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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Sir/Madam:

My name is Peggy Knouse. For thirteen years my husband and I have owned and operated "The Meadows Pet Resort" located at 805 Copenhaffer Road in York, PA.

We constructed our first kennel wing and office building in 1994. At that time, we followed all requirements set forth by the American Boarding Kennel Association (of which we were members) -- requirements for air exchanges, light, exercise areas, drains, etc.

We love animals so we added extra amenities of our own - heated flooring, water fountains, piped-in music, outside runs one half of which is covered by a roof and half exposed so a pet could choose, large fenced exercise areas which allow each pet to run free at playtime, nature walks, brush-out and massages, and during the summer - golf cart rides. Our daily rate includes individual, staff supervised exercise for each pet boarded.

We neither breed or sell pets. I understand why the Governor is proposing this change in legislation. The reputation of "puppy mills" in our state is most disturbing and these facilities should be addressed -- hard and fast. However, after reading the proposal I am most concerned.

Specifically, an increase in documentation of washing of food and water bowls, inside and outside runs, feeding, etc. I fear will actually "take away" from the time required to care for the pet. Hiring additional staff to handle documentation would result in an increase in price of boarding to the owner.

In a boarding setting, clients and pets have a choice, unlike those pets in puppy mills and breeding kennels. Our policy allows owners to tour the facility anytime, without appointment, during our business hours. As a matter of fact, all new boarders **are required to tour our facility before making a reservation.**

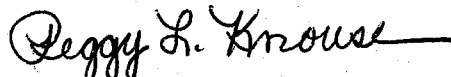
In our business, the health and happiness of the pet at time of pick-up by the owner is our "report card" - our "check-list" if you will. Our business operates solely on word-of-mouth advertising. We do not advertise anywhere except our listing in the phone book. Over the years we have established a unique rapport with our clients and their pets. Our business has grown. We have seen pets come to us as "pups" and have cried with the owner when the time comes to say good-bye to their canine family member. Many of our customers phone us for kennel availability before making their vacation plans. Many have said they would board no where else. . . .

However, I do fear that in an effort to correct "puppy mills" and breeding facilities that good, clean, honest kennels will be adversely affected. To re-design and rebuild an already clean, sanitary facility would be financially devastating - perhaps even resulting in the closure of the business. With all of the township ordinances and requirements governing kennels, it is already extremely difficult to even construct such a facility.

Pet owners do educate themselves and investigate boarding facilities before placing their pet there - much like checking out a daycare before placing their child there. I would hope that this legislation does not put decent boarding facilities out of business. Perhaps some sort of exemption based on inspection of each facility??? A scale of "1 to 10" with more than 5 non-compliance items requiring an upgrade?

I sincerely invite you to come and tour our facility. I would be most happy to share our procedures for feeding, watering, medicating, exercising, etc. I believe we have a top notch facility that is in no way detrimental to the health and well-being of our clients' pets.

Sincerely,



Donald and Peggy Knouse, Owners
The Meadows Pet Resort
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