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MS. NINA SCHAEFER, PRESIDENT
PENNSYLVANIA FEDERATION OF DOG CLUBS

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

COPY

DEAR MS. SCHAEFER,

ENCLOSED ARE SOME PICTURES OF AN 85 POUND DOG, ON A BED. PLEASE NOTICE THE POSITION...STRETCHED OUT! HE IS NOT DEAD. THIS IS A NORMAL POSITION FOR HIM, WHETHER ON THE BED OR THE LIVING ROOM FLOOR.

ALSO ENCLOSED IS A CLOSE OF HIS EAR. HIS EAR THAT WAS BITE OFF AT THE PUPPY MILL WHERE HE WAS BORN AND LIVED FOR THE FIRST 4 MONTHS OF HIS LIFE. HIS BROTHER'S TAIL WAS EATEN OFF AT THE SAME TIME HE LOST THE EAR. BOTH WERE OBVIOUSLY RESCUED FROM THAT _____ HOLE. PLEASE SEE COPY OF LETTER TO MARY BENDER WITH MORE OF A DESCRIPTION.

ALSO ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF NUMEROUS EDITORIALS FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPER LAST SUNDAY...IN RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS SUNDAYS ARTICLE, KENNEL OWERS YELP AND YOUR QUOTE.

I HOPE THIS WILL ASSIST YOU IN SEEING THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

REGARDS

KAREN W. HAMPTON

KAREN HAMPTON
P.O. BOX 491
EAST PETERSBURG, PA 17520

CC: MARY BENDER/BUREAU OF DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

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Kennel owners yelp

Rules proposed by the state in its crackdown on puppy mills will also bite them, they fear

By GIL SMART
Associate Editor
gsmart@lnpnews.com

Nina Schaefer's favorite is the one about "lateral recumbence."

Buried deep in 67 pages worth of new dog laws proposed by state officials to crack down on Pennsylvania's "puppy mill" problem is a provision governing the size of "primary enclosures" for kennels. They are, according to the proposed rule, to be big enough so that a dog may lie in a "lateral recumbence"—on its side or back with legs fully extended—without any part of its body, tail, feet or head touching any side of the enclosure.

"Haven't they ever seen a dog lie down?" asks Schaefer, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs. "Any time I've ever seen a dog lying with its legs sticking straight out, it's dead."

If it is, she said, all too typical of the proposed new rules, which she and other critics say appear to have been written by those with little background in animal husbandry, with the intent of putting breeders out of business.

"Honestly," said Schaefer, "you don't know whether to laugh or cry."

Instead of doing either, breeders, dog clubs and others have gotten angry, deluging the state Department of Agriculture with comments and complaints about the new rules, which could go into effect this year.

Officials who back the new regulations—part of a broad effort by Gov. Ed Rendell to reform the breeding industry and rid Pennsylvania of its reputation as puppy mill capital of the Northeast—say some things should and likely will be tweaked. But the state has long needed better, stronger, more specific laws regarding the treatment of dogs, and the pro-

It's not a stretch

■Nina Schaefer, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, took issue ["Kennel owners yell," Jan. 28] with a provision of a proposed state law that would require a kennel to be large enough to allow a dog to lie on its side with its legs fully extended.

As I read her comments, I glanced at my dogs, lying contentedly and comfortably on their sides with their legs stretched out.

Is it really that much of a hardship for kennel owners to provide enough room for a dog to lie on its side? Kennel owners might be barking up the wrong tree opposing this provision.

Ken Siegert, Lancaster

Sleeping dogs

■The president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs needs to have more contact with animals. How she ever became the club president is beyond me. She made a comment about dogs lying down only in a lateral recumbent position when dead. I have had numerous dogs that slept like that.

I'm sorry she doesn't feel animals should be treated like humans. That proves to me that she has no feelings for animals at all, but only for dollars and cents.

Kay E. Althouse, Lancaster

Plain facts

■To me, the arguments of Nina Schaefer and Ken Brandt are just ridiculous. Allowing a dog to lie down without any part of its body touching any side of the enclosure only seems fair. I have two dogs and one of them routinely lies down with his legs fully extended either to the side or front to back. I can assure you that he is not dead.

Mr. Brandt's comments about dogs not being allowed on grass are very sarcastic and ignorant to the problems that exist in puppy mills. The proposed law change is that the facilities where the dogs are kept "shall be kept free of grass and weeds."

He also seems very concerned about the ability of Plain people to pay their mortgages; I don't hear anyone saying Plain people can't sell these dogs. What I am hearing is that the kennel conditions are not acceptable; the health of the animals they sell is in question.

If you want to sell dogs, care for them.

Tobin Whitman, Lebanon

Living like a dog

Editor: Comments must fit the article.

animal, or ~~has~~ been loved by one, is like talking to the wind. As the owner of Barbara so aptly put it, "To love is to grieve," and that is exactly what those of us who love dogs do when we see how some people treat them.

Let the laws deal with the kennel owners. Thank goodness Gov. Rendell has heard the animal advocates' appeals. I don't understand how people can continue to ignore the conditions. Do they favor the status quo, where dogs are found in deplorable states of health living

in sties worse than pigs? Actually, at a meeting I heard a prospective kennel

owner state that he didn't see the difference between raising pigs and dogs.

Pay mortgages on the backs of animals who suffer and give their lives to "business as a 'charity'." Where there is a lot of money at stake greed will follow.

And finally, treat dogs like humans? Treat them like the creatures of creation that they are. The Lord God made them all.

Elizabeth C. West, Mannheim

God's creatures

■Nina Schaefer must never have seen any dogs totally relaxed sleeping. Apparently, she has never seen dogs in a relaxed state.

My dog was adopted from the Humane League and every day we can find her totally relaxed, sleeping totally stretched out.

Pets do not lie down with their legs fully extended either to the side or front to back. They lie down with their legs tucked up to their chest or tucked under their body.

I applied the same for finally addressing the issue of people who mistreat animals, especially the puppy mills in this area. I believe it is a business and a way to help poor families supplement their incomes. That does not give kennel owners the right to mistreat animals.

As far as Ken Brandt's comments about kennel owners being underground to avoid the law, for an ex-lawmaker to even suggest that people he advocates for would continue to break the law is preposterous, to say the least.

Yes, the law may need to be tweaked, but the bottom line is that animals need to be treated more humanely. Animals are God's creatures, just as we are.

James M. McGill, Mount Joy

2/5/07

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 KAREN HAMPTON, I LIVE IN LANCASTER COUNTY WITH MY BEST PAL, MURPHY (7 YEAR OF GOLDEN RETRIEVER)..RESCUED GOLDEN RETRIEVER!!!! I AM ACTIVE IN THE ORGANIZATION FOR RESPONSIBLE CARE OF ANIMALS(ORCA) LOCATED IN LANCASTER ALSO.

THANKS FOR PROPOSING THE NEW, AMENDED KENNEL REGULATIONS SO THE CONDITIONS FOR MAN'S BEST FRIEND WILL BE IMPROVED IN COMMERCIAL BREEDING KENNELS IN OUR STATE.

I AM IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED KENNEL REGULATIONS AND PRAY IT PASSES SO DOGS NO LONGER HAVE TO LIVE THE WAY MINE DID FOR THE FIRST 4 MONTHS OF HIS LIFE. IT WAS DISGUSTING, MS. BENDER. THEY DESERVE TO BE TREATED MORE HUMANELY TO SAY THE LEAST.

I FOUND THE 'KENNEL' (USING THE WORD LOOSELY) MY DOG CAME FROM IN ERROR. I WENT TO ASSIST A FRIEND WHO WAS MOVING AND SHE ASKED ME TO VISIT THE NEW PUPPY SHE ORDERED. IT WAS A PUPPY MILL MUCH TO MY DISMAY. SHE KNEW NO BETTER. IT WAS IN JULY, 90 DEGREES, IT STANK, THE POOP WAS INCHES DEEP, DOGS WERE JAMMED IN TO WIRE CAGES; NO LAY DOWN AREA IN CRATES.

TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, I FELL IN LOVE THAT DAY WITH A GOLDEN RETRIEVER. 4 MONTHS OLD, HAD NEVER WALKED ON THIS EARTH, MS. BENDER. WAS SHY AND TIMID. THREW UP WORMS AND POOPED THEM THE ENTIRE 2 HOUR RIDE HOME. WHEN I GOT HIM OUT OF THE CAR, HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO WALK. I FORGOT THE

BEST/WORST PART.....HIS ONE EAR WAS BITE OFF BY A JACK
RUSSELL TERRIER AND NOTHING WAS DONE ABOUT IT!!!!!! HIS
BROTHER'S TAIL WAS OFF BY SAME REASON. WE RESCUED HIM 2
WEEKS LATER AND FOUND A WONDERFUL HOME FOR HIM. HIS
HEALTH TO DATE IS NOT VERY GOOD. WE HAVE BEEN LUCKIER.

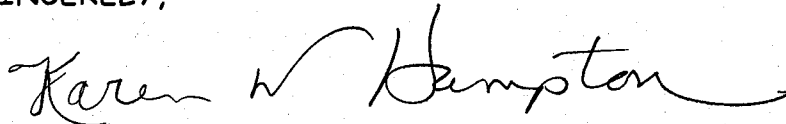
THIS FARMER ALSO HAD CHICKENS, CATTLE AND A LOT OF LAND TO
FARM. HIS LIVING WAS NOT DEPENDENT ON 'DOGS' ONLY.

IT WAS THE WORST DAY OF MY LIFE SEEING THIS SITE AND
GETTING MURPHY, MADE IT THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!

I REPORTED THE CONDITIONS IMMEDIATELY TO THE DEPT OF
AGRICULTURE AND HE WAS FINED....NOT ENOUGH UNFORTUNATELY.
NOT ANY WHERE NEAR THE AMOUNT HE HAD MADE ON THESE DOGS
IN JUST ONE YEAR. DOG BREEDING IS NOT FARMING!!!!!!

PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS.....

SINCERELY,



KAREN W. HAMPTON
2633 STAGECOACH LANE
LANCASTER, PA 17601-3700

