

**From:** "Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS" <Tanya.C.Espinosa@aphis.usda.gov>  
**Date:** December 30, 2014 3:15:39 PM CST  
**To:** Lyle Muller <lyle-muller@iowawatch.org>  
**Subject:** **RE: Request for Interview**

Lyle,

I double-checked all the numbers as they seemed a little off. We currently have 7,298 active licensees and registrants, of which 1,764 are licensed dog breeders.

When I initially gave you numbers of the total licensees and registrants, our inspection report database was glitchy, however, it has been fixed so those are the numbers we are going with. And I apologize for telling you that we had over 5,000 licensed dog breeders. In the database I was looking at the actual inspection reports and not the licensee/registrant information.

I apologize for this confusion and mix-up. Thanks!

**Tanya Espinosa**  
Public Affairs Specialist  
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USDA-APHIS  
Phone: (301) 851-4092

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**From:** Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 30, 2014 2:33 PM  
**To:** 'Lyle Muller'  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Interview

Lyle,

Good afternoon. I saw the article you posted: <http://iowawatch.org/2014/12/28/more-dog-breeding-inspections-in-u-s-but-with-one-inspector-for-every-83-facilities/> and I need you to make a correction for me. In the article you state that there are 10,000 dog breeding facilities. That isn't correct. We have approximately 10,000 licensed and registered facilities, which includes dog breeding facilities. However, that number also incorporates breeders of other animals, exhibitors (zoos, etc...) and research facilities.

I just did a search on the inspection report database and we currently have 5,698 dog breeders with active licenses. Thanks!

**Tanya Espinosa**

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**From:** Lyle Muller [<mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 5:05 PM  
**To:** Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Interview

Thanks for spelling that out, Tanya. That is very helpful.

Lyle Muller  
Executive Director-Editor, IowaWatch  
P.O. Box 2178; Iowa City, IA 52244-2178  
(319) 389-4477  
[lyle-muller@iowawatch.org](mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org)

<http://www.iowawatch.org>

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LyleMuller>

On Dec 3, 2014, at 3:55 PM, Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS wrote:

Lyle,

This isn't a yes or no question unfortunately. The answer is, it depends on several things.

First and foremost, are the animals being impacted, if so, then no, this wouldn't be a teachable moment and should be written as a noncompliance.

If, for instance, we have reviewed the written program of veterinary care on past inspections and it was found to be in compliance but during the current inspection, that written program of vet care can't be found and the licensee has a good compliance history, then yes it may result in a teachable moment.

If however, a licensee has a poor compliance history, has switched attending veterinarians and can't find their written program of veterinary care, then it would likely be written as a noncompliance.

There are many factors that determine whether or not lack of veterinary records on site will result in a teachable moment or a noncompliance. For instance, the inspector may contact the veterinarian to verify that he/she is still the attending vet. If however, there is any doubt in the inspector's mind that there is a program of veterinary care in place, or believes that there may be a problem that could impact the welfare of the animals, then it would be noted as a noncompliance in the inspection report and not used as a teachable moment.

Tanya Espinosa

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**From:** Lyle Muller [<mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 3:13 PM

**To:** Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS

**Subject:** Re: Request for Interview

Dear Tanya,

One last question remains that you were going to check for an answer after our interview last week about USDA APHIS dog breeder inspections.

Have you had the chance to find out if not having veterinary records on site can be a teachable moment that does not get written up as a citation? Or is it always supposed to be cited?

That is the last piece I need to determine as I complete my work on the article I am working on.

Yours,

Lyle Muller

Executive Director-Editor, IowaWatch

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[lyle-muller@iowawatch.org](mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org)

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On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LyleMuller>

On Nov 26, 2014, at 8:34 AM, Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS wrote:

Lyle,

I apologize. Something has come up, can I call you at 10 am EST?

**From:** Lyle Muller [<mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2014 03:16 PM

**To:** Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS

**Subject:** Re: Request for Interview

Thanks.

On Nov 25, 2014, at 1:25 PM, Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS wrote:

Lyle,

That will work! Thanks. I will give you a call tomorrow morning.

Tanya Espinosa

Public Affairs Specialist

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**From:** Lyle Muller [<mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2014 1:33 PM

**To:** Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS

**Subject:** Re: Request for Interview

Tomorrow is fine. May we pick a time? 9 a.m. EST/8 a.m. CST for example?

My phone number is below:

Lyle Muller

Executive Director-Editor, IowaWatch

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[lyle-muller@iowawatch.org](mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org)

<http://www.iowawatch.org>

On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LyleMuller>

On Nov 25, 2014, at 12:30 PM, Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS wrote:

Lyle,

Unfortunately, I won't be able to accommodate your request today, however, I can give you a call tomorrow if that works for you.

Tanya

**Tanya Espinosa**

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**From:** Lyle Muller [<mailto:lyle-muller@iowawatch.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 25, 2014 11:52 AM

**To:** Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS

**Subject:** Re: Request for Interview

Hi, Tanya,

I will call you after your lunch break.

**Lyle Muller**

Executive Director-Editor, IowaWatch

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(319) 389-4477

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On Nov 25, 2014, at 10:45 AM, Espinosa, Tanya C - APHIS wrote:

Lyle,

Good afternoon. Your request for information regarding the noncompliances written by APHIS inspectors during inspections of dog breeders.

Our inspectors annotate noncompliances on the inspection reports, which can be found on the inspection report database. I have included directions to the database below. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me. Thanks.

Inspection reports for this facility and all of our licensees for the last three years can be viewed on our online database and are available online at [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov). Under "Popular Topics" select "Animal Welfare," on the left side. Then scroll down and select "Animal Welfare Act" under "Program Priorities." In the box on the right side under "Related Links," select "Animal Welfare Act Inspections." Scroll down and select "Search Active Licensees and Registered Facilities." A warning will pop up, this lets you know that you are accessing a government database, select "I agree."



The A.C.I.S. database should pop up. In the search bar, enter the name of the licensee, you can enter the company name or the person's name as the license may be under either one. Once you find the correct license, you will notice tabs at the top, "Licensee/Registrant Information," "Inspection Information," and "Research Annual Report Information." If you select "Inspection Information" the list of inspection reports will show up. To see each inspection report, select the "Details" button on the left side.

## Tanya Espinosa

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