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Ms. Mary Bender
PA Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing to you in response to the Harrisburg Kennel Club information published in the Patriot News.

We have laws in place to deal with illegal puppy breeders. Enforce them. Also, enforce the spay-neuter program. It is not the conscientious home breeder you should be going after, it is the puppy mills. We do not need laws on the books to hamper legitimate breeders.

I have a friend who purchased purebred dogs from a private breeder. Her dogs are wonderful dogs. I know she had to go through a screening process in order to be considered for a dog. I also know she had conversations with the breeder and a personal visit with the breeder before obtaining her dog. She obtained her dogs from a licensed kennel that has followed all the rules. Her dogs are healthy, happy and a perfect specimen of the breed. They are her much beloved companions. This is due to the way her dogs were bred.

Enforce the laws we have in place regarding the puppy mills, but please DO NOT jeopardize the private breeder. It would seem to me that at the very least, you could "grandfather" the reputable kennels currently licensed that have passed inspection. Go after the puppy mills that have given Pennsylvania the stigma of producing puppy mills. Make new kennels adhere to you proposed new rules. But, make those rules feasible for the home breeder. Please do not put the reputable breeder out of business.

Sincerely,

Margaret A. Kelly