

February 7, 2007
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender,

As someone who genuinely cares about the welfare of dogs, I feel compelled to write concerning the care of our four legged friends. The word Puppy Mill was first introduced to me in 1990 when we adopted our first Westie at a local no-kill shelter. A friend who worked closely with the York Kennel Club asked me not to purchase a pet from a puppy mill. At the time I had no idea what this was but have learned a lot over the years and unfortunately seen first hand what commercial breeding kennels have done to these animals who are here for us to be our friends. We adopted our second Westie through the Mid Atlantic Westie Rescue in Dec. 2005. Maggie is 7 years old and was used as a breeder bitch at a Lancaster puppy mill. What a sad little one she was. These dogs need folks like me to speak for them which is my reason for writing.

I would like to thank the Bureau of Dog Law for proposing new and amended kennel regulations to improve the living conditions of the dogs in commercial breeding kennels. I also fully support the proposed kennel regulations and welcome their passage!

Veterinarian practice, animal behaviorists and other animal care givers have substantiated the type and level of care these animals require for a healthy life. I feel the amended regulations will reflect these current care standards and are necessary to insure ethical and humane conditions needed for better overall quality of life.

There are many issues I would like to see addressed and one in particular I feel so strongly about being anyone who has ever been convicted of cruelty to animals should never be issued a kennel license. I would also like to see the cage size requirements doubled as well as temperature control. Heat should be required when temps drop below 50 degrees and cooling when the temps rise about 85 degrees. Dogs need daily exercise and should also be removed from their cages during cleaning.

The passage of these kennel regulations will also make Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture a national leader and diminish Pennsylvania's reputation as "Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast." I personally am embarrassed to live in a state known for this.

Once again, I support and encourage the proposed kennel regulations!

Sincerely,

Karen Snook
15101 Winterstown Road
Stewartstown, PA 17363