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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

As an employee of a small up-scale boarding kennel here in eastern PA for 14 years I have heard talk of rule changes regarding puppy mills many times, but these new proposals are causing a lot of concern from my boss and her husband and all of us too.

Even though I'm not totally sure why this is happening I wanted to write just to point out what should be obvious. There is a big difference between a boarding kennel where people bring their dogs and cats for a vacation stay and the big commercial breeding kennels where dogs live their entire lives in small cages.

People would be horrified to find out there were children living in tents behind our local children's home for years. Yet people pay good money for their children to spend a week in a tent at a Pocono camp, that's a vacation. There is a difference.

Pet store puppies are allowed to live in small cages for sometimes months on end and that's o.k.?

And not covered under these new rulings? But a week-end stay in our kennel with large indoor-outdoor runs that may now not be good enough, are being challenged?

I don't know how this is going to benefit any of the dogs being over-bred in puppy mills because it seems they always find loopholes and ways around the rules anyway.

I'm sorry if I sound frustrated. I didn't want this to be a negative letter. I know how hard we work to care for all the dogs our clients trust us with here. They are kept clean, well fed, happy and joyfully greet us each time they return. It just does not make sense that we have to "document the date and time each day that we sanitize each dog's food and water bowl." We have never even had a case of kennel cough in the 14 years I've worked here. So we must be doing something (many things, in fact) right.

I sincerely hope you can find some way to stand up to those who feel these changes are really necessary.

Yours truly,

