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FEB 26 REC'D

February 8, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement-
2301 North Cameron Street, Room 102
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in to commend you on the proposed Puppy Mill Regulations. It is with great appreciation and gratitude that I send this letter.

Two years ago, my husband and I were faced with the daunting task of euthanizing our 14 year old dog. Within days it became apparent that we needed to adopt another dog. After visiting shelters, surfing the Internet, and responding to classified ads, we thought we found a suitable breeder.

We obtained directions, took our children to my parents' house, and headed to the breeder. Minutes after getting out of the car, I had a suspicion that something wasn't right. The breeder (I'm using the term loosely) quickly brought out a puppy for us to see. We were not allowed to see the other dogs, puppies, or their habitat. The ramshackle sheds did not look suitable for any living being.

Our puppy came bounding down the gravel driveway. Her belly was so enlarged and swollen. As she came closer I noticed that her ear had pieces of rock, dirt, and grass in her dried, bloody scabs. Upon closer inspection, I saw that her ear was torn a few inches and it had healed with the rubbish attached to it.

I faced a moment of indecision. I knew it was dangerous to take a dog home that obviously was sick and received no medical attention. Her chart showed that at 14 weeks of age she had only received over-the-counter deworming treatments. She had no shots and the "breeder" didn't even take the time to clean the wound on her ear. No veterinarian treated her.

I knew in my gut I could not leave the puppy there. I was disappointed that I'd been tricked into visiting a puppy mill, something I swore I'd never do. Even worse, we paid several hundred dollars to this dreadful "breeder" just to take our girl away from them.

I called our vet and made an appointment to bring the pup right in. Doing so immediately violated the breeder's "warranty," but we had no regard for that. The veterinarian cleaned "Gracie's" ear and explained that Gracie's belly was full of worms.

Today Gracie is preparing to celebrate her 2nd birthday. She still bears the scar on her ear. We like to think of it as an upside down heart. I often wonder what would have happened to Grace if we hadn't found each other. It horrifies me to think that she could have been relegated to a life of constant breeding and insufficient boarding.

On behalf of Gracie May and all the pups still living in deplorable conditions with inadequate medical care and attention, I thank you. Your work is honorable. Thank you for all you're doing and continue to do.

Sincerely,


Victoria L. Hofmann