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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

**Heartland Pets
568 Millcreek Mall
Erie Pa. 16565
814 866 6407**

March 7 2007

**Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn:Arther Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg Pa. 17101**

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

As a pet store owner in the Millcreek Mall for the last 13 years, I appreciate the fact that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has helped to improved dog laws. With regard to the proposed dog changes, Act 225 issued on December 16, 2006, I have a few serious concerns.

The proposed changes would require the kennel owner to record every time a water bowl or food pan is washed, every time the primary pen enclosures are cleaned, the feeding and watering times, etc. These excessive and burdensome requirements will require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out written bureaucratic reports and divert the small business owner's time away from the caring for their animals.

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The

proposed of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels at a cost of at least \$50,000.00 and as much as \$100,000.00.

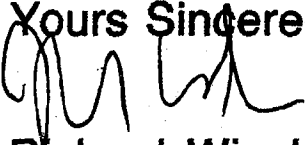
Further the kennel changes don't make exception for the space requirements of a 2 pound Chihuahua that is temporarily housed at the pet store for an average of one week, and a 150 pound German Sheppard or other large breed that is permanently housed outdoors. The two breeds do not have the same need for space.

The proposed changes make no sense for all kennel owner's dogs to be seized by the Dog Law Bureau based on the Governor's proposed new requirements for pen sized or quarantine regulations. Dog law places the same dog into a humane society not required to have the proposed new standards. It is vital to have fair and uniform kennel requirements. In addition, small business owners are affected greatly and their due process rights in court are limited if the proposed changes adopted.

A two week quarantine is a well intentioned idea to prevent contagious viral or parasitic among the dog population, in the situation that Heartland Pets is in, we do not have the space on Mall premises to have such a separate kennel. This would require the construction of a separate kennel (at an estimated cost of \$100,000.00) or sub contraction of the quarantine to an outside kennel with no guarantee that the hoped for objective of stopping a contagious or parasitic condition be met. In our case the only result would be the prevention of the puppy going into it's adopted home for an additional two weeks at a large cost to the pet store.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Winslow', written over the printed name.

**Richard Winslow
Heartland Pets
568 Millcreek Mall
Erie Pa. 16565**