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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

**Re: Pennsylvania Puppy Mills**

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli:

Puppy mills are breeding facilities that produce purebred puppies in large numbers and sell them to unsuspecting consumers. They are inhumane, designed to maximize profits, and commonly disregard the physical, social, and emotional health of the dogs in their facilities. Because of these conditions, puppy mill puppies are more likely to have physical and behavioral problems than dogs from good sources.

Puppy mills lurk behind the beautiful web sites, ads in the local newspaper, even behind the doors of a nearby pet store. The best way to stop puppy mills from continuing their abuse is for consumers to stop buying the puppies they breed. Many people think they are "rescuing" a puppy by buying one—don't be fooled; they are just creating space for another puppy to be sold. Never buy a dog unless you can see for yourself where he or she was born, how the parents are kept, and what condition all the dogs are in.

By far, the best place to get a pet is the local animal shelter. Many people are surprised to learn that nationwide, one out of every four dogs in shelters is purebred. Most of these shelter animals have already been spayed or neutered, and have received all their vaccinations and veterinary checkups. Shelters also screen animals for adoption so that they can make a great match between animals and their new families. Purebred rescue groups are another excellent resource for finding a dog.

Many people spend hundreds of dollars to buy a healthy looking puppy only to find out soon after that he is seriously ill and requires costly veterinary care to save his life. With some basic steps, families can protect themselves, their wallets, and the puppies all at the same time.

With regard to Pennsylvania puppy mills, we request the following:

- **Ask for an exemption for shelters from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements**
- **Foster homes should be exempt from kennel housing requirements and instead have separate performance standards appropriate for home care settings**

People who love dogs need to help stop them from being mistreated by making sure they aren't supporting a puppy mill.

Thank you for helping the tens of thousands of dogs who suffer in Pennsylvania puppy mills.

Respectfully,

Anna Marie Di Stefano  
Upper Darby, PA