

February 8, 2007

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

RE: Proposed Changes to Pennsylvania Dog Law Enforcement

Dear Ms. Bender;

It is deplorable that Pennsylvania has been labeled the 'puppy mill capital of the East' – this is not a title of which to be proud. However, as a dedicated animal rights advocate and the guardian of two companion animals, I was elated to hear of Governor Rendell's commitment to improving the conditions within local dog breeding operations.

I urge you to permanently institute the proposed changes to kennel regulations set forth on December 16, 2006, which call for, among others, the following improvements to current requirements:

- double the minimum cage size
- require daily exercise outside of the cage
- require heat when the temperature drops below 50 degrees
- require cooling (by fan or air conditioning) when the temperature rises above 85 degrees
- improve ventilation in kennel areas
- deny kennel licenses to individuals convicted of animal cruelty within the past 10 years

Additionally, there should be an exemption for shelters from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements. Also, foster homes should be exempt from kennel housing requirements and instead have separate performance standards appropriate for home care settings.

It is in the state's best interest to provide humane care and conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The proposed regulations will better ensure that dogs are disease-free, behaviorally sound, and well cared for.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Derer
41 Barclay Court
Blue Bell, PA 19422

cc. Representative Mike Gerber
Senator John Rafferty
Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman, Independent Regulatory Review Commission