

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
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6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
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8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

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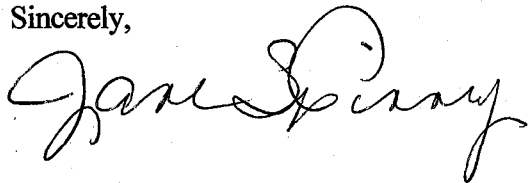
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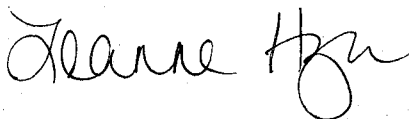
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Charlene Padworny



2/7/07

Facesvair@aol.com

Kimberton, Pennsylvania 19442

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1511 Erbs Mill Rd
Blue Bell, PA 19422

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

February 2, 2007

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Ausan Spinello
13 Tall Tree Circle
Broomall, PA 19008

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*is I realize this
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important to me very
Please consider the
content.
Thank you -
Ellie Cherry
Celeste Cherry,
Hudymile PA 19039*

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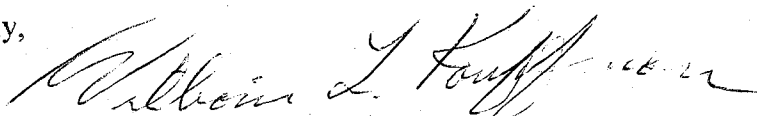
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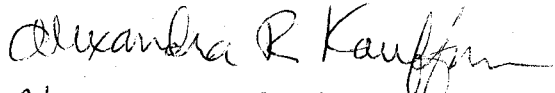
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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


ALEXANDRA R. KAUFFMAN
209 Highland Ave.
Wallingford, PA 19086

2559

January 26, 2007

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Amy Lawson
45 Patterson Run Rd
McConnellsburg, Pa 17233

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing in response to the proposed amendments to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006.

With a full understanding that the bureau is trying to improve substandard kennel conditions, I am not in agreement that most of the changes are necessary.

The proposed record keeping would require me to write down the date and time I washed each food and water bowl, every time a pen is cleaned; each individual outside run is cleaned, etc. It would be better for me to have my general daily procedures that I routinely follow, in writing. This is similar to how the USDA regulations are worded.

The proposed changes would also require the demolition of Pennsylvania's licensed and inspected kennels. Yet, there is no scientific basis for the change. In addition, the average cost to rebuild kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be withdrawn, as the beneficial outcome will be in question if the proposal is adopted.

Yours truly,



INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 MAR -9 AM 10:05

RECEIVED

2559

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED

2007 MAR -9 AM 10:05

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 26, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

As a kennel owner for a good number of years, I appreciate the fact that the bureau has helped to improve the dog laws. With regard to the proposed dog law changes Act 225 issued on December 16, 2006, I have a few serious concerns.

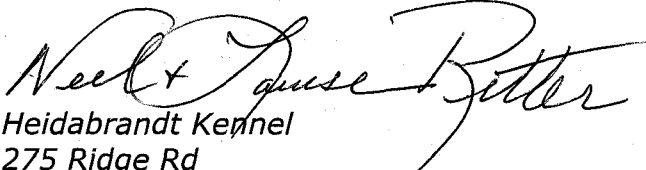
The proposed changes would require the kennel owner to record every time a water bowl or food pan is washed, every time the primary and secondary pen enclosures are cleaned, the feeding and watering dates and times, etc. These excessive and burdensome requirements will require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports and divert the small business owner's time away from caring for their animals.

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

The proposed changes make no sense for all kennel owners' dogs to be seized by the Dog Law Bureau based on the Governor's proposed new requirements for pen sized or quarantine regulations. Dog Law places the same dog into a humane society not required to have the proposed new standards. It is vital to have fair and uniform kennel requirements. In addition, small business owners are affected greatly and their due process rights in court are limited if the proposed changes adopted.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded.

Yours Sincerely,


Heidabrandt Kennel
275 Ridge Rd
Darlington, PA 16115

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

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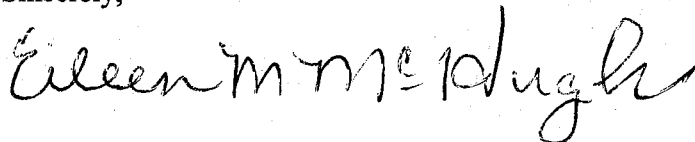
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eileen M. McDough". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Eileen M. McDough".

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

February 2, 2007

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Cheryl J. Kern

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

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Sincerely,

Barbara A. Pope
5 Amanda Ct. #105
Du Bois Pa. 15801

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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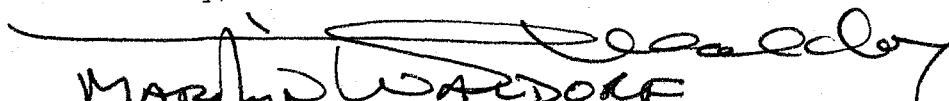
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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for their efforts.

Sincerely,


MARTIN WARDORF
3220 HARVEST MOON DRIVE
PALM HARBOR FLORIDA 34683

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

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2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

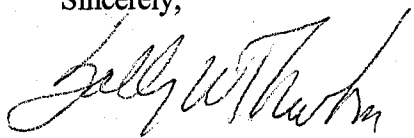
8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Sally W. Thornton
980 Longview Ave
Indiana PA 15701
724-399-4750

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

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Gordon Thornton
980 Longview Ave
Indiana, PA 15701

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

February 2, 2007

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlotte E. Kuller, M.Ed., R/I

Ben E Kauffman
358 Bell Rd.
Christiana PA 17509

2559

January 24, 2007

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED

2007 MAR -5 AM 10:19

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

As a Pennsylvania breeder, I am strongly opposed to the overly restrictive rules and regulations that are proposed for kennel owners. The enforcement of regulations such as these will effectively serve to shut down or severely curtail the activities of the concerned, caring and law-abiding breeders in Pennsylvania. The extensive number of regulations outlined in this proposal and the limited time allotted prevents the proper consultation and review of these regulations with our kennel veterinarian and other professionals. Therefore, in order to allow for the proper review and consultation of this extensive proposal, I request a ninety-day extension of the comment period.

As a Pennsylvania breeder, my goal and the goal of other law-abiding breeders is to raise the best quality and healthiest puppy possible. This is not the issue. Unfortunately, the issue created by this proposal is my rights as a citizen of this state to own property, and my rights to be afforded due process guaranteed by the provisions of our state's constitution. The vagueness of this proposal causes great concern that my rights as a citizen will be omitted by the bias opinion of those who will hear my side of the story.

As a Pennsylvania breeder, I am concerned that these overly burdensome regulations will have severe unforeseen consequences. These include reduced number of breeders willing to deal with the excessive administrative burden caused by these regulations. The shortages of puppies and resulting higher prices, which will encourage the import of oversea and out of state puppies. The ensuing shortages will provide a lucrative opportunity for those who operate beneath the law to fill these shortages. Those who participate in this black market will find the rewards well worth the risk. Additionally, the economic loss to the state will be in the millions, and will go far beyond the breeder to include pet supply retailers, cities who sponsor shows, and state tax revenue.

As a Pennsylvania breeder, I believe it is unfortunate that this proposal appears to be more about animal activism than about animal welfare. You only have to consider the one section that permits shelters and other similar facilities that provide a "service" to be exempt from these regulations. I immediately question the intent behind those who are pushing the governor on this issue. What sense does it make to remove animals from a substandard facility and place them in another substandard facility? None! Furthermore, this proposal has no incentives or educational programs for the breeders. It is all threats and punishment, which is another indication, that the motives of those supporting this proposal are more interested in eliminating our industry than in improving our industry.

Sincerely, *Benni E Kauffman*

358 Bell Rd
Christiana PA 17509

PAW TICULAR PETS BOARDING KENNEL
880 RT 519
EIGHTY FOUR, PA 15330

2559

RECEIVED

JANUARY 30, 2007

2007 MAR -5 AM 10:19

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
ATTN: ARTHUR COCCODRILLI, CHAIRMAN
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR
HARRISBURG, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

DEAR CHAIRMAN COCCODRILLI,

I AM WRITING IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DOG
LAW ACT 225 WHICH WAS ISSUED ON DECEMBER 16, 2006.

WITH A FULL UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BUREAU IS TRYING TO IMPROVE
SUBSTANDARD KENNEL CONDITIONS, I AM NOT IN AGREEMENT THAT MOST
OF THE CHANGES ARE NECESSARY.

THE PROPOSED RECORD KEEPING WOULD REQUIRE ME TO WRITE DOWN THE
DATE AND TIME I WASHED EACH FOOD AND WATER BOWL, EVERY TIME A PEN
IS CLEANED; EACH INDIVIDUAL OUTSIDE RUN IS CLEANED, ETC. IT WOULD BE
BETTER FOR ME TO HAVE MY GENERAL DAILY PROCEDURES THAT I
ROUTINELY FOLLOW, IN WRITING. THIS IS SIMILAR TO HOW THE USDA
REGULATIONS ARE WORDED.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD ALSO REQUIRE THE DEMOLITION OF
PENNSYLVANIA'S LICENSED AND INSPECTED KENNELS. YET, THERE IS NO
SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE CHANGE. IN ADDITION, THE AVERAGE COST TO
REBUILD KENNEL WILL BE BETWEEN \$30,000.00 AND \$500,000.00
EACH.

I SINCERELY URGE THAT THIS PROPOSAL BE WITHDRAWN, AS THE
BENEFICIAL OUTCOME WILL BE IN QUESTION IF THE PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED.

YOURS TRULY,



Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED

2007 MAR -5 AM 10:19

January 27, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing in response to the Dog Law Act 225 that was issued on December 16, 2006, of which I have several disagreements. The regulatory proposals in general are very difficult and costly to enforce, extremely onerous, and not feasible when put in to practice.

The new proposal only permits a licensed kennel to buy from another licensed kennel. This is fraud for the following reasons:

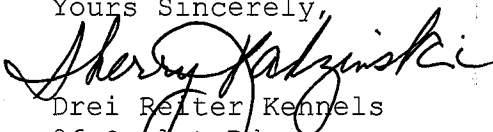
1. Unless the kennel has purchased, sold, or transferred more than 26 dogs in a calendar year to the individual, it is impossible for the kennel to know if the individual is required to have a Pennsylvania kennel license.
2. It is unlawful for the department to regulate and inspect kennels outside of Pennsylvania.
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement Bureau already requires the name, address, acquisition date, disposition date, type of sale, breed, sex, color, whelping date, and identification number be recorded for each and every dog sold, transferred, adopted, or given away. If the Department wishes to enforce the law, they already have all information needed.

The proposals referencing to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socializing and training practices. Moreover, there is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements.

The current proposal claims to be a general list of ideas to improve the breeding environment for dogs, which are neither substantiated by science nor attributed as accepted canine husbandry practices. A better idea would be for Pennsylvania to adopt USDA type standards.

I sincerely request that this proposal be withdrawn.

Yours Sincerely,


Drei Reiter Kennels
96 Outlet Rd
Dallas, PA 18612

2559

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

January 31, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing in response to the proposed amendments to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006.

The current proposed regulation changes have appeared to be burdensome and beyond rulemaking. The proposals add completely new categories and definition to the existing laws. These changes must be addressed through the legislative process.

The proposals referencing housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socializing and training practices. Furthermore, there is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements.

In addition, the proposed regulations call for the temperature of the kennel floor to be 50F° in the warm weather. Many kennels are air conditioned to a comfortable 70F°. A dog sleeping on a 50F° floor can develop hypothermia and become ill or die. For temperature, lighting, cleaning, exercise, housing, and veterinary care, the attending veterinarian should set forth and approve procedures specific for the kennel buildings and breeds of dogs.

The proposed changes above will require Pennsylvania's licensed and inspected kennels to be demolished and rebuilt. The average cost will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 per kennel, if the proposed laws are adopted.

The current proposed appears to be over idealistic in term of improving the welfare of dogs. I urge that this proposal be rescinded and an approach similar to the USDA standards be developed.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Zook

Paul Zook
149 Sawmill Rd
Belleville, PA 17004

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 MAR -5 AM 10:19

RECEIVED

2559

Bakavi Kennel
860 S. Winding Rd
Dover, PA 17315

January 22, 2007

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman

333 Market Street, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

RE: PA STEAL OUR FREEDOM BILL

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

RECEIVED
2007 MAR -5 AM 10:19
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006. I completely understand that substandard kennel conditions should not be permitted, but most of the proposed regulatory changes are impractical and costly. *and inhumane*

These proposals call for change in definitions and requirements of licensed and inspected kennels within the Commonwealth. These extensive changes must go through Pennsylvania's House and Senate legislative processes.

The proposed regulations call for the temperature of the kennel floor to be 50F° in the warm weather. Many kennels are air conditioned to a comfortable 70F°. A dog sleeping on a 50F° floor can develop hypothermia and become ill or die. For temperature, lighting, cleaning, exercise, housing, and veterinary care, the attending veterinarian should set forth and approve procedures specific for the kennel buildings and breeds of dogs.

Ridiculously cold

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

The proposed changes would require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports and divert the small business owner's time away from caring for their animals.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded and the USDA standard be adopted in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Diana W. Miller

The only winners, if this should pass will be the "Puppy Mills". Is that the intent? A.R. people have lost their minds along the way.

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulation. First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement. Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with lice laws" should be increased to a minimum of \$100 per dog.
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 3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for their efforts in addressing these issues.
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 6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
 7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
 8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
 9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
 10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
 11. Animal hoarders; and
 12. Civil liability issues.
 6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement should conduct regular inspections of breeding facilities.
 7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must maintain accurate records of all breeding activities.
 8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking secondary enclosures should be limited to a maximum of two levels.
 9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the current regulations.
 10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the regulations should be enforced.
- Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for their efforts in addressing these issues.

Sincerely,

Juliana Witkoff

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
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12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

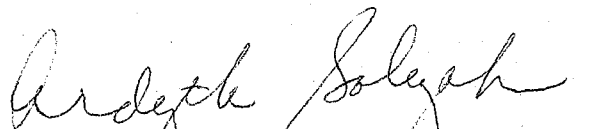
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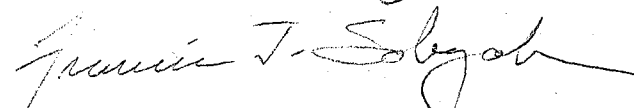
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10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


ARDETH SOBYAK



FRANCIS J. SOBYAK
304 DOE RUN LN., RADNOR, PA 19087

Letter

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

Having purchased dogs from wonderful, ethical, breeders, and boarded them in clean, air conditioned/heated boarding kennels, owned and operated by animal loving, ethical professionals, I feel compelled to voice my opinion.

Although, perhaps, well intentioned, the proposed amendments of December 16, 2006 to the Pennsylvania Dog Law Regulations greatly concern me.

I agree that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, however, I emphatically disagree with the proposed regulatory changes.

I believe these changes are impractical, will create a great burden from a financial standpoint, will not be enforceable and, most importantly, will not improve the quality of the lives of the dogs entrusted to the aforementioned, ethical breeders and boarding kennels.

These regulations will also require wholesale renovation, if not rebuilding of many kennels already built in compliance with current federal and/or state standards. Small, boarding kennels, and breeding facilities, whose care and conditions are far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.

These small breeders and boarding kennels would be forced out of business, face a loss of income, and deprive their communities of their outstanding services.

I strongly urge that this proposal be withdrawn

Sincerely,

Bernice Lubanovsky

**Michelle King
1504 Reading Road
Mohnton, PA 19540**

January 26, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing in response to oppose the Dog Law Regulations Act 225 recently issued on December 16, 2006. The current regulatory proposals in general are unenforceable and extremely onerous when put into practice.

The proposed regulations call for kennels to be specific in regard to exercise and cleaning records. These would require a substantial increase in manpower and time dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports, and it would be impossible to verify their accuracy. This change would also divert the small business owner's time away from caring for their animals.

The bureau already requires the name, address, acquisition date, disposition date, type of sale, breed, sex, color, whelping date, and identification number be recorded for each and every dog sold, transferred, adopted, or given away. If the department wishes to enforce the law, they already have all information needed.

Unless the kennel has purchased, sold, or transferred more than 26 dogs in a calendar year to the individual, it is impossible for the kennel to know if the individual is required to have a Pennsylvania kennel license.

Additionally, kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded and the USDA standard be adopted in Pennsylvania.

Yours Sincerely,

Michelle A. King

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

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9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rita A. Clark

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen Madrigal
2400 Broadway Ave.
Hatboro, PA 19040

March 2, 2007

2559

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market St., 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Ms. Bender and Chairman Coccodrilli:

I, along with many fellow citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, am ashamed and saddened that Pennsylvania is known as the "puppy mill capital of the East." For years, Pennsylvania residents have called upon their legislators and regulators to clean up the cruel puppy mills that brutalize dogs and tarnish the state's image. Thanks in part to Governor Ed Rendell's commitment to help the tens of thousands of dogs affected by Pennsylvania's puppy mills, the issue has recently received increased attention, and, on December 16, 2006, changes to the outdated kennel regulations—currently used to inspect commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania—were proposed.

I strongly support adopting the proposed changes to improve the living conditions of dogs currently in puppy mills, including:

- Doubling the minimum cage size.
- Requiring daily exercise outside of the cage.
- Requiring heat when the temperature drops below 50 degrees F.
- Requiring cooling (by fan or air conditioner) when the temperature rises above 85 degrees F.
- Improving ventilation in kennel areas
- Denying kennel licenses to individuals convicted of animal cruelty within the past 10 years.

I also support the detailed comments on the proposed regulation changes submitted by the Humane Society of the United States. I also have concern that animal shelters and rescue groups (that are trying to improve the lives of these dogs) might be adversely affected by the kennel regulations due to the addition of a new definition of a "temporary home." I ask for an exemption for animal shelters from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements and that foster homes should be exempt from kennel housing requirements and instead have separate performance and care standards appropriate for home care settings.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Sally Ann Sims
1506 Conifer Dr.
West Chester, PA 19380

cc: State Representative Duane Milne
State Senator Andrew Dinniman

2559

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 26, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

As a kennel owner for a good number of years, I appreciate the fact that the bureau has helped to improve the dog laws. With regard to the proposed dog law changes Act 225 issued on December 16, 2006, I have a few serious concerns.

The proposed changes would require the kennel owner to record every time a water bowl or food pan is washed, every time the primary and secondary pen enclosures are cleaned, the feeding and watering dates and times, etc. These excessive and burdensome requirements will require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports and divert the small business owner's time away from caring for their animals.

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

The proposed changes make no sense for all kennel owners' dogs to be seized by the Dog Law Bureau based on the Governor's proposed new requirements for pen sized or quarantine regulations. Dog Law places the same dog into a humane society not required to have the proposed new standards. It is vital to have fair and uniform kennel requirements. In addition, small business owners are affected greatly and their due process rights in court are limited if the proposed changes adopted.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded.

Yours Sincerely,

Wendy S. Logan
Store Manager

Heartland Pets
568 Millcreek Mall
Erie, PA 16565

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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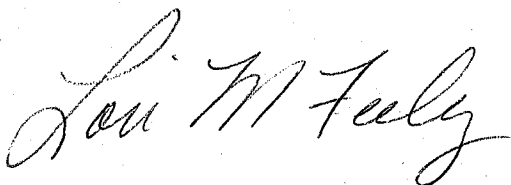
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lou M Fealy". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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Cynthia L. Sullivan
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Terry G. Sullivan

113 Garfield St.
Wayneboro, PA 17268

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
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Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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137 Barrow St 3A / 6938
N.Y. N.Y 10014 / Rosewood Ave
Pittsburgh
PA 15208

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
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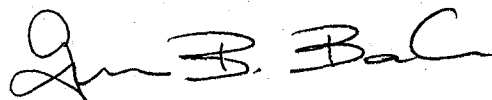
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1408 Mountainview Drive
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Pa. 19087
gunn.britt@comcast.net

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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February 13, 2007

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Liam M. Becker
Pittsburgh, PA

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

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9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
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11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken R. Bauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping flourish at the end.

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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Sincerely,

Mary J. Marshall

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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Kevin M. Dougherty
555 E. Washington Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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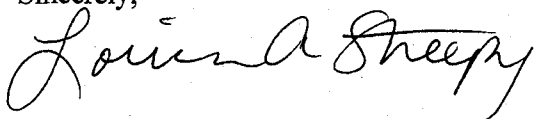
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Louise A. Sheehey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Louise A. Sheehey".

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

February 2, 2007

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

February 2, 2007

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Sincerely,

Barbara D. Koch
11645 Woodlea Dr.
Waynesboro, PA 17268

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

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

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Terrence W. O'Donnell

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

It has been brought to my attention the newly proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations. As the owner of (a) several) companion dog (s), I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

I purchased my dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large-scale commercial kennel, because I wanted the best chance at getting a healthy dog with a good temperament. I wanted to know that my puppy had been exposed to a variety of normal household situations and was prepared to live the life of a family companion. By buying directly from a breeder, I was able to see the conditions in which my puppy was raised.

The proposed changes, particularly those applying to "Kennels- Primary Enclosures", are of particular concern to me. It is my understanding that in these proposed changes, if a cumulative total of 26 dogs are housed at "the Establishment" during a calendar year, then licensed breeders will be required to have housing facilities that comply with the specifications outlined in the proposed changes. Small scale breeders who fall into the class 1 designation, would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp or raise their dogs within their homes. These breeders, who strive to produce dogs which are true to breed type, of good temperament, and, inasmuch as possible, free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet the standards.

I credit my dog's good temperament to thoughtful breeding and to the love and attention that my breeder gave my puppy. Most importantly, this included exposure to everyday sights and sounds, such as:

- 1) My puppy was taken outside to potty on grass regularly. This is of importance to me, as it helped with the housebreaking process.
- 2) In a home situation, my puppy was exposed to different surfaces and noises such as kitchen appliances, television and other noises that occur in my home.
- 3) My puppy was given opportunity to interact with other dogs, helping with social skills needed to meet other dogs we come in contact with.

While I applaud the efforts to improve the living conditions for the dogs and puppies being raised in commercial facilities, I find it a great disservice to the reputable breeder, who standards far surpass in many ways, what these proposed amendments mandate. I, for one, want the choice to buy from a small scale, reputable breeder, and oppose these amendments.

Sincerely,



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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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February 13, 2007

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7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs

more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Donna Kelly

Dear Ms. Bender -

Page 1 of 2

What a grand message for Pennsylvania to send. It will be noted here in Nevada and other states.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

JOIN THE ASPCA TODAY

Sam C. Stuber



Mr. Louis C. Kleber
7977 Lisa Dawn Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89147

Help us fight cruelty

TAKE ACTION

LOBBY FOR ANIMALS

Federal: Urge the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to Adopt Puppy Mill Regulations!

Bill Number: Proposed changes to the Dog Law Regulations

Primary Sponsor(s): PA Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

ASPCA Position: Support, with comments

Action Needed: Make the changes to the regulations even better by taking advantage of the "comment period" that's part of this process. **Print, sign and send a letter** to Pennsylvania's Dog Law Advisory Board urging them to adopt the proposed changes to Dog Law regulations.

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has the highest concentration of puppy mills of any county in the United States! Pennsylvania's governor recently committed to cleaning up the state's commercial dog breeding industry. Enacting regulations that protect Pennsylvania's ke dogs from abuse is an important step toward that goal.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement have introduced changes to the regulations that govern the commercial breeding industry in the state. Many of these changes are vital if Pennsylvania is to improve conditions for dogs in commercial kennels and put an end to the State's reputation as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East."

These new regulations, if enacted, will drastically improve conditions for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. The new regulations will:

- Double the required cage size for dogs.
- Improve standards such as sanitation, drainage and ventilation.
- Prohibit people from buying dogs from unlicensed dealers.
- Require that all dogs be provided with a minimum of 20 minutes of exercise per day.

The commercial breeding industry has made a number of inaccurate and potentially damaging statements about the proposed regulations. The proposed regulations will not impose restrictions on small hobby breeders who raise fewer than 26 dogs in a year; r

the regulations impact dog shows, dog parks, or other dog events held in the state. The regulations are aimed specifically at regulating large scale commercial breeders.

It is crucial that the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement hear from you by March to refute the breeding industry's false assertions.

Please take action now by printing this letter and sending it to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement! The letter is an official comment on the proposed regulations. The ASPCA supports the regulations, but there are things that could be added and amended to strengthen the regulations and better protect dogs at commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This letter reflects some of the changes that we feel are most important.

The Bureau must receive your comments by March 16th. Unfortunately, the Bureau is accepting letters through the U.S. Postal Service, so the ASPCA cannot send the letter you via email. **Please ask friends and family to send a letter as well!**

Send the letter to:

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

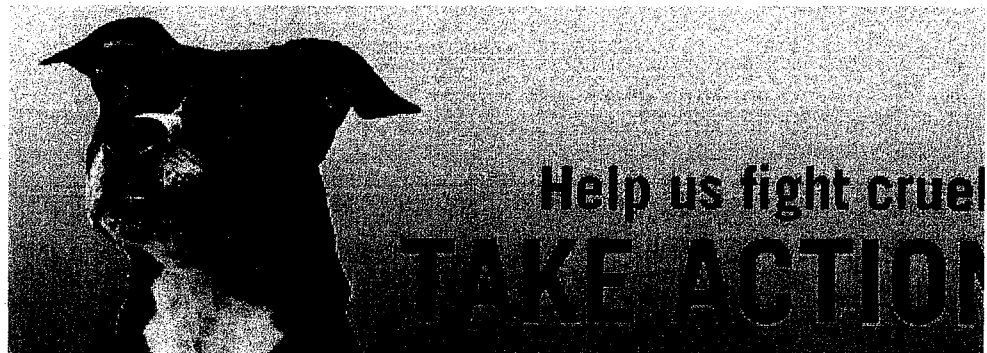


THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

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LOBBY FOR ANIMALS

Federal: Urge the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to Adopt Puppy Mill Regulations!

Our Programs:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Shelter Outreach
- Animal Poison Control
- Animal Behavior Center
- Equine Program
- Humane Education
- For Kids: ASPCA Animaland
- New York City

Bill Number: Proposed changes to the Dog Law Regulations

Primary Sponsor(s): PA Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

ASPCA Position: Support, with comments

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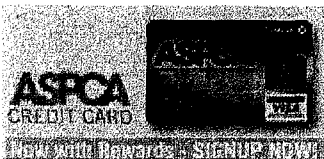
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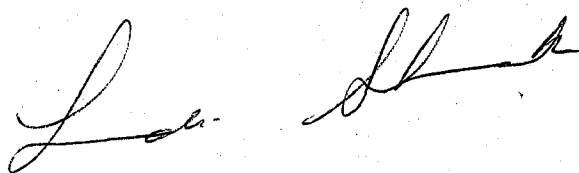
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Send the letter to:

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. S. ...', is written across the middle of the page.

February 5, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to you in reference to the new legislation being proposed by lawmakers in PA in an effort to improve the living conditions of animals that live in commercial breeding facilities. I would like to applaud your efforts and thank you for your work on behalf of those who have no voice.

I am writing to enthusiastically support this legislation. It is my hope that legislators will not bend to the special interests of groups who are allowing their collective financial self-interest to supercede the overall welfare of the dogs that live in these commercial breeding facilities. As you are well aware, many of these dogs spend **years** living in cramped cages with little or no medical care, no good nutrition, no socialization and no opportunity for regular exercise. It is unfortunate indeed that some turn a blind eye to the suffering of these helpless animals. I fully realize that these are the facilities that this legislation is intended to regulate more effectively.

Once again, I applaud your efforts on behalf of the helpless animals that are suffering in the state of PA at this very moment due to the greed of certain individuals. I hope that you will work tirelessly to see to it that this legislation can be passed and become law. It is my hope that the final legislation will not interfere with the work of shelters and rescues who are already working tirelessly on behalf of animals. That being said, I would like to once again express my support of this legislation.

Most sincerely,

Cynthia Natropanesco

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition

of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs

more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kim Kiser". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Mt. Valley Farms
840 Shippensburg Rd
Biglerville, PA 17307

2559

RECEIVED

January 26, 2007

2007 MAR 14 AM 9:12

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing in response to the proposed amendments to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006.

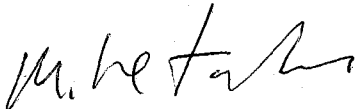
With a full understanding that the bureau is trying to improve substandard kennel conditions, I am not in agreement that most of the changes are necessary.

The proposed record keeping would require me to write down the date and time I washed each food and water bowl, every time a pen is cleaned; each individual outside run is cleaned, etc. It would be better for me to have my general daily procedures that I routinely follow, in writing. This is similar to how the USDA regulations are worded.

The proposed changes would also require the demolition of Pennsylvania's licensed and inspected kennels. Yet, there is no scientific basis for the change. In addition, the average cost to rebuild kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be withdrawn, as the beneficial outcome will be in question if the proposal is adopted.

Yours truly,



2559

RECEIVED

March 8 2007

2007 MAR 14 AM 9:12

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

I am writing this letter to express my concern for the living conditions of puppy mills.

I do not believe that puppy mills should exist in Pennsylvania or any other place in the United States.

If they have to exist, they should exist in a humane way. No animal should suffer at the hands of a human being.

I support the proposed changes listed below:

- Doubling the minimum cage size
- Requiring daily exercise outside the cage
- Required heat when temperature drops below 50 degrees
- Required cooling either by fan or air conditioning when temperature rises above 85 degrees
- Improving ventilation in kennel areas
- Denying kennel licenses to individuals convicted of animal cruelty

I support the detail comments submitted by the Humane Society of the US .

I feel that animal shelters and rescue groups should be held exempt from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements.

I feel that foster homes should also be held exempt from kennel housing requirements.

Animal shelters, animal rescues and foster homes should have separate performance standards appropriate for their care settings.

Pennsylvania is a wonderful state and it is disappointing that we are known as the "puppy capital of the East."

I hope these changes will be made and strictly enforced so that we can set an example for the rest of the country of how animals should and must be treated.

Thank You

Sincerely

Amy L. Mattson

2559

Dog Law Bureau Director, Independent Regulatory Review Commission

I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that were recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

I am strongly opposed to commercial breeding kennels where the costs are minimized by providing substandard care and conditions for the dogs in an effort to increase the profit. I am writing to request that you immediately take steps to address the horrific conditions in commercial kennels in Pennsylvania. Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that are kept in a cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs. Thank you.

Jim Fedrizzi
108 Cottwood
Columbus DE 19801

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 14 PM 2:43

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

1. Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am against the new dog law proposal. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted.

I believe that Camp KCS is one of the finest kennels around and it will put a HUGE burden not only on the owners of the kennels but the customers who board their dogs.

I ask that you oppose this law because if it does go into effect, our kennel will have to increase the charge for boarding and we would not be able to afford this, as I am sure many others will not and these kennels may eventually go out of business.

I am in favor of the suggested changes to the new law by Camp KCS, Inc
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sign



Print

Mark Ehlmann

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

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Sincerely,

Sign Barbara Ehlmann

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

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Sincerely,

Sign



Print

Michael Grimes

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

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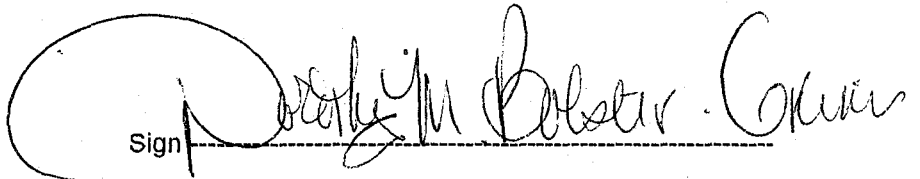
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Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sign



Print

Dorothy M. Bolster-Geimes

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

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Sincerely,

Sign Maureen A Curry

Print MAUREEN A CURRY

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 Norn Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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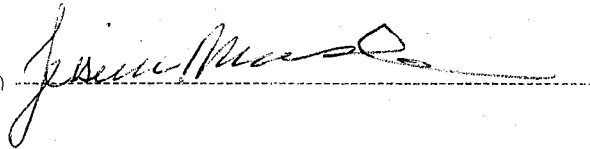
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Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sign



Print

Jessica Nicholson

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

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Sincerely,

Sign Susan P. Airola

Print Susan P. Airola

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

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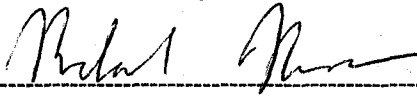
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Sincerely,

Sign 

Print Michael Wence

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

1. Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing this letter to inform you that I am against the new dog law proposal. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted.

I believe that Camp KCS is one of the finest kennels around and it will put a HUGE burden not only on the owners of the kennels but the customers who board their dogs.

I ask that you oppose this law because if it does go into effect, our kennel will have to increase the charge for boarding and we would not be able to afford this, as I am sure many others will not and these kennels may eventually go out of business.

I am in favor of the suggested changes to the new law by Camp KCS, Inc
Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sign Patricia Edmouson

Print PATRICIA EDMOSON

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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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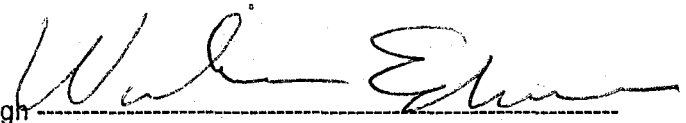
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Print

WILLIAM EDMONSON

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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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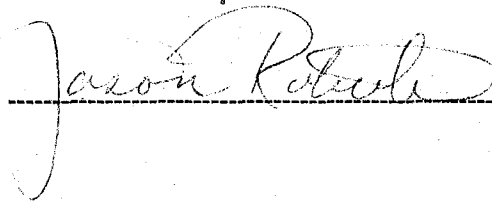
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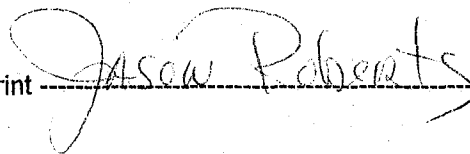
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Sign

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Roberts". The signature is written over a horizontal dashed line.

Print

The name "Jason Roberts" printed in a standard serif font, positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

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

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Robert Montrose

Print

Robert Montrose

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

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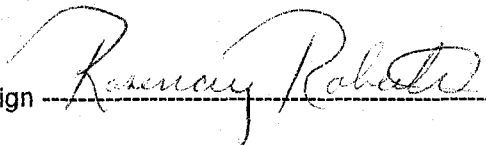
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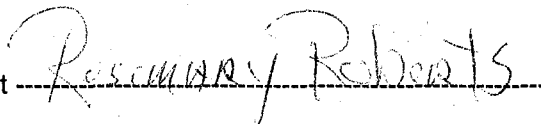
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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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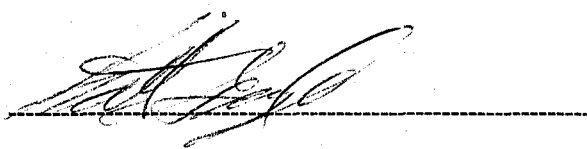
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Sincerely,

Sign



Print

Scott Gogel

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

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth S. Kethen-Clark".

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

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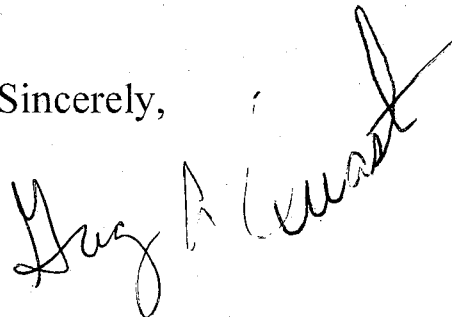
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Guy A. Curran". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

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

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Sincerely,

Sign



Print

Earl Bunnell

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

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Sign



Print

Colleen H Crowley

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

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Sincerely,

Veresa Miller

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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408**

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Sincerely,

J. S. Newark

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition

of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs

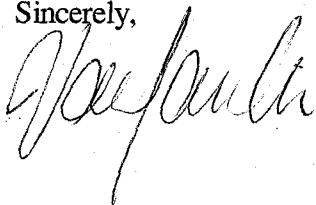
more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,





THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

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LOBBY FOR ANIMALS

Federal: Urge the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to Adopt Puppy Mill Regulations!

Our Programs:

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- Shelter Outreach
- Animal Poison Control
- Animal Behavior Center
- Equine Program
- Humane Education
- For Kids: ASPCA Animaland
- New York City

Bill Number: Proposed changes to the Dog Law Regulations

Primary Sponsor(s): PA Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

ASPCA Position: Support, with comments

Action Needed: Make the changes to the regulations even better by taking advantage of the "comment period" that's part of this process. **Print, sign and send a letter** to Pennsylvania's Dog Law Advisory Board urging them to adopt the proposed changes to Dog Law regulations.

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has the highest concentration of puppy mills of any county in the United States! Pennsylvania's governor recently committed to cleaning up the state's commercial dog breeding industry. Enacting regulations that protect Pennsylvania's keystone dogs from abuse is an important step toward that goal.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement have introduced changes to the regulations that govern the commercial breeding industry in the state. Many of these changes are vital if Pennsylvania is to improve conditions for dogs in commercial kennels and put an end to the State's reputation as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East."

These new regulations, if enacted, will drastically improve conditions for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. The new regulations will:

- Double the required cage size for dogs.
- Improve standards such as sanitation, drainage and ventilation.
- Prohibit people from buying dogs from unlicensed dealers.
- Require that all dogs be provided with a minimum of 20 minutes of exercise per day.

The commercial breeding industry has made a number of inaccurate and potentially damaging statements about the proposed regulations. The proposed regulations will not impose restrictions on small hobby breeders who raise fewer than 26 dogs in a year; rather, the regulations impact dog shows, dog parks, or other dog events held in the state. T



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regulations are aimed specifically at regulating large scale commercial breeders.

It is crucial that the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement hear from you by March to refute the breeding industry's false assertions.

Please take action now by printing this letter and sending it to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement! The letter is an official comment on the proposed regulations. The ASPCA supports the regulations, but there are things that could be added and amended to strengthen the regulations and better protect dogs at commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This letter reflects some of the changes that we feel are most important

The Bureau must receive your comments by March 16th. Unfortunately, the Bureau is accepting letters through the U.S. Postal Service, so the ASPCA cannot send the letter you via email. **Please ask friends and family to send a letter as well!**

Send the letter to:

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





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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

MEMBER LOG-IN

User Name

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

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6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

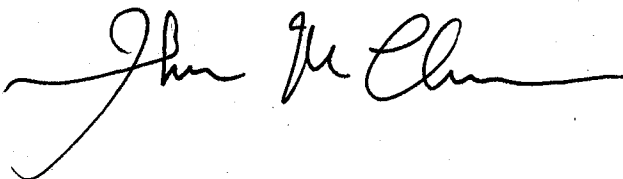
8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John M. Clark". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Federal: Urge the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to Adopt Puppy Mill Regulations!

Bill Number: Proposed changes to the Dog Law Regulations

Primary Sponsor(s): PA Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

ASPCA Position: Support, with comments

Action Needed: Make the changes to the regulations even better by taking advantage of the "comment period" that's part of this process. **Print, sign and send a letter** to Pennsylvania's Dog Law Advisory Board urging them to adopt the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has the highest concentration of puppy mills of any county in the United States! Pennsylvania's governor recently committed to cleaning up the state's commercial dog breeding industry. Enacting regulations that protect Pennsylvania's kennel dogs from abuse is an important step toward that goal.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement have introduced changes to the regulations that govern the commercial breeding industry in the state. Many of these changes are vital if Pennsylvania is to improve conditions for dogs kept in commercial kennels and put an end to the State's reputation as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East."

These new regulations, if enacted, will drastically improve conditions for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. The new regulations will:

- Please*
- Double the required cage size for dogs.
 - Improve standards such as sanitation, drainage and ventilation.
 - Prohibit people from buying dogs from unlicensed dealers.
 - Require that all dogs be provided with a minimum of 20 minutes of exercise per day.

The commercial breeding industry has made a number of inaccurate and potentially damaging statements about the proposed regulations. The proposed regulations **will not** impose restrictions on small hobby breeders who raise fewer than 26 dogs in a year; nor will the regulations impact dog shows, dog parks, or other dog events held in the state. The regulations are aimed specifically at regulating large scale commercial breeders.

It is crucial that the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement hear from you by March 16th to refute the breeding industry's false assertions.

Please take action now by printing this letter and sending it to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement! The letter is an official comment on the proposed regulations. The ASPCA supports the regulations, but there are things that could be added and amended to strengthen the regulations and better protect dogs at commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This letter reflects some of the changes that we feel are most important.

The Bureau must receive your comments by March 16th. Unfortunately, the Bureau is only accepting letters through the U.S. Postal Service, so the ASPCA cannot send the letter for you via email. **Please ask friends and family to send a letter as well!**

*Please support Law Enforcement
of these puppy mill operations
stop the inhumane treatment of dogs
Janet Jewery*



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

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Federal: Urge the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to Adopt Puppy Mill Regulations!

Our Programs:

- Disaster Preparedness
- Shelter Outreach
- Animal Poison Control
- Animal Behavior Center
- Equine Program
- Humane Education
- For Kids: ASPCA Animaland
- New York City

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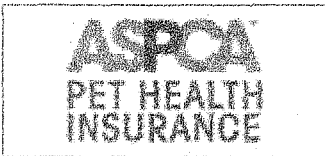
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Send the letter to:

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

John E. Kemmerer

P.O. Box 1083
SPRING MOUNT, PA. 19478

Joyce Kemmerer

STOP Puppy Mills

February 10, 2007

To Those Who Can Make a Difference,
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
ATTN: Mary Bender

I am a Pennsylvania resident, and I am writing in support of changing the regulations for puppies in puppy mills. I would like to see the regulations changed to include the following requirements:

- * doubling the minimum cage size
- * requiring daily exercise outside of the cage
- * required heat when the temperature drops below 50 degrees
- * required cooling (by fan or air conditioning) when the temperature rises above 85 degrees
- * improving ventilation in kennel areas
- * denying kennel licenses to individuals convicted of animal cruelty within the past 10 years

This would give these little puppies more space, protection from the elements and time out of their cages.

I would ask for an exemption for the non-profit rescue groups as far as the exercise requirements. These non profit groups do everything they can to find loving homes for these animals.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Siegfried
Jeannette Siegfried
506 E. Callowhill St.
Perkasie, Pa. 18944

February 5, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to you in reference to the new legislation being proposed by lawmakers in PA in an effort to improve the living conditions of animals that live in commercial breeding facilities. I would like to applaud your efforts and thank you for your work on behalf of those who have no voice.

I am writing to enthusiastically support this legislation. It is my hope that legislators will not bend to the special interests of groups who are allowing their collective financial self-interest to supercede the overall welfare of the dogs that live in these commercial breeding facilities. As you are well aware, many of these dogs spend **years** living in cramped cages with little or no medical care, no good nutrition, no socialization and no opportunity for regular exercise. It is unfortunate indeed that some turn a blind eye to the suffering of these helpless animals. I fully realize that these are the facilities that this legislation is intended to regulate more effectively.

Once again, I applaud your efforts on behalf of the helpless animals that are suffering in the state of PA at this very moment due to the greed of certain individuals. I hope that you will work tirelessly to see to it that this legislation can be passed and become law. It is my hope that the final legislation will not interfere with the work of shelters and rescues who are already working tirelessly on behalf of animals. That being said, I would like to once again express my support of this legislation.

Most sincerely,

Mrs Ruth Smeal
86 K. St
Johnstown Pa
15906

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition

of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
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6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

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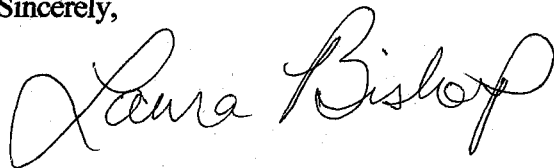
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9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Bishop". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Laura Bishop".

February 5, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to you in reference to the new legislation being proposed by lawmakers in PA in an effort to improve the living conditions of animals that live in commercial breeding facilities. I would like to applaud your efforts and thank you for your work on behalf of those who have no voice.

I am writing to enthusiastically support this legislation. It is my hope that legislators will not bend to the special interests of groups who are allowing their collective financial self-interest to supercede the overall welfare of the dogs that live in these commercial breeding facilities. As you are well aware, many of these dogs spend *years* living in cramped cages with little or no medical care, no good nutrition, no socialization and no opportunity for regular exercise. It is unfortunate indeed that some turn a blind eye to the suffering of these helpless animals. I fully realize that these are the facilities that this legislation is intended to regulate more effectively.

Once again, I applaud your efforts on behalf of the helpless animals that are suffering in the state of PA at this very moment due to the greed of certain individuals. I hope that you will work tirelessly to see to it that this legislation can be passed and become law. It is my hope that the final legislation will not interfere with the work of shelters and rescues who are already working tirelessly on behalf of animals. That being said, I would like to once again express my support of this legislation.

Most sincerely,

Donna Burkhardt
1233 Penna Ave.
Johnstown Pa.
15906

2052 Spring Valley Rd
Lansdale, PA 19446-5114
February 19, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender:

As a dog lover and an animal advocate, I applaud the steps recently taken by the Dog Law Advisory Board to update the antiquated regulations that have left thousands of PA dogs suffering on a daily basis.

The newly drafted proposed 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 interest 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 - not the money in the breeder's - or dog registry's - pocket.

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 stability..

The Bureau has my whole-hearted support to implement the newly drafted proposed regulations and to continue policing and shutting down the substandard kennels that have littered our state to such a degree that we're known as the 'Puppy Mill Capital' of the east.

Sincerely,

Jan M. Heaver

February 9, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

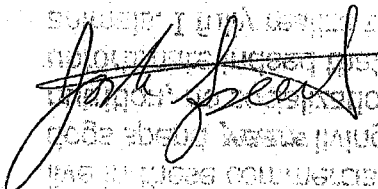
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
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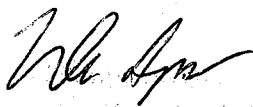
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February 5, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

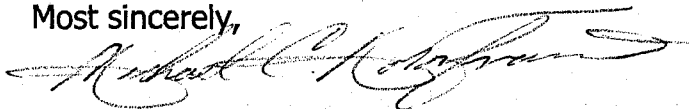
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Most sincerely,



February 7, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

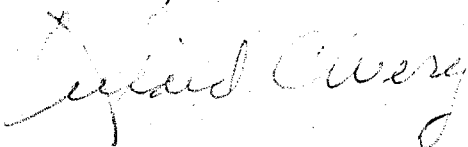
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Most sincerely,

Richard C. Avery

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard C. Avery". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

February 6, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

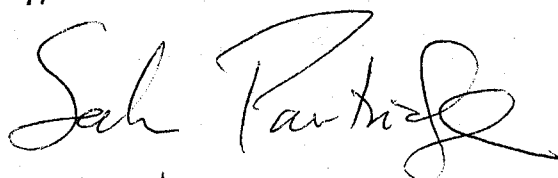
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Most sincerely,


John Partridge
South Orange, NJ

Nanook Of The North
9478 Rt 6
Kane, PA 16735

January 26, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing in response to the proposed amendments to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006.

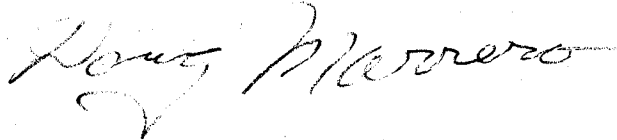
With a full understanding that the bureau is trying to improve substandard kennel conditions, I am not in agreement that most of the changes are necessary.

The proposed record keeping would require me to write down the date and time I washed each food and water bowl, every time a pen is cleaned; each individual outside run is cleaned, etc. It would be better for me to have my general daily procedures that I routinely follow, in writing. This is similar to how the USDA regulations are worded.

The proposed changes would also require the demolition of Pennsylvania's licensed and inspected kennels. Yet, there is no scientific basis for the change. In addition, the average cost to rebuild kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be withdrawn, as the beneficial outcome will be in question if the proposal is adopted.

Yours truly,



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

January 22, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing in response to the Dog Law Act 225 that was issued on December 16, 2006, of which I have several disagreements. The regulatory proposals in general are very difficult and costly to enforce, extremely onerous, and not feasible when put in to practice.

The new proposal only permits a licensed kennel to buy from another licensed kennel. This is fraud for the following reasons:

1. Unless the kennel has purchased, sold, or transferred more than 26 dogs in a calendar year to the individual, it is impossible for the kennel to know if the individual is required to have a Pennsylvania kennel license.
2. It is unlawful for the department to regulate and inspect kennels outside of Pennsylvania.
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement Bureau already requires the name, address, acquisition date, disposition date, type of sale, breed, sex, color, whelping date, and identification number be recorded for each and every dog sold, transferred, adopted, or given away. If the Department wishes to enforce the law, they already have all information needed.

The proposals referencing to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socializing and training practices. Moreover, there is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements.

The current proposal claims to be a general list of ideas to improve the breeding environment for dogs, which are neither substantiated by science nor attributed as accepted canine husbandry practices. A better idea would be for Pennsylvania to adopt USDA type standards.

I sincerely request that this proposal be withdrawn.

Yours Sincerely,



Comstock's Country Kennel
RR 1 Box 590
Ulster, PA 18850

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pa 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

Having purchased dogs from a wonderful, ethical, breeders and boarded them in clean, air conditioned/heated boarding kennels, owned and operated by animal loving, ethical professionals, I feel compelled to voice my opinion. Although, perhaps, well intentioned, the proposed amendment of December 16, 2006 to the Pennsylvania Dog Law Regulations greatly concern me. I am in total agreement, that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated; and that "puppy mills" currently operating under those deplorable conditions should be closed. I empathetically disagree however, with the proposed regulatory changes because they will target those boarding and or breeding kennels, as well as rescue leagues, already in compliance with current legislation. I believe these changes are impractical, will create a great burden from a financial standpoint, will not be enforceable most importantly, will not improve the quality of the lives of the dogs entrusted to the aforementioned, ethical breeders and boarding kennels. Have you given any consideration as to where all the "confiscated dogs" in your proposed amendments will be taken? Are you building many new facilities in which to house them? If so, where will the money come from to do so? Are they going to be in compliance with these proposed amendments? Who will staff them? Who will pay staff salaries? Or would you choose, heaven forbid, euthanasia? These regulations (SS21.21 Dog quarters, SS21.23 Space, SS21.24 Shelter, housing facilities and primary enclosures to name a few will also require wholesale renovation, if not rebuilding of many kennels already built in compliance with current federal and/or state standards.

Small boarding kennels, and breeding facilities, whose care and conditions are far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial standards. These small breeders and boarding kennels would be forced out of business, (your own estimate between \$5,000 to \$20,000, and perhaps higher, to become compliant attest to that) face a loss of income, and deprive their communities of their outstanding services.

Common sense needs to prevail. "Throwing the baby out with the bath water" is not the answer. Please give a voice to the ethical, professional, small boarding and breeding kennels which are currently in compliance with the current legislation, as well as the rescue leagues which will be negatively impacted.

Please consider an exemption for them, rather than for the pet stores (as presently stated in your proposed amendments) who are the very ones who keep the "puppy mills" in business!

I strongly urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Mark J. McTeague
645 N. Main St.
Plains, Pa. 18705

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pa 17110-9408

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Please consider an exemption for them, rather than for the pet stores (as presently stated in your proposed amendments) who are the very ones who keep the "puppy mills" in business!

I strongly urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Jennifer McNulty
645 N. Main St
Plains, Pa 18705

**Caper's Acres Kennel
623 East Reliance Rd
Telford, PA 18969**

January 30, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006. I completely understand that substandard kennel conditions should not be permitted, but most of the proposed regulatory changes are impractical and costly.

These proposals call for change in definitions and requirements of licensed and inspected kennels within the Commonwealth. These extensive changes must go through Pennsylvania's House and Senate legislative processes.

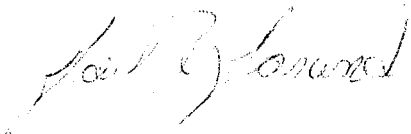
The proposed regulations call for the temperature of the kennel floor to be 50F° in the warm weather. Many kennels are air conditioned to a comfortable 70F°. A dog sleeping on a 50F° floor can develop hypothermia and become ill or die. For temperature, lighting, cleaning, exercise, housing, and veterinary care, the attending veterinarian should set forth and approve procedures specific for the kennel buildings and breeds of dogs.

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

The proposed changes would require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports and divert the small business owner's time away from caring for their animals.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded and the USDA standard be adopted in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



**Caper's Acres Kennel
623 East Reliance Rd
Telford, PA 18969**

January 30, 2007

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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
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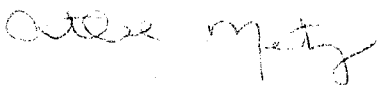
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I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded and the USDA standard be adopted in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



2559

RECEIVED

January 24, 2007

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

2007 MAR 12 AM 9:22

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

As a Pennsylvania breeder, I am strongly opposed to the overly restrictive rules and regulations that are proposed for kennel owners. The enforcement of regulations such as these will effectively serve to shut down or severely curtail the activities of the concerned, caring and law-abiding breeders in Pennsylvania. The extensive number of regulations outlined in this proposal and the limited time allotted prevents the proper consultation and review of these regulations with our kennel veterinarian and other professionals. Therefore, in order to allow for the proper review and consultation of this extensive proposal, I request a ninety-day extension of the comment period.

As a Pennsylvania breeder, my goal and the goal of other law-abiding breeders is to raise the best quality and healthiest puppy possible. This is not the issue. Unfortunately, the issue created by this proposal is my rights as a citizen of this state to own property, and my rights to be afforded due process guaranteed by the provisions of our state's constitution. The vagueness of this proposal causes great concern that my rights as a citizen will be omitted by the bias opinion of those who will hear my side of the story.

As a Pennsylvania breeder, I am concerned that these overly burdensome regulations will have severe unforeseen consequences. These include reduced number of breeders willing to deal with the excessive administrative burden caused by these regulations. The shortages of puppies and resulting higher prices, which will encourage the import of oversea and out of state puppies. The ensuing shortages will provide a lucrative opportunity for those who operate beneath the law to fill these shortages. Those who participate in this black market will find the rewards well worth the risk. Additionally, the economic loss to the state will be in the millions, and will go far beyond the breeder to include pet supply retailers, cities who sponsor shows, and state tax revenue.

As a Pennsylvania breeder, I believe it is unfortunate that this proposal appears to be more about animal activism than about animal welfare. You only have to consider the one section that permits shelters and other similar facilities that provide a "service" to be exempt from these regulations. I immediately question the intent behind those who are pushing the governor on this issue. What sense does it make to remove animals from a substandard facility and place them in another substandard facility? None! Furthermore, this proposal has no incentives or educational programs for the breeders. It is all threats and punishment, which is another indication, that the motives of those supporting this proposal are more interested in eliminating our industry than in improving our industry.

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Harrisburg, PA 17101

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I sincerely urge that this proposal be withdrawn, as the beneficial outcome will be in question if the proposal is adopted.

Yours truly,

Ginda Mock
Garbe Sub Kennels

Ms. Mary Bender
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
February 5, 2007

RE: ID #2-152 (#2559)

Dear Ms Bender:

It has been brought to my attention that the Pennsylvania Dog Law regulations are undergoing revision and that you are soliciting public comment. I am writing to express strong opposition to the current revisions for a number of reasons. While it is admirable and desirable to address the issue of dog abuse and the deplorable conditions of puppy mills, the implementation of the proposed revised regulations (referenced above) would be likely to have nearly the opposite effect.

I sought out a reputable breeder when the time came for our family to add a puppy to our household. This breeder has a well-earned reputation for producing dogs that have achieved international awards, yet this same breeder would be forced to cease her contributions to the breed if these regulations go through. This can't be the intention of the writers of these regulations, yet that's the effect they would have.

Reputable breeders spend vast amounts of time and money in procuring and caring for dogs that are the most exemplary individuals of their breed. While these are often show dogs, receiving training and conditioning and nutrition and health care of the highest order, at the same time these dogs are also companions who share the breeders' home. Under the proposed rules, these loved family members would be required to be housed in nearly industrial conditions. That is probably one of the most unacceptable aspects of these regulations...they essentially condemn dogs to be kept as commercial livestock, without ever feeling the grass beneath their feet or getting to curl up on a couch or play with other dogs. The net effect would be a life of misery for most dogs, regardless of how warm and dry and clean they may be. The breeders who care most for their dogs would be forced out of breeding and showing by the exorbitant costs of compliance with these regulations, leaving the dog-loving public little recourse but to shop for puppies at pet stores, which in turn procure their pups from puppy mills and commercial 'growers' who care nothing for the happiness or welfare of their dogs, regarding them only as commodities capable of generating a profit.

These regulations don't stop with breeders. Boarding kennel operators, groomers, rescue leagues, trainers, veterinarians, search & rescue teams...anyone who cares for more than a handful of dogs would come under the reach of this dangerous precedent. The impact on the economy can't be underestimated; we are a dog-loving culture and the collapse of the small businesses that support the care of our beloved pets would reverberate throughout the Commonwealth.

In an effort to better the conditions for the dogs of our state, much could be accomplished by funding more Dog Law inspectors, more frequent inspections, and expanded education of the public in order to help buyers to locate reputable breeders whose dogs aren't mass-produced with profit as the only incentive to breeding. I appeal to you to rescind these changes.

Sincerely,

Ron & Debbie Galichinski

Ron & Debbie Galichinski

RD#1 Box 488

Jackson, PA 18825

January 24, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

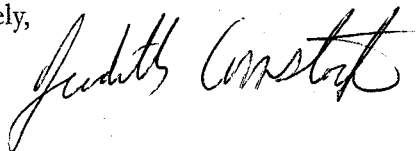
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As a Pennsylvania breeder, my goal and the goal of other law-abiding breeders is to raise the best quality and healthiest puppy possible. This is not the issue. Unfortunately, the issue created by this proposal is my rights as a citizen of this state to own property, and my rights to be afforded due process guaranteed by the provisions of our state's constitution. The vagueness of this proposal causes great concern that my rights as a citizen will be omitted by the bias opinion of those who will hear my side of the story.

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As a Pennsylvania breeder, I believe it is unfortunate that this proposal appears to be more about animal activism than about animal welfare. You only have to consider the one section that permits shelters and other similar facilities that provide a "service" to be exempt from these regulations. I immediately question the intent behind those who are pushing the governor on this issue. What sense does it make to remove animals from a substandard facility and place them in another substandard facility? None! Furthermore, this proposal has no incentives or educational programs for the breeders. It is all threats and punishment, which is another indication, that the motives of those supporting this proposal are more interested in eliminating our industry than in improving our industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Judith Constant".

January 24, 2007

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

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Sincerely,

K H Kennel / Kathy M Jones

January 24, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

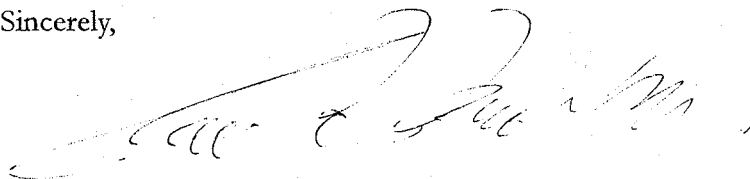
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Bender", is written over the "Sincerely," text.

Mary Bender
Pa. Dept of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

Re: Doc # 06-2452 Proposed Changes to the Dog Law

Dear Ms. Bender,

I have recently been made aware of the newly proposed Pa Dog law regulations. Yes, inhumane and substandard care and housing should definitely not be tolerated but not at the expense of responsible breeders.

Under the proposed changes as I read them, small scale breeders will fall into the same set of requirements as the large commercial operations. Licensed breeders with a K1 license would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp and raise their dogs within their homes-but this is exactly the setting from which I want to be able to buy a puppy or dog! I want a dog that was raised in a home from breeders who are careful about the health of their dogs, their temperaments and bred dogs that look like the breed they are supposed to be! These breeders would have to either stop raising dogs or build facilities to meet the commercial breeders' standards which are not the way I want a puppy I'd buy raised. The proposed regulations favor the large scale operations that will have the budget to build these "sterile" kennel facilities and hire staff to maintain the outlined record keeping requirements. Why we don't even require 20 minutes of daily mandated physical exercise for our children in schools but for dogs we do!

I want to be able to buy a dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large scale commercial kennel. I want to know that my puppy was raised in a loving home and exposed to a variety of household situations. I want to be able to buy a dog bred with thought to health, temperament, given lots of human contact and exposed to everyday sights and sounds. I want to be able to buy a dog that was allowed to romp in the grass and was played with by children and around other dogs. This proposal goes against the very pack nature of dogs and their need to socialize with other dogs and humans.

This effort to improve living conditions for dogs and puppies in large commercial operations/puppy mills is laudable. It is a great disservice though to Pa dog lovers and the buying public to place reputable small scale breeders under the same regulations as these large operations that most of us object to anyway. I oppose these amendments and urge that this proposal be withdrawn. Let's put some common sense thought into the dog law and target the real culprit-large scale multiple breed puppy farms. Why not simply try really enforcing the current dog laws before wasting taxpayer money on regulations that require unenforceable record keeping & exercise standards and will hurt the very type of breeder that should be praised for the manner in which they raise their animals.

Sincerely,

Carol Caf

Mary Bender
Pa. Dept of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

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Dear Ms. Bender,

I have recently been made aware of the newly proposed Pa Dog law regulations. Yes, inhumane and substandard care and housing should definitely not be tolerated but not at the expense of responsible breeders.

I purchased a Chesapeake Bay Retriever from Diane Baldwin, a well respected Chesapeake Breeder. I am a Pa. Dog Law supporter that would shut her kennel down in favor of large scale multi breed operations, which would be counter productive in stopping inhumane treatment at puppy mills. Please protect the small scale responsible breeders while stopping the puppy mills.

Under the proposed changes as I read them, small scale breeders will fall into the same set of requirements as the large commercial operations. Licensed breeders with a K1 license would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp and raise their dogs within their homes-but this is exactly the setting from which I want to be able to buy a puppy or dog! I want a dog that was raised in a home from breeders who are careful about the health of their dogs, their temperaments and bred dogs that look like the breed they are supposed to be! These breeders would have to either stop raising dogs or build facilities to meet the commercial breeders' standards which are not the way I want a puppy I'd buy raised. The proposed regulations favor the large scale operations that will have the budget to build these "sterile" kennel facilities and hire staff to maintain the outlined record keeping requirements. Why we don't even require 20 minutes of daily mandated physical exercise for our children in schools but for dogs we do!

I want to be able to buy a dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large scale commercial kennel. I want to know that my puppy was raised in a loving home and exposed to a variety of household situations. I want to be able to buy a dog bred with thought to health, temperament, given lots of human contact and exposed to everyday sights and sounds. I want to be able to buy a dog that was allowed to romp in the grass and was played with by children and around other dogs. This proposal goes against the very pack nature of dogs and their need to socialize with other dogs and humans.

This effort to improve living conditions for dogs and puppies in large commercial operations/puppy mills is laudable. It is a great disservice though to Pa dog lovers and the buying public to place reputable small scale breeders under the same regulations as these large operations that most of us object to anyway. I oppose these amendments and urge that this proposal be withdrawn. Let's put some common sense thought into the dog law and target the real culprit-large scale multiple breed puppy farms. Why not simply try really enforcing the current dog laws before wasting taxpayer money on regulations that require unenforceable record keeping & exercise standards and will hurt the very type of breeder that should be praised for the manner in which they raise their animals.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Cato

Mary Bender
Pa. Dept of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

Re: Doc # 06-2452 Proposed Changes to the Dog Law

Dear Ms. Bender,

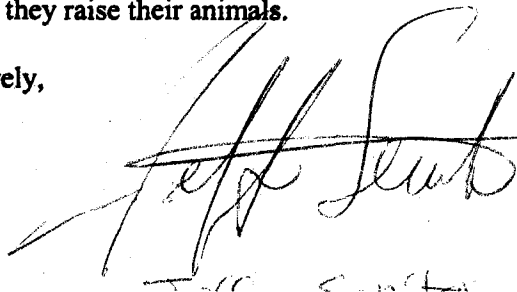
I have recently been made aware of the newly proposed Pa Dog law regulations. Yes, inhumane and substandard care and housing should definitely not be tolerated but not at the expense of responsible breeders. _____

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Sincerely,



Jeff Smith