

MICHAEL B. CARROLL, MEMBER
118TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
42 CENTER STREET
HUGHESTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18640
(570) 655-4883
1 (800) 894-0960
FAX: (570) 655-9110

P.O. BOX 619, ROUTE 209
GILBERT, PENNSYLVANIA 18331
(610) 681-2940
1 (866) 247-2776
FAX: (610) 681-2943

2559



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS
EDUCATION
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY
STATE GOVERNMENT
TRANSPORTATION

28A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202118
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2118
(717) 787-3589
FAX: (717) 780-4763

March 14, 2007

Mary Y. Bender, Director
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

Dear Director Bender:

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and a member of the General Assembly, serving citizens from Luzerne and Monroe Counties who will be directly and indirectly impacted by the proposed changes to 7 Pa. Code, Chapters 21, 23, 25 and 27 – Dog Law Enforcement, I wish to share my concerns with the proposed regulatory changes.

My primary area of concern is related to the very specific provisions related to the physical plant specifications for licensed facilities. Included among these are: slope of the floor, lighting, air exchange, ceiling and other structural requirements. In my view, an overwhelming majority of currently licensed facilities do not meet these extraordinary standards and will have to commit to significant upgrades resulting in a financial burden that will be far too onerous. Without question, a serious financial burden will be imposed upon the regulated community and our citizens.

In addition, I am concerned with the record keeping provisions included in the proposal. I believe records related to veterinary care and overall care of the dogs can be accomplished without attention paid to mundane and unnecessary record keeping.

While I understand the Department seeks to reign in the unscrupulous breeders and kennels in our Commonwealth, I am hopeful this can be accomplished without unfairly penalizing licensed and inspected facilities that meet the needs of our citizens and their dogs. I urge the Department to utilize the standards set forth in the federal Animal Welfare Act as the guide for our Commonwealth's Dog Law Regulations.

I look forward to the Department thoroughly considering both my recommendations and those of the licensed community as this process advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Carroll".

Michael B. Carroll
State Representative
118th Legislative District

cc: Kim Kaufman, Executive Director, IRRC

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