

Chairman Hackett, Vice Chair Hoagland, Ranking Member O'Brien and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Zaron Van Meter and I support Scottish Terrier Rescue and have a Dog Forum on Facebook. I have been active in the with rescue for 18 years.

I have great concern for the regression in the language in HB 506 that would affect the daily living conditions and environment for the dogs confined to puppy mills.

Dogs unlike other animals have seven emotions as humans—fear, anxiety, jealousy, guilt, grief and aggression.

Thus, dogs (not ducks, or sheep etc) are in bed with our kids and with us humans. Because they have these seven emotions, they live and connect with humans, and they live in our homes like humans. Many dogs think they are head of the household. Many dogs are treated like children and their owners are more emotionally stressed from the passing of their beloved dog than when a family member passes. **Dogs are not livestock** and should not be treated as such. They are very social; they need daily human interaction and exercise, preferably a walk with their owner/s. They are trained for the disabled, are therapy for humans, are beloved pets and become officers for law enforcement as well to name a few.. Because dogs are tuned in to the human world, dogs are very social, need daily exercise, daily visual stimulations and should never be caged 24/7 in cramp cages.

To show our appreciation, we humans allow commercial dog breeders to hold them hostage in inhumane puppy mills 24/7 until they no longer can produce puppies and then are discarded like trash. No dog should live its life in a puppy mill. They deserve to be treated with gratitude and love, not neglect and abusive.

It is my understanding Ohio Veterinarian Medical Association, (OVMA) is one the writers of HB506.

I can't express enough how disappointed I am with OVMA. HB 506 was an opportunity to address bacteria issues that plague our state. Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has been addressing this issue for the last five years with SB130 passed in 2012.

The bacteria Ohio Department of Agriculture has been addressing is Canis Brucellosis. This zoonotic bacteria disease-meaning transferable to humans. At the passing of SB130 in 2012, Ohio Department of Agriculture was assigned to conduct inspections and oversight of the high volume commercial dog breeders. There were 23 high volume dog breeding kennels infected with this bacteria disease. Dogs were tested and euthanized due to the lack of a cure for these dogs. There is no cure for dogs or humans that have contracted this disease.

Near this time a 3-year-old little girl in New York contracted this bacteria disease from a recently purchased eight week old Yorkshire Terrier puppy brought into her family. This bacterial disease is contracted through saliva, inhalation of infectious aerosols to name a few. In searching for the name of the breeder, the investigation led them to a puppy mill breeder in Iowa. (This case is included in your handout) The Yorkshire Terrier puppy and all dogs in the Iowa kennel were euthanized.

Symptoms in humans are fever of variable duration, headache, weakness, profuse sweating, chills, weight loss and generalized aching. Can cause women to abort their child. Symptoms in dogs are lethargic, female dogs abort their puppies or puppies are still born. Male dogs become infertile and swollen testicles are a few of symptoms.

At present, testing is on a voluntary basis unless you are licensed with the Ohio Department of Agriculture as a high volume dog breeder, the rest of the many, many dog breeders in Ohio go untested. Thanks to Dr. Tony Forshey, State Veterinarian with ODA, Canis Brucellosis is now a reportable disease in Ohio.

Kurt Ludlow with Columbus WTTE)WSYX aired his research on Canis Brucellosis of the two year old dog bought as a 10 week old puppy by a family in Medina, Ohio. It came from a rescue group that transported the puppy from Ky to NY where they purchased what they thought was a healthy puppy. At age two, their puppy now a full grown dog family dog was euthanized do to the negative effects of this bacterial disease.. Kurt Ludlow interviewed State Veterinarian, Dr. Tony Forshey, State Veterinarian with Ohio Department of Agriculture, in the interview he stated:

**“Brucellosis is very dangerous and not just for dogs.”** He also stated **“If you’re buying a puppy, find out if the parents have been tested.”** (see information in packet) This is great advice and sure many dog owners and dog owners looking for that special puppy for their kids would if they knew about Canis Brucellosis. (As of last year, Ohio Department of Agriculture does not test puppies under 6 months) Perhaps this has changed.

But- there’s more bacteria issues in Ohio. On October 4, 2017 the Washington Post reported “Puppies linked to bacterial outbreak in Ohio, elsewhere.

Federal health officials investigated and traced this bacteria campylobacter outbreak to an Ohio Petland. 39 people in Ohio, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Florida were victims of this outbreak. 9 were hospitalized. (Article included) This common bacterial infection that can cause diarrhea, abdominal pain and fever is easily treated with common oral antibiotics. However, antibiotic resistance occurred.

**More than 200 cities and counties have enacted laws banning pet shops from selling so-called puppy mill puppies.** When is Ohio going to take further measures to protect Ohio citizens and our children. Ohio is second in the U.S. for puppy mills next to Missouri that is ranked number one, and Ohio is also second in outbreaks.

Wouldn’t you agree because of the bacteria issue here in Ohio, we need stronger legislation and tighter oversight, more frequent inspections not only for high volume commercial dog breeders but for all breeding kennels.

**HB 506 regresses back in true favor of the breeders.**

## [Human Bacterial Infections Linked to Puppies From Petland ...](http://time.com/4937200/bacterial-outbreak-puppies-petland-campylobacter)

[time.com/4937200/bacterial-outbreak-puppies-petland-campylobacter](http://time.com/4937200/bacterial-outbreak-puppies-petland-campylobacter)

The outbreak has been linked to contact with puppies bought from Petland stores. Of the 39 cases of human Campylobacter infections that have been reported, 12 people were Petland employees and 27 had either recently purchased a Petland puppy, visited a Petland, or visited or lived in a home with a Petland puppy before they became ill.

# Food Safety

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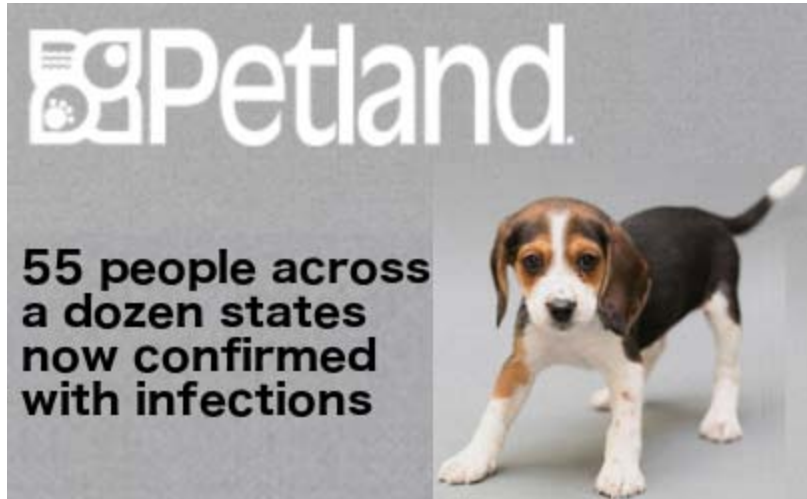
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# CDC: Outbreak bacteria traced to Petland is antibiotic resistant

## Year-long Campylobacter outbreak picks up speed; CDC warns public about infected puppies

BY CORAL BEACH | OCTOBER 3, 2017

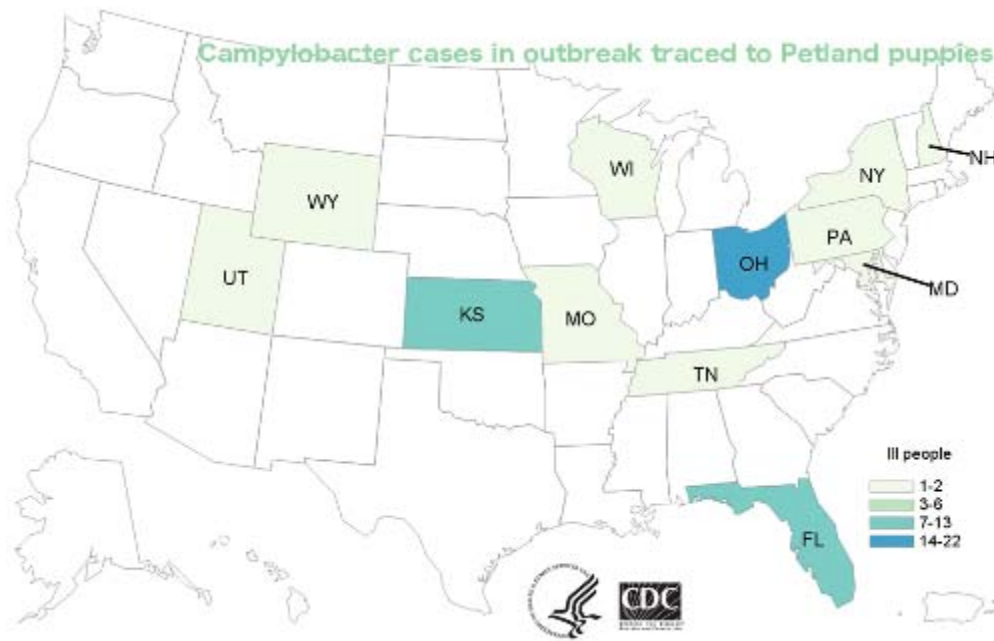


With the victim count having jumped 40 percent in the past three weeks, the CDC has nothing but bad news to report today on a [multi-state Campylobacter outbreak](#) traced to Petland puppies — the outbreak strains are antibiotic resistant. Since its initial outbreak announcement on Sept. 11, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has received lab confirmation of 16 more victims across five new states. That brings the outbreak totals to 55 people in a dozen states, with a fourth of them requiring hospitalization. No deaths have been reported.

“Clinical samples from people and puppies sickened in this outbreak appear to be resistant to commonly recommended, first-line antibiotics. This means infections with the outbreak strain may not respond well to oral antibiotics usually prescribed to treat Campylobacter infections,” according to the outbreak update from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nine out of 10 of the infected people, 49 of the 55 victims, either had contact with puppies from a Petland store or are Petland employees.

Anyone who has had contact with Petland puppies in the chain’s stores, homes or elsewhere is urged to seek medical attention if they have developed symptoms of Campylobacter infection. Symptoms can include diarrhea that is often bloody, fever, stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting.



State health officials and the CDC report outbreak victims in 12 states: Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Other details from the CDC's update today include:

- The most recent illness began on Sept. 12.
- Ill people range in age from less than 1 year to 86 years, with a median age of 23 years with 13 having been hospitalized.
- [Whole genome sequencing](#) showed samples of Campylobacter isolated from stool of puppies sold through Petland had the same DNA fingerprints as samples isolated from ill people in multiple states.

#### Looking forward

The CDC anticipates additional victims. There is a gap of at least two weeks between the time a person becomes ill and when they are added to the outbreak list because of lab tests and reporting procedures.

Also, Petland customers likely still have puppies in their homes that are carrying the bacteria or are infected.

"Campylobacter can spread through contact with dog poop. It usually does not spread from one person to another," the CDC reports. "However, activities such as changing an infected person's diapers or sexual contact with an infected person can lead to infection."

At least one of the confirmed victims in the ongoing outbreak did not have contact with any puppies, but did have sexual contact with a person with a confirmed illness linked to Petland.

CDC recommends that people follow these steps for protecting themselves and others while enjoying their dogs and puppies:

- Wash your hands thoroughly after touching dogs, their poop, or their food. Take extra care that children playing with puppies also wash their hands carefully.
- Pick up and dispose of dog poop, especially in areas where children might play.
- Contact your veterinarian if you notice any signs of illness in your puppy or dog.

#### Petland's response

The CDC update says Petland officials are cooperating with the outbreak investigators. The pet store chain has not expressed the same sentiment in regard to the CDC. As of 6 p.m. EDT today, Petland had not posted any new outbreak information on its company website. In its most recent statement, posted Sept. 13, the chain store's officials said they would be doing more to help, but the CDC won't cooperate with them.

"Petland has requested but has not been given any information from the CDC or any other health department offices related to the dates, stores, or cities where the 39 infection cases allegedly originated. We have also not been provided any information or location of any employees affected," according to [Petland's Sept. 13 statement](#). "Petland has resources ready to deploy once we are given case specific information from the CDC. The only information we have is the limited information shared with us from the CDC. Prior to the public notification from the CDC, Petland had not been contacted by any customers or employees regarding a confirmed or diagnosed human campylobacter infection after visiting a Petland store or from a Petland puppy."

## TECH & SCIENCE

# CAN YOUR DOG GET YOU SICK? CDC INVESTIGATING INFECTION TRANSMITTED BY PETLAND PUPPIES

BY [JESSICA FIRGER](#) ON 9/11/17 AT 2:39 PM

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**TECH & SCIENCE** CDCPUBLIC HEALTHDOGS

*Updated* | The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is [investigating a multistate outbreak](#) of *Campylobacter* bacterial infections that appear to be linked to puppies from Petland retail stores. Since September 2016, at least 39 people have been sickened by the bacteria, and nine have been hospitalized. No deaths have been reported.

The CDC, along with the Ohio Department of Health, several other states and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) are trying to track down the origin point of the infections. Contact tracing in seven states—Florida, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Wisconsin—found that each illness involved the same strain of the bacteria. Whole genome sequencing on stool samples from one sick patient in

Ohio confirmed that the bacterial strain closely matched the strain found in stool samples from dogs. The CDC is testing additional samples from other infected people and additional puppies.

A dozen people who fell ill from *Campylobacter* are Petland employees, and the remaining 27 either purchased a puppy or simply played with one at a Petland retail shop. Patients range in age from younger than 1 to 64, with a median age of 22. The states with the highest number of reported incidences are Ohio (18 diagnoses) and Florida (11 diagnoses).

The CDC doesn't provide information on who supplied the dogs to the retail chain, but a 2009 investigation [conducted by the Humane Society of the United States](#) revealed that nearly every Petland store in the U.S. buys its dogs directly from puppy mills—commercial dog-breeding facilities known for their inhumane and unhygienic practices—or through brokers who work as middlemen between the retail shops and those facilities. [In Florida](#), where at least seven people fell ill, facilities supplying to Petland stores have been cited by the USDA for multiple health violation

# Ohio working to prevent spread of incurable dog disease

by Kurt Ludlow  
Friday, July 28th 2017





Some dogs are catching an incurable disease after living with breeders. The state is trying to clean up the practice so Brucellosis cases become less common. (WSYX/WTTE)



### ***VIEW PHOTO GALLERY***

3 photos

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COLUMBUS (WSYX/WTTE) — Animal advocates are demanding that the state of Ohio put information about every Ohio dog breeder online. They say it's about transparency. They're worried about a particularly contagious and incurable disease that could be brought home with a new puppy.

Janet DiQuattro-Roth and her husband Michael brought their Great Pyrenees Harley home as a puppy. "He was about 10 to 12 weeks old," said Janet. He was very little. He was a little fluff-ball."

She said he fit right in with their other dogs. But as Harley began to grow, they noticed a problem.

"He kind of looked like an old man struggling to get up," she said. He would park his behind on a couch or chair and stand awkwardly.

It took months of tests and a trip to the Ohio State University Veterinary Clinic before the Roths got the devastating diagnosis. Harley was suffering from a canine version of Brucellosis.

"I said, 'I don't even know what that is. I've never heard of it,'" said Janet.

Brucella Canis is a disease caused by a bacteria. It primarily affects reproductive organs of male and female dogs. It causes infertility and miscarriages. And it's incurable.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, it "has become more prevalent in Ohio."

In May, the [H.S.U.S. released its list of what it describes as 100 problem dog breeders](#). Twelve are in Ohio. ABC6/Fox28 visited four.

None would give us a tour, including one breeder who'd sought advice from the [Ohio Professional Dog Breeders Association](#) before declining.

"Oh I don't want anybody in my kennels. I talked to the association and they said for sure don't allow anyone in," he said. The man explained that it was for "health reasons," for the dogs and for the reporter.

The 2013 [Commercial Dog Breeders Act](#) required Ohio to create the Commercial Dog Breeding Advisory Board. They are supposed to advise the Director of Agriculture on the development of administrative rules governing high-volume breeders and dog retailers. Those are breeders that produce at least nine litters of puppies, and sell at least 60 dogs a year.

"We are cleaning up high-volume dog breeders for Brucellosis," said State Veterinarian Tony Forshey.

Forshey chairs the board. He said Brucellosis is dangerous, and not just for dogs.

"The bad thing about any of the Brucellosis is that they are zoonotic. By zoonotic I mean that it's transmissible between animal and man and man back to animal," he said.

That's another reason it's so important to prevent its spread.

"It was my goal when we started this program to eradicate *Brucella Canis* within a five year period, which was pretty aggressive. But I thought we could get it done," he said.

The program he referred to includes testing.

"We require these high-volume dog breeders to have a veterinarian and must develop and write a health plan for them. He's required to do physical exams on dogs annually and test for *Brucella* annually. We've cleaned up many of them now," he said.

About one-half-of-one-percent of breeding dogs now test positive for *Brucella Canis*, out of approximately 330 high-volume dog breeders in the state.

"We have six or eight of those that are certified Brucellosis-free. They've gone through two years of negative tests. And we've tested to point a little over 30,000 dogs since our program's been in place," said Forshey.

Animal advocates think that's good, but not good enough. They want every bit of information the stat keeps about each high-volume dog breeder to be made available

to the public online. They say it's necessary to people buying puppies can be better informed.

"We should be able to see who all the dog breeders are and where they're at, how they're doing, how many they're producing and so forth," said Zaron Van Meter, an animal advocate and dog rescuer from Holmes County.

Forshey promised to take that request to the Agriculture Director.

In the meantime, Forshey pointed out that Brucella testing is required only by Ohio high-volume dog breeding operations. It's not required of mom and pop breeders. Nor is it required of out-of-state breeders.

Forshey said if someone is buying a puppy that's being shipped to Ohio from another place, it's necessary to inquire about the puppy's parents. "If you're buying a puppy, find out if the parents have been tested," he said.

The Roths never knew Harley's parents. But they now know he inherited a terrible disease from them.

It became increasingly difficult for the Roths to watch Harley deteriorate.

"He was two years old. He was a baby. But you can't let your animal suffer," said Janet.

So they made the gut-wrenching decision to let him go. They hope Harley will serve as a warning to anyone wanting a puppy, that Brucella Canis is a killer.

"The more we can find out about this disease and the more we can do to make it preventable, and do something about it, absolutely, the better off our dogs are and we

are, for our dogs. Because no dog should go through what Harley went through. Absolutely not," said Janet.

[Dogs infected by Brucellosis can show signs](#) of lethargy, swollen lymph nodes, and can have difficulty walking. Females can have miscarriages or give birth to sick newborns.

The [symptoms of infection in people](#) are similar to the flu: fevers, chills, weakness, fatigue.

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- [Volume 138, Issue 2](#)

- February 2010 , pp. 280-285

## Human *Brucella canis* outbreak linked to infection in dogs

- [N. E. LUCERO](#) <sup>(a1)</sup>, [R. CORAZZA](#) <sup>(a2)</sup>, [M. N. ALMUZARA](#) <sup>(a2)</sup>, [E. REYNES](#) <sup>(a3)</sup> ...

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- <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0950268809990525>

- Published online: 05 August 2009

### Summary

The zoonotic risk of *Brucella canis* has been considered fairly high for persons who handle breeding dogs in kennels or are exposed to infected animals. Transmission to humans in other circumstances has been thought to be rare. We describe an uncommon outbreak of brucellosis caused by *B. canis* which, to the best of our knowledge, is the first reported in the literature. This outbreak involved six persons (three children and three adults), a bitch and three puppies which had close daily contact with the family. The clinical symptoms of the index case led to an erroneous diagnosis and the infection would have gone undiagnosed if culture had not been positive. This report aims to increase awareness of medical personnel of the need to order screening tests

for children, immunodeficient persons or pregnant women presenting with fever of unknown origin, unexplained spleen or liver enlargement or other systemic signs. The emerging zoonotic potential of this disease in urban areas and the need to coordinate canine brucellosis surveillance systems should be evaluated.