

My name is Karin Edmondson, my husband John Edmondson and I are the owners of a kennel in Agua Dulce, Los Angeles County. My husband and I have operated the kennel since 1976. We have always received excellent marks (A under the current system) for our inspections.

In March of 2002, Ms. Kimi Peck and Mr. Dave Mabra approached us to ask if they could use part of our facility to house their rescue dogs. I had known Ms. Peck for approximately 5 years at that time. She was also a customer of our dog supplies business in Sun Valley.

Our agreement was that Ms. Peck and Mr. Mabra would be renting out the empty trailer on our property and some surrounding land. When asked how many dogs she had, I was told she had 40 dogs to bring with her. We were licensed to have 150 animals and we had about 70 animals at that time.

I had also known that she was forced to leave her residence in Burbank for operating an illegal kennel. I learned later that she was evicted from a Sun Valley residential home and left that place in terrible condition. She had rented a home in San Francisquito Canyon in Saugus, but that was not working out either so she requested the move to our facility.

When Kimi and Dave moved onto the property, they had no runs set up for the dogs. The dogs were living in cages inside their rented trailer. I insisted that they build some runs for their dogs so they could get exercise and fresh air. Kimi purchased some runs from us and then had some donated. There were five runs on one side and a larger exercise yard on the other side of a central isle that led to the trailer. Each run housed about 3-7 dogs, except the larger exercise run which had numerous dogs of all types at any given time.

As far as the conditions and care of the animals, Dave would clean once a day. There were an estimated 100 dogs that arrived with Kimi with just one person cleaning. In addition, the dogs got very little human contact. I decided to help and when I arrived home from work I would fill the dog's water buckets with water if they were empty. Also, because the dogs in the runs were free fed, they would do their business throughout the day and once a day pick up was not enough. I demanded that they get sun shade for the runs as there was no shade and it gets hot in the summer.

I then found out due to excessive noise coming from the trailer that she had dogs living loose in the bathroom, and in cages in the back bedroom, living room and the sun room. I requested that she move the larger dogs (in the bathroom) to some of my kennels behind the trailer. These were mainly American Eskimos. Kimi had told me earlier about her Saluki and when I asked where he was, she said he was crated in the trailer. They let him out to exercise once a day. When I did see him, I went ballistic and told her to move him to the large run behind the trailer. He was a whole male and was covered in urine bed sores and his nails were so long they were curling. I told Kimi to treat his sores and get him altered since she was a rescue. The dog was traumatized and not sociable.

Kimi's idea of the correct bedding in her crates was a soft baby blanket or comforter. That sounds great IF you clean them daily. However, the bedding was not removed on a daily basis and would become saturated with urine and fecal matter. When they were removed, they would be put in large plastic bags and placed in the isle leading to the trailer. This soiled bedding would attract insects and mice. She was asked repeatedly to clean them up. Also in the isle were opened bags of treats and sample dog food all attracting flies and mice.

Dogs were free fed in the runs, and in the exercise run they would have a large tub of food and rotate the caged dogs from inside. Some dogs could not eat for the bullying of the other dogs.

I would glance into the exercise yard and would notice different dogs. I also noticed at some point that there could not have been only 40 dogs. There would be dogs both running around freely and then there were dogs living in crates. When I asked Kimi exactly how many dogs she was keeping in the trailer, she refused to tell me. When I finally got to enter the trailer, I noticed more crates (wire crates) in the back bedroom. The crates were stacked 3-4 crates high with approximately 1-4 dogs living in each crate. I noticed Chins and other small dogs being kept in these filthy crates. In the sun room there were crates all along the walls. I estimated that there was somewhere between 120 and 140 dogs in her care. She also had three cats living in a flight cage with no shade. I removed the cats and put them inside the kennel building. I also noticed two birds living in a shoe box - I removed them and placed them in the flight cage which was moved to our barn.

There was no air conditioner in the trailer, just a swamp cooler. I did not know if she used the swamp cooler, but we did repair it so that it was functioning. She did, however, keep the windows open, and the stench coming from the windows was troubling. We pleaded with her and Dave to remove the soiled bedding and trash so that the area would not attract so many flies. She promised, but the piles grew not declined.

I noticed a neglected Pitbull mix puppy with only 3 legs living in a small wire crate inside the trailer. The puppy was no more than 10-12 weeks or younger. When asked his story I was told a horrific tale. I asked to take the dog and give him more room. I still have this dog. It took 6 wormings to get rid of the roundworm and tapeworm.

I also noticed two older Pekinese dogs. One of them had an injury that caused it to be paralyzed in the rear after living in Kimi's compound for several weeks. Kimi claimed she had taken her to the vet and he had x-rayed her. The dog needed some sort of surgery but Kimi was already in debt with many vets and said she could not afford the surgery. I believe the dog was injured in the exercise yard by another dog or was dropped. I asked if I could have a go at rehabilitating her. I had had great success with Dachshunds and other Pekes that had injuries to their back. The dog responded well to my treatments and

within 2 months was walking again. I never asked for payment for the care of treatment of these dogs. Kimi did remove these when she left.

In addition, I moved a Mother with a litter of puppies that were living in filth in the trailer. When the puppies were weaned I offered to find them homes since Kimi had more than she could handle. Kimi insisted that she needed the money and she would take care of it. I had every intention of giving Kimi any adoption donations.

She exposed her own dogs and mine to distemper when she brought a litter of distemper puppies into the trailer from a shelter. She did not isolate them because she did not have an isolation area. I was very angry when I found out. Fortunately all my dogs were current on shots and no one became ill. But Distemper virus can lie dormant for up to 6 months, so I was very vigilant for some time.

I helped Kimi at several adoptions and noticed that very few very adoptable dogs from the kennel were taken. Most were mixes and some had real personality problems. When asked about the purebred Chins and the tea cup Chihuahuas, I was told that these were Kimi's personal dogs. They must have totaled at least 20. I also noticed that Kimi was not adopting out many of her animals. She seemed to be taking more and more in. My husband was getting angrier and angrier about the filth and the over population. We were limited in our kennel due to the animals that we were "helping" and that reduced our income for the care of our rescues.

We were coming due for an inspection and Kimi had few if any records on her dogs. Rabies Certificates were passed off as belonging to dogs adopted when they were really dogs that were no longer around. I am a stickler for accuracy in my book work. I use Kennel Soft and all dogs and cats get microchips when they arrive at the kennel. The over population, lack of proper records and filth was taking its toll on my husband and I. We finally told her that she had to get down to 70 dogs or she would have to find another place to live. She said it was 'doable'; however, the number of dogs would keep on escalating while the care would continue to decline. Though she would say she was adopting out many dogs, it did not appear that way. In addition, I offered to help find loving homes for some of her dogs but she refused the help. I even revised her Application to make it more adopter friendly and less intrusive, hoping this would get more people to apply.

Because she had over 140 dogs by late November and the number seemed to be climbing, she was not taking care of them properly, and the dogs were being neglected, the mice, flies, fleas and ticks problems were growing with improper sanitary measures, and the stinking bags of soiled laundry. She was asked to leave in November of 2002. We could not risk our license and we had never had a bad inspection from the County of Los Angeles. With Kimi on our property we knew we would risk losing our kennel license. We found out later that Kimi has procured a kennel in Burbank and she had stayed as long as she did because it had to be brought up to code.

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From what I have witnessed in regards to Ms. Peck, I feel that she is a hoarder. There is more to rescue than saving a life. There has to be quality of life and the hope of a new home. In the reputable rescue community, she has a reputation of being a hoarder who does a very poor job of taking care of her animals.

A. Karin Edmondson
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