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February 8, 2007

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Amy Bitting. I volunteer with several animal advocate groups in the Harrisburg-Lancaster area and I have been following the issue of commercial kennels in Pennsylvania for some time. As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, 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 fully support the proposed kennel regulations and welcome their passage. The animals deserve better treatment. Increasing the cage requirements, regulating the temperature of the kennels, providing daily exercise, providing lighting and better ventilation and removing from their cage or kennels during cleaning is absolutely a step in the right direction.

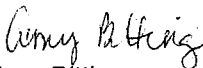
Many breeders have expressed their opposition to the new regulations because they are too expensive and time consuming. I ask you, why should the animals have to suffer because someone doesn't want to take the time or spend the money on provide adequate care; care which still is far less than the majority of Pennsylvania residents provide for their on pets?

Many breeders and dog clubs have stated there is no scientific proof for the regulation changes or the changes are against husbandry practices. I spent less than 1 hour searching the internet and found prominent veterinarians and animal behaviorists who 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 humane conditions needed for better overall quality of life.

A dogs place in our society has drastically changed over the years. As you have probably heard many of times, they are viewed my many as members of the family. The nations reaction to Hurricane Katrina and the passage of the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act proves the bond humans have with their pets. It is time we provide the level of care people want for our companion animals.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for the proposed kennel regulations and look forward to their passage! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Amy Bitting
1380 Valley Green Road
Etters, PA 17319