



Puppies On Wheels

December 1, 2009 Inspection Report

Prepared By: Minnesota Humane Society

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Overview

On December 1, 2009, the Minnesota Humane Society conducted an inspection of the Puppies on Wheels dog breeding facility located at 51402 410th Street, New York Mills, Minnesota. The inspection team had the following four team members: Linda Challeen, President of the Minnesota Humane Society; Dr. Charles Gumbusky, Minnesota licensed veterinarian; Bill Stephenson, Supervisor of Animal Control for the City of St. Paul; and Sheryl Hogg, videographer and veterinary technician in training. Also present were Mindy Sachs, Otter Tail County Probation Officer, a Deputy from the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department, and Kathy Bauck.

There are twelve buildings on the property, including the family home. At the present time, there are only three buildings housing adult dogs and one building housing expectant mothers and puppies. Per Kathy Bauck, the current inventory of dogs is 300 adult dogs and approximately 150 puppies. Other animals observed on the property: twelve horses, four cats, chickens and one macaw.



Dollar Barn

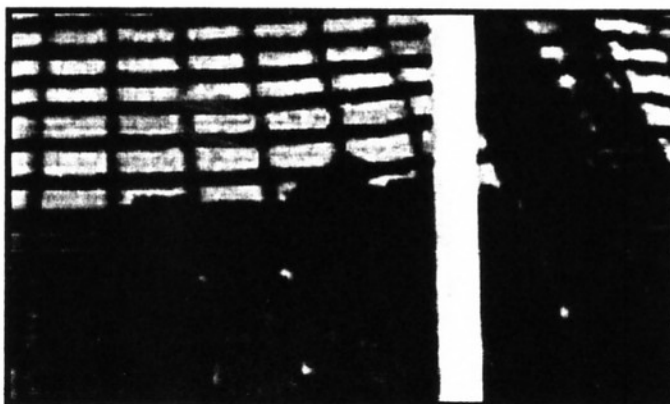
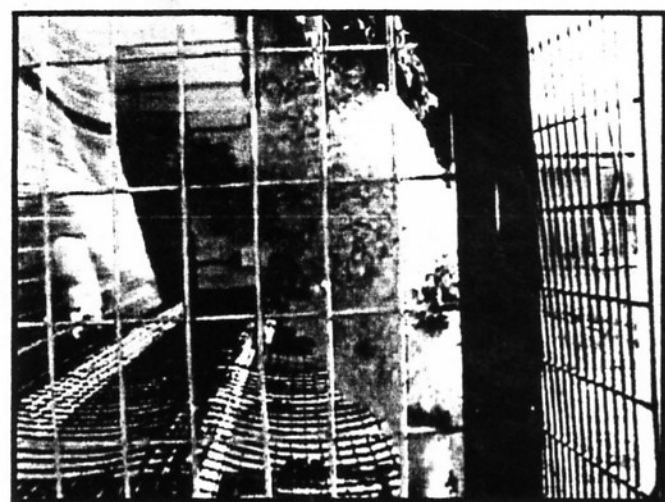


The Dollar Barn, pictured to the left, houses various small breed dogs, including Shiba Inus, Havanese, Shih Tzus, Bichons, Chinese Crested and Daschunds. The dogs are housed in elevated cages with doors allowing the dogs to go in and out of the building. Each cage generally housed three dogs. Concerns/violations noted at time of inspection:

- There was fecal matter on the floor of some of the cages and dogs were observed stepping in it. Additionally, the construction of the cages allows for fecal matter to catch up under the cage; removal of this fecal matter is nearly impossible (see photographs on following page).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 346.39, Subd. 12, "wastes must be disposed of properly" and "outdoor enclosures must be kept clean."

Pursuant to USDA Regulation 3.11(a), "Excreta and food waste must be removed from primary enclosures daily, and from under primary enclosures as often as necessary to prevent an excessive accumulation of feces and food waste..."



Recommendation:

Increase the staff to dog ratio to enable more frequent cleaning of dog kennels. Reconstruct the supports under the cages to allow access for staff to clean or to prevent the fecal matter from accumulating.

- One of the outside cage doors was broken and in need of repair. Kathy Bauck was alerted and an employee was summoned to fix the door. If left unfixed, it is very likely the dog(s) would have gotten loose (see photographs on the following page).

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 346.39, Subd. 10, confinement and exercise areas must "be kept in good repair."

Pursuant to USDA Regulation 3.6 (2)(iii), primary enclosures must be constructed and maintained to "contain the dogs and cats securely."

