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Rec'd 2/20/07

February 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Tina Franks and I currently reside in Lancaster County. Originally from the Northeast PA area, I moved to Lancaster in November 2002. Not long after moving I learned that Lancaster County is known as the puppy mill capital of the East Coast and that completely disgusted me. But since I moved here for a job opportunity I was not about to leave. So, instead, I have become very active in voicing my concerns on behalf of the helpless dogs in the kennels. I take pride in knowing I am not only educating others in Lancaster County and where I grew up in Luzerne County, about this horrible situation, but also knowing my reach extends to other states.

With that being said, I would like to thank the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law for taking a serious look at this horrible situation and for proposing new and amended kennel regulations to improve the living conditions of the thousands of breeding dogs in the commercial breeding kennels. These animals did not choose to be born in these kennels under horrid conditions, so I believe it is our duty, as citizens and human beings, to do the humane thing and at the very least, make their life here as good as it can be and I believe these new regulations, when enforced properly, has the capabilities of doing that.

I truly want you and your department to know that I fully support the proposed kennel regulations and will look forward to their passage.

These animals are now purely bred for profit with no regard to their well-being. They are merely considered a "cash crop" and that mentality is inhumane and ethically inappropriate. I believe that the proposed changes, once passed, will make a huge difference in the health, both mentally and physically, of these dogs.

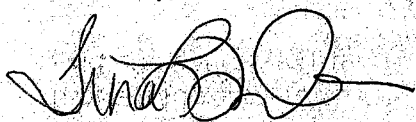
For example, by simply removing the dogs while their kennels are cleaned just makes sense and will allow an opportunity for these dogs to stretch and not be soaked down with Clorox-laden water. To allow heat and the winter months and air/ventilation in the summer months is just the common sense thing to do. In addition, the minimal housing these dogs currently live in are despicable. These dogs need to be able to stretch and use their muscles to remain healthy and right now, this is not able to happen. I also strongly agree with the dogs being walked every day for at least 20 minutes a day. It will allow, again, for proper exercise, which will in turn, result in healthier dogs. I also believe that proper ventilation is essential for these dogs to be healthy, especially the breeding dogs who will probably never see the inside of a home and without proper ventilation will have the constant smell of urine and feces which over time is a definite health hazard.

Dog breeding is NOT farming and should not be treated as such. It is a business that needs proper regulation to ensure humane treatment of our canine companions and these proposed changes would help ensure that.

The passage of these kennel regulations will also make the Department of Agriculture a National leader in the fight against commercial breeding facilities which many animal advocates, such as myself, would be proud to announce to everyone.

Once again, I support and encourage the proposed kennel regulations! Thank you and your department, in advance, for taking this very seriously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tina L. Franks', written in a cursive style.

Tina L. Franks
PO Box 8695
Lancaster, PA 17604