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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Janet Bevan and I was raised and currently reside in Harrisburg. I have a great love for all animals and have long been ashamed of my state's lack of protection of man's best friend – the dog. As such, I feel compelled to voice my opinion on the Bureau's proposed amendments to the kennel regulations.

Having thoroughly read the proposed regulations, I applaud and support the Bureau's new amendments. It clearly shows that the State is stepping forward to vastly improve the living conditions of dogs in "kennel" environments and crackdown on the inhumane and widespread purveyors of the unlicensed "kennels" in Pennsylvania.

The deplorable, sad and illegal conditions that exist in puppy mills (primarily in Lancaster County) are ones that many in the public turn a blind-eye toward, either from ignorance or more likely greed. These dogs that languish within these "kennels" deserve to live in humane, and dare I say, respectful environments. Too many consider these animals as livestock. They are not livestock and strong regulation is required to protect the welfare of these animals as well as the interests of the public. It is with this in mind that **I implore you to support in full the proposed amendments to the PA kennel regulations.**

The following are of primary concern to me:

Section 21.14 Kennel licensure provisions

...is intended to assure greater compliance with the existing provisions of the act and enhance the Department's ability to carry out the intent of the act which is protection of the health, safety and welfare of dogs.

Section 21.23 Space

The new language addresses space requirements and sets forth the requirement of and for an exercise program for all dogs kept in a kennel.

In regard to space requirements, I would strongly recommend that language also be included to address the definition of primary enclosure. A primary enclosure should never be defined as permanent tethering.

Section 21.24 Shelter, housing facilities and primary enclosures

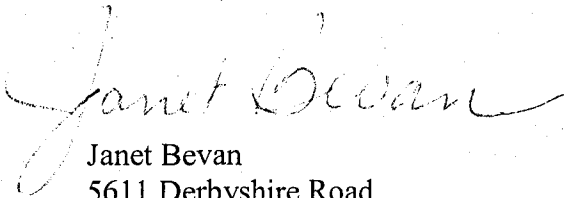
...requirements for outdoor kennels in areas such as drainage, construction and maintenance of primary enclosures, shade and shelter requirements, bedding, lighting, slope of ground and run and footing materials for the dogs.

Section 21.29 Sanitation

The amendments more specifically address the location of dogs during sanitation of their primary enclosure.

NO hosing out the "primary enclosure" with the dog inside. This ensures the dog remains dry.

I strongly encourage you to support these proposed kennel regulations. Take Pennsylvania off the map as the east coast puppy mill capital.



Janet Bevan
5611 Derbyshire Road
Harrisburg, PA 17112

CC: Chairs of the House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee
Representative Ron Marsico
Senator Jeff Piccola