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Caryn A Husowech
2 Creekview Lane
Strasburg PA 17579
February 8, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a dog owner and "dog lover" living in Pennsylvania, it is with great interest, hopefulness and enthusiasm that I've been reading about the proposed new and ammended Kennel regulations to improve the living conditions of dogs in commercial breeding kennels. I fully support their passage!

Many, many heartfelt "thanks" to Governor Rendell and the Bureau for addressing these important issues.

We need to change Pennsylvanias reputation as "Puppy Mill Capitol of the East Coast."

I personally know of at least five people who have purchased sick puppies from Amish who were breeding dogs to sell for profit. Two puppies had congenital, digestive problems and needed to be put to sleep. I never found out whether the breeder stopped breeding the mother of these pups or made any changes at all or just continued producing sickly puppies. This should not be.

When there are so very many dogs abandoned at shelters throughout the state, those breeders who would complain that they can't afford to make the changes that would be required to ensure the health and humane treatment of commercial breeding dogs, are breeders that we would be better off without!

The Amish community in particular has been very good at adapting to change. They are very resourceful in general - if development has made it difficult to farm, they've become wonderful furniture makers with "co-ops" to market their products, and become entrepreneurs with "truck" farms and other businesses.

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Those breeders not willing to comply to new regulations could quit and pursue another business that might suit them better.

I have not been able to read every proposed new or ammended regulation, so forgive me if I suggest changes that may have already been addressed.

Before someone obtains a commercial breeder liscense, could there be a required educational course to complete?

There is always the chance that someone is well intentioned but not fully or properly educated in this field. Also, some may learn it is not an easy "cash crop" to be done on the side, and re-think the whole idea! Many people, if merely handed a book of regulations, won't really sit down and read it! I feel a more "hands on" approach would help.

Also, are facilities inspected before a breeder is liscensed? Where will the dogs be kept, how will they get exercise, etc?

It would be a lot easier to get compliance - when the potential breeder can not get a liscense unless his facilities are approved.

And of course, all the regulations in the world won't help ease the suffering of animals unless there is a large enough staff who are available and who are willing to enforce the regulations!

We need this as much as we need new rules in order to do the good that is intended.

Finally I encourage the inclusion of "Permanent tethering can not be used as the primary enclosure." This is a very important one, and has not been included in the present ammendments.

Again, I whole-heartedly support the new proposed Kennel regulations.

I do not, as you can probably tell, often write to state officials, but I feel so strongly about this I was compelled to do so.

Other "average citizens" may also feel unable to write a "good enough" letter.

To show you others care, and they may express themselves better than I, I have included a copy of letters to the editor from our Lancaster Sunday News.

Thank you,

Camp A. Howard
name + address on page 1