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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

February 7, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

The Dog Law Regulations definitely need to be amended! Puppy mills are everywhere in Lancaster County and in Pennsylvania. I had a personal experience with one of these mills and didn't even realize it until there was a problem with the puppy that I had purchased. I purchased a Great Dane puppy several years ago from a farmer in Bird-in-Hand. The farmer met me with the puppy, so I did not get to see where he was born and raised. I was given certification that the puppy had been given all of his shots. As the puppy got older, he would yipe every time he walked. The farmer said that he was fine when I got him and had been checked out by his Vet. I said that I was attached to him and wanted to see if something was wrong from birth or if it was something that would go away or could be corrected. After several calls, he suggested that I meet him at his Vet so he could check him out. The Vet said that the puppy was lame and would never be able to walk correctly and should be put down. The farmer insisted that he was checked before he sold him to me and he had no knowledge of him being lame. The Vet said that this problem was known from birth. The farmer told me he would replace my puppy with another one. I had paid a lot of money for this dear puppy and didn't want another one from his farm. I also did not want this one put down. He insisted that he would take the puppy back and not put him down. He gave me the money back. I wish I had kept and cared for him. After checking on this puppy - I discovered that this had happened before. The man bred these animals without any kind of care and concern for their well-being. They were put in small cages and not cared for properly. Many of them could not walk because of the cages they were kept in. There was no form of exercise. I'm sure many died from exposure to the

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elements – especially during weeks like we just had with minus 10 or higher wind chill factors. Their eyes were affected by poor lighting. The cleanliness of the cages was unthinkable for any kind of animal. My heart was broken.

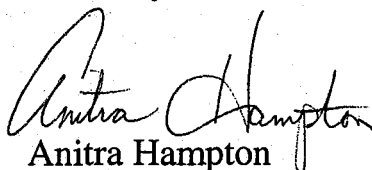
I have had several dogs and never have I experienced something like this. I highly support the Bureau of Dog Law's and thank them for trying to improve the conditions where these puppies are bred.

People should be licensed only after passing inspections and receiving information on how these puppies MUST be treated and perhaps even a test on these issues. Routine unannounced inspections are necessary. I'm sure you could even find volunteers to do these inspections. I would volunteer! No one with prior cruelty to animal charges should ever be given a license.

I certainly hope that these regulations will be passed! Please add that permanent tethering cannot be used as the primary closure. Puppy Mills are a disgrace to our State! These regulations will help to improve the way Pennsylvania is perceived by everyone. It will also save many of these innocent puppies' lives. Dogs are therapeutic to people. They are family members! They give their love unconditionally! As my mother says, you can't trust people that don't like animals. If we treated other people like these dear puppies do, there would be a lot less hate in the world and more happy people.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Anitra Hampton