. David Yoder / Black Diamond Acres – Romulus, NY

In July 2010, David Yoder of Black Diamond Acres became infamous practically overnight when news broke that he had unlawfully and inhumanely killed 78 of his breeding dogs and 15 puppies by placing them in a wooden box attached to a hose which was pumping exhaust fumes from an engine. The dogs were reportedly killed because some had tested positive for Canine Brucellosis, an infectious disease which can affect their ability to produce puppies. Yoder was reportedly selling AKC registered puppies.

Previous violations noted at this facility over the years included puppies that were found dead or lethargic by inspectors, numerous dogs with untreated medical issues who were in need of veterinary care, accumulations of feces, dogs with matted fur, rusted and broken housing and wire flooring, and a strong odor in the kennel. Yoder pled guilty to inhumane destruction of animals, and in March 2011, nearly a year after the mass "euthanasia" of his dogs, his AKC privileges were suspended for 15 years.

ADDENDUM C: GENETIC HARM ⁸

"It's extraordinary that we should have bred animals that the only way they can be born is through C-section," said Sir Patrick Bateson, emeritus professor of ethology at Cambridge University and the chair of an independent review of dog breeding practices in the UK that came about in the wake of the furor sparked by the BBC documentary "Purebred Dogs Exposed."

Bateson was the keynote speaker among a roster of other distinguished speakers and attendees at The Purebred Paradox, a conference held in Washington, D.C., April 28-29, 2011, to address the animal health and welfare issues surrounding dog breeding. Topics included a wide range of dog health matters, from the effectiveness of hip dysplasia screening to the role of genetics in canine behavior and the impact of puppy mills on purebred health.

C-SECTION REQUIRED

Bateson's remarks about C-sections were pertinent to brachycephalic dog breeds (those whose heads are almost as wide as they are long) such as English bulldogs and Boston terriers. Because of their large heads, more than 90 percent of the latter breed are born via Caesarean, Bateson noted, and the statistics for bulldogs aren't far behind.

DESTRUCTIVE BREEDING PRACTICES

But it's not just these dog breeds who have changed over time as a result of breeding to enhance their particular characteristics: the Basset's legs have gotten shorter; the pug's face—more smushed. The King Charles Cavalier spaniel's skull is so small it doesn't allow the brain to grow and can cause a painful and debilitating condition known as syringomyelia. A variety of breeding practices may be damaging individual animals via exaggerated characteristics and also—through inbreeding—weakening animals' immunity to diseases.

⁸ This section includes excerpts previously published in an April 2011 HSUS web story: "Purebred Dogs: What Price Purity?" by Carrie Allan

Bateson made it clear that he was not suggesting that people should no longer breed dogs, and noted the enormous joy and satisfaction many get from doing so. The issue is longstanding and polarizing, he said, “and when that happens, the middle ground gets excluded. I’m not here to say we should ban pedigreed dogs—far from it—but to say there are issues that need to be raised.”

Bateson suggested that dog breeding could benefit from regulation—“to ensure that where commitment and goodwill are lacking, animal welfare standards cannot fall below an acceptable minimum.”

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report was prepared by members of The Humane Society of the United States’ research department and puppy mills campaign. The Humane Society of the United States is one of the only national organizations that maintains a full-time puppy mills staff, including puppy mills specialists and researchers.

Since 2006, The HSUS has saved more than 8,000 dogs from inhumane commercial breeding facilities, worked with lawmakers to create or strengthen more than 28 laws to crack down on puppy mills, investigated major puppy retailers, and campaigned for a ballot measure in Missouri, the nation’s largest puppy mill state, to require more humane treatment of dogs. There are an estimated 10,000 puppy mills in the United States, which sell puppies through pet stores, classified ads, and online.

The HSUS is releasing this report on activities of the American Kennel Club from 1996 to 2012 to demonstrate that an organization that many Americans consider to be a protector of dogs has, in fact, blocked the passage of laws to protect dogs and has not taken strong enough measures to end the abuse of dogs at puppy mills. Our goal in publishing this report is to encourage AKC to live up to its promise to be “the dog’s champion” by supporting commonsense laws that give consumers greater confidence in the puppies they purchase and by protecting animal welfare.

A recent proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture also prompts the publication of this report, since AKC has inaccurately portrayed the impact of the proposed rule change and is urging breeders to oppose it. The group’s advertising and reputation create the impression of quality breeding, but in many cases, AKC registration is not a guarantee that a puppy was bred under humane conditions. The organization has the opportunity to help improve purebred dog welfare by backing the reasonable proposals put forth by the USDA and by state lawmakers.

This report is based on documents observed at rescue scenes or provided in legal proceedings; documents available on the AKC’s website; media reports; research conducted by puppy mill experts; and other sources as indicated.