

# Inmate Program Quarterly

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*Feature: Rescuing Puppy Mill Dogs – Walking an Emotional Tightrope*

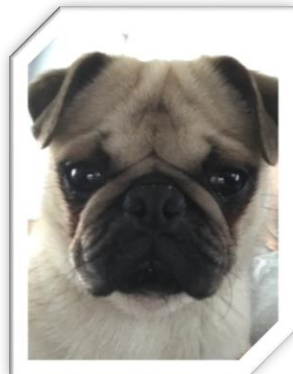
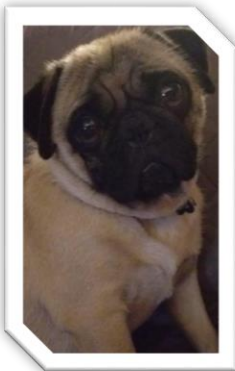
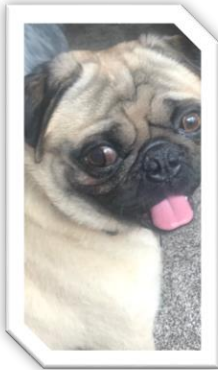
– By Amy Beam, CEO/President, 911 Dog Rescue



Sometimes you must wait, for what seems to be an eternity, before you see that speck of light unexpectedly appear through a crack in the door. That day finally arrived mid April. I received an out of the blue Facebook message from a gal whose co-worker (for purposes of anonymity I'll refer to her as "Jane") lives next door to a small-scale Amish puppy mill in Geauga County, Ohio. The Amish family that ran the puppy mill was desperate. They had 6 pugs that were "aging out" – becoming unsellable as the dog food bills piled up.

These impoverished pugs had been sequestered in a shed for their entire lives with only minimal exposure to humans – the Amish family's children – who would interact with them on an occasional basis. Jane, who was concerned for the pugs' quality of life and safety, told the family she would do her best to help them out. Jane and I spoke. We were on the exact same page – rescue these dogs from a life of living hell. Jane eventually convinced the Amish family to speak with me.

Facing a moral dilemma is never easy. How do you strike the right balance between rescuing dogs while not enabling those who perpetuate the pervasive puppy mill industry? How do you interact with puppy mill breeders, whose practices you despise, yet you know that you can only make inroads if you come from a place of kindness, compassionate and understanding vs. judging? How do you meet them in the middle and where exactly is the middle when your viewpoints land on opposite ends of the spectrum? How do you hide your anger plus the knot in your stomach, knowing full well that these dogs have been abused, so as to not jeopardize the end game? I knew that I'd be walking an emotional tightrope. But the dogs – I absolutely could not abandon those poor souls. *Continued next page...*



*Continued from Page 1*

The Amish family (the wife) agreed to turn over the pugs to me with the promise that I would place them in caring and loving homes. The wife also knew, and appreciated, that if any of the adopters could no longer care for the pugs, they would be returned to our rescue to be re-homed to the right, fully vetted family. Initially she expected some level of monetary compensation. I flatly refused. Under no circumstance would I enable dog abuse. The wife reluctantly agreed to my terms. Thank you, Universe, for helping us strike a deal.

At long last the day arrived where I would pick up and transport the adorable pugs to their new forever homes. The pugs' dispositions were a mixed bag. It came as no surprise that several of the dogs were bewildered by something so pure and simple as human touch. It was readily apparent that they had never been given the opportunity to develop a human bond. They had no comprehension of what it means to place your trust in people who unconditionally love and care for you. The 4 year old, who was not housebroken, was especially troubled. He was incredibly bashful and standoffish. It literally broke my heart. Several of the other pugs were very friendly and outgoing. Perhaps the Amish family's children had spent more time with those pups. Regardless, they were now free from a life of cage containment, endless breeding and ongoing emotional, physical and psychological neglect.

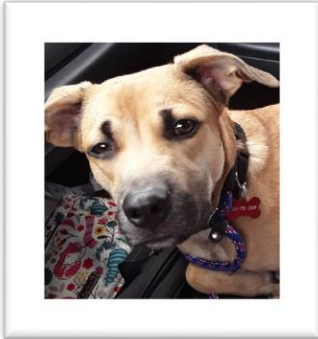
I knew that, at a minimum, our rescue would be spending \$150 per dog just to cover the basics – spaying/neutering plus vaccinations. My experience tells me, however, to always expect the unexpected. Horrifyingly, one of the pugs was diagnosed with an ectopic pregnancy. We didn't even realize she was pregnant when we picked her up from the puppy mill. Fortunately the amazing forever family who adopted her, responded both quickly and responsibly, saving the poor pug's life – which is always our #1 priority – saving lives. Now we were facing an unanticipated and staggering \$2,000 vet bill. Fortunately the Universe was shining brightly upon us once again. One of our rescue volunteers and dog adopters fortuitously donated a portion of their COVID-19 Stimulus Check which certainly helped defray the lion's share of the expense. We covered the remainder of the invoice by making a withdrawal from the rescue's critical fundraising proceeds. This is just one more real life example of how 911 Dog Rescue lives and dies by the generous and selfless donations, contributions and support of our business sponsors, adopters, family, friends and community members.

So how are the pugs doing? Amazingly well! We were very fortunate in that our rescue family and friends jumped in, without hesitation, and quickly adopted the 6 former puppy mill pugs. Two were named Penny – two were named Frankie – and the remaining two were named Lucky and Stewie. All 6 are thriving in their new forever homes – receiving the love, respect, care and attention they so desperately deserve – never to be neglected or abused again.

While we will always remain laser-focused on our Inmate Program, we will continue to seek out opportunities to save dogs from puppy mills. Perhaps there are mills out there that would breed dogs less if they knew that a rescue, like ours, would help place the dogs after a couple of litters. Or maybe we can step in and find forever homes for mill pups that can't be sold – for whatever reason – like we did recently with a Labradoodle that was about to be euthanized due to an overbite. Imagine – killing a dog because of an overbite. Unconscionable. The bottom line – reputable shelters and rescues must invest more time in finding creative ways to build bridges with the Amish community so we may save as many dogs as possible. If you learn of a puppy mill situation, and can provide an inroad where 911 Dog Rescue can engage, PLEASE contact me directly at [amysadoptables@yahoo.com](mailto:amysadoptables@yahoo.com). The dogs and I will be forever grateful!

*Pugs from top to bottom: Penny Martucci, Penny Hum, Frankie Harris, Frankie Sandberg. Lucky and Stewie not shown.*

## Prison Pups — In Training!



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were 7+ dogs in training, at any given time, at the Lake Erie Correctional Institute. Currently, however, all of our Prison Pups have been placed with their phenomenal forever families except Louie – by intention. Louie is keeping our exceptional Inmate Trainers company during this incredibly rough period. Once normal prison operations resume, Louie will be placed up for adoption plus we will restart our successful Inmate Program dog rescue intake process.

More about our sweet Shepherd mix Louie...

He's about 1 1/2 years old with beautiful sable-color facial markings. And look at those soulful brown eyes! Louie would be great with older, respectful children plus he loves to play and take walks. As always, a fenced-in area would be preferred.

## "Horrible Hundred" List: Ohio Has 2nd Most Puppy Mills in U.S.

The Humane Society of the United States released its ["2020 Horrible Hundred" list](#), which claims Ohio is the state with the second most puppy mills in the country.



The Horrible Hundred lists problem puppy breeders and sellers of sick, underweight or injured dogs from unsanitary and inhumane shelters. According to the list, Ohio ranks second in the U.S. with nine puppy mills. Only Missouri has a larger number of puppy mills with a total of 30.

The nine puppy mills in Ohio include:

**Green Meadow Farm, Apple Creek:** Dogs were found matted and injured in enclosures with excessive flies.

**Lone Pine Kennel, Baltic:** Dogs repeatedly found with coughs, severe infections.

**Spring Side kennel, Baltic:** Illegal dental procedures performed on dogs by dealer instead of a veterinarian.

**Adrian Mast, Dundee:** Violations include dogs with mange, underweight, and without adequate veterinary care.

**Country Acres Bulldogs, Dundee:** Several dogs had eye disorders that were not treated in time; other dogs seen standing in dirty water in enclosures.

**Cheryl Kinder, East Palestine:** Puppies found in crowded cages, some without water; Two inspections failed due to dogs in need of veterinary care

**Hill Top Puppies, LLC, Patriot:** Inspectors found dogs living in barrels as shelter; two puppies died without a veterinarian being notified

**Ivan Miller, Sugarcreek:** Dogs found with scabs and skin issues and with unsafe wire flooring in dark conditions

**Artisan Creek, also known as Sunrise Kennel, Sugarcreek:** Breeder has dog's teeth pulled out by someone who wasn't a licensed veterinarian; numerous inspections failed for neglecting care

Please follow us on Facebook  
– at Amy's Adoptables –  
where we are continuing to  
help dogs who desperately  
need the love and care that  
only **YOU** can provide during  
these COVID-19 times!



**911 DOG RESCUE INC.**

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*Proudly serving our program sponsors and donors, inmate trainers, rescue dogs, adopters, volunteers and communities – each and every day!*

**CONNECT WITH US!**

**WEB:** [www.AmysAdoptables.com](http://www.AmysAdoptables.com)

**FACEBOOK:** Amy's Adoptables

**ABOUT US...911 DOG RESCUE INC. / LEC PARTNERSHIP**

In a strong partnership with the Lake Erie Correctional Institute (LEC), we run our highly adoptable pups through the training paces, which benefits our adopters, the inmates plus our community. At any given time we have 7 or more dogs in the LEC foster program, though with additional Corporate Sponsorships, we'll be able to increase the number of dogs. The 14 men chosen for the foster program are always carefully selected from the population of 1,800 men incarcerated at the facility. They have all been formally trained on how to responsibly handle the dogs using nothing but positive reinforcement.

The maximum amount of time we would like to have a dog in the program at LEC is about 10 weeks so that we may responsibly place the dogs into their forever homes without them becoming too attached to the inmates or vice versa. The biggest benefit of this program is that, when the dogs head to their forever homes, they have basic training under their belts!



911 DOG RESCUE INC [WWW.AMYSADOPTABLES.COM]

Lake Erie Correctional Institute **INMATE PROGRAM**

*Partners in dog rescue & inmate rehabilitation*

**ABOUT DONATIONS, SPONSORSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING**

All money received from adoptions, sponsorships and donations goes directly back into the Inmate Program to pay for dog food, vetting, shots, spays/neuters, dog toys, treats, and anything else the pups may need. We are grateful to all those who support this effort – especially our Inmate Program Sponsors!

The dogs saved by Amy's Adoptable's would not be here today if it were not for compassionate volunteers who spend countless hours managing our Inmate Program by:

- Searching in pounds for good family dogs to save from desperate situations.
- Transporting in-state (Ohio) and out-of state dogs to LEC.
- Arranging vet appointments and transport for dogs in our care.
- Showcasing our dogs online.
- Meeting with potential adopters to evaluate adopter/dog fit.
- Soliciting much-needed corporate sponsorships and donations.
- Seeking out volunteers as we continue to expand our footprint.

**ABOUT ADOPTIONS**

All dogs that come to Amy's Adoptable's are temperament tested, spayed or neutered when age appropriate plus updated on all shots. We go to great lengths to make sure all the dogs are healthy before offering them for adoption. All dogs come with a health certificate, where applicable, from the vet and any vetting paperwork that is available for them.

Most of our dogs come from Buster's Brigade, Cleveland City Dogs and the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter (Valley View). On a case-by-case basis, we have also expanded our reach to include high kill facilities in multiple states including Kentucky, Oklahoma and beyond. Additionally, due to our positive reputation, we have also been called upon to step in and help dogs who have been removed from hoarding situations.