

The proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture concerning commercial dog breeders do not go far enough concerning temperature control, cage size and conditions and humane breeding practices.

I transport dogs and the males and females coming from puppy mills are so timid, they are afraid of the grass under their feet, because they have never touched it. When they become used to it, they roll in joy from the feel of it on their fur. They come to you, timidly, but wagging their tails and shivering with delight when you pet them. If you would go on a weekend of transports, you would see the condition of these dogs and the sadness in their faces. With a little patience and love from people they don't even know, they blossom and, usually, by the end of the transport they are friskier and happier. I have seen dogs whose fur is so matted, they can hardly sit, all because they have never had care and a week later, their fosters or adopters have had them groomed and they are different dogs.

Please, help enact regulations for these breeding hells, make the breeders give the dogs heat and air conditions, limit the number of dogs in a cage and limit the time the dogs can be kept in the cages. Responsible breeders will not chafe at these changes, because they already treat their animals with compassion. Only the greedy ones will cry "foul". Don't be one of the ones who say we have enough laws, they only need to be enforced. OBVIOUSLY, that is not working.

Are YOU not ashamed that Pennsylvania is known for being the Puppy Mill Capital of the East?? The first time I heard that, I was astounded, I thought it was Kansas and Missouri that had all the bad press, but now, Pennsylvania is spoken in the same breath!!!

I appreciate your time and interest in this problem, but now is the time to act, before more animals suffer.

Thank you.

*Dorothy A. Lister*  
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