

Ms. Bernadette Juarez
Deputy Administrator
USDA/APHIS/AC
4700 River Road, Unit 84
Riverdale, MD 20737
Bernadette.r.juarez@aphis.usda.gov
301-851-2735

Dear Ms. Juarez:

I am writing to express my concerns about how the USDA enforces the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) in the dog and cat breeding industry. Many of the breeding facilities licensed and inspected by the APHIS/Animal Care have conditions that violate the Animal Welfare Act. I would like to see the APHIS implement the recommendations of the 2010 USDA Office of Inspector General report. That report called for a stricter enforcement policy against AWA violators, but it's my understanding that the APHIS has been emphasizing education actions instead. For example, APHIS introduced a "teachable moments" policy in 2013.

I am also requesting that the APHIS investigate the following facilities and take immediate enforcement actions:

Dennis and Donna Van Wyk, Iowa, 42-A-0331
Doug and Wendie Dettbarn, Iowa, 42-A-0873
Steve Kruse, Iowa, 42-B-0182
Randy Stoen, Iowa, 42-A-0895
Claudia Obermiller, Nebraska, 47-A-0295

The Companion Animal Protection Society investigated these facilities and found serious violations. Some of these facilities have years of ongoing violations and should have their licenses terminated or revoked.

Thank you very much for your interest in bringing change to the Animal Care division.

Sincerely,