

Animals' Angels USA

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ANIMALS' ANGELS

we are there with the animals

**Investigation at Farmerstown Dog Auction
January 17, 2009
External Report**

Location:

Farmerstown Sale Barn

2807 State Rt. 557

Baltic, OH 43804

Managed by:

Harold K. Neuhart (Seneca View Kennel)

11160 Rich Street

Senecaville, OH 43780

740-685-5941

Market schedule:

monthly

Humane Society:

Holmes County

Millersburg, OH

330-231-5439

www.holmeshumane.org

1. Observations:

1/16/09

We arrived at the auction premises at 5pm. Several large rental trailers were parked next to the entrance. We walked up to the trailer and saw that the inside had rows of dog cages stacked on top of each other. The dogs were extremely agitated.

We entered the auction barn and were informed of the following:

- The dogs will be sold tomorrow at 9am. Potential buyers are allowed to enter the “staging area” before the sale starts to look at the dogs.
- The dogs are from different kennel sellouts in Pennsylvania

We returned to the outside to watch the unloading of the trailers and were immediately confronted by one of the breeders. She questioned us if we were “animal activists” and if we were planning on causing trouble. We left the premises and decided to return the next day to watch the sale.

1/17/08

We arrived at the sale 7.30 am. According to the auction catalogue, 380 dogs were offered for sale that day. (Miniature Schnauzer, Pekingese, Cocker Spaniel, Bichon Frise, Shih Tzu, Cairn Terrier, West Highland White, Maltese, Dachshund, Scottish Terrier, Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Yorkshire Terrier, Pinscher). Several of the kennels are more than six hours away from Farmerstown.

Seller:

Elvin F. Martin, PA
David S. Miller, PA
Paul D. Zeiset, PA
Lissa Horning, NY
Sharp Run Kennel, OH
WAY-MAR Kennels, OH
Andrew E. Yoder, OH
Robert Miller, KY
Neva Schlabach, OH
Stone Hill Pets, OH
William E. Yoder, OH
Robert Miller, KY
Vernon E. Yoder, OH
David A. Weaver, OH

Inside the parking lot, there were already several cars and Amish buggies. Empty dog cages were stacked in front of the entrance.



We walked towards the barn and were surprised to see a police officer guarding the entrance. We told him that we would like to see the dogs and he showed us the way. The dogs were inside trailers positioned next to the barn. Inside each trailer were 4 rows of dog cages stacked on top of each other. There was a little plastic bowl for water in each of the cages. However, we noticed that most of them were empty.

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The two trailers were heated with small, portable gas heaters. It was a very cold day (average temperature 6° Fahrenheit) and the dogs, especially on the lower two levels, were shivering. No solid resting boards or dry bedding were provided.

TITLE 9 CFR, CHAPTER I, PART 3

Subpart A. Specifications for the Humane Handling, Care, Treatment, and Transportation of Dogs and Cats

Sec. 3.5 Mobile or traveling housing facilities.

(a) Heating, cooling, and temperature. Mobile or traveling housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently heated and cooled when necessary to protect the dogs and cats from temperature or humidity extremes and to provide for their health and well-being. The ambient temperature in the mobile or traveling housing facility must not fall below 50 [deg]F (10 [deg]C) for dogs and cats not acclimated to lower temperatures, for those breeds that cannot tolerate lower temperatures without stress or discomfort (such as short-haired breeds), and for sick, aged, young, or infirm dogs and cats. Dry bedding, solid resting boards, or other methods of conserving body heat must be provided when temperatures are below 50 [deg]F (10 [deg]C). The ambient temperature must not fall below 45 [deg]F (7.2 [deg]C) for more than 4 consecutive hours when dogs or cats are present...



Trailer in which dogs were kept overnight and during the sale



Inside of trailer

The smell of feces and urine was overwhelming. There were two exhaust vents with fans in the back of each trailer. Only one of the fans was turned on.

9 CFR, Chapter 1, Part 3, Subpart A, Sec. 3.5 Mobile or traveling housing facilities.

b) Ventilation. Mobile or traveling housing facilities for dogs and cats must be sufficiently ventilated at all times when dogs or cats are present to provide for the health and well-being of the animals, and to minimize odors, drafts, ammonia levels, moisture condensation, and exhaust fumes

All dogs looked scared. Some dogs looked like they had “given up” and appeared very lethargic. Others were very agitated and were constantly moving from one side of the cage to the other. Some dogs were struggling with the wired cage floor they were forced to be on.



When the sale started, everybody had to leave the trailers. The auction ring was very crowded. Two workers carried two dogs in and placed them on a table. The dogs were checked, paperwork was filled out and then the dogs were sold. The sold dogs were returned to the trailer and the next pair was brought out.



After the sale was over, all dogs were loaded back onto trailers, Amish buggies and into the back of vans and pick-up trucks.

Conclusion:

The investigation revealed that the conditions for dogs at this sale are not satisfactory. The animals were exposed to cold temperatures for an extended period of time. The ventilation was not sufficient.