I’m Karen Rasmussen. I have spent the last seven years researching the link between our puppy stores and their breeders. All stores in Connecticut selling puppies from out of state sources obtain a majority of them from breeding facilities with violations of the Animal Welfare Act, as well as unlicensed breeders with no regulation whatsoever.

Mr. Canning, the president of PIJAC claims, “We in the pet industry have zero tolerance for bad breeders. And that intolerance and distaste for bad breeders is shared by the responsible pet retailers of Connecticut.” Yet PIJAC’s Board Member Ryan Boyle is VP of Sales and Marketing for the Hunte Corporation. Hunte is the largest puppy broker in the country. The attached report shows Hunte buys puppies from many of the very breeders Mr. Canning disdains, breeders with violations so severe they defy belief. The puppies from these breeders are trucked directly to our stores. Mr. Canning claims eliminating puppy sales will open the doors to “unscrupulous out of state breeders” who “operate under the radar”. Yet our stores also order plenty of puppies from unlicensed out of state breeders. Where is the difference?

The 31 kennels shown in this report are the tip of the iceberg, to give a small sampling of the types of breeders who are supplying our puppy stores. Store owners order their puppies from brokers and breeders by phone or website, not caring what types of conditions they come from. With the advent of the Freedom of Information Act and social media, the horrible mistreatment of these animals can no longer be hidden in dark back barns.

PIJAC has shown no initiative in our eyes to clean up its own industry. Anyone who condones this type of treatment towards dogs should be ashamed. I have no confidence that the pet industry is compassionate, ethical, or capable enough to implement any kind of reform in a timely manner to maintain acceptable animal welfare standards. In the best interest of the thousands of dogs suffering at the hands of unscrupulous breeders, the only solution for Connecticut is to boycott it altogether, and require pet stores to provide rescued animals only.

We are progressive-thinking animal advocates in Connecticut, and strongly believe these stores can thrive on an adoption-only model. Reputable rescues require a contractual agreement with adopters that if a pet can’t be kept for any portion of its life for any reason, it will be returned to the adoption group. The public can embrace the “adopt, don’t shop” credo.
Thirty Breeders used by CT puppy stores in 2012

From the 2013 HSUS "A Horrible Hundred" List

Arkansas Breeders

Barbara Gullett (#71A0748) - "Dog died after tied to pickup truck. 3 puppies coughing. Using medications not labeled for dogs. Strong ammonia smell, overhead exhaust inoperable". Sold pups to: American Breeders ("Puppies & Kittens")

Sara Young (#71A0676) - "Dead and dismembered puppies. 131 dogs left out in the cold without adequate protection from the elements. Puppies from different litters appear wet and greasy, Licensee stated she is treating them for hair loss with a combination of lard and sulphur." Violations dating back to 2004. Over 100 USDA photos. Sold pups to: Gentle Jungle, Puppy Love, The Puppy Center. BROKER: Hunte Corporation
Iowa Breeders

Gary Felts (#42A0757) – "Fined 18k by USDA for violations, Feds suing for non-payment, yet still licensed"

Photo – Excessive feces under cages, rotted support beam on bricks.

*Sold pups to: The Dog House*

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Connie & Harold Johnson (#42B0226) – "Sick dogs, repeat violations".

*Sold pups to: Gentle Jungle, American Breeders*
Linda Thorpe (Sky Blue Ranch #42A1140) – “Dog found dead in her cage, licensee unaware. Dogs’ feet falling through flooring. Within the sheltered portion of the adult dog building housing 130 dogs, there is a strong ammonia odor present. The odor was high enough to make the inspector’s eyes and throat burn slightly. In the adult housing facility, all of the cages have varying degrees of dirt, hair, grime and/or old feces on the tops/sides and/or floors of the primary enclosures.”  *Sold pups to Puppies of Westport*
Kansas

Larry & Yvette Bolz (#48A1582) “This facility has been cited repeatedly by USDA and Kansas state inspectors for unsafe housing and animals in need of veterinary care, including one very thin puppy “stretched out on the floor” who “vocalized as if in pain.” Staff stated that the puppy had been sick for more than a week and had not been taken to a vet, according to the USDA inspector (Sept. 2011). In 2010 the facility received an official warning from the USDA for violations of federal regulations due to conditions at the kennel.” Their website bandskennels.com states, “Our puppies are treated with TLC...they are provided with the best food and care” Approximately 200 dogs at kennel. **Sold pups to Puppy Love**

Marla & Roger Campbell (#48A1549) “Very thin mother dogs and filthy conditions”. **Sold pups to Puppy Love**

Justin & LaNae Jackson (#48A1849) “More than 600 dogs, violations back to 2007..Bird droppings caked in food receptacles. Dried, caked excreta. Shiba Inu with open wound”. **Sold pups to American Breeders**

Keith & Lila Ratzlaff (#48A1793) “Extremely thirsty dogs without water in 90+ degree heat” **Sold pups to Gentle Jungle, Puppy Love. BROKER: Hunte Corporation**
Audrey Rottinghaus (Wendy's Pets #48B0313) “In 2012 alone, the puppy mill linked to Audrey Rottinghaus, Wendy's Pets was cited for several dogs in need of veterinary care, including a limping dog and a dog with an open, swollen wound; housing so unsafe that a Yorkie’s head was found entrapped in a gap in a cage lid, and initially refusing to let a federal inspector photograph a dog with oozing “blackish discharge” coming out of his ear, among other problems. Wendy's Pets houses more than 100 dogs and puppies.”

*Sold pups to American Breeders, The Puppy Center*

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Krystal & Sandra Rottinghaus (#48A2120) “Repeat violations for emaciated and limping dogs”
Sold pups to American Breeders

Minnesota

Wanda Kretzman (#41B0190) “1,100+ dogs, beetles crawling in food, urine fumes that burned the eyes”
Sold pups to The Puppy Center and Puppy Love. BROKER: Hunte Corporation
Missouri

Pamela Baldwin (#43A4762) "Excessively thin dogs with ribs protruding". *Sold pups to American Breeders*
Brandi Cheney (Circle B Farms #43B3698).
“Brandi continues to operate Circle B Farms, LLC, a second puppy mill in a different location. USDA inspections of Circle B Farms in 2011 uncovered a number of new, severe violations, including dogs in need of veterinary care, temperatures inside the kennel registering as high as 109.5 degrees F., failure to provide adequate lighting or electricity, and failure to provide adequate cage space.”

Sold puppies to Puppies of Westport (2011)

Kimberly Coleman (#43A4973) “Fined 8k by USDA. 300 dogs in wet/freezing weather with no protection. Strong odors and flies throughout facility”. Sold pups to The Puppy Center. BROKER: Hunte Corporation

Kenneth Dake (#43A5402) “Accumulations of trash and waste, dogs in the cold”. Over fifty USDA photos. Sold pups to American Breeders, Puppy Love. BROKER – Hunte Corporation

Pups huddled under heat lamp, only source of warmth in 40 degree building
Rhonda Gear – Country Babies (#43B3613) “Dogs without shelter in 20 degree temperatures, buildings not cleaned in months”  *Sold pups to Puppies of Westport*

Valente Rios (#43A5652) “Dogs in complete darkness, failure to obtain vet care”. Dozens of USDA photos.  
*Sold pups to American Breeders*
Nebraska

Barbara Crick (#47A0426) “Shot Golden Retriever in the head for killing her puppies”.
*Sold pups to The Dog House*

Linda Hager (#47A0410) “Not home 6 times in a row for inspections, two dogs so sick they had to be euthanized”. *Sold pups to American Breeders*

Ohio

Harvey Burkholder (#31A0061) “Sale of underage puppies, dogs needing vet care”.
*Sold pups to: Statewide Pets (below, note teeth separating from gumline)*
Ervin Raber (#31A0124) “Potentially devastating zoonotic disease, sick and injured dogs”.  
Sold pups to Triple Oak Kennel

Jonas Raber (#31A0235) “Chose to euthanize 5 dogs rather than provide treatment, dogs found with ulcerations and wounds”.  Sold pups to: Triple Oak Kennel

Danlel Schlabach (Evergreen Designer LLC. #31A0412) “Multiple violations” Sold pups to: Triple Oak Kennel
Abe Yoder (#31A0420) “Nursing poodle with broken jaw left to suffer”. *Sold pups to: Statewide Pets*

Owen R. Yoder (#31A0198) “Continued to violate the welfare act standards despite Official Warnings”
*Sold pups to: Statewide Pets*
Oklahoma

Shirley Machin (#73A2522) “Beagle with torn and mangled face had to have been in pain and suffering”
Sold pups to Gentle Jungle

Connie and Jimmie West (#43A0425) “Puppies walking in feces, dogs with fight injuries”.
Sold pups to: American Breeders

Pennsylvania

Marlin Zimmerman (#23A0268) “Dogs living in darkness, state violations”. Sold pups to Statewide Pets
Dishonorable Mention: (my choice)


From 8/21/12 USDA Inspection:

“At the time of inspection, there was a female Bernese Mountain Dog, date of birth 6/20/12 that had a front right paw where bones were protruding through the skin, and muscle was easily visible. The puppy’s left paw also had similar problems. The puppy was whimpering on the floor of the enclosure and unable to move. The Licensee (Graber) said that the dog had broken both its front paws on 8/16/12, five days earlier. They were unsure as to how this had happened. The attending vet was out to the facility to check on puppies the next day (8/17/12), but not asked to look at this puppy. As the Licensee’s son lifted the puppy for me to see it better, it cried out in pain, and was in obvious distress. The attending vet did show up while the inspector was there, to euthanize the dog. When asked why the vet hadn’t seen it on Friday when he was there, the Licensee stated that they just hadn’t thought about it, and had been giving the puppy some steroids to help with the pain.”

“There was also a female Shih-tzu #283 that was brown and white that was in its enclosure licking its lips constantly. On further examination, the dog’s rear cheek teeth and front canines were both covered in a thick layer of a brown and green crusty substance. The Licensees’ son stated that they were planning on euthanizing the dog after it gave birth and weaned the pups. There was no evidence that the dog had been seen by the attending vet prior to this inspection. During the write-up of this inspection the attending vet did show up, and determined that the dog would need dental work and a tooth pulled but left without doing the procedure.”
“A Cavalier Spaniel female #107 was observed to have a thick black discharge from both ears that encrusted the interior and exterior hair. The interior of the ear had more discharge and was red, painful and irritated.”

“There are between 10-15 dogs in the rear kennel that have nails so long that they are bending sideways as the dogs stand. These long nails can easily get caught in the flooring of the kennel and cause the nail to be ripped off.”

We believe the Grabers did not renew their USDA license as of 1/3/13.
Name of Pet Shop: Puppies of Westport

Address: 255 Westport Ave, Norwalk, CT 06851
           203-282-5400

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN W6052

Breeder USDA#: 42-A1140

Breed: Morkie  Sex: M  Color: BHC  Tan

Breeder Name: Linda Norg

Breeder's Address: 1821 Quarry Trail

City: Winterset  State: IA  50273

Date: 9/26/12

Brokers Name: ?

Brokers Address:

City:  State:
CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Name of Pet Shop: Kewaii Triple Colc
Address: 1023 North 5th
Dayville CT 06241

Animal USDA#: 31A0235 Date of Birth: 6/15/12
Species: Canis Breed: Rottweiler
Sex: Male Color: White

Breeder Name: James Raber Phone: 

Breeder's Address:
Street (no PO boxes): 4880 TR 851
City: Middlesburg State: Ohio Zip: 44654

Brokers Name: Pat Craddell Phone: (60) 779-2711

Brokers Address:
Street (no PO boxes): 1023 North 5th
City: Dayville State: CT Zip: 06241
CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Animal USDA #: 43-B-123 Date of Birth: 5.02.12
Species: Canine Breed: Poodle
Sex: ♀ Color: Apricot
Breeder Name: Wanda Kretz
Breeder's Address:
Street (no PO boxes): 24302 Highway 10
City: Coshocton State: OH Zip: 37043

Brokers Name: The Hunt Corp
Brokers Address:

Name of Pet Shop: The Puppy Center
Address: 1148 New Britain Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06110
CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Breed: 
Breed's Name: Joseph Graber
Breed's Address: 925 E. 875th St. IN
City: OOl

Broker Name: Hunter Coop
Broker Address: 121 North Raybill Blvd
City: Goodmen Date: Mo 64843
AMERICAN BREEDERS
Quality Puppies & Kittens

This limited warranty is between American Breeders and:

NAME: 

ADDRESS: 

TELEPHONE: 

REFFERED BY: 

PET WILL BE PICKED UP BY: 7/12/12

CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Breeder: Kenneth Dake
Add: 249 Hwy 4A
City: Dixon
State: MO
Ph: 573-793-2400

Broker: Hunter
Add: 1520 Hill Brd
City: Goodman
State: MO
Ph: 417-364-8880

Whelped: 2/17/12
Rec: 5/8/12

Animal USDA: 187443

Breed: Labrador Retriever
Sex: Male
Color: Yellow

Pet ID #: 250794920
Microchip #: 000726005

If the breed is unknown or mixed, indicate that fact:

Sire: Whittle's Pistachio
Reg #: URC046028101 Club: AK

Dam: Jake's Kennedy
Reg #: URC04334101 Club: AK