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**Applehill Standards
222 Apple Hill
Tarentum, PA 15084**

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January 22, 2007

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION
Cheryl McLarkle
222 Apple Hill Rd
Tarentum, Pa 15084
724-230-0144

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Dog Law Act 225 which was issued on December 16, 2006. I completely understand that substandard kennel conditions should not be permitted, but most of the proposed regulatory changes are impractical and costly.

These proposals call for change in definitions and requirements of licensed and inspected kennels within the Commonwealth. These extensive changes must go through Pennsylvania's House and Senate legislative processes.

The proposed regulations call for the temperature of the kennel floor to be 50F° in the warm weather. Many kennels are air conditioned to a comfortable 70F°. A dog sleeping on a 50F° floor can develop hypothermia and become ill or die. For temperature, lighting, cleaning, exercise, housing, and veterinary care, the attending veterinarian should set forth and approve procedures specific for the kennel buildings and breeds of dogs.

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

The proposed changes would 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.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded and the USDA standard be adopted in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Cheryl McLarkle
Breeder / exhibitor for 30 yrs., and club
member / officer / public information (awson)
Greater Pittsburgh Poodle Club
Three Rivers Papillon Club