

February 2, 2007

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 FEB 12 PM 3:13

RECEIVED

Re: Pennsylvania's Puppy Mills – The Puppy Mill Capital of the East

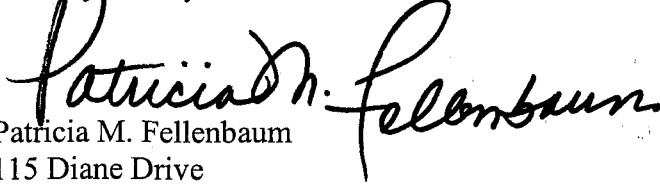
Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing this letter to gain your support in the better treatment of dogs in puppy mills. Pennsylvania is often referred to as the puppy mill capital of the east with Lancaster County having the highest concentration of puppy mills of any county in the country. Puppy mills are large-scale commercial dog breeding operations where profit is given a higher priority than the well-being of dogs. The health of the dogs is disregarded in order to maintain a low overhead and maximize profit. The female dogs are housed in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions often times without adequate food, water, veterinary care or socialization. They are caged their entire lives and bred at every opportunity until they are no longer physically able to reproduce. After the dogs are no longer profitable they are commonly killed or abandoned. \

Last year, Pennsylvania's Governor Edward G. Rendell took the time to sit down with a committee of experts, including the ASPCA, in order to gain a better understanding of the realities of the commercial kennel industry in PA and develop possible solutions to this problem. And this past December, 2006, changes were suggested to improve the outdated kennel regulations used to inspect commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania.

I urge you as an official for the State of Pennsylvania to transform this industry and ensure that the health and humane treatment for man's best friend becomes the true badge of honor for the state of Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.


Patricia M. Fellenbaum
115 Diane Drive
Broomall, PA 19008

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101