



Following a tip by police, Joe Fick rescued his stolen dog, Max, from a Class B dealer's compound. (ABC 20/20)



Rex was taken off his chain. Fresh tire tracks in the snow were the only clues left by his abductor who sold him to a Class B dealer, and then the dealer sold him to a laboratory.

## STOLEN AND FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED PETS

- A Class B dealer in California obtained cats and dogs through "Free To Good Home" ads and sold them to laboratories. In one case, the dealer even accepted a \$35 placement fee to find a good home for a dog she subsequently sold to a laboratory. She and her business partners were charged with 73 counts of misdemeanor theft and conspiracy to obtain property under false pretenses. While out on bail, she set up a similar operation in another town, using an assumed name and another individual's Class B license. She was found guilty on theft and conspiracy charges and was sentenced to jail time.

- Another Class B dealer in California purchased dogs from four individuals who obtained cats and dogs through "Free To Good Home" ads. The individuals were eventually arrested and charged with misdemeanor theft. All four pleaded guilty to the charges and were sentenced to jail time.

- A Class B dealer in Oregon purchased cats and dogs from a woman who acquired animals through "Free To Good Home" ads. The woman answered Kimberly Williams' ad for her dogs Tramper and Frederica even though the ad specifically stated, "Not to be used for research." The woman promised to give the dogs a good home, but instead sold them to the dealer, who sold them to a laboratory in Nevada where they were killed in an experiment.

- Another Class B dealer in Oregon purchased stolen dogs from at least three separate individuals, all of whom admitted stealing the dogs from their owners' yards. Jo Lynn Smith's dog Kena was stolen and sold to the dealer for \$25. The dealer pleaded guilty to second-degree theft and was fined \$200. Both Raymond Michaelis's dog Bell and Linda Griffith's dog Fritz were stolen and sold to the same dealer. This dealer also purchased animals from individuals who obtained cats and dogs through "Free To Good Home" ads. One of these individuals answered Linda Satra's ad for her dog Lucky and later sold the dog to the dealer.

- A Class B dealer in Minnesota purchased thirteen stolen dogs from a buncher and sold them to a laboratory in New York. The buncher was arrested and pleaded guilty to charges of theft.

- Another Class B dealer in Minnesota purchased 20 dogs at a dog auction from a man who signed an affidavit stating that he acquired the dogs he sold to the dealer "from ads in local papers on free to good home." He stated others "were dogs that were just dropped off at my farm."

- Another Class B dealer in Minnesota placed ads for dogs and cats in local

newspapers, offering to find new homes for them.

- A Class B dealer in Missouri acquired cats and dogs through “Free To Good Home” ads in newspapers and sold them to other Class B dealers. The Missouri State Attorney General reported that 11 people made complaints about this dealer “adopting” their animals and then selling them for experimentation. One of the pet owners was Robin Kramer, whose dog Merlin died in an experiment before she could reclaim him.

- A Class B dealer in Mississippi purchased two dogs at a dog auction from a man who had adopted the dogs through a “Free To Good Home” ad.

- Another Class B dealer in Arkansas purchased dogs from a deputy sheriff who “adopted” animals through giveaway ads, promising the owners he would find good homes for their animals.

- A Class B dealer in Washington “adopted” Rick and Claudia Milbradt’s six-month old Labrador/Rottweiler mix, Roxie. He told them he wanted to train Roxie as a hunting dog. He said that if that didn’t work out, he would keep her as a pet for his children. Instead, he sold her to a university laboratory for \$200 where she was killed following an experiment.

- Another Class B dealer in Washington acquired Don Johnson’s puppy, Sosha, under false pretenses and sold her to a laboratory where she was killed during a lung experiment.

- A Class B dealer in Pennsylvania was found guilty of receiving stolen property—a dog he had purchased from a buncher.

- Over a five-year period, a Class B dealer in Arizona obtained a total of 144 Greyhounds under false pretenses and sold them to laboratories.

- A Michigan Class B dealer purchased two fraudulently obtained dogs from an animal control officer. The animal control officer forged the dogs’ disposition papers and told the owner of the dogs that they had been shot dead after chasing livestock. The original document, showing the transfer of the two dogs to the Class B dealer, was later found in the garbage.

- A Class B dealer in Indiana purchased Karyl Parks’ Norwegian Elkhound, Danny, from a buncher who stole the dog from Parks’ truck. Park recovered Danny from the laboratory the dealer sold him to.

July 28, 1986 - PAGE I

Honorable Steve Gunderson

In regards to H.R. 3398 scheduled for a hearing for August 1, We would sincerely appreciate your taking time to read our concerns on why this very important legislation should go into effect. Please support H.R. 3398

When my husband was serving as Mayor I became personally involved with pet theft by B-dealers selling pets to research facilities. These pets were proven stolen. I helped in the recovery of 16 stolen pets from Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota.

This is not an issue of using animals in research as I am a survivor of Lymphoma Cancer and my husband has had quadruple leg pass surgery and laser removal of his lips. We have lost 2 daughters both at 35 years of age and also our 3 year old granddaughter so we very much understand research but most of all we respect all life maybe more than ~~some~~ people who feel material things are so important

This is an issue of what we call legalized pet theft because it cannot be properly controlled by our government and it must be eliminated.

While I was helping my friends look for their children

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pet dog) that was stolen, I discovered several people in our county and other counties were missing their stolen pets from kennels, off chains, out of home etc.

Upon recovery of a stolen pet (taken from kennel) from Ways Clinic research facility I started calling other stolen pet owners to meet at Ways Clinic the next day to look for their pets. We recovered 4 stolen dogs immediately and I immediately called our sheriff and then I called the news media to alert missing pet owners to come to Ways to look for their pets before they were used for research and also the University of Minnesota were some of the stolen dogs also went to.

I was contacted by John Appman of the U.S.D.A and we worked together gathering evidence of many violation of the animal welfare act by (B) dealers, poundmasters and Research facilities. All had violations. I also went to Iowa on ~~air~~ air mailed to me, at an animal auction where I saw many Minnesota Butchers & dealers and was met there by U.S.D.A Richard Gunderson and Dr. Olson after I called U.S.D.A to report the dog auction.

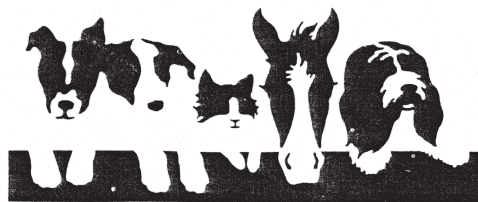
I cannot give up trying to change the laws to protect our family pets. I have testified before Minnesota Senate and House hearings to help change law on B dealers and have been successful. I can only pray for changes on the federal laws to keep our pets safe. I have tried to work with Dr. Zollner

at Mays Clinic and met with board members. Dr. Zolman gave me some good ideas for law charges. I also have stayed in touch with Dr. Manning <sup>(now deceased)</sup> and Dr. Cynthia Gillette with animal research at the University of Minnesota after recovery of stolen pets and even more so now, as they are taking dogs and cats from the pounds and many dogs & cats have collars and flea collars and some they are using were dragging chains when found. Because of so many pounds, and the limited hours open many people cannot get there after work, many pets are going to research without the consent of their owners these are not stray. I have had dog owners called Dr. Gillette with problems trying to find their pets and I have also found many violations at the pounds.

I have filed a letter of intent to file charges with the Attorney General's office because of the many violations of the animal welfare act.

I thank you sincerely for hearing me. I have a lot of information but I cannot possibly get it all in this letter. Since the pet theft I have spent many hours trying to help lost & stolen pet owners reunite with their pet & family member to many. Again thank you.

Sincerely,  
 Homer Mayron Kough & Carol Kough  
 2931 Asbury St.  
 Roseville, Minn. (612)-639-8268  
 55113 home phone



HUMANE SOCIETY OF MISSOURI

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.S. 3398  
"PET SAFETY & PROTECTION ACT"**

Presented to:  
Sub-Committee on Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry

Prepared by:  
Curtis Ransom  
Chief Investigator  
Statewide Division  
Humane Society of Missouri

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard on this very important legislation you are considering today. I apologize for not being able to attend the hearing.

I have been involved in animal welfare for 22 years and observed many animal dealers and their facilities. I have taken videotape and photographs. By far, the most troublesome animal conditions, neglect, abuse, and violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act are perpetrated by Class B dealers. I have witnessed dead, injured, emaciated, lethargic, flea-infested, mange-ridden, hair-matted, parasitic, hairless, and healthy animals at their facilities. Some of these types of facilities were/are licensed by the federal government.

I submitted a videotape taken by a local St. Louis TV station of a Class B dealer buying dogs at a flea market. This dealer has had hundreds of Animal Welfare Act violations and is still licensed. He buys dogs from almost anyone who will give him a name and town. I have witnessed another Class B dealer buy animals without asking any questions of the seller. Both of these dealers (yes, I know their names and location) bought dogs for no more than \$30.00. There was no health check on any of the animals. I have overheard dealers talk of selling random source dogs as purpose-bred dogs to research, meaning there are more random source dogs in the system than documented.

Pets are stolen every day. How many is not as important as eliminating the major market. Bunchers (those that gather dogs for dealers) get their "product" for free and can sell them to dealers or the dealers can steal animals themselves and sell them as purpose-bred research animals for hundreds of dollars. Not a bad profit margin.

I question the validity of research done on animals from these totally unknown sources (names and towns can be falsified; there is no follow up). At least animals raised and sold by a known background have similar health and genetic backgrounds.

I strongly urge you to help taxpayers "get what they pay for" in quality research and animal care and sanitation in the facilities that provide research "tools". I believe you will do the right thing.





**Class B dealer Barbara Ruggiero, Rick Spero and Ralf Jacobsen fraudulently obtained pet cats and dogs and sold them to laboratories. They were found guilty of theft and conspiracy to obtain property under false pretenses.**



***RECORDKEEPING  
AND  
ENFORCEMENT  
PROBLEMS***

## FRAUDULENT AND INACCURATE RECORDKEEPING BY RANDOM SOURCE DEALERS

- Two Class B dealers in Iowa falsified their acquisition records, claiming to have acquired dogs from pounds in Missouri and from various individuals, when in fact they did not. In addition, the dealers sold 44 random source dogs accompanied by forged documents purporting to be certifications from a municipal pound. They also failed to record the address, driver's license number and vehicle tag number of the persons from whom they acquired at least 1,600 dogs and cats.

- In January 1996, USDA charged an Indiana Class B dealer with falsely claiming to have acquired a total of 357 dogs on 45 separate occasions from a pound that USDA investigators concluded was nonexistent. USDA also alleged that on at least six occasions, the dealer claimed to have acquired more dogs from a pound than were actually acquired. USDA inspectors have repeatedly documented incomplete and inaccurate records at this dealer's facility:

- “Inspector spent 7 hours cross-referencing ... disposition sheets with computer print-out of acquisition and completed only approximately 25% of the records. In at least nine instances of those records inspected, there is record of disposition but no record of acquisition.”

- “On the following animals there was no record of disposition available: [12 tag numbers listed]; On the following animals there was no record of acquisition: [7 tag numbers listed].”

- At another Class B dealer's facility in Indiana, USDA inspectors reported:

- “There is no information on acquisition for [12] animals. There is no information on the disposition of [5] animals. [Seven] animals were listed as ‘Lost Tag’ in the records, and there is no record of acquisition.”

- “In the case of [12] dogs and cats the same tag number was used to identify two animals ... [15] dogs and cats were listed on the records as ‘Lost’ or ‘Lost Tags’ but were actually sold or offered for sale. Therefore, there is no record of acquisition.”

- “Of the approximately 1490 dogs and cats listed in the records as having been obtained since 5-8-93, approximately 1162 have both an incomplete address and no driver's license/vehicle tag number on the individual from whom these dogs/cats were acquired .... For the following tag numbers there is no record of disposition: #7637-7662, #7625-7627, #7596-7608, #7579-7594 and #7202, for a total; of 59 animals.”

- “There are no pound certificates available on the 89 pound derived dogs acquired since last inspection. (Note: [dealer] has acquired blank pound certificates).”

- A Class B dealer in Mississippi falsely claimed to have sold approximately 80 dogs to a university laboratory when in fact he had not. A university employee signed an affidavit stating that the dealer had asked him to “help him out with a problem he

had” regarding 80 dogs his records indicated he had purchased. The dealer said he had no record of what happened to the dogs. The employee agreed to change the university’s records to indicate it had purchased the dogs from the dealer. USDA also charged the dealer with making false entries as to the identities of individuals from whom he obtained dogs and with failing to maintain complete and accurate records of acquisition and disposition of at least 442 dogs.

- In 1995, USDA charged a Class B dealer in Pennsylvania with making false entries as to the sources of 35 dogs.

- A USDA inspector found the records maintained by a Class B dealer in Ohio “grossly inadequate and far below minimum standards set by the law. Well over 75% of the names and addresses for sources of dogs and cats were incomplete, lacking a street address, a town, a zip code, and many even lacking a state .... It was also impossible to correlate number of dogs and cats on hand at present with number of animals at the facility on any given day on their record system.”

During a routine inspection of the dealer’s facility, another USDA inspector reported, “[T]wo collars with brass nameplates were observed on two cages. Cage #42 had a male Walker hound #17617. Another cage had the collar on top (dog #17601). Both collars were inscribed “name deleted by USDA” with his phone number. Records show dogs #17617 and #17601 as being acquired from someone other than [name deleted by USDA].” The inspector noted that the man later reclaimed the two dogs. He told the inspector he had given the dogs to a man who said he wanted them for hunting.

- USDA inspectors repeatedly documented incomplete records at a Class B dealer’s facility in Washington:

- “Vehicle and driver’s license numbers and state of issue not recorded for all incoming dogs from non-USDA licensed or registered sources -- I.e. 18 dogs and two unidentified puppies received as strays last night.”

- “Complete records not provided for 29 suppliers who have supplied dogs to licensee since last inspection.”

- “Complete records not readily available for review for 18 suppliers.”

- “Complete records not available for review for 24 suppliers of dogs since last inspection.”

- An inspection of records maintained by a Class B dealer in North Carolina revealed: “None of the approximately 340 individuals listed (supplying over 1200 cats total) have a vehicle license number or a driver’s license number included on the facility’s records. Approximately 90% of the individuals do not have a complete address listed on the facility’s records.” A traceback of the dealer’s listed suppliers revealed that he had falsified the identities of people from whom he acquired cats.