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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

February 12, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender:

I'm not sure if writing this will make any difference. But when I read the notice at my groomer's shop earlier today I felt I had to at least make my thoughts known. First I want to say that I feel very badly about the poor dogs kept in small cages most of their lives in large breeding kennels. But I don't think the solution to this problem is to punish all the good breeders who raise healthy, well-adjusted puppies in caring home environment.

I know there is a problem with the large number of so-called "puppy Mills" in PA. Yet even if there were a way to shut down every one of these irresponsible breeders the pet stores would simply have puppies shipped in from big puppy producers in other states.

There is no way to control this huge profitable market as long as pet stores are allowed to sell puppies. And the fact that they do not have to follow any of these regulations makes no sense at all. Those puppies live there in cages for weeks and months at a time and yet the pet stores do not have to comply with these new rules. But a dog that goes to a nice boarding kennel for a weekend or even a week must be treated better than a patient in a nursing home or hospital. Nursing home do not "sanitize their walls and floors every 24 hours" and neither do hospital operating rooms - I know that for a fact.

It appears there is something funny going on here and I hope that your Department will do a lot more homework and find out the real cause for this sudden re-vamping of PA Dog Laws. Don't let the good dog breeders suffer for other peoples' agenda. I hope you can get these proposals withdrawn soon.

Sincerely,

Cecilia & Victor Zeno