

REPLY TO

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Richard Burd
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

August 18, 2000
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REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Burd:

As one who has been involved in the issue of rest boards as a humane alternative to wire bottom cages in the housing of dogs in kennels, I am very concerned by the proposed regulations published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

This proposal appears to represent a step backward in the Department's effort to protect animals from inhumane living conditions.

I have spoken to members of the Rest Board Committee, which provided recommendations for kennels last year. They indicated that there was a compromise struck whereby rest boards would no longer be mandated if wire were eliminated. This compromise apparently was agreed to by members representing animal welfare interests and by members of the Amish community engaged in dog breeding.

The new regulations, however, retain wire but eliminate rest boards. I do not know if this is a result of a drafting error or misunderstanding, but I sincerely hope that it is corrected to reflect the Department's commitment to the protection of dogs.

I would suggest that wire bottom cages should be eliminated in favor of coated metal rod flooring of a diameter (greater than one-eighth inch) that will provide comfort for standing dogs of all sizes, and that rest boards should be retained for small dogs and toy breeds. If wire is to be allowed, then rest boards should remain mandated for dogs of all sizes.

Thank you for this opportunity to register my concerns on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Stewart J. Greenleaf
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Cc: Mr Robert Nyce, Chair, I.R.R.C.