

PUPPY MILLS | FEBRUARY 7, 2012

# Puppy transport busted in Chicago on the way to a pet store



**Kathy Mordini**

Chicago Pets Examiner



<http://www.examiner.com/pets-in-chicago/dogs-puppy-mills-photo-1>

Pets sold in pet stores are offspring of dogs living in puppy mills.

**Credits:** karen Ammermann

Two Iowa men were arrested and charged with animal abuse in Chicago on Tuesday morning after police found 43 puppies stuffed into the back of their van in the Little Village neighborhood. Police spotted the suspicious vehicle parked in the 2500 block of West Cermak Road and heard loud barking from the back of the vehicle.

The 43 puppies allegedly scheduled to be delivered to Joe's Pet Salon in Pilsen are now under the care of Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC). According to sources they were stuffed into the back of the van in cramped containers without adequate food or water. Travis Wester and Larry Subject are slated to appear in misdemeanor court on animal abuse charges on Wednesday morning.

"The people that are shocked at the condition these dogs are transported need to realize that this is the way that dogs are moved from puppy mills to pet stores every day," says Cari Meyers, founder of [The Puppy Mill Project](http://www.thepupppymillproject.org).

<http://www.thepupppymillproject.org/page/page/8151946.htm>

"They are crammed into small crates in the back of a van with no food or water and improper ventilation. This is why 40 percent of the dogs transported from the mills to pet stores don't make it to the pet store alive."

CACC is assisting in the investigation. The dogs were allegedly being transported by [Oleo Acres](http://www.thepupppymillproject.org/il_ide.html) ([http://www.thepupppymillproject.org/il\\_ide.html](http://www.thepupppymillproject.org/il_ide.html)), a dog broker that transports dogs for Joe's Pet Salon.



By **Kathy Mordini**  
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Kathy Mordini is a public relations specialist and former journalist. She is passionate about educating the public on pet adoption, pet rescue and...

"The brokers are the middlemen - the personal shoppers for the pet stores. They pick and choose which puppies are transported to which store," says Meyers. "While the breeders may be facing numerous violations, it's much harder to regulate and charge the middlemen that are doing the transporting."

As the investigation continues, the validity of the health certificates accompanying the puppies are also being called into question. This is the second time in recent weeks puppies from pet stores have made the news. Six puppies sold through **Happiness is Pets** (<http://www.examiner.com/pets-in-chicago/justice-for-dakota-puppy-with-distemper-fights-for-recovery>) have been diagnosed with canine distemper. That case is still under investigation.

*Do you volunteer or work for a shelter or rescue that has programs you'd like to promote? Do you work in a pet-related business that has an interesting story to tell? If so, contact me at [kathypetexam@gmail.com](mailto:kathypetexam@gmail.com) (<mailto:kathypetexam@gmail.com>). Enjoy this article? Receive email alerts when new articles become available. Just click on the subscribe button above. You may also follow me on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/#%21/KathyMordini) (<https://twitter.com/#%21/KathyMordini>), [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Raining-Cats-Dogs/252266268128374) (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Raining-Cats-Dogs/252266268128374>), or read my [blog](http://rainingcatanddogs.wordpress.com/) (<http://rainingcatanddogs.wordpress.com/>).*