

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

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2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
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6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

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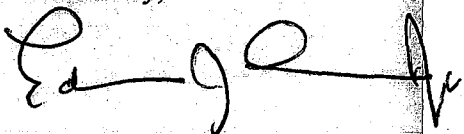
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10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

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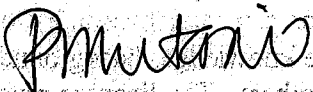
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February 2, 2007

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Gwen A. Burda

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124 C Catharine St.
Philadelphia, PA 19147

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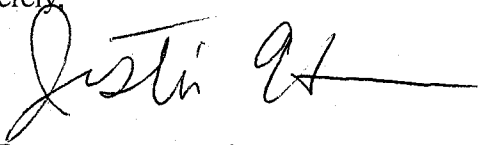
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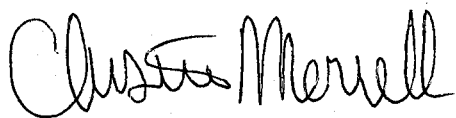
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clifton Merrell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Clifton Merrell".

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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Cheryl Tiberio
Waleska, GA

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

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Stephanie Negroni
118 W. FIELD ST.
NANTICOKE, PA 18634

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

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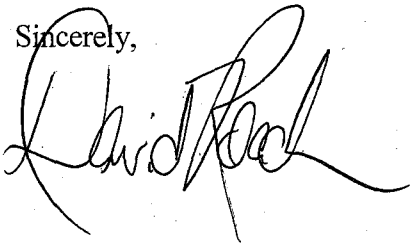
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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February 13, 2007

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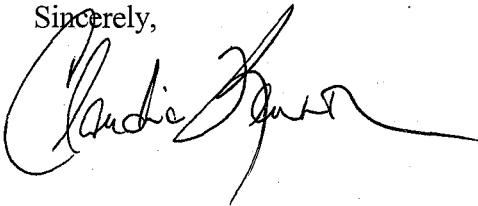
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Ben Madosky

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
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February 19, 2007

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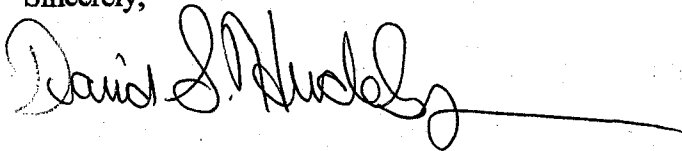
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David J. Nubels", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
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19052 Inglewood Dr
Rocky River, OH 44116

216-965-5012

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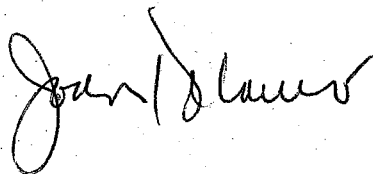
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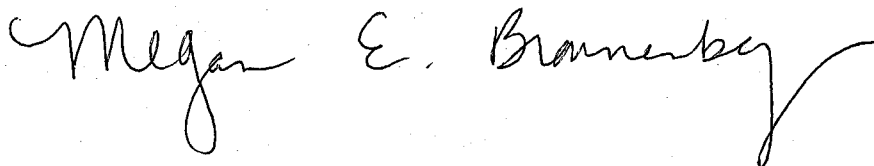
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan E. Brunerby". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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Mary Aaron
380 W. 12th St
New York, NY
10014

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

February 13, 2007

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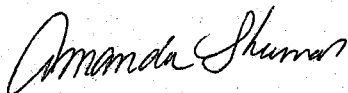
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
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Rebecca M. Napier

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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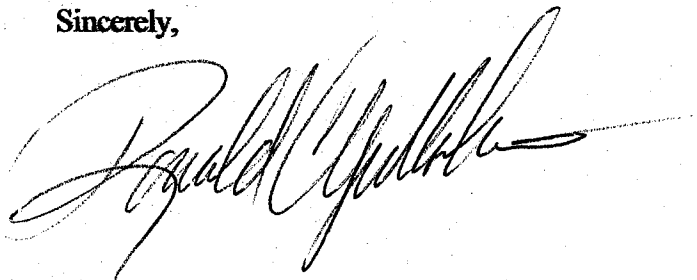
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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
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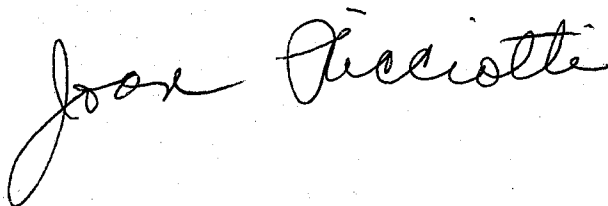
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

February 2, 2007

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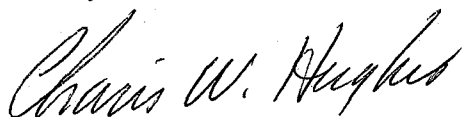
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
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Carol Weiss
Northampton, PA

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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
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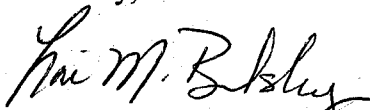
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LANCASTER PA

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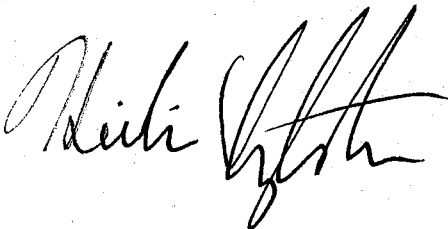
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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
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4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

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Reg. Martin
3573 Calumet St.
Phila., Pa. 19129



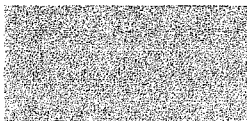
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LOBBY FOR ANIMALS

Federal: Urge the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement to Adopt Puppy Mill Regulations!

~~Bill Number: Proposed changes to the Dog Law Regulations~~
Primary Sponsor(s): PA Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
ASPCA Position: Support, with comments
Action Needed: Make the changes to the regulations even better by taking advantage of the "comment period" that's part of this process. **Print, sign and send a letter to Pennsylvania's Dog Law Advisory Board** urging them to adopt the proposed changes to the **Dog Law regulations.**

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, has the highest concentration of puppy mills of any county in the United States! Pennsylvania's governor recently committed to cleaning up the state's commercial dog breeding industry. Enacting regulations that protect Pennsylvania's kennel dogs from abuse is an important step toward that goal.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement have introduced changes to the regulations that govern the commercial breeding industry in the state. Many of these changes are vital if Pennsylvania is to improve conditions for dogs kept in commercial kennels and put an end to the State's reputation as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East."

These new regulations, if enacted, will drastically improve conditions for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. The new regulations will:

- Double the required cage size for dogs.
- Improve standards such as sanitation, drainage and ventilation.
- Prohibit people from buying dogs from unlicensed dealers.
- Require that all dogs be provided with a minimum of 20 minutes of exercise per day.

The commercial breeding industry has made a number of inaccurate and potentially damaging statements about the proposed regulations. The proposed regulations **will not** impose restrictions on small hobby breeders who raise fewer than 26 dogs in a year; nor will the regulations impact dog shows, dog parks, or other dog events held in the state. The regulations are aimed specifically at regulating large scale commercial breeders.

It is crucial that the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement hear from you by March 16th to refute the breeding industry's false assertions.

Please take action now by printing this letter and sending it to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement! The letter is an official comment on the proposed regulations. The ASPCA supports the regulations, but there are things that could be added and amended to strengthen the regulations and better protect dogs at commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This letter reflects some of the changes that we feel are most important.

The Bureau must receive your comments by March 16th. Unfortunately, the Bureau is only accepting letters through the U.S. Postal Service, so the ASPCA cannot send the letter for you via email. **Please ask friends and family to send a letter as well!**

Send the letter to:
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Adriana Catalano

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Send the letter to:
 Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
 Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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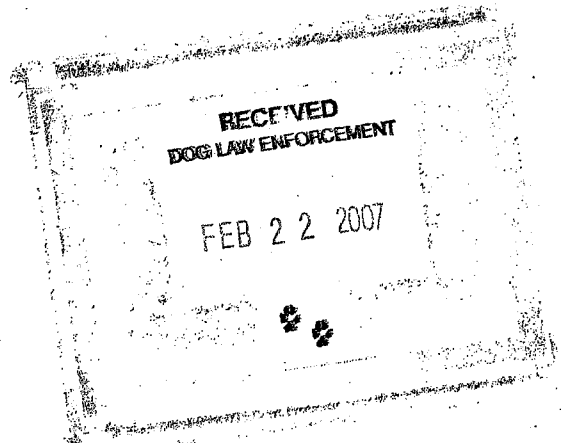
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3 W. Hampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19118
February 3, 2007

By Fax: 1-717-772-4352

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



Re: Public Comments - New
"Puppy Mill" regulations

Dear Ms. Bender:

Please add my voice to those in Pennsylvania and throughout the United States who support the new regulations which will improve the conditions of the poor dogs and puppies who live in horrible conditions in Pennsylvania's "puppy mills." These operators have no conscience or feeling for the suffering they cause to the sweet little puppies and dogs in their care. These operators make their living off the suffering of innocents.

We need stronger laws, in fact, and certainly more enforcement officers who will make certain that Pennsylvania's current and new laws and regulations are complied with. In fact, I wish puppy mills would be outlawed altogether.

I also support the Humane Society of the United States' submitted comments on the proposed new regulations. Thank you.


Diane Perkolup, Esquire

cc: Independent Regulatory Review Commission (717-783-2664)

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

I urge you to adopt the proposed changes to the dog law regulations that protect Pennsylvania's kennel dogs from abuse. Please put an end to the State's reputation as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East.

I refer to the regulations that will drastically improve conditions for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. The regulations will double the required cage size for dogs; improve standards of sanitation, drainage and ventilation; prohibit people from buying dogs from unlicensed dealers and require that all dogs be provided with a minimum of 20 minutes of exercise per day. I understand that these regulations are aimed specifically at large scale commercial breeders.

Sincerely,



Nancy Lobdell
4521 O'Neil Boulevard, Apt. E
Sheffield Township, OH 44055

1015 Allston Road
Havertown, PA 19083

February 20, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:


I am writing to you in reference to the new legislation being proposed by lawmakers in PA in an effort to improve the living conditions of animals that live in commercial breeding facilities. I would like to applaud your efforts and thank you for your work on behalf of those who have no voice!

I have a friend who was involved with a group that rescued several dogs from a puppy mill. My friend fostered, and then decided to adopt, one of these dogs, a small terrier-type of dog. She is a wonderful dog, but her legs are bowed from living in a cage that was not high enough inside for her to stand fully! This is one very big reason that I enthusiastically support this legislation!

It is my hope that legislators will not bend to the special interests of groups who are allowing greed and self-interest to come before the welfare of the dogs that live in these commercial breeding facilities. As you are well aware, many of these dogs spend *years* living in cramped cages - like my friend's little dog - with little or no medical care, no good nutrition, no socialization and no opportunity for regular exercise. It is unfortunate indeed that some turn a blind eye to the suffering of these helpless animals. I fully realize that these are the facilities that this legislation is intended to regulate more effectively.

I hope that you will work tirelessly to see to it that this legislation can be passed and become law. It is my hope that the final legislation will not interfere with the work of shelters and rescues who are already working tirelessly on behalf of animals.

Most sincerely,



Lucia M. Schlossberg

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

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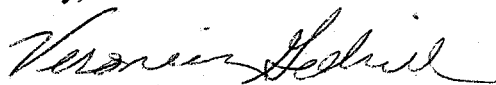
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Sincerely,



Veronica Gedrich

18 E Clinton Ave

Irvington, NY 10533

Tina M. Warada
3342 Peter Lane
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

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

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anita M. Warach". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

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

February 5, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

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Lou E. Caffarelli

*1715 S. 9th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19148*

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

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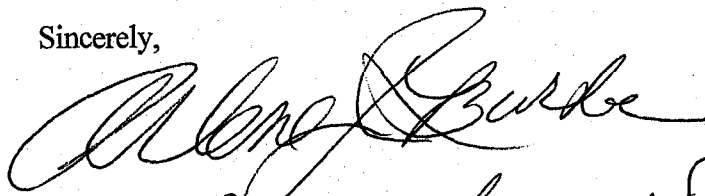
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P/O Greenhouse Dr
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
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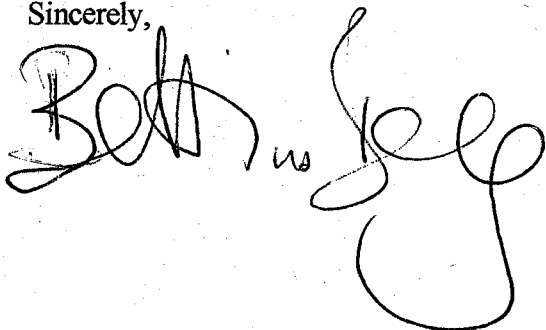
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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
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Pauline Heubrun
3370 Brae Lown Road
Huntingdon Valley, Pa. 19006

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

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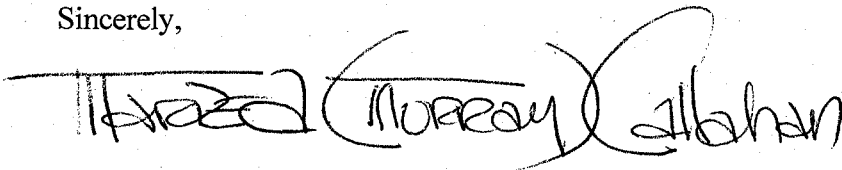
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Murray Alban". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M".

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Haren Deutsch

Dog lover & owner

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Rosemarie LeDome
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Debby Beaumont
6 Field Lane
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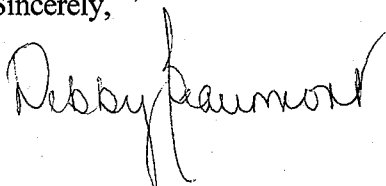
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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Debby Paumot". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Debby Paumot".

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

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Sincerely,



1146 S. Concord Rd.
West Chester, PA 19382

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

February 2, 2007

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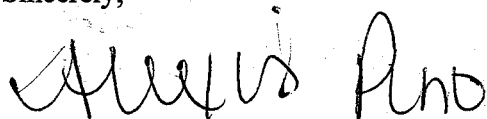
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melissa Rino".

Scott F. Simonds

812 McKenzie St., York, Pennsylvania 17403 ~ 717/848-6028 ~ e-mail: sfsimonds@hotmail.com

March 15, 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
PA Dept. of Agriculture
VIA FACSIMILE

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

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.

Sincerely,



Scott Simonds

Patricia Porter
San Diego, CA 91941

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

March 15, 2007

TO:	NAME/COMPANY	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
	Dog Law Bureau Director Mary Bender		717-772-4352

FROM: Patricia Porter

RE: Puppy Mills

PAGES: 1 (including cover page)
If you do not receive all pages, please call (619) 233-1888

MESSAGE: Dog Law Bureau Director, 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.

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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.

I am absolutely disgusted at what you are allowing to go on in your state. There is no reason on earth that this should be allowed to continue. It is heartless, horrible, and tortuous for helpless, innocent animals. You need to do something to stop this NOW!! Thank you.

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

Patricia Porter

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FAX MESSAGE, AND ANY FILE(S) TRANSMITTED WITH IT, IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT(S) NAMED ABOVE. THIS FAX MESSAGE IS A COMMUNICATION THAT MAY RELATE TO PENDING LEGAL MATTERS AND, AS SUCH, MAY BE PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL. IF THE READER OF THIS FAX MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OR AN AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING IT TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT IN ERROR, AND THAT ANY REVIEW, DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS FAX MESSAGE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

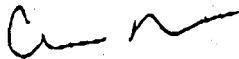
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It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Allison Holzer, PhD

no address

Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
Fax: 717-772-4352

CC: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Fax: 717-783-2664

Dear Ms. Bender:

I received an email from the United States Humane Society and am now aware that this state where I grew up is known as the "puppy mill capital of the East." I think this is an incredible insult to this wonderful state and something must be done to improve the conditions of the puppy mills.

If the purposed regulation, which was suggested last December is approved, dogs in Pennsylvania puppy mills will be provided with more space, will have better protection from the elements and will have time outside of their cages for exercise. This regulation would also deny giving a kennel license to any individual convicted of animal cruelty in the past 10 years. Please give these puppies and dogs a happy beginning and even a happier end. They do not deserve to live in such treacherous conditions.

Thank you, Ms. Bender for taking the time to review and consider my letter. My voice is very important as well as the other thousands of individuals who are speaking out on behalf of these helpless animals. I really appreciate the time you took to read my letter.

Thank you again,
Gabriella
(GabriellaGutman@Comcast.net)

Gabriella Gutman

3/14/07

P.O. Box 149
Broomall, PA 19008
(610) 558-4951

March 15, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

I want to take this opportunity to encourage Pennsylvania's passage of the more detailed, humane dog regulations. Puppy mills must be regulated. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania has become known as "the puppy mill capital of the east"—a dubious distinction. In a civilized society, all living creatures must be treated in a humane, respectful manner. As you are aware, puppy mills further suffering and inhumane conditions for the breeding parents and their offspring. The over-breeding, unsanitary and otherwise horrible conditions in which dogs lived in cramped often rusty pens without appropriate heat and air conditioning and without ever walking on grass and playing as dogs should, and lack of socialization are intolerable. Dogs are intelligent beings that serve man in many capacities—service dog work, search and rescue, war dogs—and deserve much more from us.

Please pass the new, more humane regulations with more "bite" than the current ones. The dogs deserve it and we, as a society, can tolerate no less!

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Debbie DeSantis, CPDT
Going To The Dogs Obedience Training

866 Amber Lane
West Chester, PA 19382
March 12, 2007

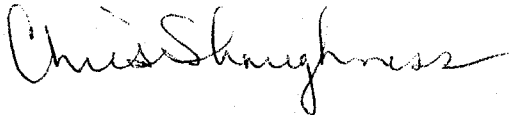
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
Attn: Mary Bender

Dear Ms. Bender,

The reputation of Pennsylvania as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East is disgraceful. The atrocities placed upon dogs to make a profit should be an embarrassment for our government. You now have the opportunity to do the right thing. Please ensure that the new dog laws are passed, however, it is important for shelters and rescues to be exempted from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements. Also, please exempt foster homes from the kennel housing requirements, giving them separate performance standards appropriate for home care.

Thank you for helping the animals who cannot speak for themselves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine P. Shaughness". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Christine P. Shaughness

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

Re: Proposed changes to state dog law reulations

Dear Ms. Bender:

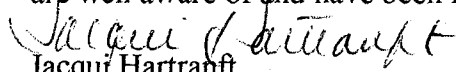
As a resident of Pennsylvania, I have long been appalled by the treatment of dogs in the large kennels (puppy mills) in this state. In fact, having Pennsylvania known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East does nothing to enhance the appearance of our state. These changes are long, long overdue to relieve the suffering of the breeder dogs in these facilities. These are not farm animals with short life spans but companion animals who deserve better. Just talk to the Delaware Valley Golden Retriever Rescue in Reinhold, Pa to get some idea of the trauma these breeder dogs have endured. Presently they are working with several who came from a closed down puppy mill. These dogs have never known a kind word or pat on the head. They are then disposed (I hate to think of how) of when their usefulness to the breeder is done. Certainly giving the dog wardens more police authority (as well as making sure they are not taking bribes from the kennel owners) will help as many of the other proposals. The money and emotional trauma on people who buy sick puppies from these facilities is certainly a consideration as well. People and puppies deserve better. The puppy lemon law does not go far enough and who will return a sick puppy which should have not allowed to get sick in the first place, knowing what its fate will be. Yes, people should do their homework before buying a puppy but with human nature being what it is there are always some people who will not.

These changes can do a lot of help these animals stuck and these places as well as the pet buying public. I know for a fact that most people have no idea what a puppy mill looks like or even what a puppy mill is. Education is a key. I help with Labrador Retriever rescue and know first hand how horrible some of the conditions are in these places not only here in PA but elsewhere. There is some concern that this law will be detrimental to responsible small breeders and rescues. There is no reason why this cannot be worded to protect those who truly care about the welfare of the dogs in their care.

Our local paper, THE MORNING CALL, did a large expose on puppy mills in last Sunday's newspaper. And interesting enough, one of the pictures in the large article showed Jessie L. Smith, special deputy secretary of dog law enforcement talking to several women at a December, 2006 meeting of the Dog Law Advisory Board. Do I have to mention that both women pictured with Ms. Smith had Mennonite garb. HMMMMM!!! Some of the worse offenders are Amish and Mennonites who consider dogs as farm animals.

I thank Governor Rendell for going ahead and trying to correct the puppy mill situation in our state. If we make our laws strict enough, maybe finally we can be rid of the title, Puppy Mill Capital of the East.

Thank you for considering what I and others are saying about this appalling situation which I know you are well aware of and have been for years.

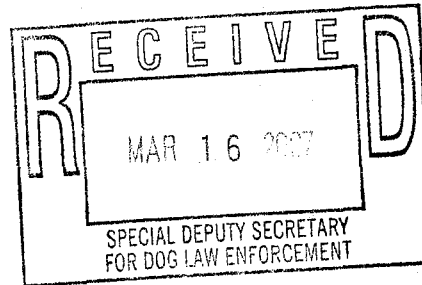

Jacquie Hartranft
6376 Kings Highway South
Zionsville, PA 18092

1/14/07 15 2007

1015 Allston Road
Havertown, PA 19083

March 14, 2007

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408



Dear Miss Smith:

I am so happy that something is finally being done to regulate the horrendous conditions of puppy mills in Pennsylvania. Dogs need to have enforceable protection from abuse. Please accept the following suggestions regarding the proposed kennel regulations and amend the proposed regulations using these guidelines.

In addition to the points below, I feel that the dogs should only be used for a set number of time to breed and then be put up for adoption. The time should be determined by a panel of veterinarians and be based on what is healthy for the dog. No animal should have to spend their lifetime as a breeding machine!

- 1) Doubling the required cage size. This will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- 2) Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen. This will have two benefits, firstly, this will allow for the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems, and secondly, handling the dog (leading or carrying the dog back and forth to the exercise pen) will increase socialization and provide necessary human contact.
- 3) Resting boards must be required in every cage. Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over 1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Golden Retrievers and Labs living their whole lives standing, sleeping, eating, etc. on sagging wire mesh. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.
- 4) Temperature Control. Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with a ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.

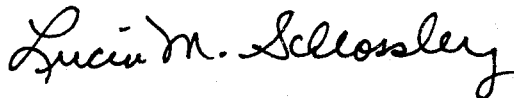
5) Dog wardens inspecting kennel must be **REQUIRED** to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. **This must NOT be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation.** A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.

6) A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels **BEFORE** a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must also be a citizen of the United States. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they will not be issued any license by the Bureau.

I sincerely hope that the Bureau and the legislators discussing the proposed regulations understand how strongly people feel about improving conditions for these dogs.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,



Lucia M. Schlossberg

/lms

cc Representative Michael Hanna

Ms. Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

March 13, 2007

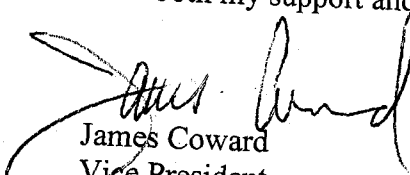
Dear Ms. Smith,

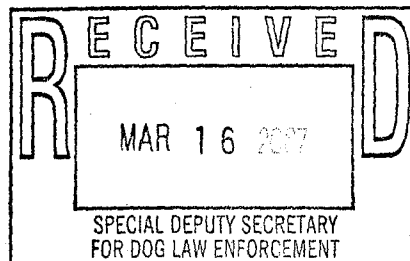
I am writing to express my concern over the inhumane treatment of dogs in large-scale breeding facilities or "puppy mills". The conditions facing "man's best friend" in Pennsylvania's facilities is unacceptable and an ongoing embarrassment to the Commonwealth. Shouldn't we put humanity for these intelligent creatures ahead of profits for this "industry"?

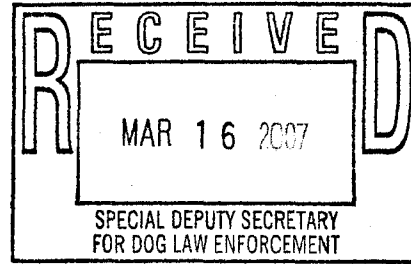
I feel strongly that a number of regulatory changes are needed to improve these dogs' living conditions, including:

- increase minimum cage size to accommodate free movement. I have witnessed the spinning caused by prolonged confinement in spaces too small. Cages should be at least 6X6 feet for small to medium sized dogs. Wire flooring should be eliminated and replaced by solid platforms for more comfortable standing. Temperature control should be mandated for controlling extreme conditions in winter and summer, i.e. maintained in the 45 to 80 degree F range.
- mandatory exercise time for each animal for both physical and mental health. Space and/or resources should be mandated that allows the dog to run for at least 30 min. per day.
- mandated veterinary attention for sick animals within 72 hours as required by current law and eliminate the current loop hole for dog warden 'discretion' in such cases.
- much stronger regulations on opening/expanding these puppy mills. Operators must have approval for building before a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued, and certainly no license for animal-abusers (!) i.e. those found guilty of violating the Animal Welfare Act.

Ms. Smith, please consider these minimal requests for providing reasonably healthy living conditions for the unfortunate dogs "employed" at these breeding operations. You have both my support and thanks.


James Coward
Vice President
Colorcon, Inc.





Dear Miss Smith and Mr. Hanna,

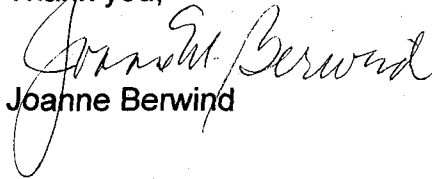
I am very concerned over the serious problems facing dogs housed, bred and raised in our state's breeding facilities (all of them!). Please do everything you can to help these poor animals experience a better life. Please accept the following suggestions regarding the proposed kennel regulations. I hope you'll amend the proposed regulations.

- Doubling the required cage size. Dogs in our state's large scale Commercial breeding facilities spend their entire lives confined to small cages. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen.
- Resting boards must be required in every cage. Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over 1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Golden Retrievers and Labs living their whole lives standing, sleeping, eating, etc. on sagging wire mesh. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. **Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.**
- Temperature Control. Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with temperature of more than 85 degrees. Image how horrible that is!!!!!!
- Dog wardens inspecting kennel must be **REQUIRED** to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must **NOT** be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.

- A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels **BEFORE** a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they **SHOULD NOT** be issued any license by the Bureau.

These are just some of the issues that I feel need to be addressed and I hope that the Bureau and the legislators discussing the proposed regulations understand how strongly people feel about improving conditions for these dogs.

Thank you,

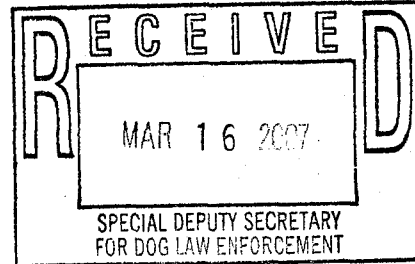
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne Berwind". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joanne Berwind

Lynn A. Huebner
39 Pennypacker Drive
Schuwenksville, PA 19473

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

Re: Dog Abuse



Dear Miss Smith:

Puppy mills demonstrate the absolute worst things about human nature. You NEED to stop the horrible abuse of the animals who do nothing and ask nothing but care and love from you. What they give you in return is unquestionable love and loyalty.

Have you ever seen a dog who has spent it's entire life in a rabbit cage? IT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO WALK. It spins in circles because it has no sense of balance. Dogs need human love and affection just as our children do. Would you allow a child to be kept in a cage all of its life, never seeing the outside, never learning to walk or speak, or feeling the warmth and love of being held? I don't think so. Just the thought of the abuse and maltreatment these animals endure on a daily basis brings me to tears.

I am more than just greatly concerned over the horrendous problems facing dogs housed, bred and raised in our state's large scale breeding facilities. We need your support to help these animals. **Please** accept the following suggestions regarding the proposed kennel regulations. **Please** amend the proposed regulations to reflect the following concerns. If the following is consistent with the proposed changes, then please know that you have not only my support, but my undying gratitude for trying to improve the lives of kenneled dogs throughout the Commonwealth.

- **Exercise.** Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen. This will have two benefits, firstly, this will allow for the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems, and secondly, handling the dog (leading or carrying the dog back and forth to the exercise pen) will increase socialization and provide necessary human contact.
- **Doubling the required cage size.** Dogs in our state's large scale Commercial breeding facilities spend their entire lives confined to small cages. An adult Beagle, for example, can spend twelve years in a cage the size of a dishwasher. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- **Resting boards** must be required in every cage. Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over 1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Golden Retrievers and Labs living their whole lives standing, sleeping, eating, etc. on sagging wire mesh. At the very least solid platforms must be

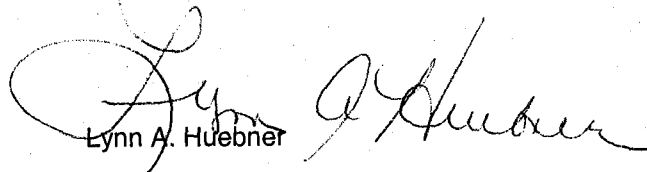
inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.

- **Temperature Control.** Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with an ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.
- **Vet Checks.** Dog wardens inspecting kennels must be REQUIRED to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress, which is actually too long a period. They really should be taken within 24 hours, just you would do it if was you child that was ill. Many dogs, especially small dogs, can die within a 72 hour period if left unattended. This must NOT be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities. The vets used should be approved and not in league with the dog wardens. The best idea would be to have unscheduled vet checks. Have the vets stop in on a random basis to check the living conditions and health of the animals.
- **Zoning Approval.** A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels BEFORE a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must also be a citizen of the United States. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they will not be issued any license by the Bureau. This is just simple common sense.

These are just some of the issues that I (and any thinking, feeling person) feel need to be addressed and I hope that the Bureau and the legislators discussing the proposed regulations understand how strongly people feel about improving conditions for these dogs.

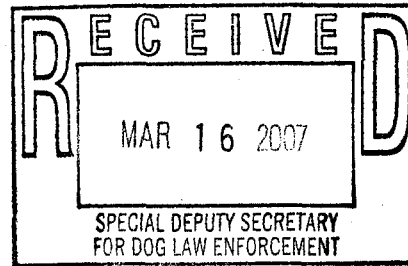
My heart breaks for these animals and I would like to see some of my taxes go to the cause of helping these animals. Please help them.

A very concerned citizen, taxpayer and animal lover,


Lynn A. Huebner

March 13, 2007

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408



Dear Miss Smith,

For each one without a voice, may my voice be heard.

It is my understanding, the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement is commissioned with the responsibility to regulate the conditions of kennels and provide protection for the occupants. However, it seems in there is more and more information arising to a truth where reality has dogs living in filthy conditions and crowded cages. This may include, but not limited to, no shelter from the elements, long hours of exposure to their own waste, little to no veterinary care or even just consideration for the basics of fresh food and water. All of these conditions are acceptable to those who profit from the "puppy product" but for those interested in human treatment, this is unacceptable.

I am greatly concerned over the serious problems facing dogs raised in these conditions and the trickle down effect to unsuspected, naïve dog purchasers.

Please accept the following suggestions regarding amendments to the proposed regulations for kennels. If the following is consistent with the proposed changes, then please know that you have not only my support, but also my gratitude for trying to improve the lives of kenneled dogs throughout the Commonwealth.

1) **Double the required cage size.**

Dogs in our state's large-scale Commercial breeding facilities spend their entire lives confined to small cages. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.

2) **Twenty Minutes of Exercise per Day**

Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. Twenty minutes out of a Twenty-Four hour time period. This will provide benefits including, but not limited to the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems, as well as socialization from human interaction/contact.

3) **Resting boards required in every cage.**

Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over 1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Many "breeder dogs" live their entire life standing, sleeping, eating, etc. on sagging wire mesh. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs

can step off the wire flooring to limit paw pain. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.

4) **Temperature Control.**

Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with an ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.

5) **72 Hour Vet Check for Sick/Distress Dogs**

Dog wardens inspecting kennels are REQUIRED to issue a 72 hour "vet check" if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must NOT be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.

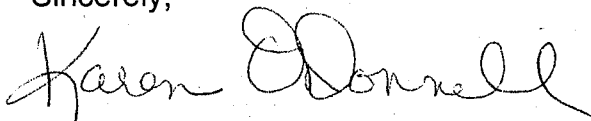
6) **A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board**

A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels BEFORE a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality.

These are just a few of the concerns I would like considered. I hope the Bureau and the legislators discussing the proposed regulations understand how necessary it is to clean up the current "Puppy Mill" reputation the state has. Also, please count me in among the people who strongly feel improving conditions for these dogs is just not a nicety it is a necessity. Puppies for profits should not equate to inhumane treatment/concern.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Karen O'Donnell
144 Melissa Lane
West Chester, PA 19382

CC: Representative Michael Hanna
302 Main Capital Building
PO Box 202076
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2076

**MR. AND MRS. RANDY LONGENBACH
7007 LINCOLN DRIVE
MACUNGIE, PA 18062
610-967-4748**

March 15, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-4352

My wife and I support for the following proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Dog Kennel Regulations:

- The minimum cage size for dogs should be doubled.
- Daily exercise for all dogs should be required – outside of their cages.
- Proper heat should be required, when the temperature drops below 60 degrees.
- Fan or air conditioning cooling should be required, when the temperature rises above 85 degrees.
- Improved ventilation should be required in all Kennel areas.
- No individual who has been convicted of animal cruelty within the last 10 years should be able to obtain a Kennel License.

We also believe that the following exemptions should also be approved:

- An exemption for legitimate shelters from the Kennel expansion and exercise requirements.
- An exemption for legitimate foster homes from Kennel housing requirements. Instead, separate performance standards should be set that are appropriate for home care settings.

Yours truly,



Randy Longenbach

Carmen L. Steele
512 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

March 16, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-4352

I want to express my support for the following proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Dog Kennel Regulations:

- The minimum cage size for dogs should be doubled.
- Daily exercise for all dogs should be required – outside of their cages.
- Proper heat should be required, when the temperature drops below 60 degrees.
- Fan or air conditioning cooling should be required, when the temperature rises above 85 degrees.
- Improved ventilation should be required in all Kennel areas.
- No individual who has been convicted of animal cruelty within the last 10 years should be able to obtain a Kennel License.

In my opinion, the following exemptions should also be approved:

- An exemption for legitimate shelters from the Kennel expansion and exercise requirements.
- An exemption for legitimate foster homes from Kennel housing requirements. Instead, separate performance standards should be set that are appropriate for home care settings.

The people who try to defend (or make excuses for) the Puppy Mill industry rationalize that, in a market economy, they must be selling healthy puppies in order to stay in business. There is very substantial evidence to the contrary, i.e. that many Puppy Mill puppies (often purchased by unsuspecting people at pet stores) actually have real physical and/or mental problems.

However, even if all of their puppies were healthy, the "Puppy Mills" themselves would be abominable, because of the virtual torture that is experienced on a daily basis by the mothers and fathers of the puppies. They are kept in tiny wire cages, forced to walk on the cage wires, every day of their sad lives – usually with little or no exercise. Often these cages are stacked on one another, so that the dogs in the lower cages are continually living in urine and feces.

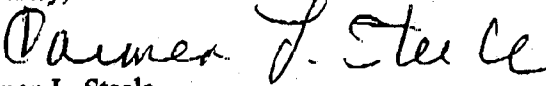
Most kennel facilities are woefully inadequate – unheated in the freezing winter months, no protection from absolutely sweltering heat in the summer. The horror stories go on and on – dogs with missing feet being forced to walk on the cage wires (because they can still breed), litters of puppies born in the heat of summer and being literally fried to death (because nobody was there to care for them), the parent dogs being electrocuted, shot, or drowned when their breeding value has ended, as well as many, many more atrocities.

Ms. Mary Benler
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law enforcement
March 12, 2007
Page 2

These parent dogs receive non-existent dental care, so many of their teeth are missing or painfully rotten. Dogs that have a lot of fur usually have a lot of matted fur, sometimes so much so that they can't even stand or walk. Real vet care is non-existent, so routine problems are allowed to turn into horrible pain issues for these dogs. Females often experience excruciating pregnancy and/or childbirth pain from being bred while much too young, and also because their internal organs have been damaged by too many caesarian sections.

The heartless people who create and profit from this hideous treatment of defenseless dogs should not only be put out of business, but also prosecuted to the fullest extent of existing cruelty to animals laws. Gov. Edward Rendell has admirably started the process of breaking the cycle of abuse that exists in so many of the Puppy Mills by championing new regulations for kennel operators. The adoption of these new Kennel regulations will be a positive step in providing some protection for the poor, helpless dogs who are lifetime prisoners of these vile Puppy Mills.

Sincerely,


Carmen L. Steele

Dorothy Alloway
106 Bill of Rights Way
Downingtown, PA 19335

March 13, 2007

Miss Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Miss Smith:

I have lived in Pennsylvania all my life and early on became aware of the Puppy Mills that exist not only in the Lancaster County area but also not far from where I live.

I have personally seen and smelled the squalor of feces and urine in the outdoor cages where dogs are left with little food or water in all kinds of weather, seen distressed paws that have never known anything but the grid of a wire cage bottom and seen the condition of relatively young females who are exhausted and sometimes near death after being bred year after year to deliver puppies to owners who look on their puppies as a crop.

Animals who by nature respond to love and socialization know neither under these harsh conditions. We have an opportunity to change some of this and we need to put a stop to this as a business because it is just so wrong.

I would so appreciate you working to adopt the current proposed changes:

- doubling the required cage size,
- 20 minutes a day exercise,
- resting boards,
- temperature control,
- dog wardens to inspect kennels, and
- approval from the local zoning board to build or expand a kennel before a license is issued

I have adopted some of these Puppy Mill dogs who in spite of what they have been through have reacted so well to kindness, decent food, a warm bed, being clean and to someone who loves them and with whom they can share their lives. It has always been my privilege to share my life with these friends. But they have not been without problems because they have been inbred and so the relatively small gene pool predictably produces health issues. I have neutered and spayed, paid for cancer treatments and other medical problems. I elected to adopt them knowing these possibilities/probabilities because they needed help and rescuing. But it shouldn't come to this and we should eliminate the problem.

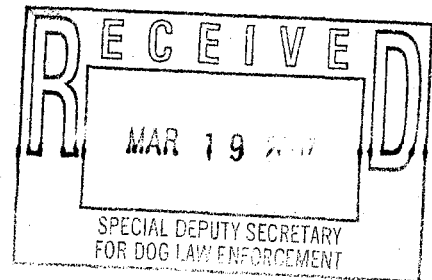
Please help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Alloway

Stephanie G-N Boulden
38 Northwoods Road
Radnor, PA 19087

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408



March 14, 2007

Dear Miss Smith,

It is heartbreaking to know that there are so many in the Commonwealth where I live who feel it is an acceptable practice to treat dogs as a "cash crop". The safety and well-being of canines throughout our community depend on changes in the commercial kennel regulations. Otherwise, day after day, puppies are brought in to the world already suffering from trauma as their parents are mistreated, abused, neglected, malnourished, ill... I could go on and on as it goes on and on (often for years) for those canine parents and their offspring.

It is unacceptable for the abuse and neglect to continue.

I implore you and all those involved in the decision-making to make the following concepts reality:

- Please double the cage size. Put an end to the spinning and pacing and other abnormal behaviors.
- Every dog in PA's breeding facilities should have at least 20 minutes of exercise per day. Fresh air, grass beneath their paws, socialization with other dogs and time with humans who care for them and about them.
- Wire flooring is abhorrent and should, no, *must* be eliminated from every PA kennel facility.
- There needs to be temperature control for the dogs in all kennels. Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature drops below 45 degrees. Additionally, a dog should not be in an indoor kennel with an ambient temperature above 85 degrees.

From Stephanie G-N Boulden

Page 2


- Minimize the number of cages permitted to be stacked. How can a kennel operator properly monitor the overall health and well-being of a dog if the dog cannot even be seen?
- No dog should have to endure the terrifying experience of fire hoses and chemicals as a form of cage cleaning. If that is how the kennel operators wish to clean their kennels, the dogs must be removed from the cages while the cleaning is going on in the cages and surrounding area.
- Veterinary care should not be at the discretion of the inspecting warden but required by regulation. Please establish a 72 hour regulation requiring all kennel owners to take a sick or injured dog to the vet. These vet checks should be submitted along with the inspection report and kept on record in Harrisburg. This will help track problematic kennels.
- Please make it against the law for any kennel operator to perform veterinary procedures independently. Only veterinarians should perform cesarean sections, amputations and euthanasia. Veterinarians utilize anesthesia and have the most humane form of euthanasia available. Ideally, de-barking and tail docking should cease to occur in our society.
- Dog wardens should be able to inspect a kennel without giving prior notice to kennel operators.
- Any and all kennel operators must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels before a license is issued by the Bureau of Dog Law. No license should be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must be a citizen of the United States. If the person applying for a kennel license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they will not be issued any license by the Bureau.

The reason for my emphatic correspondence to you is I have spent many days and nights caring for dogs that were mercifully released from mass breeding kennels. And I have agonized many days and nights knowing that there are thousands still suffering every day.

Dogs are companion animals. They are loving, intelligent beings by nature who deserve better. It is up to you and me and the residents and the lawmakers of Pennsylvania to bring about change and to set an example for our nation as a whole.

Please help put an end to the cruelty.

Sincerely,


Stephanie G-N Boulden

John M. Braxton
1115 Wilnor Drive
West Chester, PA 19382

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Dept. of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

March 16, 2007

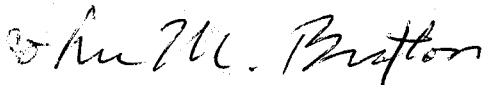
Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing today to express my concern over the unacceptable conditions facing dogs raised in our state's large scale breeding facilities. I would ask you to accept the following suggestions regarding the proposed kennel regulations. If the following suggestions are consistent with the proposed changes, I thank you for trying to improve the lives of kenneled dogs in our state.

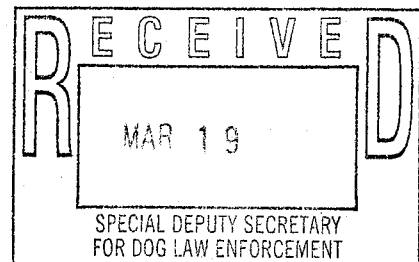
1. Doubling the required cage size.
2. Twenty minutes of exercise per day per dog.
3. Requiring resting boards in every cage.
4. Temperature control: not to fall below 45 degrees inside or outside; not to exceed 85 degrees inside.
5. Dog wardens inspecting kennels must be required to issue a 72 hour "vet check" if they observed a sick dog.
6. Kennel operators must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels before a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and thank you for supporting these changes to improve the lives of the thousands of dogs born and raised in our states breeding facilities.

Sincerely,



John M. Braxton



128 Springton Lake Road
Media, PA 19063

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Tuesday, March 13, 2007

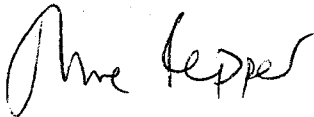
Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing to ask that you support the changes that have been proposed for kennels in Pennsylvania. Specifically, I ask that you require that kennel owners do the following:

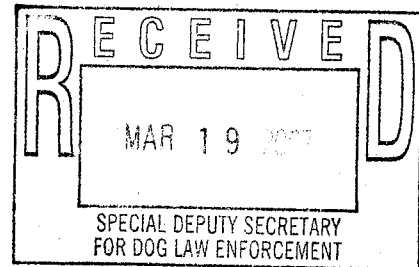
- Double required cage size
- Require 20 mins. minimum exercise for each dog
- Require resting boards in each cage
- Require temperature control in kennels, and
- Require that kennel operators have approval of their local zoning board to build or expand

I do hope you can help Pennsylvania greatly improve the conditions under which kennel operators are allowed to do business.

Yours sincerely,

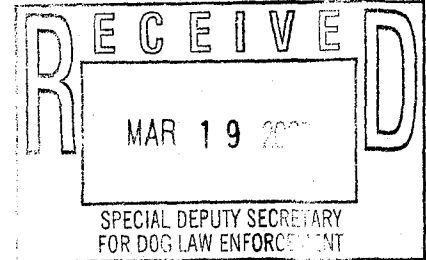


Jane G. Pepper



**BRENDAN J. SHERMAN, ESQUIRE
368 MERLIN ROAD
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460**

March 14, 2007



Ms. Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Re: Changes to the Current Regulations Regarding Puppy Mills

Dear Ms. Smith:

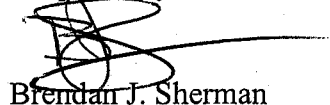
My name is Brendan Sherman and I am a corporate attorney in Philadelphia. In my spare time, I work with local animal rescues and as a result, I have seen firsthand the cruelty that has been inflicted on dogs that have come out of the puppy mills in Pennsylvania. Many of these animals can barely walk or are unsure as to how to even run since they have never known the freedom of being outside of a small crate. It is my understanding that new regulations are being proposed that would at least afford these animals some relief from their daily suffering. Therefore, I implore you to help enact the following provisions:

- **Temperature Control.** Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees. Conversely, no dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with an ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.
- **Doubling the required cage size.** Requiring that cage size be doubled will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- **Resting boards must be required in every cage.** Dogs residing in puppy mills can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. A basic requirement would be to require that solid platforms be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better still, eliminate wire flooring altogether.

- Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day in a separate enclosed yard or pen. This will allow for the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems, and interaction with the dog (leading or carrying the dog back and forth to the exercise pen) will increase socialization and provide necessary human contact.
- A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels BEFORE a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license should be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must also be a citizen of the United States. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they should not be issued any license by the Bureau.
- Dog wardens inspecting kennels must be REQUIRED to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must NOT be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.

When I first learned that these proposals were not already mandated under the current law, I realized how and why puppy mills are able to continue to flourish in Pennsylvania. Therefore, I implore you to do implement these proposals in order to ease the pain of these helpless animals. Please note that if I can be of any assistance in any fashion whatsoever please do not hesitate to contact me at (610) 761-3443.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Brendan J. Sherman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brendan J. Sherman

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

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First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

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2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

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11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

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Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy L. Krueckenberg
605 Martin St
Clemensfield PA 16830

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

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Kristal J. Trodden

135 Lester Ave
York, Pa. 17408

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
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Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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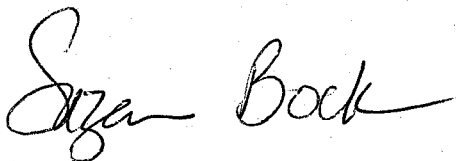
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
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Nancy L. Gref
143 N. Shippen St.
Lancaster, Pa 17602

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

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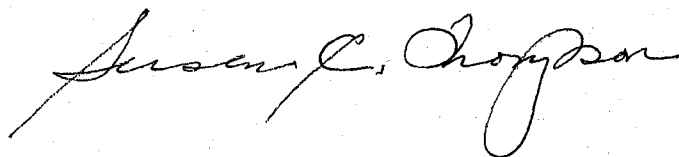
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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan C. Choyson". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

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

February 2, 2007

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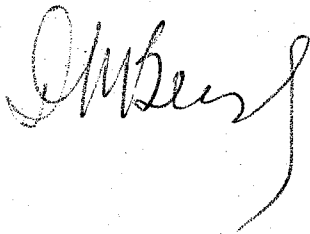
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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

February 4, 2007

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Jim P. Verbanck
Cranberry Township, PA

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
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Sandra L. Shuey
President
CCSPCA Board of Directors

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

February 2, 2007

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Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.

4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

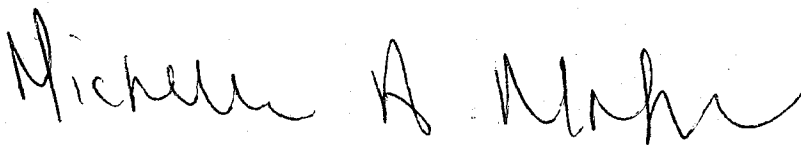
8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michelle A. Mohr". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

14 Lowry's Lane
Rosemont PA 19010
March 14, 2007

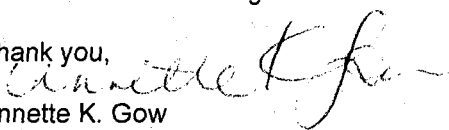
Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

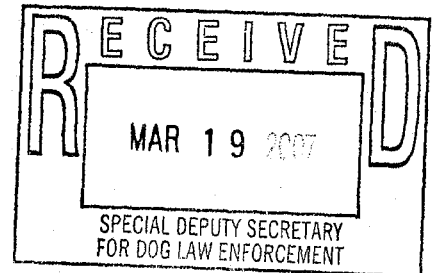
Dear Miss Smith,

Please read this letter - it is critically important to me, and I trust to you. We have a grave problem with puppy mills and how dogs are inhumanely treated in our state's large scale breeding facilities. Please act - I see dogs in rescue groups who are the lucky ones, taken out of these puppy mills, but so many remain harmed. Those rescued are scarred also - literally and figuratively. Can you please consider the following? It would mean so much to so many.

- 1) Increase (double) required cage size. This will allow a dog to move, given that some dogs LIVE THEIR ENTIRE LIVES IN A crate.
- 2) Allow every dog to have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen.
- 3) Ensure that their crate allow them space to rest on solid ground, not wire mesh, but solid ground. Wouldn't you want the same? Eliminate wire flooring altogether.
- 4) Keep the temperature reasonable. Do not allow dogs and puppies to be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 or over 85 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines.
- 5) Take care of sick dogs within 72 hours - do not let them suffer! Wardens must be REQUIRED to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. \

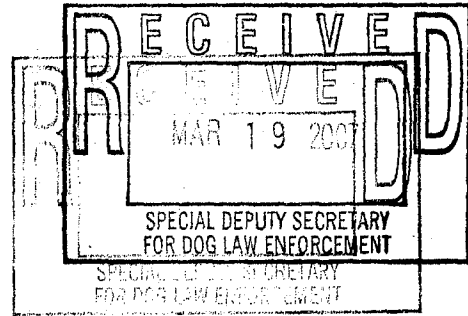
Please please have a heart!!! I hope you understand how strongly people feel about improving conditions for these dogs.

Thank you,

Annette K. Gow



March 14, 2007

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408



Dear Jessie:

I am out-raged over the serious problems facing dogs housed, bred and raised in our state's large scale breeding facilities. In June of 2006, my husband and I adopted a young yellow lab via Main Line Rescue and the poor thing was severely traumatized. He was rescued from deplorable conditions having lived his young life in a tiny rabbit hutch. I have had him nearly 7 months and he still is afraid of his own shadow. Jack has a sweet temperament but does not trust anyone and is terrified of leaving the confines of our property. I am shocked that anyone could stand by and tolerate such cruelty and ignorance. I have lived in Pennsylvania for 20+ years and I consider this state of affair a black-eye on the state! I am ashamed that this has been allowed to continue.

I can not understand why such wretched conditions are being accepted in 2007. Why can't restrictions and regulations be enacted to provide a more humane and compassionate life to these poor orphans? My passion is to improve the lives of kenneled dogs throughout the Commonwealth.

Please review the suggested improvements as outlined below.

- 1) Doubling the required cage size. Dogs in our state's large scale Commercial breeding facilities spend their entire lives confined to small cages. An adult Beagle, for example, can spend twelve years in a cage the size of a dishwasher. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing. Actually no dog should be confined but if necessary, a humane solution is necessary.*
- 2) Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen. This will have two benefits, firstly, this will allow for the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems, and secondly, handling the dog (leading or carrying the dog back and forth to the exercise pen) will increase socialization and provide necessary human contact.*
- 3) Resting boards must be required in every cage. Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over*

no address

1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Golden Retrievers and Labs living their whole lives standing, sleeping, eating, etc. on sagging wire mesh. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.

4) **Temperature Control.** Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with a ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.

5) Dog wardens inspecting kennel must be **REQUIRED** to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must **NOT** be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.

6) A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels **BEFORE** a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must also be a citizen of the United States. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they will not be issued any license by the Bureau.

My husband and I have adopted through Main Line Rescue of Chester Springs, PA. Our dogs are considered family members and receive the respect, love and attention that **EVERY** dog in the Commonwealth is entitled to. I can't imagine what our lives would be without their loyalty, affection and joy that they have brought into our lives. I am earnest in my belief that it is our moral obligation to ensure that all animals are treated compassionately and those kennel operators who only operate for means of generating revenue – putting forth their financial gains over and above the animal's welfare, should and **MUST** be held accountable and be forced to pay dearly for their inhumane behavior!

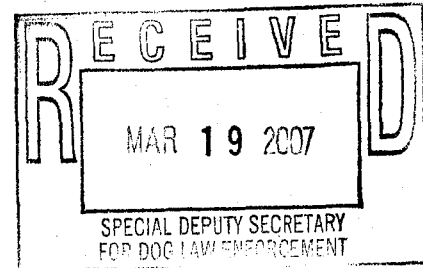
Thank you,

Susan Connell
Kimberton, PA

709 Barrington Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

March 15, 2007

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408



Dear Ms. Smith:

I am writing today concerning the deplorable conditions of the dogs kept in Puppy Mills across the state of Pennsylvania. While I feel there is NO need for this type of business here or anywhere else, recognizing that their total demise is unlikely in the short term, I would like to ask you to please consider the following suggestions which may alleviate at least part of the suffering these animals must endure:

- 1) Doubling the required cage size. Dogs in our state's large scale Commercial breeding facilities spend their entire lives confined to small cages. An adult Beagle, for example, can spend twelve years in a cage the size of a dishwasher. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- 2) Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen. This will have two benefits, firstly, this will allow for the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems, and secondly, handling the dog (leading or carrying the dog back and forth to the exercise pen) will increase socialization and provide necessary human contact.
- 3) Resting boards must be required in every cage. Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over 1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Golden Retrievers and Labs living their whole lives standing, sleeping, eating, etc. on sagging wire mesh. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.
- 4) Temperature Control. Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be

housed in an indoor kennel with an ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.

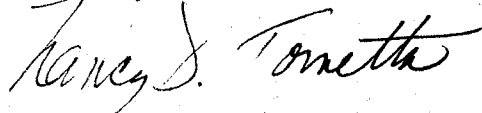
5) Dog wardens inspecting kennel must be REQUIRED to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must NOT be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.

6) A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels BEFORE a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must also be a citizen of the United States. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they will not be issued any license by the Bureau.

I would hope that anyone that considers themselves a human being can understand the need for these changes in the least. Why should these animals be treated so unkindly - because they don't have a choice or a voice? Is this all based on how much money can be made? What a terrible thought.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please make a difference if you can.

Sincerely,

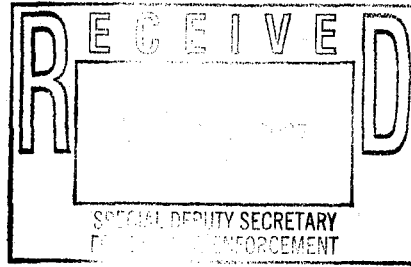
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy D. Tornetta". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and phone number.

Nancy D. Tornetta
610-454-0567

Cc: Representative Michael Hanna

13 March 2007

Jessie Smith, Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408



Dear Ms. Smith,

I am greatly concerned over the serious problems facing dogs imprisoned in Pennsylvania's large scale breeding facilities. Having fostered several Kerry Blue terriers rescued directly from "puppy mills," I have seen **FIRSTHAND** the physical and psychological effects of the conditions these dogs live in.

Please accept these suggestions regarding the proposed kennel regulations and please amend the proposed regulations to reflect my concerns and the concerns of many other citizens in Pennsylvania and across the country. People across the nation are paying attention to what is transpiring in this state.

- 1) Doubling the required cage size. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the animal's psychological well-being and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- 2) Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day.
- 3) Resting boards must be required in every cage. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.
- 4) Temperature Control. Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities if the ambient temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel with an ambient temperature of more than 85 degrees.
- 5) Dog wardens inspecting kennel must be **REQUIRED** to issue a 72 hour "vet check" if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must **NOT** be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg.
- 6) A kennel-operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels **BEFORE** a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, the Bureau will **NOT** issue them any license.

These are just some of the issues that I feel need to be addressed and I hope that the Bureau and the legislators discussing the proposed regulations understand how strongly citizens feel about improving conditions for these dogs.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of those who have no voice.

Agatha Hughes
29 West Abington Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19118

March 15, 2007

Jessie Smith
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am taking the time to write to you today to express my feelings about the problems facing dogs that are housed in Pennsylvania's large scale breeding facilities. Please make the following changes to the proposed regulations:

Doubling the required cage size.

At least twenty minutes of exercise, in a separate enclosed yard or pen, per day should be given to every dog in PA's breeding facilities.

Resting boards must be required in every cage.

Temperature control is a must.

All sick dogs should be taken to a vet within 72 hours of observing the dog being sick or in distress.

Approval must be given by the local zoning board to build or expand a kennel before a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued.

These are some important and humane changes that I feel would improve PA's dog breeding facilities.

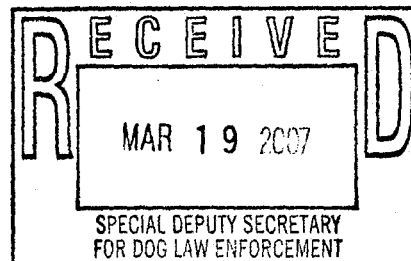
Thank you.

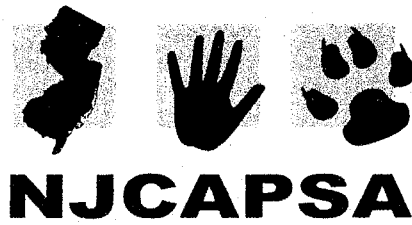
Sincerely,



Lisa P. Franchini

cc: Representative Michael Hanna





March 16, 2007

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

RE: PROPOSED DOG LAW REGULATIONS COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Bender:

As an advocacy group that focuses primarily on assisting consumers who unwittingly purchase sick dog or puppies from pet dealers in the tri-state area, with many of the puppies originating from dealers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey Consumers Against Pet Shop Abuse (NJCAPSA) supports the proposed Dog Law Regulations.

NJCAPSA maintains a database on pet shop and pet dealer violations, including but not limited to: breed of dogs sold, illnesses or genetic conditions of dogs purchased, veterinary expenses incurred to treat or cure the sick animals and breeders and brokers. We do this in an effort to track the pattern of sick puppies from certain dealers or pet shops. NJCAPSA has received dozens of complaints from Pennsylvania and other Mid-Atlantic residents who have purchased dogs from Pennsylvania dealers and kennels.

We feel that not only would the quality of life for the breeding "stock" - who live their entire lives in kennels - be greatly enhanced if the proposed regulations were enacted into law but that their offspring, the puppies who are sold in pet stores and to retail consumers, would also be positively impacted.

We fully support the following:

- Doubling of cage size for dogs
- Elimination of wire flooring in dog cages
 - If this is not possible, we suggest that resting boards be placed in all cages with wire flooring so the dogs can have a solid surface from which to escape wire grids

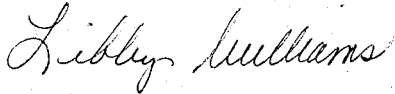
NEW JERSEY CONSUMERS AGAINST PET SHOP ABUSE
PO Box 57, Lebanon, NJ 08833
Phone: 908-325-0333 – Fax: 908-832-1198
info@NJCAPSA.org – www.NJCAPSA.org

NJCAPSA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all-volunteer advocacy group working to end pet shop consumer fraud and puppy mills.

- Eliminating, not limiting, the stacking of cages
- Ambient temperature controls over concrete or slab measurements
 - Indoor kennels not to fall under 45 degrees during cold weather
 - Indoor kennels not to exceed 80 degrees without the use of fans or instruments to circulate air flow
- A licensed veterinarian to examine all dogs 14 days prior to sale of dogs
- Examination of all dogs in kennels annually by licensed veterinarians
- Licensed veterinarians to humanely euthanize older or unwanted dogs housed in kennels, and those whose "productive" life has expired
- Removal of dogs during cage cleaning and sanitization
- Absolutely no surgeries performed on dogs by anyone who does not hold a veterinary medical license, including
 - Ear cropping, tail docking, cesarean sections, hernia repair
- A ban on all de-barking of dogs unless performed under general anesthesia in a veterinary clinic by a licensed veterinarian
- No kennel licensing for anyone convicted of animal cruelty
- No tethering of dogs under any circumstances

Thank you and the Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for your decision to examine and address the many abuses and neglect of dogs housed in commercial kennels. We applaud your efforts to make a real difference in the lives of dogs bred and raised for the pet trade and, as a result of what will hopefully be positive changes, pet owners will also be positively impacted.

Sincerely,



Libby Williams
President

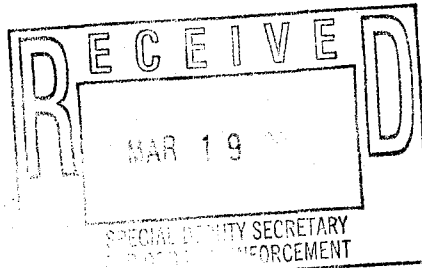
NEW JERSEY CONSUMERS AGAINST PET SHOP ABUSE

PO Box 57, Lebanon, NJ 08833

Phone: 908-325-0333 – Fax: 908-832-1198

info@NJCAPSA.org – www.NJCAPSA.org

NJCAPSA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) all-volunteer advocacy group working to end pet shop consumer fraud and puppy mills.



28 Birch Rd.
Malvern, PA. 19355
March 13, 2007

Dear Miss Smith,

I am very worried about the serious problems facing dogs housed, bred and raised in our state's large scale breeding facilities. I am the owner of one such dog, and can't imagine the conditions she lived in before coming to us. I would like to make the following suggestions regarding the proposed kennel regulations. Please make the necessary changes to these regulations to reflect my concerns. If the following suggestions are consistent with the proposed changes, then please know that you have not only my support, but my gratitude for trying to improve the lives of kenneled dogs throughout the Commonwealth.

- 1) Doubling the required cage size. Dogs in our state's large scale Commercial breeding facilities spend their entire lives confined to small cages. Doubling the cage size will ensure that the dog will be able to move about more freely and will increase the psychological well-being of the animal and eliminate behaviors such as spinning or pacing.
- 2) Every dog in Pennsylvania's breeding facilities should have at least twenty minutes of exercise per day. In a separate enclosed yard or pen. This will have two benefits, first of all, this will allow for the proper physical development of the dog's muscles and skeletal systems. Also, handling the dog (leading or carrying the dog back and forth to the exercise pen) will increase socialization and provide necessary human contact.
- 3) Resting boards must be required in every cage. Breeding dogs in K-5 kennels, facilities with more than 249 dogs (some K-5 facilities can have over 1000 dogs) can live their whole lives standing on wire flooring in rabbit-hutch style cages, regardless of the size and weight of the dog. Solid platforms must be inserted in these cages so the dogs can step off the wire flooring. Or better yet, eliminate wire flooring altogether.
- 4) Temperature Control. Dogs and puppies should not be housed in outdoor or indoor facilities when the temperature falls below 45 degrees, which is consistent with the Animal Welfare Act and federal guidelines. No dog should be housed in an indoor kennel when the temperature is more than 85 degrees.
- 5) Dog wardens inspecting kennels must be REQUIRED to issue a 72 hour "vet check" (meaning the kennel owner must take the sick dog to a vet within 72 hours which is the current law) if they observe a dog that is sick or in distress. This must NOT be left to the discretion of the warden but must be required by regulation. A record of these checks should be submitted along with the inspection report for that kennel and a record of all vet checks must be maintained in Harrisburg. This will help keep track of problematic facilities.
- 6) A kennel operator must have approval from their local zoning board to build or expand their kennels BEFORE a license from the Bureau of Dog Law is issued. No approval, no license. No license will be issued for a number of dogs that exceeds the zoning limits of the local municipality. They must also be a citizen of the United States. And if the person applying for a license has been convicted of Animal Cruelty or has been prosecuted and found guilty by the USDA for violating the Animal Welfare Act, they will not be issued any license by the Bureau.

These are just some of the issues that I feel need to be addressed and I hope that the Bureau and the legislators discussing the proposed regulations understand how strongly people feel about improving conditions for these dogs. I can't imagine my dog living under these conditions and I am so happy that I was able to help her, but only you and the legislators can help the many who are still in distress.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Forbes

Gary V. Hoover
110 East Burnside Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-4934 gvhoover@uplink.net

March 15, 2007

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

RE: Regulation ID # 2-152 (#2559)
Dog Law Regulations

Dear Ms. Bender:

I want to thank you for the Bureau's efforts to better regulate the living conditions for animals in the facilities of kennels and commercial breeders. Additional protections for those animals are long overdue. However, there is an unintended flaw in the proposed regulations which I am sure you are as interested in correcting as the thousands of tax-paying citizens and voters of the Commonwealth that participate in volunteer pet rescue efforts. It is explained in my comments below.

I am a volunteer pet transport driver working with various pet rescue coordinators at shelters and pet rescue organizations to move dogs slated for euthanasia from kill shelters to rescue, foster care and eventual adoption. Volunteers like me contribute many hours of personal time and incur substantial expenses to save such pets and help place them with carefully screened families that will care for them and receive invaluable companionship in return. What a waste it would be if those efforts were unintentionally impaired in any way!

Please consider my comments on the Proposed Amendments to the Pennsylvania Dog Law Regulations at Title 7 of the Pennsylvania Code as follows:

Section 21.14 Kennel Licensure Provisions

(a)(3)(ii) This section would group kennels, commercial breeders, rescue organizations, and foster homes together and subject them to the same requirements.

The partnership between pet rescue organizations and the volunteer individuals that provide foster homes for pets under their supervision has proven to be an effective and humane solution for homeless pets. Volunteer fosters should not be classified with or subjected to the same licensure requirements as kennels, commercial breeders, etc. Exempting them is very much in the public interests and that of the rescued pets.

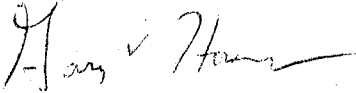
Dogs that are placed in foster care are kept in a home environment just like owned dogs. Time spent in such an environment socializes the dogs and makes them more adoptable at no cost to the public. It is unreasonable to hold a home situation to the same standards as a commercial kennel or breeding facility. If foster homes are subjected to the licensure requirements as currently proposed in the draft regulations, it would make participation for many volunteer foster care providers cost prohibitive, and that would cripple reputable rescue operations and result in the needless death of countless adoptable dogs.

As I understand it, the purpose of the revised regulations was supposed to be to better regulate living conditions for the animals raised in commercial breeders—commonly referred to as puppy mills—and other breeding facilities. Extending the regulations to include all volunteer non-kennel based rescues and foster homes will not support that goal and would be a devastating impact on a proven volunteer rescue network that is effectively placing tens of thousands of homeless pets with good families every year in Pennsylvania and across the United States.

In addition to the exemption for rescues and fosters, it would be very helpful to animal welfare for the proposed regulations to limit the number of puppies that can be produced each year by the commercial breeders, and impose strict fines if they do not comply. The proposed regulations should address the seemingly endless production of animals by the commercial breeders, while millions of homeless pets are being euthanized. Allowing this production to continue unchecked and unregulated will necessitate the continued and heartbreaking destruction of animals by shelters all across the Commonwealth.

Many thanks for your careful consideration of my comments; I welcome your response and would be happy to provide you with any additional commentary that you would find helpful.

Very truly yours,



Gary V. Hoover
Central PA Volunteer Pet Rescue Driver

cc:

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

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

LOIS CANTWELL
706 WHITFORD HILLS ROAD
DOWNTOWN, PA 19335
HOME PHONE: 610 269-9981
WORK PHONE: 484 329-2411
FAX: 484 329-2711

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement Attn: Ms. Mary Bender	FROM:	Lois Cantwell, tibwit@verizon.net
COMPANY:	Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture	DATE:	3/16/2007
FAX NUMBER:	717-772-4352	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	1
PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	
RE:	PA Puppy Mills	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:	

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Good morning. Please accept my comments in regard to the Dog Law regulations.

The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lois Cantwell,



Colleen Campbell
309 Pleasant Valley Drive
Souderton, PA. 18964

March 13, 2007

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

Hello Ms. Bender,

I am writing to you because of my concern about what's happening in puppy mills across the country, specifically in my home state of Pennsylvania. As I'm sure you are aware, many Americans still buy their dogs from pet stores. And most pet stores get the dogs from puppy mills – factory farms where thousands upon thousands of mother dogs spend their entire lives in small wire cages giving birth after birth after birth to puppies of every breed.

These puppy mills are **places of horror** – almost entirely unregulated. And the puppies themselves are often sickly and suffering from genetic deformities that only show up when it's too late to take them back to the store. Where do they end up? In our shelters and our broken hearts.

Last fall, Gov. Ed Rendell (D) announced a commitment to cracking down on the puppy mills by proposing changes to dog law regulations. I do support Gov. Rendell for his commitment, but there are some major problems with the new regulations, and it is my hope the governor will work with the Best Friends Animal Society and local non-profit rescue and foster groups to address these problems.

I would like to specifically address:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Colleen Campbell

205 Chan Mowr Drive
Valencia, PA 16059
March 14, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

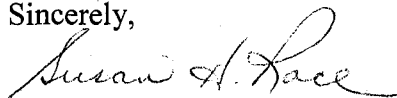
Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address. They are the organizations which struggle to deal with the "animal fallout" created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Please make sure that:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Susan H. Race

3/14/07

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

Dear Ms. Bruden,

Please add my comments to your new regulations
concerning the Dog laws. Please change them
as follows:

1. The Dog Law's Regulations as applied to kennels
should exempt all non-profit animal
welfare and rescue organizations
especially non-kennel based
rescues and fosters.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal
welfare and rescue groups should also
be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board
to represent the interest of animals
in the regulation development process

Thank you
Sara Munford
Greene, PA (Sara Munford)
Greene, PA (Daniel Munford)
Greene, PA (Lara Munford)
The Munford Family

From:
Betsy Crouse
5513 Bauer Drive
Gibsonia, PA 15044

To:
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062

March 13, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

I have worked in animal shelters and currently work for a non-profit animal welfare group focused on increasing access to low-cost spay/neuter services for companion animals. Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address – they are the organizations which struggle to deal with the “animal fallout” created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Sincerely,

Betsy Crouse

1 of 2

Bender, Mary

From: Janice L. Myers [sweethoneytowanda@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2007 1:07 PM
To: mabender@state.pa.us
Subject: Regulation of puppy mills in Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Bender,

As the owner of 2 rescued dogs and a rescued cat, I thought I should comment on the proposed changes to regulations of puppy mills in Pennsylvania.

I support Governor Rendell's effort to regulate this shameful practice and cruel treatment of dogs in our state.

However, it has been brought to my attention that some helpful amendments need to be added to protect the efforts of nonprofit animal rescues. Please write these provisions into the law, so that the important work of animal rescues across the state, can continue.

I had no idea how many independent nonprofit animal rescues were out there until I got on-line to adopt another dog from a group a friend had recommended. On Petfinder .com, I have seen as many as 481 different groups in Pennsylvania alone. Imagine how many more there are that are not on-line yet.

Petfinder.com and Furry Friends helped us adopt our last dog (Prince Charming), who was rescued from certain death at an SPCA. We were able to meet the dog in our home to see if he would fit in with our other pets before we had to lay out any expenses. Furry Friends also checked us out and required we get a reference from a vet and fill out a lengthy application. It made it so much easier to adopt and less risky than directly from an SPCA. We also felt better about supporting a system that provided foster care until they find permanent homes for these pets, instead of putting them to death.

Our dog came to us with a clean bill of health from a vet, his beginning shots, neutered and micro-chipped. If something happened within the first 30 days that we could not keep him, we could send him back to his foster mom. All this cost about the same as if we would have adopted him directly from the SPCA, but without all the risk of spending money on a dog that didn't fit into our family. The foster mom also checked up with us to see how things were going.

Please support this important mission that our nonprofit animal rescues do!
Below are the suggested amendments for the regulations.

Thanks,
Janice L. Myers
3335 N 2nd Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving

3/19/2007

groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Need Mail bonding?

Go to the Yahoo! Mail Q&A for great tips from Yahoo! Answers users.

To:
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062

March 13, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.


Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address – they are the organizations which struggle to deal with the “animal fallout” created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Please make sure that:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,


412-585-4631

To: Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062

March 15, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address – they are the organizations which struggle to deal with the “animal fallout” created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Please make sure that:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Marti Wiseman
606 Brookshire Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

March 14, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:


I am writing to you about the Dog Law under review that deals with puppy mills. I would like to suggest that the proposed Pennsylvania regulations account for the following:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

As treasurer of Nittany Beagle Rescue or Lemont, PA and a person who fosters dogs in need of permanent loving homes, I believe that companion animals in need are valuable and as such need special exemption in order to have a chance at survival.

A pet can lower blood pressure, increase happiness, stimulate the owner to participate in physical activity and offer unconditional love. As good stewards, I believe that our effort to increase the quality of life for all pets is important.

Regards,



Ann Echols
181 Winesap Drive
Port Matilda, PA 16870
814-692-5313



Ann Echols <a.e.echols@gmail.com>

Reports show state goes easy on kennels

Stuart Echols <spe10@email.psu.edu>
Reply-To: Stuart Echols <spe10@psu.edu>
To: Ann Echols <ann@officediggs.com>

Wed, Mar 14, 2007 at 7:29 AM

Posted on Wed, Mar. 14, 2007

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Please enforce tougher standards!

Reports show state goes easy on kennels

The Associated Press

ALLENTOWN -- Puppy breeding and boarding kennels across Pennsylvania have been virtually assured of passing grades from state regulators even with feces-filled living areas, cramped cages, dirty water bowls and diseased or dead dogs, The (Allentown) Morning Call reported in a first-ever analysis of 20,000 state inspection records.

The paper said the practices of the state Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement set its mission up for failure, tilting toward instructing kennel owners on how to comply with the law rather than issuing citations or closing kennels.

Even with violations marked on the kennel inspections, dog wardens gave kennels overall ratings of "satisfactory" 1,311 times. Kennels got flawless reports in more than nine out of every 10 inspections, the paper said.

The newspaper's findings "sort of verifies in a very strong way what we've been complaining about for years," said Bob Baker, a national investigator for The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Baker said even the harshest critics would not have predicted that nine out of 10 inspections would be perfect.

Of the more than three dozen Centre County kennels inspected in 2006, according to the Morning Call's online report, all but one received a satisfactory final rating. In fact, the vast majority received satisfactory ratings in every one of the 25 categories, including clean bedding and sanitation, that applied to the kennel.

One of the reports in which the final result was labeled satisfactory resulted from an inspection where the dog warden noted there were feces all over the outdoor runs and two dead puppies lying on top of the kennel. A re-inspection two weeks later found all the problems had been fixed. "Huge improvement," the dog warden noted.

should not happen in the 1st place -

Chris Ryder, spokesman for the state Department of Agriculture, which oversees the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, said the overall satisfactory ratings appeared because of an error in the computer system being used at the time.

how could anyone NOT improve!

Not a fair rationale
3/14/2007 4:51 PM

"The bottom line is here at the department we don't use that overall rating when we're analyzing data. We look at the entire inspection report," Rider said.

Mary Bender, director of the Dog Law Enforcement Bureau, told The Morning Call that she saw no reason why kennels shouldn't have spotless records. Assuming that wardens should have been more critical "presupposes that there must be problems in kennels," she said.

But Gov. Ed Rendell, who last year ordered the bureau to get tough, said he thinks problems exist.

"There's a reluctance to roll up our sleeves (in Harrisburg but) ... the status quo in policing puppy mills is unacceptable," Rendell said.

State regulators tacitly permitted incomplete inspections by allowing wardens to file inspection reports even where they were unable to go inside a kennel, The Morning Call reported.

The paper said that until it demanded kennel inspection records, the bureau had no idea how to analyze its own data. The Morning Call said it took three months to obtain the state data, which the bureau mistakenly thought it could review only one record at a time.

State law hampers more effective enforcement of problem kennels because it allows only police and humane officers to file cruelty charges, the newspaper said. Dog wardens, the only group allowed to enter kennels without a warrant, have no authority to file cruelty charges even if a warden witnesses mistreatment.

The state is in the midst of a hotly debated overhaul of kennel regulations, pitting some kennel owners against animal welfare groups. The state House Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee held a public hearing Tuesday on the proposals. The bureau is accepting public comment on them through Friday.

On The Net:

The Morning Call database of kennel inspection records: www.mcall.com/dogsearch

March 15, 2007

427 Barn Swallow Ln
Allentown, PA 18104

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations concerning "puppy mills".

Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address.

They are the organizations which struggle to deal with the "animal fallout" created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Please make sure that:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs that are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Very truly yours,



Linda L Binde

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

3/15/07

Ms. Bender:

I am writing because I want to help the animals that are unfortunately born, kept or sold by Puppy Mills in PA.

The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Please help the animals that can not help themselves.

Thank you,

Jodi May
Jodi L. May

March 14, 2007

Hello,

The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs that are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you for being part of this very important change.

Do the right thing.

**Sincerely,
Andrea S. Ponsetto**

To:
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062

March 14, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

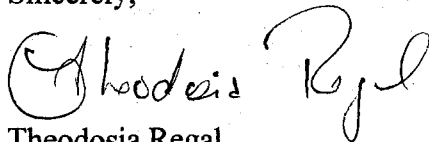
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2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Theodosia Regal
140 Remil Drive
Butler, PA 16001-2625

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062

March 14, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

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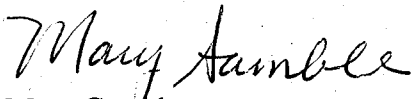
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2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Mary Gamble
4311 Bakerstown-Culmerville Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044
mgamble@nauticom.net

14 Ableview Drive
Butler, PA 16001-1149
March 14, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

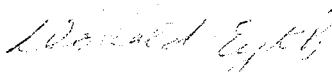
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2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,


Donald P. Eyth

March 14, 2007

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

Re: Cracking down on Puppy Mills in Pennsylvania

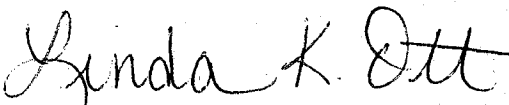
Dear Ms. Bender:

Please note that I *support and applaud* Governor Rendell for his commitment to the problem of puppy mills in Pennsylvania, but there are some major problems with the new regulations. I hope the governor will work with Best Friends Animal Society and local non-profit rescue and foster groups to address these problems.

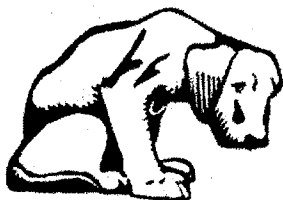
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2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

The conditions of these puppies are horrific, and they are in desperate need of our help. Please put an end to the inhumane puppy mills in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Linda K. Ott



Prisoners of Greed
Puppymills Breed Misery

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

January 30, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to express a few concerns that I have with regard to the proposed Dog Law Act 225, which was issued on December 16, 2006.

I appreciate that fact that the bureau has helped to improve the dog laws in the past several years. However, the current proposed regulation changes have appeared to be intentionally burdensome and go far beyond mere rulemaking.

The proposals add completely new categories and definition. These changes must be addressed through the legislative process.

The proposed changes require the kennel owner to record every time a water bowl or food pan is washed, every time the primary and secondary pen enclosures are cleaned, and the feeding and watering dates and times, etc. All these burdensome and excessive requirements will require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports and divert the small business owner's time away from caring for their animals.

The Departments direction and intentions are neither attributed as accepted canine husbandry practices nor substantiated by science. The Department should base their changes on education to improve the industry. I request that this proposal be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely,

Linda Muddley

Summit Kennel Of Sarver
138 Doyle Rd
Sarver, PA 16055

116 Red Oak Drive
Dubois, PA 15801
March 8, 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17710-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Sharleen Berloffa and I've been involved with dogs all of my life. I have shown in obedience and currently show in AKC confirmation shows. Dogs are my life. I do breed but on a limited basis. My last litter was 8 years ago. I mainly show in confirmation and my dogs are not only my pets but my best friends. They have helped me keep going when I found it difficult.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and/or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

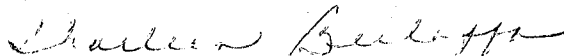
Examples of problems with proposal are the following:

- The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeding households to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate.
- Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.
- The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices.

The above is far from a complete list of the deficiencies with the proposed regulations. I also associate myself with the more detailed comments on this proposal by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

The Bureau had tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced. If, after implementing its recently announced enhanced enforcement program, the Bureau finds it is still unable to prevent inhumane treatment of dogs because of specific deficiencies in the existing regulations, it should cite these specific deficiencies and propose changes based on them. The current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. I **URGE** that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,



Sharleen Berloffa
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