

2559

March 11, 2006

Dear Ms. Bender:

This morning I read a very lengthy, interesting article in the Allentown Morning Call regarding changes being considered to state dog regulation regarding kennels. First I would like to say it is very refreshing to see that there is such an interest in this sad situation. I agree and feel this is the time to make changes. I could only hope that the regulations will be strict and in the best interest of the dogs. I feel that the rules should all apply to all kennels, regardless of the amount of dogs they hold. Kennels with 25 or less dogs should have the same responsibilities as those with 300 or more. What is the difference as all of these dogs need to be protected. I feel the kennels should be responsible for record keeping in regards to cleaning and sanitizing the cages and this should be strictly enforced as it is in any other place of business. There is nothing difficult about keeping a log with information. No one should have to enter a kennel and smell feces and urine and no dog should have to live in it.

I am so happy to see that the size of dog cages is an issue. It is very heartbreaking to see a dog in a cage that is too small for them and they cannot move. This should also apply to the puppies in the pet stores as all different size puppies are in the same cage. Personally I think they should not be caged but required to be in runs that open into a yard area where they can defecate and then that area be cleaned up. Keep in mind that some of these animals spend their whole life in a cage. Can something be done about the overall length of time an animal can be caged?

It also seems to me that there are more than enough kennels in this state especially in Lancaster county. What is going on there? Maybe it would be best to do as Kansas and regulate and enforce these rules with no exceptions in order to get it under control and not allow these kennel owners to consistently do what they want and get away with it any longer.

It would also be nice to see these rules and regulations apply to personal dog owners who mistreat their dogs. I would hope that at some time this issue can also be addressed. The state has to be stricter with the treatment of animals in a home where they are tied to a leash in the backyard for their whole lives and in removing a dog that is being mistreated in a home. Neighbors make numerous complaints and many times nothing is done. Not all boroughs in the state have animal cops and many local policemen say there is not much they can do. They say the state only requires a dog tied up in the backyard to have shelter such as a coop and water, but who really enforces this. It is a very disheartening situation.

Hats off to Governor Rendall, the ASPCA, The Humane Society and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for their upcoming efforts to make changes to dog kennel regulations and strict enforcement of these rules. It would be nice to see an incentive program of some sort to reward the innocent breeders and those who do follow the rules in order to keep up the morale. Kennels should have to have their rating list posted where all can see. I wish

INDEPENDENT
FELONY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 MAR 16 PM 1:45

RECEIVED

you all the best if this very important issue. You are all the voice of the animals. Make them and the people of this state proud. After all it is the consumer who bears the burden of those not following regulations. Most people love their dogs and deserve to get what they pay for.

Please make the regulations strict and enforce them. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Soto