

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

TREBCO SPECIALITY PRODUCTS INC.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
THE INDIVIDUALS, CORPORATIONS, LIMITED)	
LIABILITY COMPANIES, PARTNERSHIPS, AND)	
UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS)	
IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE A TO THE)	
COMPLAINT,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

Case No.:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Trebco Specialty Products Inc. (“Plaintiff”) hereby alleges as follows against the individuals, corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and unincorporated associations and foreign entities identified on **Schedule A** attached hereto (collectively, “Defendants”):

Introduction

1. This action has been filed by Plaintiff to combat online counterfeiters who trade upon Plaintiff’s reputation and goodwill by selling and/or offering for sale products in connection with at least one of Plaintiff’s copyrights, specifically Plaintiff’s U.S. Copyright Office Registration Nos. VA0002161098, VA0002161101, VA0002161102, VA0002161097, VA0002162075, VA0002161100, VA0002161099, and VA0002161092 (the “WUBBANUB Copyrights” or “WUBBANUB Copyright Registrations”).

2. The WUBBANUB Copyrights are valid, subsisting, and in full force and effect. True and correct copies of the federal copyright registrations as shown in the United States Copyright Office’s Copyright Catalogue for the WUBBANUB Copyrights are attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

3. Defendants are improperly advertising, marketing and/or selling unauthorized and illegal products (the “Counterfeit Products”)¹ embodying Plaintiff’s copyrights by reference to and/or embodying the same design as the Plaintiff’s genuine products (the “WUBBANUB Products”), which causes further confusion and deception in the marketplace.

4. Defendants conduct this activity through their numerous fully interactive commercial Internet e-commerce stores operating under the online marketplace accounts identified in Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, the “Defendants” or “Defendant Internet Stores”), including but not limited to the platforms Alibaba.com (“Alibaba”), AliExpress.com (“AliExpress”), Amazon.com (“Amazon”), DHgate.com (“DHgate”), eBay.com (“eBay”), Walmart.com (“Walmart”), and Wish.com (“Wish”).

5. The Defendants design the Defendant Internet Stores to appear to be selling genuine WUBBANUB Products, while selling inferior imitations of such products.

6. The Defendants’ online marketplace accounts also share unique identifiers, such as design elements and similarities of the counterfeit products offered for sale, establishing a logical relationship between them and suggesting that Defendants’ illegal operations arise out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences.

7. Defendants attempt to avoid liability by going to great lengths to conceal both their identities and the full scope and interworking of their illegal counterfeiting operation. Plaintiff is forced to file this action to combat Defendants’ counterfeiting of the WUBBANUB Copyrights, as well as to protect unknowing consumers from purchasing Counterfeit Products.

8. As a result of Defendants’ actions, including certain Defendants associating the WUBBANUB name and products with adult content, Plaintiff has been and continues to be irreparably damaged through consumer confusion, dilution, and tarnishment of its valuable copyright and goodwill and, therefore, seeks injunctive and monetary relief.

¹ Certain defendants are also improperly advertising, marketing and/or selling Counterfeit Products in association with, and promotion of, “adult content” which not only causes confusion and deception in the marketplace, but also tarnishes Plaintiff’s reputation and goodwill.

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each Defendant, in that each Defendant conducts significant business in Illinois and in this Judicial District, and the acts and events giving rise to this lawsuit of which each Defendant stands accused were undertaken in Illinois and in this Judicial District.

10. In addition, each Defendant has offered to sell and ship infringing products into this Judicial District.

Jurisdiction and Venue

11. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the copyright claim pursuant to the Copyright Laws of the United States, 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq., 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a)–(b), and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

12. This Court has jurisdiction over the unfair deceptive trade practices claim in this action that arise under the laws of the State of Illinois pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) because the state law claims are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy and derive from a common nucleus of operative facts.

13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each Defendant, in that, upon information and belief, Defendants regularly conduct, transact and/or solicit business in Illinois and in this Judicial District, and/or derive substantial revenue from business transactions in Illinois and in this Judicial District and/or otherwise avail themselves of the privileges and protections of the laws of the State of Illinois such that this Court's assertion of jurisdiction over Defendants does not offend traditional notions of fair play and due process, and/or Defendants' illegal counterfeiting and infringing actions caused injury to Plaintiff in Illinois and in this Judicial District such that Defendants should reasonably expect such actions to have consequences in Illinois and this judicial District, for example:

a. Defendants' Defendant Internet Stores accept orders of Counterfeit Products from and offer shipping to Illinois addresses located in this judicial District.

b. Upon information and belief, Defendants were and/or are systematically directing and/or targeting their business activities at consumers in the U.S., including those in

Illinois, in this Judicial District, through accounts with online marketplace platforms such as Alibaba.com, AliExpress.com, Amazon.com, DHgate.com, eBay.com, Walmart.com, and Wish.com (collectively, the “Marketplace Platforms”) as well as any and all as yet undiscovered accounts with additional online marketplace platforms held by or associated with Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them (“User Account(s)”), through which consumers in the U.S., including Illinois (and more particularly, in this Judicial District), can view the one or more of Defendant Internet Stores, uses to communicate with Defendants regarding their listings for Counterfeit Products (as defined *infra*) and to place orders for, receive invoices for and purchase Counterfeit Products for delivery in the U.S., including Illinois (and more particularly, in this Judicial District), as a means for establishing regular business with the U.S., including Illinois (and more particularly, in this Judicial District).

c. Upon information and belief, Defendants have transacted business with consumers located in the U.S., including Illinois (and more particularly, in this Judicial District), for the sale and shipment of Counterfeit Products.

14. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(2) and 1400(a) because Defendants have committed acts of copyright infringement in this Judicial District, do substantial business in the Judicial District, have registered agents in this Judicial District, and reside or may be found in this district.

The Plaintiff

15. Plaintiff Trebco is a corporation incorporated under the laws of Connecticut with offices in Milford, Connecticut and is the owner of the WUBBANUB Copyright Registration, with its federal registration attached as Exhibit 1.

16. Trebco makes its products, including its WUBBANUB products, available across the globe including in thousands of boutiques, specialty shops and major retailers. Trebco has earned an international reputation for quality, reliability and value and is credited for a substantial

breakthrough in the childcare industry in relation to pacifiers associated with plush toys, being its WUBBANUB products in particular.

The WUBBANUB Products

17. In March 1999, Ms. Carla Schneider, on behalf of Trebco, designed, caused to subsist in material form and first published the original WUBBANUB Product for use by her infant son. Just a short time later, in 2000, Trebco began to commercialize the WUBBANUB Products and expanded its range, instantly attracting substantial international media attention and success.

18. Between 1999 and 2016 Trebco obtained several copyright registrations for its WUBBANUB Products, including its “brown puppy plush”, “cow plush”, “elephant grey/white plush”, “frog plush”, “giraffe plush”, “lamb plush”, “little duck yellow/orange plush” and “monkey plush”, each in respect of the copyright embodied by the corresponding WUBBANUB products. Exemplary units of each of the WUBBANUB Products for which a copyright registration has been registered have been deposited with the United States Copyright Office and remain available for inspection there.

19. For ease of reference, the pictures below reflect relevant exemplary WUBBANUB Products for which registrations have been obtained and still remain available for sale today as part of the wider WUBBANUB Product range:



BROWN PUPPY

Just like the day you met your newborn, you'll fall instantly in love with WubbaNub Brown Puppy. Wide-eyed, curious, and clumsily cute, Brown Puppy loves to play and is quite content to keep your baby company all day long. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily positioned by the baby. Matching **Brown Puppy Lovey** also available.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #22294

Item Polybag #32294

[SHOP ONLINE](#)

[SHOP IN-STORE](#)

[SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM](#)

THINK SAFETY >





BABY COW

Our shy but lovable Baby Cow loves long walks, daydreaming and becoming your baby's first friend! Baby Cow has a soft, whimsical black and white print fur and little legs that are perfect for tiny hands to hold onto when on the moo-ve! The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily position by the baby.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #22668

Item Polybag #32668

[SHOP ONLINE](#)

[SHOP IN-STORE](#)

[SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM](#)

[THINK SAFETY >](#)



ELEPHANT

No need to pack your trunk, just bring along a WubbaNub Elephant! He's a true friend for life. Soft floppy ears are the perfect size for little hands to hold onto. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily position to baby. Matching [Elephant Lovey](#) also available.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #22407

Item Polybag #32407

[SHOP ONLINE](#)

[SHOP IN-STORE](#)

[SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM](#)

[THINK SAFETY >](#)



GREEN FROG

WubbaNub baby pacifier, Green Frog, is filled with boundless energy and will easily become a family favorite. His mini green legs are the perfect size for little hands to hold onto. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily position to baby.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #21635

Item Polybag #31635



SHOP ONLINE

SHOP IN-STORE

SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM

THINK SAFETY >



BABY GIRAFFE

Head and shoulders above the rest, our WubbaNub Giraffe is sure to bring delight to the entire family. Soft, cuddly and so lovable it is the perfect companion to bring for baby when you are on the go. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily position to baby. Matching [Giraffe Lovey](#) also available.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #22352

Item Polybag #32352



SHOP ONLINE

SHOP IN-STORE

SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM

THINK SAFETY >





LITTLE LAMB

While we know nothing can ever replace cuddle time with your newborn, we do think our WubbaNub Little Lamb comes close. Lamb's ultra-soft fabric and dainty legs are perfect for tiny hands to hold onto. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily position to baby. Matching [Lamb Lovey](#) also available.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #22351

Item Polybag #32351

SHOP ONLINE

SHOP IN-STORE

SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM

THINK SAFETY >



YELLOW DUCK

WubbaNub Yellow Duck is chirpy and cheerful, but also as mellow as he is yellow. He will bring a gurgling smile to your baby's face. His little wings are the perfect size for little hands to hold onto. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily positioned by the baby.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #21195

Item Polybag #31195

SHOP ONLINE

SHOP IN-STORE

SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM

THINK SAFETY >





MONKEY

Our mischievous little WubbaNub Monkey is a barrel of laughs and is certain to keep your baby happy. His soft limbs and curvy tail are the perfect size for little hands to hold onto. The unique style of the WubbaNub pacifier allows it to remain close and easily position to baby. Matching [Monkey Lovey](#) also available.

*Actual product may slightly differ from image.

Item Box #22330

Item Polybag #32430

SHOP ONLINE

SHOP IN-STORE

SHOP ON WUBBANUBONLINE.COM

THINK SAFETY >



21. From the date of the first WUBBANUB's creation to the present, Trebco is and has been the official source of the genuine WUBBANUB Products in the United States. The current product ranges are reflected below:

Pacifiers
JIMMY FALLON COLLECTION



MAMA PENGUIN BY JIMMY FALLON

DADA MOO COW BY JIMMY FALLON

Pacifiers
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL™



WUBBANUB NEW YORK YANKEES™
PINSTRIPE PUPPY

WUBBANUB NEW YORK YANKEES™
BEAR

WUBBANUB ST. LOUIS
CARDINALS™ BEAR

WUBBANUB SAN FRANCISCO
GIANTS™ BEAR



WUBBANUB KANSAS CITY ROYALS™ BEAR



WUBBANUB HOUSTON ASTROS™ BEAR



WUBBANUB NEW YORK METS™ BEAR



WUBBANUB LOS ANGELES DODGERS™ BEAR



WUBBANUB CHICAGO CUBS™ BEAR



WUBBANUB BOSTON RED SOX™ BEAR

Pacifiers
LIMITED EDITION COLLECTION



BUNBUN BUNNY



CHRISSY DINO



BUDSTER



BABY SLOTH



CAMO BEAR



MACKIE



PIGLET



BABY COW



BLUSH PINK UNICORN



MOOSE



FAIRYTALE DRAGON



HORSE



PANDA



BABY PENGUIN

Pacifiers
CLASSIC COLLECTION



BABY DINO



RED DOG



YELLOW DUCK



BROWN PUPPY



TABBY KITTEN



GREEN FROG



MONKEY



BABY GIRAFFE



LITTLE LION



ELEPHANT



TINY FOX



PINK KITTY



LONGHORN BULL

Pacifiers
NURSERY TONES COLLECTION



PINK ELEPHANT



GREY KITTEN



BABY LION



BABY YELLOW DUCK



LITTLE LAMB



PINK OWL



PINK BEAR



BLUE BEAR



BABY HIPPO

Pacifiers EXCLUSIVES COLLECTION



TURTLE



TARGET

GIRAFFE



TARGET

ELEPHANT



amazon

TIGER



amazon

BROWN OWL



hey baby

PENGUIN



amazon

RED DRAGON



amazon

RETRO GIRAFFE

Pacifiers SEASONAL STYLES



PJ BABY BEAR



PURPLE MONSTER



WOOLLY BEAR



LITTLE YETI



REINDEER



POLAR BEAR

22. Trebco has expended substantial time, money, and other resources in developing, advertising, and otherwise promoting the WUBBANUB Products. As a result, products embodying the WUBBANUB Copyrights are widely recognized and exclusively associated by consumers, the public, and the trade as being products sourced from Trebco.

23. Trebco owns all rights, including without limitation, the rights to reproduce the copyrighted works in copies, to prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted works, and to distribute copies of the copyrighted works to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending, in the WUBBANUB Copyrights as the owner of those copyrights.

The Defendants

24. Defendants are individuals and business entities who, upon information and belief, reside mainly in the People's Republic of China or other foreign jurisdictions. Defendants conduct business throughout the United States, including within Illinois and in this Judicial District, through the operation of the fully interactive commercial websites and online marketplaces operating under the Defendant Internet Stores. Each Defendant targets the United States, including Illinois, and has offered to sell and, on information and belief, has sold and continues to sell counterfeit WUBBANUB products to consumers within the United States, including Illinois and in this Judicial District.

25. Defendants are merchants on the Marketplace Platforms, which, upon information and belief, are owned by:

a. Alibaba.com ("Alibaba") is a website registered to Alibaba Cloud Computing (Beijing) Co., Ltd. with a registration address in Zhejiang, China;

b. AliExpress.com ("AliExpress") is a website registered to Alibaba Cloud Computing (Beijing) Co., Ltd. with a registration address in Guang Xi, China;

c. Amazon.com, Inc. ("Amazon"), a Washington corporation with a principal place of business at 410 Terry Ave N, Seattle, Washington 98109;

d. DHgate.com ("DHgate") is a website registered to eName Technology Co., Ltd. with a registration address in Beijing, China;

e. eBay, Inc. (“eBay”), a California corporation with a principal place of business at 2025 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, California 95125;

f. Walmart, Inc. (“Walmart”) is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at 702 S.W. 8th St. Bentonville, Arkansas 72716; and

g. ContextLogic Inc. (“Wish”) is a Delaware corporation with a principal place of business at One Sansome Street, 33rd Floor, San Francisco, California 94104

The Defendants’ Unlawful Conduct

26. The success of the WUBBANUB Products has resulted in significant counterfeiting.

27. Plaintiff has identified numerous domain names linked to fully interactive websites and marketplace listings on platforms such as the Marketplace Platforms, including the Defendant Internet Stores, which were offering for sale, selling, and importing counterfeit WUBBANUB Products to consumers in this Judicial District and throughout the United States, including Defendant Internet Stores offering for sale, selling, and importing counterfeit WUBBANUB Products in association with adult content.

28. Defendants have persisted in creating such online marketplaces and internet stores, like the Defendant Internet Stores. In fact, such online marketplaces and stores are estimated to receive tens of millions of visits per year and to generate over \$135 billion in annual online sales. According to an intellectual property rights seizures statistics report issued by the United States Department of Homeland Security, the manufacturer’s suggested retail price (“MSRP”) of goods seized by the U.S. government in fiscal year 2017 was over \$1.2 billion. Internet websites like the Defendant Internet Stores are also estimated to contribute to tens of thousands of lost jobs for legitimate businesses and broader economic damages such as lost tax revenue every year.

29. On personal knowledge and belief, Defendants facilitate sales by designing the Defendant Internet Stores so that they appear to unknowing consumers to be authorized online retailers, outlet stores, or wholesalers selling genuine WUBBANUB Products.

30. Many of the Defendant Internet Stores look sophisticated and accept payment in U.S. dollars via credit cards, Western Union, and PayPal. Defendant Internet Stores often include images and design elements that make it very difficult for consumers to distinguish such counterfeit sites from an authorized website.

31. Defendants further perpetuate the illusion of legitimacy by offering “live 24/7” customer service and using indicia of authenticity and security that consumers have come to associate with authorized retailers, including the McAfee® Security, VeriSign®, Visa®, MasterCard®, and PayPal® logos.

32. Plaintiff has not licensed or authorized Defendants to use the WUBBANUB Copyrights, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of genuine WUBBANUB Products. Moreover, Plaintiff has not licensed or authorized Defendants (or anyone for that matter) to use the WUBBANUB Copyrights or name in conjunction with, or promotion of, adult content.

33. On personal knowledge and belief, Defendants deceive unknowing consumers by using the WUBBANUB Copyright Registrations without authorization within the product descriptions of their Defendant Internet Stores to attract customers, as well as embodied by the counterfeit products themselves.

34. On personal knowledge and belief, Defendants also deceive unknowing consumers by using unauthorized search engine optimization (“SEO”) tactics and social media spamming so that the Defendant Internet Stores listings show up at or near the top of relevant search results and misdirect consumers searching for genuine WUBBANUB Products.

35. Further, Defendants utilize similar illegitimate SEO tactics to propel new domain names to the top of search results after others are shut down. As such, Plaintiff also seeks to disable the Defendant Domain Names owned and/or operated by Defendants that are the means by which the Defendants could continue to sell counterfeit WUBBANUB Products into this District.

36. On information and belief, Defendants go to great lengths to conceal their identities and often use multiple fictitious names and addresses to register and operate their massive network of Defendant Internet Stores.

37. For example, it is common practice for counterfeiters to register their domain names and/or User Accounts with incomplete information, randomly typed letters, or omitted cities or states.

38. And many Defendant Domain Names use privacy services that conceal the owners' identity and contact information. On personal knowledge and belief, Defendants regularly create new websites and online marketplace accounts on various platforms using the identities listed in Schedule A to the Complaint, as well as other unknown fictitious names and addresses.

39. On personal knowledge and belief, even though Defendants operate under multiple fictitious names, there are numerous similarities among the Defendant Internet Stores. For example, some of the Defendant marketplace websites have virtually identical layouts, even though different aliases were used to register the respective domain names.

40. In addition, the Counterfeit Products for sale in the Defendant Internet Stores bear similarities and indicia of being related to one another, suggesting that the Counterfeit Products were manufactured by and come from a common source and that, upon information and belief, Defendants are interrelated.

41. The Defendant Internet Stores also include other notable common features, including accepted payment methods, check-out methods, metadata, illegitimate SEO tactics, HTML user-defined variables, domain redirection, lack of contact information, identically or similarly priced items and volume sales discounts, similar hosting services, similar name servers, and the use of the same text and images.

42. In addition, Defendants in this case and defendants in other similar cases against online counterfeiters use a variety of other common tactics to evade enforcement efforts. For example, counterfeiters like Defendants will often register new online marketplace accounts under

User Accounts once they receive notice of a lawsuit.² Consumers of toys are at especially high risks and warned to be particularly vigilant.³

43. Counterfeiters also often move website hosting to rogue servers located outside the United States once notice of a lawsuit is received. Rogue servers are notorious for ignoring take down demands sent by brand owners.⁴

44. Counterfeiters also typically ship products in small quantities via international mail to minimize detection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. A 2012 U.S. Customs and Border Protection report on seizure statistics indicated that the Internet has fueled “explosive growth” in the number of small packages of counterfeit goods shipped through the mail and express carriers.

45. Further, counterfeiters such as Defendants typically operate multiple credit card merchant accounts and PayPal accounts behind layers of payment gateways so that they can continue operation in spite of Plaintiff’s enforcement efforts.

46. On personal knowledge and belief, Defendants maintain off-shore bank accounts and regularly move funds from their PayPal accounts to off-shore bank accounts outside the

² <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/buyers-beware-ice-hsi-and-cbp-boston-warn-consumers-about-counterfeit-goods-during> (noting counterfeiters are adept at "setting up online stores to lure the public into thinking they are purchasing legitimate good on legitimate websites") (last visited October 17, 2022).

³ <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/new-toolkit-helps-consumers-avoid-scams-while-holiday-shopping> (issuing warnings in the context of counterfeit and knockoff toys as “When it comes to fake toys, there are significant safety concerns,” said Steve Pasierb, president & CEO of The Toy Association. “Counterfeit and knockoff toys sold by un reputable sellers are highly unlikely to comply with strict toy safety laws that are designed to protect children at play. These fake, noncompliant products might have small parts that can break off, may not be age-graded appropriately, or may pose other risks to children. When shopping online, families need to carefully scrutinize listings, and purchase only from reputable sellers and known brands, whose legitimate toys comply with the more than 100 different safety standards and tests required by law.” (last visited October 17, 2022).

⁴ While discussed in the context of false pharma supply chains, rogue internet servers and sellers are a well-known tactic that have even been covered in congressional committee hearings. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-113hhr88828/html/CHRG-113hhr88828.htm> (last visited October 17, 2022).

jurisdiction of this Court. Indeed, analysis of PayPal transaction logs from previous similar cases indicates that offshore counterfeiters regularly move funds from U.S.-based PayPal accounts to foreign-based bank accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court.

47. Defendants, without any authorization or license from Plaintiff, have knowingly and willfully used and continue to use the WUBBANUB Copyrights in connection with the advertisement, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products into the United States and Illinois over the Internet.

48. Each Defendant Internet Store offers shipping to the United States, including Illinois (in this Judicial District) and, on information and belief, each Defendant has offered to sell counterfeit WUBBANUB products into the United States, including Illinois (in this Judicial District).

49. Defendants' use of the WUBBANUB Copyrights in connection with the advertising, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products is likely to cause and has caused confusion, mistake, and deception by and among consumers and is irreparably harming Plaintiff.

50. Prior to and contemporaneous with their counterfeiting and infringing actions alleged herein, Defendants had knowledge of Plaintiff's ownership of the WUBBANUB Copyrights, of the fame and incalculable goodwill associated therewith and of the popularity and success of the WUBBANUB Products, and in bad faith proceeded to manufacture, market, develop, offer to be sold, and/or sell the Counterfeit Products.

51. Defendants have been engaging in the illegal counterfeiting and infringing actions, as alleged herein, knowingly and intentionally, or with reckless disregard or willful blindness to Plaintiff's rights, or in bad faith, for the purpose of trading on the goodwill and reputation of Plaintiff and the WUBBANUB Products.

COUNT I
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT (17 U.S.C. § 101, et seq.)

[Against Defendants Designated in Schedule A]

52. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference herein its allegations contained in paragraphs 1-51 of this Complaint.

53. Plaintiff owns all exclusive rights, including without limitation the rights to reproduce the copyrighted WUBBANUB Products in copies, to prepare derivative works based upon the copyrighted works, and to distribute copies of the copyrighted works to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending, in the WUBBANUB Copyrights, as the owner thereof.

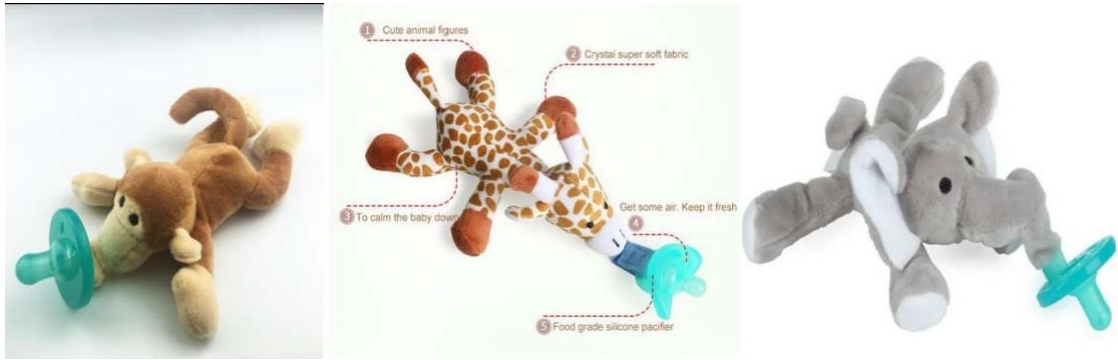
54. Defendants have sold, offered to sell, marketed, distributed, and advertised, and are still selling, offering to sell, marketing, distributing, and advertising products in connection with the WUBBANUB Copyright without Plaintiff's permission.

55. Defendants had access to the WUBBANUB Products incorporating Plaintiff's registered copyright before Defendants created their online marketplace accounts.

56. Upon information and belief, Defendants have directly copied the WUBBANUB Copyrights.

57. Alternatively, Defendants' representations of Plaintiff's copyrights for the WUBBANUB Products in the online marketplace accounts are strikingly similar, or at the very least substantially similar to the WUBBANUB Copyrights, and constitute unauthorized copying, reproduction, distribution, creation of a derivative work, and/or public display of Plaintiff's copyrights.

58. As just one example, Defendants deceive unknowing consumers by using the WUBBANUB Copyrights without authorization within the product descriptions of their online marketplace accounts to attract customers as follows:



Counterfeit WUBBANUB Products sold on exemplary Defendants Online Stores

Compared to



Genuine WUBBANUB Products

59. Defendants' exploitation of Plaintiff's copyright constitutes infringement of Plaintiff's WUBBANUB Copyright Registrations.

60. On information and belief, Defendants' infringing acts were willful, deliberate, and committed with prior notice and knowledge of Plaintiff's Copyrights.

61. Each Defendant willfully, wantonly, and in conscious disregard and intentional indifference to the rights of Plaintiff made and distributed in the United States, including this District, caused to be made and distributed in the United States, including this District, and aided,

abetted, contributed to, and participated in the unauthorized making and distribution of Counterfeit Products.

62. Each Defendant either knew, or should have reasonably known, that Plaintiff's WUBBANUB Products were protected by copyright and their representations infringed on Plaintiff's copyrights. Each Defendant continues to infringe upon Plaintiff's rights in and to the various copyrighted works.

63. As a direct and proximate result of their wrongful conduct, Defendants have realized and continue to realize profits and other benefits rightfully belonging to Plaintiff. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks an award of damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504.

64. In addition to Plaintiff's actual damages, Plaintiff is entitled to receive the profits made by the Defendants from their wrongful acts, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b). Each Defendant should be required to account for all gains, profits, and advantages derived by each Defendant from their acts of infringement.

65. In the alternative, Plaintiff is entitled to, and may elect to choose statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), which should be enhanced by 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2) because of Defendants' willful copyright infringement.

66. Plaintiff is entitled to, and may elect to choose, injunctive relief under 17 U.S.C. § 502, enjoining any use or exploitation by Defendants of their infringing work and for an order under 17 U.S.C. § 503 that any of Defendants' infringing products be impounded and destroyed.

67. Plaintiff seeks and is also entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.

68. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law, and, if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Plaintiff will continue to suffer irreparable harm to their reputation and the goodwill of its well-known WUBBANUB Copyrights.

COUNT II
FALSE DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))
[Against Defendants Designated in Schedule A]

69. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference herein its allegations contained in paragraphs 1-68 of this Complaint.

70. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products has created and is creating a likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception among the general public as to the affiliation, connection, or association with Plaintiff or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' Counterfeit Products by Plaintiff.

71. By using the TREBCO artworks in connection with the sale of Counterfeit Products embodying the WUBBANUB Copyright Registrations, Defendants create a false designation of origin and a misleading representation of fact as to the origin and sponsorship of the Counterfeit Products.

72. Defendants' conduct constitutes willful false designation of origin and misrepresentation of fact as to the origin and/or sponsorship of the Counterfeit Products to the general public under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1114, 1125.

73. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law, and, if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Plaintiffs will continue to suffer irreparable harm to their reputation and the goodwill of their brand.

COUNT III
VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS UNIFORM DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT
(815 ILCS § 510/1, et seq.)
[Against Defendants Designated in Schedule A]

74. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference herein its allegations contained in paragraphs 1-73 of this Complaint.

75. Plaintiff has not licensed or authorized Defendants to use the WUBBANUB Copyrights, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of genuine WUBBANUB Products.

76. Defendants knowingly and intentionally trade upon Plaintiff's reputation and goodwill by selling and/or offering for sale products in connection with Plaintiff's WUBBANUB Copyrights.

77. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products has created and is creating a likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception among the general public as to the quality, affiliation, connection, or association with Plaintiff or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' Counterfeit Products by Plaintiff.

78. Defendants knew, or should have known, that their promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of counterfeit WUBBANUB Products has caused and will continue to cause confusion, mistake, and deception among purchasers, users, and the public.

79. In fact, Defendants have fraudulently represented by their statements and actions that the Counterfeit Products are Plaintiff's products including, for example, by: (i) using SEO tactics and social media to misdirect customers seeking WUBBANUB Products to Defendants' online marketplace accounts; (ii) using deceptive advertising practices within the text and metadata of the online marketplace accounts; and (iii) taking other steps to deceive and confuse the consuming public.

80. On information and belief, Defendants' conduct is willful and intentional as Defendants attempt to avoid liability by concealing their identities, using multiple fictitious names and addresses to register and operate their illegal counterfeiting operations and Defendant Internet Stores.

81. The foregoing acts of Defendants constitute a willful violation of the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 815 ILCS § 510/1, et seq.

82. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law, and Defendants' conduct has caused Plaintiff to suffer damage to their reputation and goodwill. Unless enjoined by the Court, Plaintiff will suffer future irreparable harm as a direct result of Defendants' unlawful activities.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants and each of them as follows:

83. That Defendants, their affiliates, officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, confederates, and all persons acting for, with, by, through, under, or in active concert with them be temporarily, preliminarily, and permanently enjoined and restrained from:

- a. using the WUBBANUB Copyrights or any reproductions, counterfeit copies, or colorable imitations thereof in any manner in connection with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any product that is not a genuine WUBBANUB Product or is not authorized by Plaintiff to be sold in connection with the WUBBANUB Copyrights;
- b. passing off, inducing, or enabling others to sell or pass off any product as a genuine WUBBANUB Product or any other product produced by Plaintiff that is not Plaintiff's or not produced under the authorization, control, or supervision of Plaintiff and approved by Plaintiff for sale under the WUBBANUB Copyrights;
- c. committing any acts calculated to cause consumers to believe that Defendants' Counterfeit Products are those sold under the authorization, control, or supervision of Plaintiff, or are sponsored by, approved by, or otherwise connected with Plaintiff;
- d. further infringing the WUBBANUB Copyrights and damaging Plaintiff's goodwill;
- e. otherwise competing unfairly with Plaintiff in any manner;
- f. shipping, delivering, holding for sale, transferring, or otherwise moving, storing, distributing, returning, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, products or inventory not manufactured by or for Plaintiff, nor authorized by Plaintiff to be sold or offered for sale, and which copy the

WUBBANUB Copyrights or any reproductions, counterfeit copies, or colorable imitations thereof;

- g. using, linking to, transferring, selling, exercising control over, or otherwise owning any online marketplace accounts, the Defendant Domain Names, or any other domain name or Online marketplace account that is being used to sell or is the means by which Defendants could continue to sell Counterfeit Products; and
- h. operating and/or hosting online marketplace accounts at the Defendant Domain Names that are involved with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any product embodying the WUBBANUB Copyright Registrations or any reproduction, counterfeit copy or colorable imitation thereof that is not a genuine WUBBANUB Product or not authorized by Plaintiff to be sold in connection with the WUBBANUB Copyrights.

84. That Defendants, within fourteen (14) days after service of judgment with notice of entry thereof upon them, be required to file with the Court and serve upon Plaintiff a written report under oath setting forth in detail the manner and form in which Defendants have complied with paragraph 1 above;

85. Entry of an Order that the Marketplace Platforms, and any other online marketplace account provider:

- a. disable and cease providing services for any accounts through which Defendants engage in the sale of Counterfeit Products, including any accounts associated with the Defendants listed on Schedule A;
- b. disable and cease displaying any advertisements used by or associated with Defendants in connection with the sale of Counterfeit Products; and

- c. take all steps necessary to prevent links to the Defendant Domain Names identified on Schedule A from displaying in search results, including, but not limited to, removing links to the Defendant Domain Names from any search index.

86. That Defendants account for and pay to Plaintiff all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants' unlawful acts herein alleged.

87. In the alternative, that Plaintiff be awarded statutory damages of not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 for each and every infringement of Plaintiff's copyright pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), which should be enhanced to a sum of not more than \$150,000 by 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2) because of Defendants' willful copyright infringement;

88. That Plaintiff be awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

89. Award any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Dated: October 26, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

THOITS LAW

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