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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 27, 2007

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

I would greatly appreciate it if the Bureau of Dog Law would strengthen laws against puppy mills in the state of Pennsylvania, including implementing the proposed new and amended kennel regulations to improve the living conditions of the dogs in commercial breeding kennels.

As a Psychotherapist for humans, it has become clear during my practice and schooling, that humane treatment of animals is critical to the mental health of humans who deal with animals. Sick and abused animals when put into the hands of caretakers add to the stress of their human caretakers both in the complications of dealing with a sickly animal, but also add to the financial stresses that can contribute to mental health issues in children and adults. Sickly animals are also more prone to triggering abusive behavior by contributing to the stress of adult human caregivers, and by doing so provide a model of abuse for that family's children. Abuse is a serious issue that passes from generation to generation, and is truly the negative gift that keeps on giving. Proper care and treatment by breeders is one step towards better health and mental health for the population of Pennsylvania in general.

I am appalled at Pennsylvania's reputation as "Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast." Breeding dogs, especially sick puppies, is not agriculture. Allowing the mistreatment of animals, provides the training grounds for people to learn and develop the habits for mistreating people. More often than not, individuals who have been caught serially doing harm and torture of other humans got their start with harming animals as their training grounds. If someone is mistreating animals, they are potentially establishing a pattern of behavior that can lead to applying those antisocial patterns of behavior towards humans.

I can not overstate my support for the proposed kennel regulations!

Sincerely,



David M. Einhorn, MA, MSW, LSW
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