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116 Wheatland Road  
Lewisberry, PA 17339

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION  
February 9, 2007

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

Dear Mary Bender,

I am writing to you because I am concerned about recent proposed laws for kennels. I very much applaud these laws as they apply to puppy mills in Pennsylvania and those boarding kennels where dogs are kept in individual cages with concrete runs. I know there is considerable opposition and I am hopeful that the legislature will not back down on those particular standards. However, I have two specific concerns.

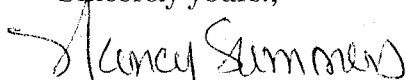
There is another type of boarding kennel which, for want of a better term, might be referred to as aggregate boarding. In these kennels dogs do not live in pens and they play together, separated by weight, but not as stringently as the new bill proposes. There is little or no concrete and the kennel resembles a home more than it does the descriptions in the bill. This kind of boarding kennel is what we hope will become the standard in the future. There is one in York County, Golden Lake Recreational Dog Camp, should you want to take a look at how these kennels are structured. We have used this facility for boarding and for day care and would not want our dog to be in the other type of kennel.

I am suggesting that there be standards written specifically for this type of boarding kennel, standards that support and reinforce the more enlightened method for boarding dogs. These standards are actually necessary as I have observed this kind of aggregate boarding and day care in places such as grooming establishments where there is no yard and the possibility of the pet escaping is considerable.

My second concern is with veterinarians. I do not do not support their exemption from the law if they are boarding well or healthy dogs. A veterinarian who engages solely in treating and boarding sick dogs should be exempt, but veterinarians who board healthy dogs for customers should be held to the same standard as all other boarding kennels.

I appreciate the opportunity to write to you about this and hope that you will share my concerns with your colleagues who might be working on this bill.

Sincerely yours.,

  
Nancy Summers