

January 10, 2007

296 Chestnut St.
Indiana, PA 15701

2559

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062
Fax: 717-772-4352

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support of Governor Rendell's proposed changes to Pennsylvania's Dog Law and efforts to strengthen the Dog Law Enforcement Bureau. As it stands, current Dog Law does not specify provisions for sanitation, temperature, ventilation, food, or water, and cage sizes are inadequately small. Enforcement does not adequately punish and deter offenders. Consumers continue to buy sickly animals. Taxpayers continue to foot the bill for rehabilitating or euthanizing mistreated, suffering dogs. Meanwhile, repeat offenders are still in business.

It's a disgrace for Pennsylvania to be known as the "puppy mill capitol" of the United States. Ghandi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Right now, Pennsylvania should be ashamed. Consumers, reputable breeders and kennels, and the dogs themselves deserve to be protected.

Respectfully,



Genevieve Van de Merghel, Ph.D.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 JAN 25 AM 9:12

RECEIVED