

March 12, 2007

2559

Attn: Mary Bender

I'm writing as a citizen of Pennsylvania and a person who cares about animals. I have read the stories and seen the photos of dogs that have been neglected or worse in some of the state's kennels.

Only stricter laws and enforcement will improve conditions for the dogs. If breeders have kennels and not puppy mills, they should be glad to have help in weeding out the people who never should have gotten licenses in the first place. At a minimum, a breeder who has not met requirements for having a kennel should have the number of allowed dogs reduced as well as pay a high fine. Again it is enforcement that will improve the care of dogs.

In addition to increased visits to kennels, laws should require individual spaces for the dogs with adequate food and always access to water. I would love to see some of these breeders forced to live as their animals are forced to live!

It is not the job of veterinarians to report problems at a kennel. Since the kennel is a client, they will not want to anger them. Separate enforcement is needed.

I think the kennels should be smaller. Having 250 dogs or more at one site is too many. How can they be given the care that they need? I see in the local newspapers that dogs are being offered for sale for \$400 to over \$900/dog. There is a lot of money and therefore a lot of greed. Stricter regulation and enforcement are the only way to protect the dog "industry" in Pennsylvania. I personally do not feel that dogs should be an industry.

One final note, I find the attitude of some of the representatives on the committee less than acceptable (Cox, Mahoney, Keller). If they are not willing to protect animals, they should not be on the committee. Their arrogant attitudes do nothing but harm.

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