

February 9, 2007

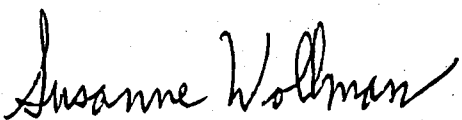
TO: Dog Law Bureau Director, Mary Bender
Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that were recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

I am strongly opposed to commercial breeding kennels where the costs are minimized by providing substandard care and conditions for the dogs in an effort to increase the profit. I am writing to request that you immediately take steps to address the horrific conditions in commercial kennels in Pennsylvania. Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that are kept in a cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

I have adopted two dogs that were used as breeding dogs in a commercial kennel, i.e. puppy mill. My 6 year old female Pomeranian was unlucky enough to be a good breeder. When she was rescued after 6 years, she had to have 20 teeth pulled because they were rotting in her mouth due to substandard food and non-existent vet care. She was lucky that her jaw did not break from so many teeth extractions. After 9 months of freedom, she still runs away in fear from everyone but me, which should tell you how she was treated in that commercial kennel. In the richest country in the world, we allow an industry to exist where man's best friend routinely suffers frostbite or worse, freezes to death because heat and cooling is not considered part of humane treatment. I am ashamed that we as Americans allow this to happen!

It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs. Thank you.



Susanne Wollman
St. Louis Park, MN