



MISSOURI ALLIANCE FOR ANIMAL LEGISLATION  
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## SAY NEIGH TO HORSE SLAUGHTER

Last year Congress re-appropriated funding for the inspection of horse slaughter plants leading to the real possibility that slaughter plants might re-open in the U. S. This includes one facility right here in Northwest Missouri (Gallatin) which is set to open at any time.

The slaughtering of horses is fraught with cruelties including inhumane transport, which can last for many hours in overcrowded trucks, without food, water, or rest. Due to their temperament, horses are not suited to be closely confined in large groups in ways cows and hogs often endure when they are transported for slaughter. In such crowded situations, horses will often fight resulting in injuries from being kicked, bitten, or even trampled.

Upon arrival at slaughter plants, the systems are geared toward general farm animals and don't take into account the skittish nature of horses. Horses are much more excitable than other livestock and are more likely to panic in tight quarters commonly experienced at slaughter facilities. Horses become very agitated when prodded as they are moved down alleyways to the "kill box" and many incur injuries from slipping and sliding resulting in dangerous falls. Horses are more difficult to shoot or place a penetrating bolt into their forehead as they are more high strung and move their heads much more than docile hogs or cattle moving down the line. As a consequence, the horse is often not

made unconscious and is subsequently rolled out of the kill box alive, shackled by a rear leg, and hoisted up in the air upside down where its throat is slit and the horse is bled to death.

It is apparent that the ultimate solution to this issue is the complete prohibition of horse slaughter in the United States **and** the prohibition of the export of horses to slaughterhouses in Mexico and Canada. Fortunately, the Safeguard American Food Exports (SAFE) Act, would do both.

**Please take a moment to write, email, or call Senator Claire McCaskill and ask her to vote to support the SAFE Act and to vote to deny future funding for inspections of horse slaughter plants so that horse slaughter will not return to Missouri.**

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Hart Senate Office Bldg., Suite 506  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6154

You can contact her at [www.mccaskill.senate.gov](http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov) and leave your comments under "Tell Claire Your Concerns."



## BATTLE AGAINST PUPPY MILLS YIELDING RESULTS Dogs Early Winners as 1,100 Puppy Mills Shut Down

Puppy millers are licking their wounds as over 1,100 commercial dog breeders and brokers in the state of Missouri have shut their doors over the past 4 years. While industry leaders are lamenting that their "business has been decimated," some long time animal advocates consider the outcome of the fight against puppy mills here in Missouri as one of the greatest accomplishments in the chronicles of animal welfare. The battle is far from over, however, and it is way too early to declare victory as there is still much work to be done and more improvements needed to eliminate or to bring into line all substandard breeders. We should take pause, nevertheless, and reflect on the progress that has been made in just the past few years.

The latest figures from the state reveal that since January 2009, there has been more than a 50% decline in the number of licensed commercial dog breeders and dealers with over 1,100 puppy mills closing down operations here in Missouri. Another encouraging fact is that the average number of dogs housed by the remaining facilities has also declined, meaning less overcrowding and a better chance of the dogs receiving necessary care. Most impressive is the increase in the funding for enforcement of our laws protecting dogs at commercial breeding facilities. This increase in funding has resulted in more than double the number of inspectors and has allowed the state, for the first time, to have 3 veterinarian inspectors along with 2 investigators to focus solely on substandard breeders and unlicensed breeding operations. As a result, the number of inspections of dog breeders performed annually by the Department of Agriculture has more than tripled.

This dramatic decline in Missouri puppy mills is due to the passage of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act (CCPA) in 2011 as a result of the Prop B campaign. This Act has significantly improved living conditions for dogs confined by commercial dog breeders. The Act requires that all dogs receive an annual veterinary examination

and must receive continued veterinary care throughout the year. In addition, dogs now must have unfettered access to the outdoors, significantly increased living space, and dogs are no longer allowed to be housed on wire flooring. These simple and common sense provisions have driven hundreds of cruel dog breeders out of business as they could no longer easily exploit dogs for a quick profit. Lack of veterinary care was one of the most serious problems encountered in puppy mills as many commercial breeders chose to either treat ailing animals themselves or allow

Assistant Attorney General Jessica Blome, who has successfully prosecuted dozens of substandard dog breeders (see related article). In fact, state officials have given this unit credit for over half of the dog breeding closures in the state. Previously when state inspectors would write-up deficient facilities, the breeders would simply ignore the citations as they knew there would be no consequences for their non-compliance. Now that non-compliance will be prosecuted, hundreds of breeders have chosen to shut down their breeding operations rather than face stiff penalties.



50,000 dogs escape horrors of Missouri puppy mills

the animals to suffer needlessly knowing it was cheaper to replace the dog than provide the animal with needed veterinary care. It is very telling about the puppy mill industry when a law mandating that dogs be provided with veterinary care causes so many breeders to abandon the business.

Another important provision of the CCPA was that it granted authority to the Attorney General to prosecute substandard kennels. In the past, we had to rely on local prosecutors to enforce our state laws protecting dogs. Unfortunately, these local prosecutors were often reluctant to charge residents of their counties and gross cruelty was often overlooked or perpetrators only given trifling fines. In contrast, Attorney General Chris Koster, as a result of this new authority, established a special unit within his office to prosecute breeders who failed to comply with laws protecting animals. This new unit, the Canine Cruelty Prevention Unit, was placed under the leadership of

As we savor this victory for the dogs, we must remain vigilant in our fight against puppy mills. During the past two legislative sessions there were several serious attempts to weaken the CCPA as well as attempts to weaken our long standing anti-cruelty statutes in retribution for our successful efforts to rein in puppy mill cruelty. There will surely be future attempts in the Legislature to weaken our laws protecting animals from abuse and neglect. While we prepare for the battles ahead of us, we can surely take comfort in our success. Figures obtained from the Missouri Department of Agriculture as well as industry sources indicate that there are over 50,000 less dogs confined in puppy mills in Missouri today than compared to just four years ago. **This is 50,000 less dogs that are suffering neglect and abuse in a cruel puppy mill.** We can also be thankful that dogs remaining in commercial breeding establishments are now afforded improved standards of care as a result of the CCPA. They also have the added protections and safeguards resulting from an increase in state inspections as well as vital oversight by the Attorney General's office.

While we celebrate these unparalleled accomplishments and are grateful for these achievements, we must aggressively continue our efforts and never give up the fight for animal welfare. Please continue to contact your legislators and state officials to ensure that all animals receive needed protection from abuse and neglect in the state.

## Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Alliance protects animals from abuse, neglect and inhumane exploitation by monitoring and facilitating the passage of animal welfare laws, thereby enhancing the quality of life for people and animals in Missouri.

### FUNDING

The Alliance is a 501 (c)(4) nonprofit and receives no United Way, government or corporate funding. The organization depends on donations from concerned and passionate individuals to fund its animal welfare education and legislative efforts. Because we are a lobbying organization, gifts to the Alliance are not tax deductible.

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

As you can see from reading our Fall Newsletter, our efforts against puppy mills are finally paying off. Your phone calls, personal visits, letters and emails to your legislators and state officials really do make a difference.

Another example of this success is the recent announcement by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) on the adoption of new rules to crack down on e-puppy mills – commercial breeders that sell dogs over the Internet. These new rules will offer welfare protections to dogs and cats sold as pets directly to consumers via the Internet, mail, or by phone.

While Internet sellers of dogs and cats require a state license under Missouri law, this will be the first time that Internet and retail sellers of dogs and cats will be required to meet federal humane standards of care for their animals. Many puppy mills have skirted the federal law by choosing to sell over the Internet since USDA previously only regulated breeders selling their puppies to pet stores.

Numerous investigations and exposes of inhumane Internet sellers combined with expressions of outrage by those concerned about animal welfare have resulted in this new rule change. As a result, USDA will now require dog breeders to either open their kennels to the public for inspection or become regulated by USDA and subject their breeding operations to inspection by federal inspectors. For too long, many breeders have sold puppies without the public ever being able to visit and see the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. This cloak of darkness too often allowed puppy mills to

operate inhumane breeding facilities with impunity.

This new rule to regulate all large commercial dog breeders regardless of how they sell their puppies is certainly welcome news. It is especially heartening to learn that USDA is also seeking the needed funds to enforce humane standards of care in puppy mills that sell over the Internet so as not to dilute its enforcement efforts of wholesale commercial dog breeders.

Thanks to those who submitted comments to USDA in support of these new rules. As stated above, your letters and emails really do make a difference!

In addition to reaching out to public officials in support of our efforts to curb puppy mill abuse and suffering, **we also need your financial support to enable the Alliance to continue to fight on behalf of the animals in the halls of the state capitol.** The Alliance is the only full-time animal welfare lobbying group in Missouri.

We could not continue this vital work without your generous support and help. While we have made great progress, we have so much more to do. Please help us to continue to speak out on behalf of the animals.

Thanks in advance for your generous gift. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or questions. You can reach me directly at 314-361-3944 or director@maal.org.

Bob Baker  
Executive Director



Please help us escape the cruelty of puppy mills –  
**DONATE TODAY!**

## Be An Angel, Won't You?

Missouri's animals need our help 365 days a year so the Alliance's work never stops. During the legislative session, the Alliance is in the state capitol every day from January through May lobbying for animal welfare. Once the session ends, we continue to educate our public officials and the general public about laws that need to be enacted or, most importantly, defended. We also work year round to ensure that our laws protecting animals are vigorously enforced.

The Alliance has set up a way for you to help the animals throughout the year. Our Alliance Angel monthly donor program allows you to make a recurring monthly donation to your credit card for the amount you authorize. For only \$10 or \$20 a month, you can help us end puppy mill cruelty. Please make a difference for the animals every month of the year. Visit our website at maal.org, click on Donate, and follow the prompts for Monthly Donations. If you don't have access to the Internet, call the office at 314-361-3944 and we can set it up for you. Be a voice for the animals--become an Alliance Angel today!



# LAWSUIT TO ELIMINATE TAXES ON SHELTERS ENDANGERED LARGE CARNIVORE ACT

## Protection for Large Cats & Fees on Shelters Remain in Effect

The Missouri Supreme Court recently upheld the constitutionality of Senate Bill 795 which was passed by the Missouri Legislature in 2010. Senate Bill 795 contained numerous provisions including the imposition of license fees upon animal shelters and rescues, numerous agricultural items, and the Large Carnivore Act.

The intent of the lawsuit challenging SB 795 was to eliminate the fees unfairly imposed on animal shelters and rescues. The Alliance strenuously opposed the passage of the provision of SB 795 that levied taxes on non-profit animal welfare organizations and, in fact, was the only organization that testified in opposition to such legislation when it was introduced. We have since worked hard to secure sponsorship towards legislation that would repeal this tax on animal shelters and rescues.

In the past, charitable entities have been exempt from paying licensing fees in recognition of their important role in keeping stray animals off the streets and protecting the public from disease and other health problems that can result from the



Conditions addressed by the Large Carnivore Act

irresponsible actions of others. Alliance Executive Director, Bob Baker, has testified numerous times in opposition to such unfair fees and has told state legislators that taxing charities helping to end the suffering of homeless animals was akin to taxing homeless shelters. Mr. Baker further testified that without these charitable entities, the state of Missouri and its local governments would no doubt be forced to incur higher costs in order to eliminate animal suffering and to protect the public health of all citizens.

While we remain committed to our efforts to eliminate such fees, **the Alliance welcomes the ruling from the Supreme Court since overturning SB 795 would have also resulted in the overturning of the Large Carnivore Act which was also contained in SB 795.**

The Large Carnivore Act (LCA) requires owners of large carnivores to be licensed and regulated by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and requires the humane care of such animals. The Alliance, and other proponents of regulating the ownership and care of exotic animals, worked tirelessly for 8 years toward passage of this important legislation. It would have never passed without the perseverance and unrelenting work of its sponsor, Representative Mike Sutherland, who is no longer a member of the Legislature. If the LCA was overturned as a result of the lawsuit against shelter fees, it is very likely these protections for large cats would not be reinstated for many years to come. Unfortunately, the Plaintiffs in the lawsuit never requested the Supreme Court to sever the shelter fee portion of SB 795 from the remaining provisions of the law that was being challenged. Such failure to do so directly threatened the law providing humane protections for large cats in Missouri.

We are extremely thankful to the Attorney General's office and especially to Assistant Attorney General Jessica Blome for vigorously protecting the welfare of the numerous tigers and lions held in captivity in the state and for aggressively and successfully defending the constitutionality of SB 795. Most people would be surprised to know that there are more tigers held in captivity in the United States than exist in the wild throughout the entire world. Unfortunately, Missouri is one of the leading states in the ownership and trade of lions, tigers and other large cats. It is also home to the largest exotic animal auction in the country. **We certainly could not afford to lose the Large Carnivore Act and the needed protections it provides to large cats held captive in the state of Missouri.** The Alliance will continue its work to repeal the unfair fees imposed on Missouri animal shelters and rescues.



# We Salute Recent Contributors

The following list of donors includes donations received from April 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please call 314.361.3944 to make corrections.

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All the fine folks that rescue mill dogs by James Jourdain

Amy Wilson by Amy Cox  
Bob Baker for his dedication and work on behalf of dogs in puppy mills by Mary Williams  
Connor Valenti's high school graduation by Charles and Verla Sullivan  
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Ted Cox by Ellen Cox

## Gifts in Memory of Companions...

"Abby" and "Hudson" by Mike and Susan Tilton  
All my pets by Adele Sellers  
All our dogs by Rick LaMonica  
All pets at Imperial Crown Pet Cemetery by Imperial Crown Pet Cemetery  
"Angel" by Beverly Bradley  
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"Skye" by Coralee and Robert Williams  
"Smokey", "Sammy", and "Charlie" by Marilyn Hunt  
"Sue" and "Rany" Golbuff by Linda Giese  
"Sugar Ray" by Jo Ellen Levens  
"Taro", "Fuji", "Buddy", "Gage", "Chibi" and "Tiger" and "Sage" by Janice Chilton  
"Timmy" Wall by Nancy Grove, Anonymous  
"Tobie" Valenti by Anonymous, Amy Cox, Nancy Grove, Charles and Verla Sullivan, Matt Bell and Stefanie Schroeder, Linda Sullivan  
"Traveler" and "Lady Bug" by Mary Schwartz  
"Truffles" by Laurie Rosenthal  
"Tucker" by Doris Leffridge Vaughn  
"Tulip" by Jeffress Hailand  
"Weenie", "Lucy", and "Crispy" by Susan and Joseph Dennehy  
"Winkie" by Robert and Laurie Janes  
"Winston" by Jean McIntosh

# DOGS VICTORIOUS IN LEGAL BATTLE OVER NEW PUPPY MILL LAW

## Canine Cruelty Prevention Act Remains Law of the Land in Missouri

Due to the great success of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act it came as no surprise when late last year, a group representing 83 dog breeders in the state of Missouri, brought a lawsuit to thwart the new law and its resulting regulations promulgating humane standards of care for dogs confined in puppy mills. The breeders' group initially sought a temporary restraining order against the regulations, and when that failed, they sought a hearing to argue for a preliminary injunction against the regulations. After the hearing on January 11, 2013, Judge Jon Beetem of the Circuit Court of Cole County dismissed their request for preliminary injunction. A date was then set for October, 2013 for the breeders to argue their case in a court of law. The plaintiffs confidently asserted that "the Missouri case could set an important precedent that could be applied to challenging similar legislation all over the country." **A few months before the case was to be tried in court, however, the breeders decided to dismiss their lawsuit against the new law and its regulations, and as a result, the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act remains unchallenged.**



A jury of their peers.

Dog breeders in Missouri now must decide whether to provide humane care for their animals and comply with the new law or get out of the dog breeding business. Currently, more than 1,100 dog breeders have chosen the latter and have stopped breeding dogs. We are certain that the lawsuit was dropped not only because

there was no legal basis for such a court case, but a public trial would have proved extremely embarrassing for the commercial dog breeding industry. In the hearing for a preliminary injunction, one breeder testified that when she was told she had to provide her dogs with access to the outdoors, she chose to kill them rather than comply with the new rule. She had her veterinarian euthanize 72 of them and proudly presented a photo of 25 dead dogs to the judge as evidence of how her business has suffered since passage of the new law. Another breeder stated that she also destroyed her dogs rather than comply with the new rules and bragged that she only had to pay her vet \$7 per dog to have them euthanized.

While some of the testimony was a tragic exposure of how dogs are exploited in the commercial dog breeding industry, some of the testimony proved farcical as the breeders and their representatives argued that they did not know what was meant by "constant" and "unfettered" access to the outdoors. They claimed that since the regulations did not define the terms, the breeders were left in the dark. One witness, under cross examination by the attorney general's office, was asked to read the definition of "constant" and "unfettered" from the dictionary. After reading the definition, the witness claimed that nowhere in the regulations did it say to refer to the dictionary for meaning of the words. He claimed not to know to use a dictionary for words he did not understand. He argued that "even words with defined meaning need further clarification from the Department of Agriculture."

Another breeder testified that her dogs could



not be outside as they are too excitable and the excitement of being outside could kill them. She further stated she could not risk them being outside as a car might backfire or children might walk by her yard and any excitement could cause them to die. This, of course, raises the question as to whether she informs her customers that the puppies she is selling are restricted to the indoors and can never go outside even to relieve themselves. This breeder testified that "outside air causes loss of ventilation" for dogs. She alleged that six dogs died of heatstroke and excitability when she tried an outdoor exercise plan.

The breeders argued that dogs do not need access to sunlight and even expressed objection to providing extra bedding to dogs housed outside in winter weather claiming they did not understand what "extra bedding" meant. The breeders also argued against the requirement for heavy duty tarps to protect against the wind for dogs housed outside.

**An Assistant Attorney General summed it up well for the judge when he asserted that dogs are simply commodities to commercial dog breeders.** We are certain that the dog breeders did not want the public to be aware of that sad fact and dropped their lawsuit rather than publicly expose the cruel conditions of puppy mills and the uncaring attitude of too many commercial breeders at an open trial.

## Dogs of Missouri Lose an Ally – Animals Nationwide Gain an Advocate

### Assistant Attorney General Jessica Blome Joins Animal Legal Defense Fund

It is with mixed emotions that we report that Assistant Attorney General Jessica Blome will be leaving the Attorney General's Office to start a new career with the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Ms. Blome has served as the leader of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Unit within the Missouri Attorney General's Office and has successfully prosecuted dozens of dog breeders who have violated the new puppy mill law. She also successfully defended the constitutionality of the new law when it was recently challenged by a group of 83 dog breeders.

Jessica's commitment to animal welfare was very apparent by the zeal with which she prosecuted chronic violators of both the Animal Care Facilities Act and the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act. Jessica worked with the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Animal Care Program to initiate a legal referral process for enforcement actions under the law. The Alliance honored Jessica for her dedication towards enforcing Missouri's animal welfare laws at our recent "Open Your Heart" Gala.

While we will sorely miss her dedication, professionalism and legal acumen in protecting the dogs of Missouri, we recognize that this is an exceptional opportunity for Jessica to devote all of her efforts towards animal welfare issues. At the Attorney General's Office, Jessica also handled agricultural and environmental enforcement matters. In contrast, her new career position will allow her to focus solely on advocating on behalf of the animals. The Alliance would like to thank Jessica for her outstanding service on behalf of animals here in the state and wishes her all the best in future endeavors for the animals.

We would like to welcome Assistant Attorney General Jacob Westen who will be assuming the leadership role of the Canine Cruelty Prevention Unit. Jacob has ably assisted Jessica and has already litigated successfully against a substandard dog breeder.



Jessica Blome receiving an award at the Alliance's 2013 "Open Your Heart" Gala

# WELFARE SWINDLERS + TAX CHEATS + CONSUMER FRAUD + ANIMAL NEGLECT = PUPPY MILLS

Reputable dog breeders have, for years, argued that there is little money to be made from breeding dogs and insisted it should only be pursued as a hobby or to improve breed standards. This, of course, raises the question, "Why are there are so many puppy mills if dog breeding is not a profitable enterprise?" Having spent the past 33 years investigating commercial dog breeders, I can easily answer that question. In contrast to responsible



breeders, who seldom make a profit, many commercial dog breeders make large sums of money breeding dogs, but do so only by sacrificing the health and welfare of their breeding animals. My visits to hundreds of puppy mills revealed that the single most distinguishing characteristic of puppy mill operators is their desire to produce puppies

at minimal cost and effort regardless of what is best for the animals. The only apparent concern for the dogs' welfare is their desire for a high enough survival rate to ensure a profit. The breeding animals are viewed merely as machines for producing puppies.

Puppy mills, however, do not stop at cheating on the health and welfare of their dogs to gain a quick buck. They have continually sought out other unethical and sometimes illegal practices to enrich their coffers.

Exposes over the years by the news media, animal welfare groups, consumer advocates, and state and federal agencies have revealed that many puppy mills have engaged in a host of questionable practices. Welfare fraud appears to be one way breeders use to scam the system. Over the years, I have come across numerous puppy mill breeders who, despite being able to care for scores of breeding dogs, are collecting federal disability payments. Interestingly, I have heard the same comments from veteran USDA inspectors and AKC inspectors. They have reported that a surprising number of puppy mill operators they come across are collecting disability. This came to mind while attending a recent trial of a dog breeder who, in spite of caring for over 100 breeding dogs and the many puppies associated with so many adult breeding animals, admitted on the stand that she is collecting disability.



Sick puppies from Missouri puppy mills have led to a ban on the sale of dogs in Los Angeles

Several state agencies across the country, as well as the IRS, have reported that commercial dog breeders have underreported their income on federal and state tax returns. Additionally, many were not paying the state sales tax on puppies sold or were vastly underreporting such sales. Many dog breeders here in Missouri responded in dismay when the Missouri Department of Agriculture started requiring licensees to provide Missouri Tax I. D. numbers and complete a "Tax Compliance Worksheet" when renewing their state commercial breeder's license. Interestingly, a comparison of the number of adult breeding dogs listed on federal inspection reports with the number of puppies sold often reveals a sharp contrast. For example, one breeder with over 100 adult breeding dogs reported to the state sales of less than 100 puppies a year. When factoring the average litter size and average number of litters per year along with the percentage of female dogs, a breeding facility of this size should be producing at least 500 puppies per year. Such underreporting of puppy sales can be used to falsify federal and state income tax returns, applications for disability and welfare benefits, payment of state sales tax, and state licensing fees which are based on the number of puppies sold.

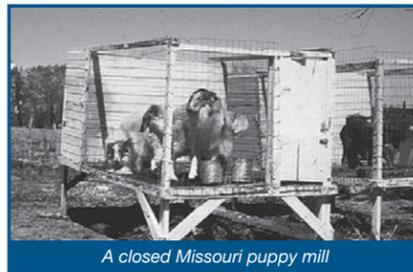
In addition to these unethical and illegal practices, there is the massive consumer fraud perpetrated by puppy mills. This is apparent from the

countless complaints from consumers who have purchased sick and genetically defective puppies from pet stores which originated from puppy mills. Almost monthly there is a news story somewhere in the country about the sale of sick dogs at pet stores. These complaints are so prevalent that over 20 states have enacted puppy lemon laws to protect consumers. Some cities, including most recently the City of San Diego, have banned the sale of dogs in pet stores due to the massive number of consumer complaints. When the city of Los Angeles banned the sale of dogs in their pet stores, Missouri was specifically mentioned as the source of over half the sick dogs being sold to LA consumers. The Better Business Bureau of Missouri found the commercial dog breeding business to be one of the worst businesses they have encountered. The BBB reported they have received a "large number of complaints from consumers" due to "ill puppies" and because of "the expenditure of money for veterinarian fees by consumers who unknowingly bought sick puppies." The BBB stated "the resolution rate of those complaints is well below the national average for resolving complaints."

It recently came to our attention that a breeder here in Missouri was continuing to breed dozens of adult dogs despite the breeder's own veterinarian refusing to certify the dogs as fit for breeding due to genetic defects. This will, without a doubt, result in many puppies with painful genetic defects being passed on to unwitting consumers. Over the years I have questioned many breeders on why they chose to sell wholesale via pet stores rather than directly to the consumer where they can receive 3 to 5 times the amount of money that they receive from the pet stores. The answer is always the same, "I don't have to deal with complaints." A consumer half way across the country who purchases a sick or crippled dog will have little recourse to the breeder living hundreds of miles away in Missouri.

It has been a practice for years for some commercial breeders to acquire breed stock by posing as a family promising to give a dog a good home. In fact, a prominent breeder here in Missouri was recently caught doing so. Just last month, an industry veterinarian at a meeting of Missouri dog breeders complained about unscrupulous breeders knowingly selling diseased breeding dogs to rescues by certifying them as "healthy" via deceptive means.

Why do we mention all of the above? Many legislators have alleged that our efforts have destroyed a valuable industry and are responsible for closing down many family businesses which are vital to the state's economy. **The fact is this has always been an industry plagued by serious problems and has attracted people looking to make a quick buck regardless of the consequences for the dogs, the consumers, and the public taxpayers.**



A closed Missouri puppy mill

This is an industry which has long been in need of reform. We are thankful our efforts have, no doubt, closed down the worst of the puppy mills in the state. Thanks to our new puppy mill law and subsequent increased enforcement efforts, it has now become more difficult for breeders to make a quick buck off their dogs. We are hoping the Legislature, as well as the remaining dog breeders in the state, will welcome the transformation of the industry. This will unquestionably benefit everyone and, most especially, the dogs who are so deserving of humane care and treatment.

During the month of February, the Alliance hosts its largest fundraiser in St. Louis, **OPEN YOUR HEART**. The 10th annual event was held on February 17, to the theme of "Do You Believe In Magic?" Special highlights of the evening included traveling magicians to entertain the crowd, recognition of Assistant Attorney General, Jessica Blome, for her dedication enforcing Missouri's animal welfare laws, and presentation of the Alliance's esteemed Grace Korsan Award to the Dubman Family in recognition of and to honor their passion, commitment and generosity for all animals. As always, plenty of good food and drink, as well as creative silent and live auction items awaited the guests' indulgences.



We especially thank our generous sponsors: **Bob and Chris Kaplan (matching every donation of \$125 or above), Carol House Furniture, David and Kelly Backes, Van and Marion Black, Joe Hanon, Dale and TJ Lindhorst, Mary Massey, Dan and Sandy Mickelson, Nancy Grove, Helix Realty, Marian Langdon, and Danny Mickelson.** We are also grateful to all who contributed to the evening's great success including our auction donors, in-kind donors, the "Open Your Heart" committee and volunteers! It was a night to celebrate the many compassionate and generous people who continue to support the Alliance's important work in Jefferson City as the voice for the animals!

**Please mark your calendar to attend "Open Your Heart" 2014 on February 23, featuring a French-inspired theme, "Fur-de-lis"! Don't miss out on this fun evening with fellow animal lovers to support a good cause.** Details will be available the first of January on our website. To receive an invitation, contact us at [admin@maal.org](mailto:admin@maal.org) or 314-361-3944.



The Alliance's **5th Annual Mardi Grown** celebration was held Friday, February 8 at the Berg Event Space in Kansas City.

The festive evening, filled with street performers, tarot card readings, face paintings, food, drink, music, a "photo booth", and exciting auctions broke our fundraising record from Kansas City contributors.

Nominations were accepted prior to the event for the Mardi Grown King and Queen, individuals who devote their time, talent and resources to the welfare of animals. Joan Nickum and Mark Samuel were crowned in 2013 for their outstanding commitment. "Duke McCat" was chosen as the event's Pet Grand Marshall.



Thank you to the planning committee members: Janette Boehm, Noelle Jaroch, Nancy Lines, Steve Moore, Kaci Moran and Joan Nickum. Thank you to the following event volunteers and entertainers who donated their time and talents: Johanna Alpert, Mary Ballard, Sus Barchak (Holmes Street band), Lyndall Blake (photographer), Kacie Bowen, Carolyn Carey, Hanuh Dale, Michelle Daniels (Holmes Street band), Jared Davis (juggler), Terry DaVolt (auctioneer), Madison Griffin, Audrey Hazzard (tarot), Michael Lazar, Alicia Loecker, Daniel Mooncalf (magician), Michael and Nora Neeley, Kris and Bri Nicholas, Donna Nickum, Ryan Nogle (juggler), Cathy Prather (photographer), Craig Piburn, Lynn Rees, Sara Sappenfield, Ann Scida (Holmes Street band), Kate Sinnett (tarot), Sister Act Face Painting, Sydney Smith, Dawn Sparks, Tracey Stowe (Holmes Street band) Tatum Taryien, Bonnie Witt, and Robin Zeplin.



A huge thanks to Ron Berg and Sheri Stamper and the staff at the Berg Event Space as well as the many individuals and businesses that contributed items for our auctions.

Mark your calendars for Mardi Grown 2014 on Friday, February 28.