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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

February 22, 2007

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

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

Dear Ms. Bender;

I applaud the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for making proposed changes to the Dog Law that could improve the living conditions of dogs who are caged continually in breeding facilities. Although I do not live in Pennsylvania, I wish to express my comments because the dogs bred in Pennsylvania are often sold all over the country, thanks to tourism and internet sales. Their wellbeing is more than just a regional issue.

I support the following changes in the laws:

- doubling the minimum cage size
- requiring daily exercise outside of the cage
- requiring heat when the temperature drops below 50 degrees
- required cooling (by fan or air conditioning) when the temperature rises above 80 degrees
- improving ventilation in kennel areas
- denying kennel licenses to individuals convicted of animal cruelty.

I do, however, feel there should be an exemption for nonprofit rescue groups, because they house animals for only a very short time, are performing a community service, and run on extremely limited, nonprofit budgets. I feel there is a significant difference between for-profit ventures which house animals in cages for their entire breeding lives, and non-for-profits which take in unwanted and abused animals for short periods of time.

Please exempt shelters and bona fide rescue groups from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements. In addition, it should be noted that many "foster homes" for rescue groups exist in individual private living space, and thus some of the kennel requirements (those requiring gravel or cement flooring that can be hosed down, for example) should not be applied to private homes which only house a few pets and foster dogs at a time.

Again, I thank you for taking on this difficult and important task. Thank you very much for considering my comments.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen Summers". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the text area.

Kathleen Summers