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BARBARA S. KOCH
306 MEWS DRIVE
SELLERSVILLE, PA 18960

January 10, 2007

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

ATTN: Ms. Mary Bender

Dear Ms. Bender:

As a dog and animal lover and an animal advocate and rescue volunteer, I applaud the steps recently taken by the Dog Law Advisory Board to update the antiquated regulations that have left thousands of Pennsylvania dogs suffering on a daily basis. Three years ago, I "rescued" (bought an AKC registered Sheltie who did not produce) from her AKC owner/breeder. The dog still has deep seated fears and issues, and still is learning how to be a dog.

The new regulations, introduced on December 16, 2006, are practical, enforceable, and will greatly improve the quality of life for the dogs living in the commercial breeding kennels. Moreover, those breeders opposing the regulations, based upon the costs they will incur to implement the necessary changes; do not have the dogs' best interests at heart. Clearly, these are the breeders who should be out of the business should they choose not to support or comply with the new regulations – the issue is the health of the dogs (mental and physical), not the money in the breeders' or dog registry's pockets.

It is absolutely documented by canine authorities that daily exercise, grooming, proper veterinary care and quality housing all serve to promote canine health and mental balance.

The Bureau has my *wholehearted* support to implement the new regulations and to continue policing and shutting down the substandard kennels that have littered our state to such a degree that Pennsylvania is known as the "Puppy Mill Capitol" of the east.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Koch

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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