

Nationwide Investigation Reveals Puppy Mills Selling at Flea Markets

"No, there's no requirements, just bring 'em in and sell 'em."

"There are more dogs that die from here from parvo than anything else."

"After the trade days, the ranchers go out in their fields and the ones that are thrown out, they're out there shooting 'em."

These are a few of the statements that flea market managers or vendors shared with our undercover HSUS investigator as she travelled the U.S., visiting more than twenty different flea markets where



puppies are sold and the kennels of dozens of affiliated puppy vendors.

Between March 2014 and July 2015, the investigator looked into allegations that inhumane, commercial dog breeders (known as puppy mills) sell at flea markets.

Across the country, there are approximately 1,100 U.S. flea markets, which attract 150

Dogs at B & B Precious Puppies of Danielsville, GA, a puppy dealer at the Anderson Jockey Lot in SC, appeared to have eye and skin disorders. The HSUS, 2015

million customers annually¹. In addition to selling the usual assortment of secondhand housewares, furnishings and crafts, about 70 flea markets in the U.S. allow vendors to sell live animals, including puppies.

¹ Nat'l Flea Market Assn, <http://www.fleamarkets.org/>

While the living conditions for animals at the flea markets were sometimes a concern, we found many other reasons that selling puppies at flea markets is a problem. Some flea market vendors told our investigator that “leftover” animals were “thrown out” or “turned loose” if not sold by the end of the day. In many of these areas, there was no local shelter to take in those dogs. At Curry Trade Grounds in Canton, TX, vendors told our investigator that dogs abandoned after the market closes are often shot by adjacent landowners. Other vendors admitted that deadly canine diseases like parvovirus are rampant at flea markets. And when our undercover cameras went to the kennel locations of flea market puppy sellers, they often found sickly dogs in cramped, filthy cages, conditions common at puppy mills.

By the numbers:

- 10 = number of states included in the investigation
- 21 = number of flea markets visited (several markets were visited more than once)
- 125 = individual flea market puppy sellers identified, most of which were unlicensed
- 26 = approximate number of dog sellers at the flea markets whose kennels were visited by the undercover investigator

Undercover Cameras Link Flea Market Sellers to Puppy Mills

While many of the puppy dealers at flea markets present themselves as small hobby breeders, when our cameras visited the sellers’ properties, we found a far different reality. Many of the sellers had dozens of breeding dogs confined to raised, rusty wire cages; others kept dogs in stark concrete runs with filthy water and little or no food. The inhumane kennel conditions we documented are a far cry from what the public sees at the flea markets.



Federal Licensing Loophole Leaves Most Sellers Unregulated

Of those 125 puppy sellers identified in this investigation, only four were found to be USDA-licensed. A loophole in the federal Animal Welfare Act exempts breeders who conduct face-to-face transactions, meaning puppy mills that sell to flea markets are almost always unregulated and unlicensed by the USDA. At these unregulated kennels, no one inspects the dealers to check on the

The hidden conditions at a puppy mill that sold regularly at a Tupelo, MS, flea market. The puppy mill was one of two that were shut down in 2014; more than 100 dogs and puppies were rescued. The HSUS, 2014

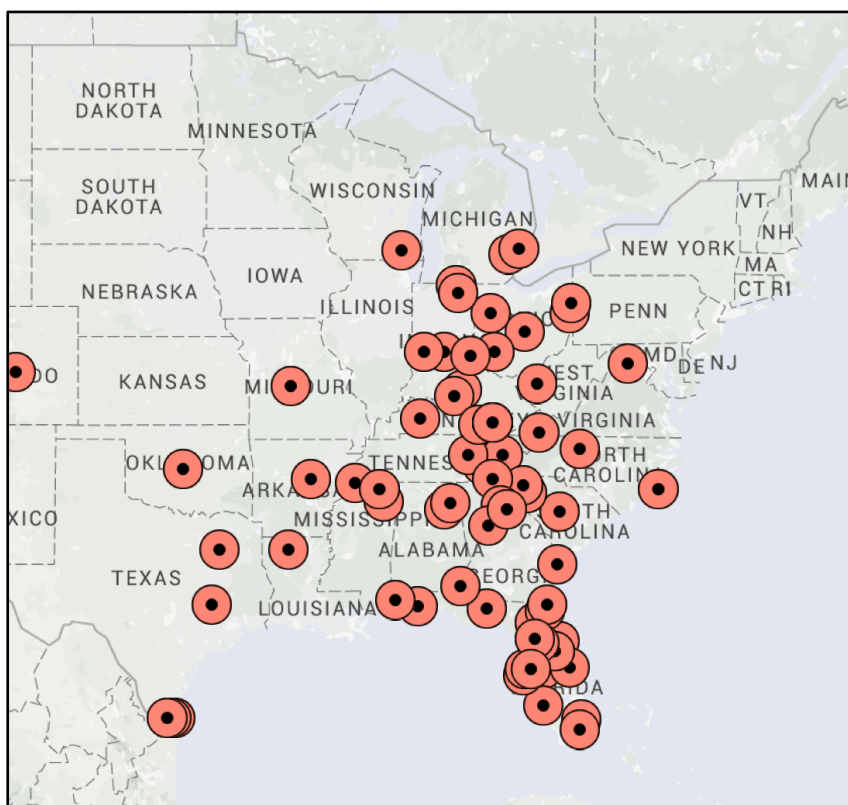
health and safety of their animals, and shoppers have no assurance puppies are coming from humane or sanitary facilities.

We found that two breeders who were **raided and shut down for suspected animal cruelty in 2014** had sold dogs at the Tupelo Flea Market in Mississippi. These operations were some of the worst puppy mills that the HSUS rescue team had ever seen², with diseased and emaciated breeding dogs living in squalid conditions. The operators of both facilities were arrested and charged with animal cruelty. In 2012, The HSUS also assisted law enforcement in closing down a horrific Mississippi puppy mill that sold to several flea markets in Alabama and Mississippi³. The property was almost indescribably squalid, with roaches crawling all over the walls, food and cages, and some dogs with skin infections so severe that they had almost no fur. [See video of the 2012 raid here.](#)

Inadequate State Oversight of Dog Breeding Kennels

Only two of the ten states visited for this investigation—Texas and Georgia—have state-level kennel inspection programs, meaning that the vast majority of the flea market sellers we identified are not inspected by any federal or state agency. Even in the states with kennel inspection programs, we found poor conditions at many sellers' kennels.

- Of the approximately 40 puppy vendors identified at the Curry Trade Grounds in Canton, Texas, only about 13 of them were found to hold state kennel licenses.
- Even among state-licensed breeders, conditions are often deplorable, as seen in the photo on page 1 and the photo on page 6. Both kennels, which have similar names, are Georgia state-licensed kennels. Our investigator documented dogs at B & B Precious Puppies with skin and eye problems, as well as dirty conditions and piles of feces at both locations.



Approximately 70 U.S. flea markets sell puppies.

² <http://blog.humanesociety.org/wayne/2014/10/hsus-responders-hits-two-puppy-mills-in-mississippi-yesterday.html>

³ http://www.humanesociety.org/news/press_releases/2012/07/mississippi_dog_rescue_071012.html

At the Markets: Underage Puppies, Sick Puppies, Puppies without Food and Water

- **Exposure to the elements:** Puppies and other animals such as ducklings and rabbits were often displayed in the hot sun without food, water or shade. Our investigator reported these conditions to management and/or local law enforcement.
- **Lack of oversight:** Some flea markets had no rules whatsoever for puppy sellers. They did not even require that the puppies be vaccinated.
- **Underage puppies:** Our investigator found several markets offering puppies for sale at 6 weeks of age. This is not always illegal, but it is inadvisable according to most national breed clubs, due to concerns that puppies younger than 8 weeks of age still have very fragile immune systems and need the care of their mothers. In more than twenty states, it is illegal for

retailers to sell puppies under 8 weeks old, and it is also illegal for any dealer holding a federal (USDA) license.

- **Flea market rules not enforced:** Almost every flea market that did have a few rules for puppy vendors was found to be



A dog with sludge instead of water at a puppy mill called Sportin' Chance in Lyons, GA that sells to Keller's flea market in Savannah, GA. The HSUS, 2015

lacking in oversight. Rules requiring that sellers be licensed or that animals have food and water were often simply ignored.

- **Vendors at several markets indicated that many of the puppies in the market were diseased:** A vendor at the Curry Trade Grounds, aka "Dog Alley" in Canton, TX stated that "there are more dogs that die from here from parvo⁴ than anything else," and a vendor at FleaLand in London, KY stated that she had a "rare worm" in her kennels and had gone through "a hundred gallons of bleach" trying to eradicate it.
- **Brokers or pet stores buy dogs at flea markets for resale:** Our investigator witnessed brokers and buyers from pet stores at several markets. It is illegal for large-scale breeders who are not USDA-licensed to sell to brokers or pet stores for resale.

⁴ Parvovirus, a highly contagious canine disease which is often deadly to puppies.

- **“Banned” sellers allegedly just move to other nearby markets:** Even when puppy dealers were found to be violating basic rules at one flea market and told not to return, we found it was easy for them to change locations to another flea market. After reportedly being banned from the Pendergrass, Georgia Flea Market for selling sick puppies, breeder Tricia Brown moved on to J & J Flea Market in Athens, Georgia. Breeder/Vendor Jesse Webb was reportedly banned from Sweetwater Flea Market in Sweetwater, TN after selling for years there. Webb simply moved his business just off flea market property, selling puppies from his truck near the flea market entrance.

Flea Markets Flood Areas Already Struggling with Pet Overpopulation with More Dogs

Many rural flea markets operate in areas that are already overrun with stray pets, and some have no local shelter to take in unwanted animals. As a result, the markets contribute to flooding areas that already have a pet overpopulation problem with even more dogs, many of which are brought in by out-of-state sellers, and may be abandoned in the area if not sold. For example:

- In **Ripley, MS**, a community with no animal shelter, our inspector saw several stray dogs roaming through the flea market, and many vendors told the investigator that dogs are regularly dumped at the market if not sold. The county has no shelter or animal control. Despite the significant problems in Tippah County with pet overpopulation, out-of-state puppy dealers often bring even more animals into the area to sell.
- At **Curry Trade Grounds in Canton, TX**, vendors told our undercover investigator that dogs who are not sold are often dumped into the surrounding fields after the market ends, sometimes only to be shot by ranchers: “We live right down the road, new dogs show up every month, every month. After the Trade Days the ranchers go out in their fields and the ones that are thrown out, they’re out there shooting ‘em,” said one vendor.
- **Bonnie & Clyde Trade Days in Louisiana** and **Pendergrass Flea Market in Georgia** are two more examples of puppy-selling flea markets we found in areas with significant homeless pet problems and no local animal shelter.

“If they can’t sell [the dogs] they let ‘em go... I don’t even think there’s any shelter or nothing like that around here, this is a small town.”

– Flea market vendor in Ripley, MS, when asked about a pregnant stray dog at the market

Buyer Complaints about Sick Puppies

The HSUS regularly receives complaints from citizens who have purchased sick puppies from flea markets. Some of the problems reported by puppy buyers have included: puppies infested with worms and fleas; puppies with deadly infectious diseases such as parvovirus; and puppies with congenital disorders such as inherited skeletal, eye or liver conditions.

Puppies who have been raised in poor conditions or have not received proper veterinary care often suffer from illnesses or parasites that are transmissible to other pets or to humans, and diseases can spread rapidly at open-air venues like flea markets, where dozens of people a day may handle animals.

Many Flea Markets Prohibit Puppy Sales

Many of the larger flea markets are making the wise decision to move away from puppy sales. This shift appears to be a result of a combination of local activism, public health concerns, new ordinances that restrict the sales of puppies at flea markets or roadsides⁵ and complaints from customers who purchased sick puppies.

One recent incident shows how quickly public awareness can lead to change. On August 14, 2015, a video surfaced on social media showing a non-responsive puppy at Rogers Flea Market in Rogers, OH. Many people contacted the market to express concerns. Within days of the incident, Rogers

Community Auction Inc. issued a statement saying they will no longer permit the sale or giving away of any animals at their flea market, effective immediately.⁶



Dogs at B & B Puppies, a state-licensed Georgia operation that sells at Keller's Flea Market. The HSUS, 2015

The following large flea market companies are also phasing out or have phased out puppy sales:

- Barnyard Flea Markets with 5 locations in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia
- Traders Village Flea Markets with 3 Texas locations
- The Big One with 5 locations in Tennessee and Arkansas (no puppies or kittens, although it still sells other animals)
- The Nashville Flea Market, which used to allow puppy sales but now has a NO ANIMALS policy
- Gibraltar Trade Center in Mt Clemens, Michigan, a large flea market with hundreds of sellers, no longer allows puppy sales and now (as of August 2015) offers only rescued dogs for adoption from local shelters

Humane Progress

Several localities have passed stronger laws against puppy mills, roadside puppy sales and/or flea market puppy sales, including the state of Virginia; Anderson County, SC; Memphis, TN; and many localities in Texas. As a result, we found these areas had reduced or eliminated problems with puppy sales at flea markets. For example, Virginia's SB 1001, which was signed into law in March 2015,

⁵ <https://animallawcoalition.com/shutting-off-sales-outlets-for-commercial-mass-breeders/>

⁶ <http://www.wtrf.com/story/29842121/rogers-flea-market-changes-animal-policy-after-disturbing-video-surfaces>

restricts the sale of puppies at flea markets and other open-air locations, and we did not find any puppies for sale at flea markets during our visits to Virginia. Louisiana has a similar law, but we did find one flea market selling puppies there, apparently taking advantage of an ambiguity in the law.

In Memphis, TN, reform began with two local residents who were concerned about poor conditions and out-of-state dealers at a flea market. These citizens planned to hold demonstrations, but first decided to try and negotiate with flea market owners. They were able to convince the business owner to ban the sale of puppies and kittens not only in the Memphis market, but in a chain of flea markets owned by the same operators⁷. When puppy-selling “Pet Expos” came to town, the advocates researched their puppy vendors and found that many were out-of-state puppy mills. They organized protests and media attention, then worked with lawmakers to pass an ordinance to end the sale of puppies and kittens at roadsides and certain other county-owned spaces.⁸

Localities that want to avoid the public health and animal welfare concerns created by questionable puppy sellers may want to consider passing ordinances against the sale of puppies in flea markets, roadsides or other such locations where the animals’ living conditions cannot be observed. Because many small towns have no local animal control or animal shelters, exceptions should be made for legitimate animal shelters and pet placement organizations that showcase healthy, adoptable animals as a service to the community.

“Purchasing a puppy at a flea market makes it impossible to see the parents of the puppies or the conditions in which they were raised—making flea markets the perfect sales venues for dealers who have something to hide.”

– HSUS investigator

Conclusion

Our investigation shows that flea markets are meccas for problem puppy sellers. Since the USDA has now started to regulate large breeders who sell puppies sight-unseen over the Internet, as well as breeders who sell to pet stores, flea markets are one of the last unregulated marketplaces for puppy sellers. And because neither customers nor federal regulators are seeing where most flea market puppies were born and raised, some of the most substandard puppy dealers sell at flea markets to evade any and all oversight.

ADDENDUM: FULL LIST OF MARKETS VISITED

Florida

- **I-75 Super Flea Market, Ocala, FL: Only One Seller.** Only one seller was seen selling puppies during our visit. He was able to provide a health certificate when asked.

⁷ <http://bestfriends.org/News-And-Features/News/Memphis-Flea-Market-The-Big-One--Finally--After-Years--Stops-the-Sale-of-Dogs-and-Cats!/>

⁸ http://caamemphis.com/Who_We_Are.html

- **Market of Marion, Belleview, FL: Unlicensed Dealers.** Two vendors were selling puppies on the day of the investigator's visit. Both breeders claimed to be licensed, but we could find no evidence of a local or USDA license under the names they supplied.
- **Wagon Wheel, Pinellas Park, FL: Possibly Phasing out Puppy Sales.** Our investigator found only two puppy sellers at Wagon Wheel Flea Market. When she asked market management about them, she was told that both have been selling at the market for more than ten years. Market management added, "we're not bringing any more in," indicating that the market may be planning to phase out puppy sales.

Georgia

- **J & J Flea Market, Athens, GA: Puppies Offered for Sale without Vaccinations.** Puppies, rabbits and fowl were for sale at the market's "Animal Row." Our investigator was told by management that the market has no rules for puppy sellers; anyone can sell there. Two sellers admitted the puppies they were selling had no vaccinations, a significant



Conditions at Little Bow Wow Kennels, a Georgia state-licensed kennel that sells at Keller's Flea Market in GA. The HSUS, 2015.

- public health risk. Our investigator also saw puppies outside in 88-degree temperatures without water during a July 2015 visit. Dog breeder Tricia's Chihuahua Playland, who was reportedly banned from the Pendergrass, GA flea market, according to another vendor, now has a regular spot at J & J Flea Market.
- **Keller's Flea Market, Savannah, GA: Licensed Sellers Linked to Puppy Mill Conditions.** Keller's has long hosted "K Bar Kennel," a puppy mill that has been quarantined by the state Department of Agriculture in the past for parvovirus outbreaks. K Bar was not at the market when we visited, however. The market does insist that all its puppy sellers be state-licensed and each must display their license. However, when our investigator visited the properties of some of these state-licensed kennels, she found puppy-mill-like settings: dogs in cramped, outdoor "rabbit hutch" style enclosures.
- **Pendergrass Flea Market, Pendergrass, GA: Sellers Linked to Puppy Mill Conditions.** Pendergrass is one of the largest and busiest flea markets we visited. Our investigator visited

the property of one of the market's regular sellers, Tricia's Chihuahua Playland, and noted, "the air is thick with urine ammonia and several dogs have oozing eye infections." The investigator reported the breeder's poor conditions to local law enforcement. After the investigator's first visit in March 2014, she returned to the flea market in May 2015, at which time another vendor told her that Tricia's Chihuahua Playland had been banned from the market. However, many other vendors had rabbits, pigs, puppies and other animals for sale.

- **Smiley's Flea Market, Macon, GA: Puppies Not Required to be Vaccinated.** Our investigator visited in March 2014 and was told that no license was required to sell puppies at the flea market and that there was not even a requirement for puppies to be vaccinated. Out-of-state pet store personnel were seen here purchasing from unlicensed breeders.

** As of this report's release date, Smiley's Flea Market no longer allows the sale of puppies or kittens.*

- **South Augusta Flea Market, Augusta, GA: Small Sellers.** The market owner told our investigator how to skirt Georgia's kennel licensing law by selling only one litter at a time; but at the time of our visit only one dealer was selling puppies and the individual was state-licensed.

Kentucky

- **Cumberland Parkway Flea Market (aka Corbin Indoor Flea Market), Corbin, KY: Puppies Without Food or Water.** Our investigator visited Cumberland Parkway Flea Market in both 2012 and 2015. During the most recent visit, only one puppy dealer was present—a large-scale, unlicensed dealer who operates a permanent booth. He has reportedly been selling at the same market for more than 20 years. The booth is set up like a pet store, with dogs, puppies, kittens and other small animals. Staff at the booth stated that the puppies come from various area breeders, which is a concern because Kentucky has no specific laws that regulate dog-breeding kennels in any way. Our investigator noted that many of the animals had no food or water.
- **FleaLand Flea Market, London, KY: Unlicensed Dealers and Parasite Concerns.** Our investigator found a mixture of commercial and casual/accidental breeders selling at this market. One vendor told our undercover investigator that she has a "rare worm" spreading through her kennel and that she "went through a hundred gallons of bleach in the last two weeks." This breeder also said that vacationers on their way to and from Florida often stop to buy her puppies.
- **Lake Cumberland Flea Market, Somerset, KY: Only One Puppy Seller.** Only one person was found selling puppies when our investigator visited in March 2015. The vendor was evasive when asked where the puppies came from or whether he was the breeder.

Louisiana

Bonnie & Clyde Trade Days, Arcadia, LA: Multiple Puppy Mill Sellers. At this market's "Animal Alley," many dealers were doing a booming business in puppies, including one who previously appeared in the HSUS Horrible Hundred report (Desiree Bogan, Arkansas). When our investigator visited the kennel properties of some of this market's sellers, she found puppy-mill-like conditions, including dogs in small, crowded wire cages, filthy water dishes with feces floating in the water, dogs in concrete runs with little or no human attention and properties strewn with trash and weeds.

In 2012, a law was passed in Louisiana prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from certain outdoor locations, including flea markets.⁹ The law states that "It shall be unlawful for any person to offer for sale or sell any dog or cat on any highway, right-of-way, flea market, public park, public playground, public swimming pool, any other public recreational area, or adjacent property to such locations regardless of whether or not access to those locations is authorized, or on any commercial or retail parking lot unless permission is granted by the owner of the parking lot." But Bonnie & Clyde Trade Days continues to host the sale of dogs at its Animal Alley. Reportedly, the market claims to be exempt from the law due to certain ambiguities in the law.

A review of Bonnie & Clyde's website on 8/7/2015 found the market boasting "a vast supply of animals" at its Animal Alley: "Bring the kids and select from hundreds of pets available!"

Mississippi

- **Ripley's First Monday Trade Days, Ripley, MS: Even More Animals Abandoned in Town with No Animal Shelter.**

This monthly flea market takes place in a town already overflowing with stray and homeless animals. Our investigator documented conversations with several flea market regulars who admitted that animals not sold at the end of the market



A puppy vendor at Bonnie & Clyde Trade Days in Louisiana. The HSUS, 2014

day were frequently set loose and abandoned, and there is no local animal control, humane society or shelter to help with the problem. To add to the already significant issue with local pet overpopulation, some of the puppy dealers at Ripley's First Monday are from out of state.

Our investigator noticed a pregnant mixed-breed dog wandering freely around the market. Vendors told her the dog didn't belong to anyone and appeared to have been abandoned after no one could sell her at a previous event. Our investigator brought the dog to a rescue organization, where she gave birth to ten puppies a few days later.

⁹ <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=812051>

Flea market management told our investigator that no license or health certificates were required to sell puppies at the market.

- **Southaven Flea Market, Southaven, MS: Undercover Visits Linked Vendors to Puppy Mill Conditions.** Our investigator made two visits to this market, one in March 2014 and one in February 2015. She found puppy vendors from as far away as Arkansas and Tennessee selling at the market. Our investigator visited the properties of three of the breeders who sell at Southaven Flea Market and found puppy-mill-like conditions, with dogs in long rows of



Adult dogs at the property of Becky Swallows, who sells puppies at the Crossville Flea Market in Tennessee. The HSUS, 2015

outside
kennel runs
or small,

outdoor raised hutches similar to rabbit hutches.

- **Tupelo Flea Market, Tupelo, MS: Convicted Animal Abusers Once Sold Here.** Two puppy dealers who sold at this market were shut down in 2014 due to horrific conditions, and 170 dogs and other animals were confiscated with the assistance of The HSUS. In February 2015, four people associated with the puppy mills pled guilty to animal cruelty charges¹⁰. The flea market's links to past puppy mill raids is of significant concern in a state where puppy mills are never state-inspected and no kennel laws exist. Our investigator documented puppy mill conditions at breeders who regularly sell at this market.

North Carolina

- **Cook's Flea Market, Winston-Salem, NC: Six-Week-Old Puppies for Sale.** Our investigator found several vendors selling puppies at 6 weeks of age. Selling 6-week-old puppies is not necessarily illegal in NC, but it is inadvisable according to most national breed clubs and is illegal in many other states; it would also be illegal for any dealer holding a federal (USDA) license. Our investigator spoke to a dealer at the market who admitted to brokering puppies for other unidentified dealers, which is a concern due to the prevalence of unlicensed puppy mills in North Carolina.

¹⁰ <http://www.examiner.com/article/four-plead-guilty-ms-puppy-mill-case-receive-lenient-sentencing>

South Carolina

- **Anderson Jockey Lot and Farmer's Market, Belton, SC: Accused Animal Abuser Sold Pets Here.** In 2013, a regular puppy vendor at the Anderson Jockey Lot, Donald Black, was charged with animal cruelty. His property was raided and more than 150 dogs were confiscated from horrific conditions, with help and coordination from The HSUS¹¹. As a result, Anderson County passed a stronger law to regulate large-scale breeders, which has reduced the county's puppy mill problems. But out-of-area puppy vendors still sell at Anderson Jockey Lot.

At this market, our investigator found puppies in cages in the direct sun with no water. The investigator insisted on the spot that dogs be given water. The investigator also visited two of the dealers who sell at the Jockey Lot and found puppy mill conditions.



Tennessee

- **Crossville Flea Market, Crossville, TN: Puppies without**

At the Animal Section at Crossville Flea Market in Crossville, TN, our investigator found many animals in small cages with neither food nor water. The HSUS, 2015

Food and Water. Animal dealers can pull up to this market and sell puppies from the backs of their trucks for as little as \$7 a day. There was also at least one booth structure selling various items, including guns, tools and 7-week-old puppies. The booth was operated by a breeder named Becky Swallows. When an investigator visited Swallows' property, she found trash-strewn conditions and dogs in makeshift pens with dirty food and water bowls.

Despite signs at the flea market stating that all animals had to be provided with food and water, our investigator photographed many animals at the market who were confined to small cages with neither food nor water. Our investigator reported the lack of food and water to the management office.

- **Great Smokies Flea Market, Kodak, TN: Out-of-State Brokers with Puppies from Unknown Sources.** Our investigator made four separate visits to the Great Smokies Flea Market in April and May 2014 and 2015. A large broker from Kentucky was found selling puppies from what he claimed were local (to him) Kentucky breeders. Out-of-state brokers are a concern because of the already significant problems with pet homeless in the Kodak area. The town of Kodak, TN has no shelter to accept homeless or abandoned pets.

¹¹ http://www.humanesociety.org/news/news_briefs/2013/08/153-dogs-rescued-from-south-Carolina-08232013.html

- **Sweetwater Flea Market, Sweetwater, TN: Fly-by-Night Sellers Near Market.** Our investigator found only one puppy seller inside Sweetwater Flea Market, but more were lined up along the road leading up to the market. In this way they took advantage of heavy market traffic without having to actually pay for a stall at the market or follow any potential rules. Most of the animals seen at the roadside operations had no shade or water, so our investigator notified law enforcement. One of the roadside sellers admitted he was no longer selling inside the market because “I got throwed out of there.”

Texas

Curry Trade Grounds and RV Park, Canton, TX: Many Unlicensed Sellers. Our investigator visited in May 2015, and found more than 100 dealers selling puppies in the massive “Dog Alley;” later research revealed that more than half of the Texas breeders identified at the market did not have a Texas state kennel license. On hidden camera, one vendor at the market told our undercover investigator, “This is one of the worst places in the world to buy a puppy” due to the spread of disease. Local shelters report being overrun with unwanted puppies shortly after the monthly event; many of the shelters have a very high euthanasia rate for unwanted animals. One local humane society told our staff that after the monthly flea market is over, her organization gets an average of five to six calls about puppies that have been dumped in the area, and reported that many are killed by coyotes or starvation if shelters aren’t able to take them in.

Virginia

No issues found during visit. Due to a new law¹², it is illegal to sell puppies at flea markets in Virginia, unless they are displayed for adoption purposes by shelters or displayed at fairs or 4H clubs. An HSUS investigator visited flea markets in Virginia to see if any puppies were being sold in violation of the law. The investigator did not find any active puppy sellers during the visit, although market management told her that people do sometimes sell puppies there.

¹² <https://legiscan.com/VA/text/SB1001/id/1088452>