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March 10, 2007

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

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2007 MAR 16 PM 1:43  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
PENSION COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am Elizabeth West, resident of Manheim, PA and owner of a dog. Dogs have always been beloved members of my family, and we have welcomed into our home various breeds. One came from a pet store, two from a Humane League, and others from private breeders who allowed us to visit their home, see the "parents" of the puppies, and observe the puppies' behavior within the litter. Never have I been confronted with the inhumane practices in commercial kennels as have been described in many recent newspaper articles and validated by meetings that I have attended. I guess I just needed to be educated.

Thank goodness there are those of you in the Bureau of Dog Law who are willing to advocate for better living conditions of dogs and puppies. The proposals seem only to be good common sense:

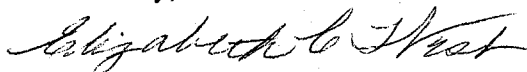
Exercise, clean cages, room to move around in cages, decent food, vet care for the sick and those giving birth when necessary, fresh air, and comfortable temperatures, and freedom from being tethered for life.

What creatures on earth don't deserve at least this much? Surely these improved conditions can only insure healthier parents and puppies, and happier owners who purchase them. If these animals are to remain in the Department of Agriculture, then let the department be proud of its standards and practices for humane treatment of all that come under its supervision! Think about those dogs that will spend their entire lifetime in one of these kennels. Breeding dogs is not agriculture....it's a tremendously lucrative business that needs to be regulated.

On my way to work I pass a road sign that reads: Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and I shudder knowing that what goes on inside those picturesque barns is ugly. Let's really clean up our state's reputation: be a forerunner, be a treasured example of how to do it right.

My vote has to come through you. Please support the welfare of dogs in PA.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth C. West  
427 Thrush Drive  
Manheim, PA 17545