

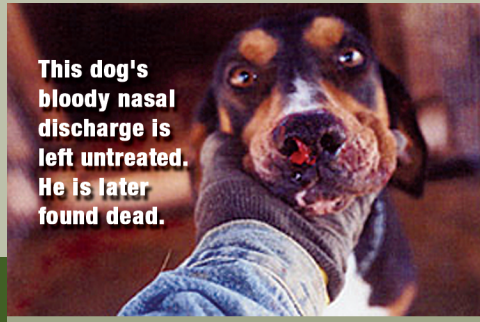


KINSHIP CIRCLE

FOR ANIMALS...

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PET THEFT THUGS



This dog's bloody nasal discharge is left untreated. He is later found dead.



Former Class B dealer C.C. Baird
icanimal.org/invest/baird.htm



C.C. BAIRD



This dog was attacked by other dogs
Untreated wounds are infected.



This cat suffers from encrusted eye discharge and is extremely lethargic.

by Brenda Shoss

His muddy ID tag recalled another place: A home defined in sloppy kisses, waggy-tail reunions, and a worn spot at the end of the couch. But a bullet to the head erased that life.

The dog lay among the carcasses uncovered in an August 2003 raid of Class B dealer C.C. Baird's Martin Creek Kennels in Williford, Ark. Federal inspectors found 750 survivors amid cement dog pens caked in feces, urine and rotting food. Many had puncture wounds and lacerations. At the end of a six-day criminal inquest involving the U.S. Department of Agriculture and five other government agencies, authorities confiscated 125 ailing dogs and a lone cat.

C.C. Baird was a Church of Christ Minister and the country's most prolific trafficker in random-source animals. The Arkansas operator, with commerce across southern Missouri, paid "bunchers" \$5 to \$30 for animals obtained from unknown sources. Baird annually resold about 3,000 dogs to academic research departments in Missouri, Illinois, California, Florida, and nearly 46 other animal-testing labs nationwide. Dogs went for \$150-\$700 a head. Cats netted \$50-\$200 a piece.

Tens of thousands of animals were lost along Baird's 16-year trail of counterfeit health certificates and vague records. In a 108-page complaint filed seven months after the raid, the USDA charged Baird, wife Patsy, and daughters Jeanette and Patricia with over 1,000 violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

The Bairds settled with the USDA for an unprecedented \$262,700 fine and permanent loss of the family's four breeder/dealer licenses in the January 2005 civil case.

In July 2006, the U.S. Attorney's criminal indictment landed Baird 3 years probation and 6 months home detention. Baird pled guilty to felony charges of conspiracy to launder money involving the sale

ALL PHOTOS: Last Chance for Animals (LCA) undercover investigations at C.C. Baird's facility, Martin Creek Kennels. icanimal.org/invest/baird_sick.htm
icanimal.org/invest/baird_cruelty.htm



Emaciated dog neglected by kennel workers.



Lack of veterinary care leads to this dog's death.

of dogs and cats to research labs. Wife Patsy was sentenced to 2 years probation and the Bairds incurred \$10,000 in criminal fines.

Seizure of the Baird farms marks the fall of a pet-theft dynasty. Still, roughly 1,100 Baird-type dealers are USDA-licensed to amass dogs and cats from "random sources," a term legalized in 1966. Over the last 30 years, tax-subsidized interstate traffic in stolen animals has flourished.

The Animal, Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) arm of the USDA regulates animal dealers. This financially strapped agency employs a relative handful of inspectors to monitor thousands of Class

A licensees (breeders), Class B licensees (brokers), Class C licensees (exhibitors), handlers, and biomedical researchers.

Brokers like Baird easily sell animals of suspect origin to researchers, dogfighters, breeders, and the meat and fur trades. Class A dealers, who mass-produce animals at "puppy mills," also function with minimal oversight. Anyone with \$10 can pick up a USDA animal dealer license.

The Pet Protection Act of 1990 orders Class B dealers to maintain verifiable records on the acquisition or disposition of their animals. Yet more than half of USDA records are incomplete or fraudulent. A dealer

is only in violation of the Animal Welfare Act after multiple citations for noncompliant items (NCIs). In most cases, the dealer gets a slap-on-the-wrist fine and proceeds with business.

An estimated 1.5 to 2 million companion animals are stolen yearly, according to Last Chance for Animals (LCA), a national group responsible for sending three B dealers to prison. LCA has uncovered live dogs caged alongside battered, choked or shot corpses. They've videotaped dogs with tumors, mange, parasites, parvovirus, distemper, and rectal bleeding. At one dealer's site, decomposing dogs were tossed into an open dirt grave.

How do animals wind up in this sell-for-research abyss? The chain often begins with bunchers, unlicensed thugs known to abduct dogs at gunpoint. Bunchers scout out unattended animals in cars, yards, or streets. Bunchers also answer "Free to a Good Home" ads posing as responsible adopters.

Some bunchers sell animals directly to research centers, but most peruse buncher-dealer swaps. In Missouri, a big pet-theft state, dealers can shop animal auctions and flea markets on a weekly or monthly basis, claims People for Animal Rights (PAR), a Kansas City based organization that tracks the rural animal market.

Once purchased, dogs go to holding areas to await sale to the final user. Dealers tether dogs to stakes or stuff them in small wire crates. Old appliances become makeshift cages, PAR reports, in these "animal concentration camps." To cut costs, dogs feed on intermittent scraps and rancid water. Many do not survive.

Class B dealers derive most of their income from contracts with research labs. Experimenters favor people-friendly subjects and may request beagles or other submissive breeds.

The research industry is not required to patrol animal dealers. USDA/APHIS is. But the agency is stymied by budget cuts and red tape. The bulk of cats and dogs in labs come from seldom investigated breeders, pounds, bunchers and dealers.

Behind the locked doors of a biocontainment lab, a once cherished pet undergoes invasive surgeries,

toxic dosing, food/water deprivation, and other testing protocol. Vivisectors cannot visibly differentiate between legally acquired animals and those procured through theft or fraud. Dealers usually transport animals to research centers hundreds of miles from where they were taken. For Fido and Fluffy, animal-testing labs are the end of the line.

Until laws to dissuade pet theft are enforced, C.C. Baird and his ilk will continue to inflict pain upon animals and people who love them.



Dogs are dumped into a tank of water containing three 1-quart bottles of Permethrin, a chemical to kill/prevent fleas and ticks. The insecticide covers every inch of dogs' bodies, including eyes and open wounds. Smaller dogs are hoisted by their necks... This procedure is done in temperatures so cold, dogs may go into shock before dragged by their necks back to their pens.



An injection of a swine antibiotic is the only attempt by kennel workers to treat the infected bite wounds on this dog's head. The dog eventually dies. Photo: LCA

Ask your elected officials in Congress to advocate legislation that bans Class B animal dealers from selling dogs and cats to research labs. Ask them to protect animals by prohibiting random source Class B dealers and pound seizure.

To identify your federal legislators and find contact information, try:

- <http://www.Congress.org>
- <http://www.house.gov>
- <http://www.senate.gov>

KEEP YOUR COMPANION ANIMAL SAFE!

SOURCE: Last Chance For Animals (LCA) • www.StolenPets.com

- Keep your companion animal indoors, especially when not at home. Do not leave animals unattended in your yard; it only takes a minute for thieves to steal your companion animal.
- Do not let a companion animal roam free in the neighborhood.
- Remember that indoor cats live longer, safer lives.
- Keep companion animals safely inside your home when you are expecting repair personnel, meter readers, or guests.
- Properly identify companion animals with a collar and tag as well as a microchip and/or tattoo.
- Know where your companion animal is at all times.
- Maintain up-to-date licenses on your companion animal.
- Keep recent photos and written descriptions of your companion animal on hand at all times.
- Spay/neuter your companion animal. Fixed animals are less likely to stray.
- Be aware of strangers in the neighborhood. Report suspicious neighborhood activities or missing pets to the police and animal control.
- Padlock your gate; dogs left outdoors should be safely behind a locked gate.
- Make sure that your animal is not visible from the street.
- Keep your companion animal leashed whenever you go outside.
- Never tie your companion animal outside a store to wait for you.
- NEVER LEAVE AN ANIMAL UNATTENDED IN A CAR.