

February 8, 2007

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Christine Moore of Millersville, PA. I have had a dog in our house for as long as I can remember. Dogs are special creatures in this world and they deserve to be treated humanely and not as agricultural animals and commodities. **DOG BREEDING IS NOT FARMING!**

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. Some of the conditions that are reported, and the many that continue to go on, is a travesty. I fully support the proposed kennel regulations and welcome their passage! It's about time this issue is addressed so that existing laws and/or new ones are aggressively enforced. Kennels that have repeatedly been fined, such as Puppy Love Kennels in Peach Bottom, need to be shut down and not just continually fined.

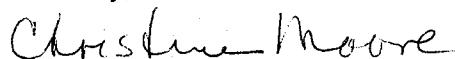
Veterinarian practice, animal behaviorists and other animal care givers have substantiated the type and level of care these animals require for a healthy life. I feel the amended regulations will reflect these current care standards and are necessary to insure ethical and humane conditions needed for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

Some concerns that are being addressed and need to be seriously considered in these amended dog law regulations are increasing and enforcing the cage requirement size...I have had Irish Setters for almost 30 years and all of them have always stretched out on their sides when sleeping. A dog that size needs the room to sleep and live comfortably. I'd like to see breeders that do not supply this much area try to sleep in the confined spaces that they require of their dogs. Other concerns are making sure that the animals get exercise and leg-stretching time and not caged or tethered 24/7, and providing heat when temperatures get below 50 deg and air conditioning when temperatures rise above 85 deg.. A major concern I feel is that a kennel license should be taken away from and not given back at anytime to anyone that has been convicted of animal cruelty...we need to stop just continually fining them. Laws need to be changed that they understand the consequences of their actions and that it will affect their livelihood. Because laws are not strict enough, or enforced, major infractions continue and if someone is 'caught', there is no fear of losing their license. The laws need to be made stronger, and enforced. As in the case of Puppy Love kennels, you can see that has not deterred them from continually breaking the dog laws.

The passage of these kennel regulations will also diminish the stigma of Pennsylvania as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast".

I support and encourage the proposed kennel regulations!!

Sincerely,



Christine Moore
332 Owl Bridge Road
Millersville, PA 17551

C: Hon. Katie True
Hon. Art Hershey, Chairman
Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee