



## MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION E-NEWS – June, 2014

---



*Minnesota Puppy Mill*

### **MINNESOTA PASSES PUPPY MILL LEGISLATION**

Due to encouragement from the passage of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act in Missouri, animal advocates in Minnesota worked tirelessly to pass their own law to protect dogs confined in abusive and neglectful puppy mills. While Minnesota does not have nearly as many puppy mills as Missouri, it is home to some of the worst puppy mills in the country. In the past, the Alliance's Executive Director, Bob Baker, has investigated numerous puppy mills in Minnesota and uncovered breeding dogs living in horrendous conditions. Baker stated that, "most upsetting was coming across a breeder who was performing her own surgeries without anesthesia, along with other abusive practices."

Baker reported his findings to both the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and the U. S. Attorney's Office in St. Paul. It was the documentation of the horrific conditions at Minnesota breeding mills that helped prompt the eventual first-hand investigation of commercial dog breeders by OIG. This investigation ultimately led OIG to issue a critical report on puppy mills concluding that the current enforcement process was "ineffective against problematic dealers." This report was issued in May 2010 and provided valuable evidence in support of the Prop B ballot initiative that eventually resulted in the passage of the new puppy mill law in Missouri.



*Minnesota Puppy Mill*

The recently enacted “Dog and Cat Breeder Regulation Law” in Minnesota will provide new protections for animals confined in puppy mills. For the first time ever, commercial dog and cat breeders will have to obtain a state license to operate in Minnesota. They will now have to be inspected by the Minnesota Board of Animal Health that will enforce state laws to ensure the compliance of humane animal care standards. There will now be civil, administrative and criminal penalties for inhumane dog and cat breeders. Minnesota’s new law even requires that “animals must be provided daily enrichment” and must be provided “positive physical contact with human beings at least twice daily.”

This legislation received wide support with over 400 veterinarians and vet techs signing a petition for its passage. It also had the support of over 50 animal organizations including Animal Folks which played a key role in gaining passage of the law.

We are thankful that another state has gained added protections for puppy mills dogs. It is heartening to know that our new Canine Cruelty Prevention Act played a small part in encouraging advocates in Minnesota to take a positive step towards ending puppy mill cruelty in their state.

#####