

Here are the questions that Patti McCarty (owner if Keystone Kennel) asks on her DixielandKennels site...and I have decided to answer. My responses are in blue.

* Rita has called Keystone Kennel a "puppy mill". Do any of the pictured dogs look like "puppy mill" dogs?

***Puppy mills come in many forms. The fact is that there is no way that 2 people can take proper, **optimum** care of that many dogs and pups. There is a difference between a "required minimum" and "optimum" care.

* Rita claims the dogs were not being cared for properly. Do any of the dogs pictured look like they are not cared for properly?

***Why is it that customers can only see what YOU offer in photos? Why are customers not allowed to view all of the dogs? Why are so many pups sold that are infected with Parvo? Why are customers treated like crap when they seek answers and compensation?

* Rita claims we sell sick puppies knowingly. Does less than 20 sick puppies out of 1000 puppies placed over 20 years sound like a puppy mill?

***Yes, I say that you had to have known Scrabble was sick. You claimed he had been seen by Orr Animal Hospital the day before I bought him, and you claimed to be a vet tech with many years of experience and a breeder for an even longer amount of time. My vet called your vet only to be told they knew nothing of Scrabble or Scrabble's sire or dam. You knew you were selling me a sick dog and you could have cared less. You were willing to risk it. It was an easy \$450.00 and had Scrabble died I would have had to sue you to be reimbursed. As far as your stats above, you must think the world is full of bobble-heads. Or perhaps 1000 puppies is what you have "sold"....the real questions is, how many have died?

*Rita claims the dogs live in small, overcrowded cages. (The pictures Rita has on her website were given to her by our landlord, of the dogs during their transportation during the move in June of 2006.)

***I'm happy to see that you admit the photos were given to me by your previous landlord. Your previous landlord was allowed to take the photos when the Sheriff came out on their behalf because they had never been told that you would be rebuilding your kennel on their property. You led them to believe that you are a "web-designer" not a breeder. The dogs were left in those conditions for days. It was all documented. The temperatures were unbearably hot. The Sheriff's reports states that there was not sufficient water or food and animal protection was then called in.

*Rita claims that because the laws and regulations in Georgia are "weak and poorly defined" is why business' like Keystone Kennel are still operating. Do you really believe that? Georgia is one of only a few states that have the USDA regulations, most states don't even have this in place.

***Oh, Patti...but they are NOT strong laws and regulations. The rules and regulations only provide for a minimum amount of care for these dogs and it is for that very reason that puppy millers get away with what they do for such a long time. USDA???...do I dare ask....are you breeding cattle or Dachshunds? All of the USDA requirements apply to all 50 states! Which of the minimal USDA Animal Welfare Act regulations are you implying are an improvement on the GDOA requirements?

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/legislat/usdaleg1.htm>

*There are many cases now and have been where people have been arrested / convicted / reported of dog abuse here in Georgia...has Rita made a website about them or posted anything about that? Why not?

***Aside from the widely reported recent case regarding the dog that was horribly 'cooked to death' here in GA, please provide me with any specifics and I'll do what I can to bring them to light as well. You are in my crosshairs because of the monstrous treatment of Scrabble and the multitude of other sick puppies that you have sold that have come to light. You brought this on yourself...you never admit to the lies and wrongdoings. You don't offer a simple apology or 'make good' to the many you've hurt. I won't apologize for keeping you in the spotlight.

*If the authorities (licensed, law enforcement, professionals) can't find anything wrong with Keystone Kennel, why does Rita still pursue a personal crusade against them?

***Again, you are in my crosshairs because of the monstrous treatment of Scrabble and the multitude of other sick puppies that you have sold that have come to light. I'm happy to let the world know and see the police reports that I have that state the dogs did not have adequate food or water and that they called in animal control in to help with the situation. The authorities, the DOA and other officials are not saying that they can't find anything wrong. They continuously say that there is a current investigation. YOU happen to be the only one that is making the claim that "nothing wrong can be found." Sadly, the Department of Agriculture is not in the business of shutting puppy mills down, they prefer to collect the licensing fees and keep them licensed

*If Rita's website is solely for the purpose of broadcasting her concerns for the well being of Keystone Kennel's dogs and buyer beware of them, why is Rita selling stuff on there?

***I have never once discussed with you what the "sole" purpose of my site is. But, read carefully on the bottom of my Chat & Shop page. Your bad breeding practices and the fact that you knowingly sold us a sick dog is the reason for it's existence. I'll bet you make A LOT more money selling sick puppies than my Chat & Shop page makes at all. No one is creating a website about me that claims I make my money and put food on my table by selling sick and dying puppies. Why should you even care? I suppose you need to use something as senseless as that to distract from the real issues about your kennel.

*Is it possible that Keystone Kennel is really just a devoted, full time, responsible, caring Dachshund breeder and lover?

***Perhaps when pigs can learn to fly? I have yet to see where you have posted or replied or stated that your dogs have been well protected from the cold weather that we have had. You have had the opportunity to discuss or "tell" how your kennel protects the dogs from the elements. (hot or very cold weather) I have not seen any such information regarding this issue, not even on your own websites.

INFORMATION FOR THE CONSUMER:

"If you have had any problems with Keystone Kennel (or any other breeding establishment) please feel free to contact the Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs (this is where you can file a complaint regarding consumer fraud i.e. fraudulent puppy sellers) It is really important that they have all contact numbers and information of people that have been frauded / conned / ripped off by Keystone Kennel or any other breeding establishment.

You should be as concise as possible. Include as much information as you can about your case and include all the names that the breeder is using to do business, including website addresses, and the address and phone number of the breeder." www.consumer.georgia.gov