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March 8, 2007

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

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
FELONY COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender:

I'm writing in regards to the newly proposed dog laws with strong feelings as follows:

Sec. 21.14(3) Rescue Groups should be exempt from this provision.

Sec.21.23; 21.25 through 21.29 I strongly encourage passing and enforcing

I am all for destroying "puppy mills". This is nothing but a "cash crop" to these despicable so-called breeders. Why would you want to represent a state that is infamous for the dirty little secret; hundreds of puppy mills hidden in and behind barns; well out of view of unsuspecting public; thousands of dogs living in wire cages with no human socialization. Therefore, since puppy mills so far have not been banned, let's make out regulations tougher for them to meet. This brings me to my next point. I can't stress enough that once these breeders acquire their kennel license - please allow local qualified township supervisors to do unannounced inspections and enforce violations - don't require it to be performed by state appointed officials. There are too few state officials to do this task and deplorable conditions are given to these dogs.

What would be the greatest gift of all would be to remove dog breeding and kennels out from under the Dept. Of Ag. The dictionary gives the definition for agriculture as "the science or practice of cultivating land on a large scale, farming". Where in this does the companion animal (dog) apply?? I know in 2005 the Dept. Of Ag. collected income from the license fees totaling \$6,137,094. (Dog licenses \$5,510,754;kennel licenses\$608,975;out of state dealer licenses \$17,325.) Without dogs as companion animals you wouldn't have this income and initially the pinch in your pocket would hurt, however, these animals aren't receiving their fair share of benefits! I invite you to visit a puppy mill and see if you could walk away without a queasy stomach, without a tear in your eyes, and a guilt-free conscience to crawl in a warm bed at night.

Let me leave you with this: 'The one absolutely unselfish friends that a man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him and the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous.....is his dog.

Sincerely yours,



Mandy E Spittler  
2130 Walnut Street  
Lebanon, PA.17042