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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture  
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

February 12, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I sure you have probably received hundreds of letters by now so I don't know if one more will make much difference. Yet I felt I must write to express my concern for what may lie ahead for the many good "dog people" who could be burdened by some senseless and many really unenforceable new rules if these regulations do get approved.

It was pointed out to me that Gov. Rendell has asked for "drastic changes" in order to help the desperate conditions of the poor puppy mill dogs in PA. Yet, from what I've been able to read on this issue, it will hurt the small hobby breeders more than it will help the dogs in the large breeding kennels.

If this wasn't the case, than it seems like there is a great deal of work still to be done in the clarity of many of the definitions and in the many confusing interpretations in these proposals. These small breeders raise much better socialized and healthier dogs than any puppy mill. There must be some distinction made between the size of the kennel and the number of dogs they "process" each year - simply in a sense of fairness. Then rules should apply accordingly.

It also appears that a small private home breeder would have to meet the same requirements that the commercial large dog outfits would have to face. Your Dept. must realize there is a big difference between taking good care of a few dogs in your home with love and that of being responsible for many hundreds of dogs - simple to make money.

Also, you show no distinction between a large breeding kennel and pet boarding kennel. One keeps dogs for years, living in cages the other keeps dogs for a few days, maybe even two weeks, while their owners travel, etc. That's a big difference.

I hope your Dept will take whatever action is available to use good judgment and make changes that will actually protect the puppy mill dogs instead of hurting the responsible small breeders.

Sincerely,

