

2559

RECEIVED

March 13, 2007

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

2007 MAR 19 AM 11:01

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

**RE: Regulation ID # 2-152 (#2559)
Dog Law Regulations**

Dear Ms. Bender:

I submit the following comments on the Proposed Amendments to the Pennsylvania Dog Law Regulations at Title 7 of the Pennsylvania Code.

Section 21.14 Kennel Licensure Provisions

(a)(3)(ii) This section would group kennels, commercial breeders, rescue organizations, and foster homes together and subject them to the same requirements.

This provision is unreasonable as it applies to foster homes that are utilized by all volunteer rescue organizations. Dogs that are placed in foster care are kept in a home environment just like owned dogs. The foster dogs are the "temporary" pets kept by a household until the animal finds its permanent home. These animals are not crated or kept in kennel-like conditions. Instead, the animals are kept inside, in a home environment. It is unreasonable to hold a home situation to the same standards as a commercial kennel or breeding facility. Foster homes utilized by rescues provide more humane living conditions for the animals cared for by rescues, because the animals are indoors, socialized, and become housebroken. It would not be in the best interest of the animals to require the foster homes to place animals in a kennel environment instead allowing them to live inside a home.

The purpose of these revised regulations was supposed to be to better regulate living conditions for the animals raised in puppy mills and other breeding facilities. Extending the regulation to include all volunteer non-kennel based rescues and foster homes does nothing to regulate the puppy millers. Instead, the proposed regulations impose standards upon private, all volunteer rescues that they would be unable to afford to meet, forcing them to close down, thereby jeopardizing the lives of the tens of thousands of animals assisted by rescues each year.

For example, assume there are 100 foster home-based rescues in Pennsylvania, each handling 1,000 animals per year. If rescues were to close, that is 100,000 animals that would be placed into the system for municipalities and shelters to handle in an already overburdened system. The cost to taxpayers would increase due to municipalities having to handle animals previously assisted by rescues. Shelters would be more overburdened

that they already are, forcing them to kill the overflow of animals—animals whose lives would have been spared in the rescue system.

Rescues serve an important function. They help animals with no cost to the taxpayers, and aid the state-wide economy by giving veterinarians tremendous business, and well as the pet stores for food and supplies. Thus, putting the rescues out of business—as the regulations would do—would have a far reaching impact on taxpayers and the state-wide economy. Thus, foster based rescues should be exempt from the provisions of these proposed regulations, and there should be an explicit provision stating that in the proposed regulations.

In addition to the exemption for rescues, the proposed regulations should put a clear limit on the number of puppies that can be produced each year by the commercial breeders, and strict fines imposed if they do not comply. The proposed regulations do nothing to stop the endless production of animals by the commercial breeders. Allowing this production to continue will sanction the killing of animals by shelters all across the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,



cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Respectfully submitted,



David & Debra Henry
435 charter Lane
Mount Joy PA 17552

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative Dave Hickernell

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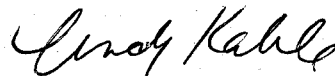
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cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman ✓
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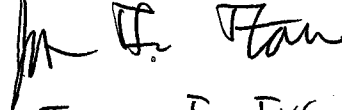
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Respectfully submitted,



James F. Furr
State College, PA

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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225 Main Capitol Building
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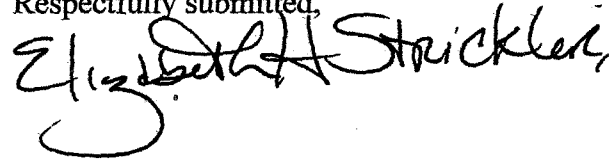
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth H. Strickler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "E".

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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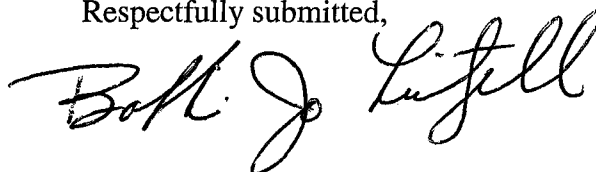
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob J. Luffell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Bob J. Luffell".

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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 ATTN: Ms. Mary Bender
 2301 North Cameron Street
 Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

Nita Gryan
 7 Ridgewood Dr.
 Hockessin, DE 19707

RE: Regulation ID # 2-152 (#2559)
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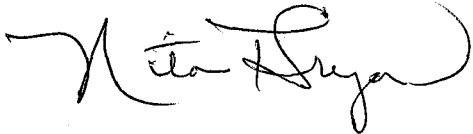
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nita L. Szyja". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
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Respectfully submitted,

Felicity R Fox
627 JS. Frank St
Harrisburg, PA
17104

cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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JEANETTE M GEADRITES

304 Cedar Manor

Elizabethtown, PA 17022

jeanette.g4@comcast.net

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nothing to regulate the puppy millers. Instead, the proposed regulations impose standards upon private, all volunteer rescues that they would be unable to afford to meet, forcing them to close down, thereby jeopardizing the lives of the tens of thousands of animals assisted by rescues each year.

For example, assume there are 100 foster home-based rescues in Pennsylvania, each handling 1,000 animals per year. If rescues were to close, that is 100,000 animals that would be placed into the system for municipalities and shelters to handle in an already overburdened system. The cost to taxpayers would increase due to municipalities having to handle animals previously assisted by rescues. Shelters would be more overburdened than they already are, forcing them to kill the overflow of animals—animals whose lives would have been spared in the rescue system.

Rescues serve an important function. They help animals with no cost to the taxpayers, and aid the state-wide economy by giving veterinarians tremendous business, and well as the pet stores for food and supplies. Thus, putting the rescues out of business--as the regulations would do--would have a far reaching impact on taxpayers and the state-wide economy. Thus, foster based rescues should be exempt from the provisions of these proposed regulations, and there should be an explicit provision stating that in the proposed regulations.

In addition to the exemption for rescues, the proposed regulations should put a clear limit on the number of puppies that can be produced each year by the commercial breeders, and strict fines imposed if they do not comply. The proposed regulations do nothing to stop the endless production of animals by the commercial breeders. Allowing this production to continue will sanction the killing of animals by shelters all across the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanette M. Geadrities

c: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Governor Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RECEIVED

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC)
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

2007 MAR 16 AM 10: 24

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you for your consideration:

Laurea C. Percival
LAUREA PERCIVAL
20570 Alden St.
Meadville, PA 16335

RECEIVED

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC): 2007 MAR 16 AM 10:24
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

Honey Lee Pezzimenti
Honey Lee Pezzimenti
4059 Canterbury Dr.
Erie, PA 16506

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:24

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Thank you for your consideration:



KARINA S LOWCKY
1710 W. 40TH STREET
ERIE, PA 16509

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:24


Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
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Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
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Thank you for your consideration:

 William Fazio
233 Beverly Dr
E117, PA
16505

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333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Thank you for your consideration:

Carol Olson
1103 Guetner Ave
Erie, Pa. 16505

RECEIVED

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Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

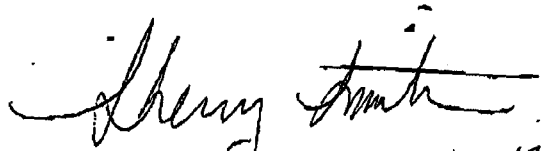
2007 MAR 16 AM 10:24

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Thank you for your consideration:


3144 W. 12th ERIE, PA

RECEIVED

Harrisburg, PA 17101

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:25

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

Ki Curtis

1324 W 21 Ave, PA

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:22

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

*Linda Yemke 2110 North Manor Dr
Erie, PA 16505*

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

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Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Thank you for your consideration:

Terese Zbach
Terese Zbach
871 Arlington Rd
Erie Pa 16579

RECEIVED

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

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REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

Deborah Cannavino
4515 Homeland Blvd
Erie, Penna. 16509

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

MR. B
Michael P. Barrett
3910 Winchester Rd
Erie Pa 16506

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

Thomas Wittmann
4382 Wimmer Circle
Erie, Pa. 16506

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
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Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Thank you for your consideration:

John Fries

John E. Fries
5293 Rome Court
ERIE, Pa. 16509

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

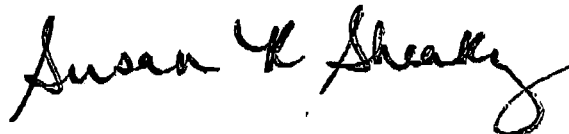
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Thank you for your consideration:



Susan K. Sheakley
9882 Franklin Pike
Meadville, PA 16335

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:23

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Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Thank you for your consideration:

Kathy S. Dougherty
KATHY S. DOUGHERTY
4090 E Stancliff Rd
McKean, Pa 16426

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:24

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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Thank you for your consideration:

Anna M. Colonna
Anna M. Colonna
920 E. 32nd St.
Erie, PA 16504

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

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2007 MAR 16 AM 10:22

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Thank you for your consideration:

Susan Ciecierski

Susan Ciecierski
665 W. Zwilling Rd
Erie PA 16509

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:22

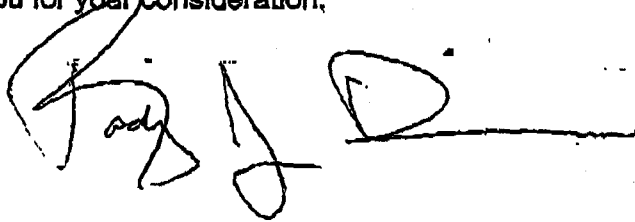
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Thank you for your consideration:



Randy J Dawson
13124 SCOTT ROAD
WATERFORD PA 16441

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccoodrill,
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Main Telephone: (717) 783-5417
Fax: (717) 783-2664
Email: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:21

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Thank you for your consideration:

Sharon Slickerson

814.454.7419

SLICKERSON@HOTMAIL.COM

717 E 28 ST

EME, PA 16504

Patricia Porter
San Diego, CA 91941

RECEIVED

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

2007 MAR 16 AM 10: 22

March 15, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

TO:	NAME/COMPANY	TELEPHONE	FACSIMILE
	Independent Regulatory Review Commission		717-783-2664

FROM: Patricia Porter

RE: Puppy Mills ~

PAGES: 1 (including cover page)
If you do not receive all pages, please call (619) 233-1888

MESSAGE: Dog Law Bureau Director, Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that were recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

I am **strongly opposed** to commercial breeding kennels where the costs are minimized by providing substandard care and conditions for the dogs in an effort to increase the profit. I am writing to request that you immediately take steps to address the **horrific** conditions in commercial kennels in Pennsylvania. Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that are kept in a cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

I am absolutely disgusted at what you are allowing to go on in your state. There is no reason on earth that this should be allowed to continue. It is heartless, horrible, and tortuous for helpless, innocent animals. You need to do something to stop this NOW!! Thank you.

Patricia Porter

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FAX MESSAGE, AND ANY FILE(S) TRANSMITTED WITH IT, IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL USE OF THE DESIGNATED RECIPIENT(S) NAMED ABOVE. THIS FAX MESSAGE IS A COMMUNICATION THAT MAY RELATE TO PENDING LEGAL MATTERS AND, AS SUCH, MAY BE PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL. IF THE READER OF THIS FAX MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT OR AN AGENT RESPONSIBLE FOR DELIVERING IT TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS DOCUMENT IN ERROR, AND THAT ANY REVIEW, DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS FAX MESSAGE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Patricia Porter
San Diego, CA 91941

RECEIVED

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL

March 15, 2007

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:22

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RECEIVED

Scott F. Simonds

812 McKenzie St., York, Pennsylvania 17403 ~ 717/848-6028 ~ e-mail: sfsimonds@hotmail.com

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:21

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 15, 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
PA Dept. of Agriculture
VIA FACSIMILE

To Whom It May Concern:

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I am strongly opposed to commercial breeding kennels where the costs are minimized by providing substandard care and conditions for the dogs in an effort to increase the profit. I am writing to request that you immediately take steps to address the horrific conditions in commercial kennels in Pennsylvania. Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that are kept in a cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

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It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the "Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast." Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Scott F. Simonds

CC: Independent Regulatory Review Comsn., Arthur Coccodrilli

Dog Law Bureau Director, Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

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Thank you
Claudia Ginter
Claudia Ginter

Lancaster County Puppy Mill Dog – Rescued January 2007

It is difficult to know whether this dog is a purebred Poodle or a purebred Maltese. He was surrendered by a breeder in Lancaster County on January 31. A child of Pennsylvania's notorious Puppy Mills, this little dog came to us with mange, ulcers in his eyes, malnourished, dehydrated, and with a bacterial infection in his intestinal tract. In spite of all the cruelty he has faced in his life, this little fellow, whom we are calling "Shrimp," is loving and incredibly sweet. He is currently on six different kinds of medications but his spirits remain high. Please think about this dog, and all the other dogs imprisoned in our state's Commercial Breeding facilities, when you see that cute little puppy in the pet store window. More than nine out of ten puppies sold in pet stores come from Puppy Mills. Shrimp remained behind for years while his babies went to market. And please support the new proposed kennel regulations that Rescue Organizations across PA are trying to get passed. Regulations that would increase cage size for dogs like Shrimp, require breeders to exercise their dogs for twenty minutes every day, and revoke the licenses of individuals convicted of Animal Cruelty.



INDEPENDENT REGULATOR
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:21

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:20

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSIONMarch 15, 2007
138-01 64th Avenue
Flushing, NY 11367

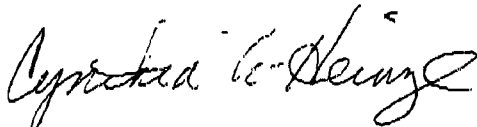
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It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cynthia N. Heinze

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:20

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Judy Rompilla
3309 Valley View Road
Bethlehem, PA 18020
March 15, 2007

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli,

I am writing this letter in support of the new, more humane regulations for puppy mill dogs in Pennsylvania. Changes to the regulations that affect dogs in puppy mills could include the following requirements:

- Doubling the minimum cage size
- Requiring daily exercise outside of the cage
- Required heat when the temperature drops below 50 degrees
- Required cooling (by fan or air conditioning) when the temperature is above 85 degrees
- Improving ventilation in kennel areas
- Denying kennel licenses to individuals convicted of animal cruelty within the past 10 years

There has been some concern that animal shelters and rescue groups may be affected by the kennel regulations due to the addition of a new definition of "temporary home." I am asking for an exemption for shelters from the kennel expansion and exercise requirements. Foster homes should be exempt from kennel housing requirements and instead have separate performance standards appropriate for home care setting.

Sincerely,



Judy Rompilla

2559

RECEIVED

From: Jonni Bankert [jonni@royceadv.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2007 10:46 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: Cracking down on Puppy Mills in Pennsylvania

2007 MAR 16 AM 10:48

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

In regards to the new regulations, please consider the following:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you for being part of this important change.

2559

RECEIVED

Patricia McGivern

804 Tally Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

2007 MAR 16 AM 11:47

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 16, 2007

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee
Attn: Mr. arthur Coccodrilli
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

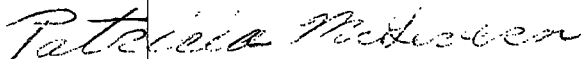
Dear Mr. Coccodrilli

I am writing in regards to Governor Rendell commitment to cracking down on the puppy mills in Pennsylvania by proposing Changes to dog law regulations. I think it is wonderful that the Governor is going to take action on this, and look forward to that happening. I would though, like to make a few comments to be thought about when deciding on the regulations and ask that they be taken into consideration.

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincerely,



Patricia McGivern

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 PM 12:09

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

----- B.

From: Robyn Snyder [robyns@starband.net]

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2007 11:54 AM

To: IRRC

Subject: changes to dog law regulations

We definitely want tougher regulations to shut down the terrible puppy mills in PA. I work at a vet hospital and can attest to the terrible conditions for the breeding dogs and the awful quality of puppies that are produced. But let's not harm the facilities who are trying to mop up the mess as we address the problem. Specifically,

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you,

Robyn and Steve Snyder,
faithful voters

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

January 26, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a kennel owner for a good number of years, I appreciate the fact that the bureau has helped to improve the dog laws. With regard to the proposed dog law changes Act 225 issued on December 16, 2006, I have a few serious concerns.

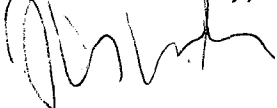
The proposed changes would require the kennel owner to record every time a water bowl or food pan is washed, every time the primary and secondary pen enclosures are cleaned, the feeding and watering dates and times, etc. These excessive and burdensome requirements will require a substantial increase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

Kennels have been custom built to comply with the Department of Agriculture's Dog Law Enforcement standards that were based on USDA standards. The proposed changes of this section will require the demolition of licensed and inspected kennels and the rebuilding of entirely new dimensioned kennels. The average cost per kennel will be between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00 each.

The proposed changes make no sense for all kennel owners' 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.

I sincerely urge that this proposal be rescinded.

Yours Sincerely,



Heartland Pets
568 Millcreek Mall
Erie, PA 16565

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 MAR 16 PM 1:30

RECEIVED

2559

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 19 AM 8:59

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Susan Riley

511 Jefferson Avenue

Cheltenham, PA 19012

Suzi511@yahoo.com

March 16th, 2007

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):

Arthur Coccodrilli,

333 Market Street, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Main Telephone: (717) 783-5417

Fax: (717) 783-2664

Email: irrc@irrc.state.pa.us

Dear Mr. Coccodrilli

The atrocity of Puppy Mills makes a terrible stain on our state.....as well as doing a horrendous injustice to helpless animals, and the uninformed people who buy from these disreputable places.

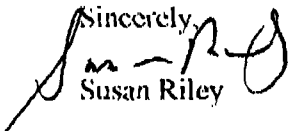
As an avid lifetime animal owner and lover, I sincerely request the following actions:

1) The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

2). Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Thank you for being part of this important change.

Sincerely,



Susan Riley

2559

RECEIVED

To:

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC)

Arthur Coccodrilli

333 Market Street, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Main Telephone: (717) 783-5417

2007 MAR 20 AM 9:11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 13, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

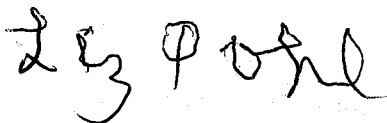
Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address – they are the organizations which struggle to deal with the “animal fallout” created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Please make sure that:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



To: Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC)
Arthur Coccodrilli
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Main Telephone: (717) 783-5417

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 20 AM 9:11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 15, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

Non-profit animal welfare groups are not in the same category as the people doing the kinds of things which these legislative changes are meant to address – they are the organizations which struggle to deal with the “animal fallout” created by such people. As such, their employees and board members have a clearer picture than most of many of the things involved in the issues relevant to these regulations.

Please make sure that:

~~~~~

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.

2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Marti Wiseman

Marti Wiseman
696 Brookshire Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

2559

RECEIVED

To:

Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC)

Arthur Coccodrilli

333 Market Street, 14th Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

Main Telephone: (717) 783-5417

2007 MAR 20 AM 9:11

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

March 13, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing to ask two things related to the changes Governor Rendell has proposed to the dog law regulations.

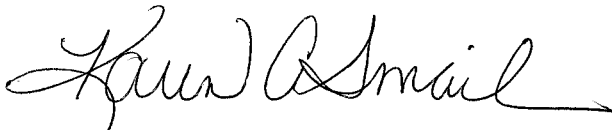
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Please make sure that:

1. The Dog Law regulations as applied to kennels should exempt all non-profit animal welfare and rescue organizations, especially non-kennel-based rescues and fosters. These life-saving groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs who are given up by their new families because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices.
2. Representatives from non-profit animal welfare and rescue groups should be included on the Dog Law Advisory Board to better represent the interests of animals in forming these regulations.

Sincere thanks to Governor Rendell for his commitment to change the situation for puppy mill animals in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Attn: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 20 AM 9:12

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 30, 2007

Dear Chairman Coccodrilli,

I am writing to express a few concerns that I have with regard to the proposed Dog Law Act 225, which was issued on December 16, 2006.

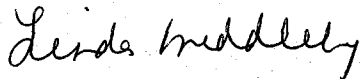
I appreciate that fact that the bureau has helped to improve the dog laws in the past several years. However, the current proposed regulation changes have appeared to be intentionally burdensome and go far beyond mere rulemaking.

The proposals add completely new categories and definition. These changes must be addressed through the legislative process.

The proposed changes require the kennel owner to record every time a water bowl or food pan is washed, every time the primary and secondary pen enclosures are cleaned, and the feeding and watering dates and times, etc. All these burdensome and excessive 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 caring for their animals.

The Departments direction and intentions are neither attributed as accepted canine husbandry practices nor substantiated by science. The Department should base their changes on education to improve the industry. I request that this proposal be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely,



Summit Kennel Of Sarver
138 Doyle Rd
Sarver, PA 16055

Name = Misty Bittner
State = Pennsylvania
Email Address = mbittner@sial.com

Message = I support the regulatory changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The draft regulations that were recently released by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that can be kept in one cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

Thank you

Name = Deb Cross
State = Queensland Australia
Email Address = deb@debbiedoes.com.au

Message = I support the regulatory changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The draft regulations that were recently released by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that can be kept in one cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

I'm really disappointed that this would be allowed to continue in America. I have always considered your country to be above such animal misery,

Thank you

Debbie Cross

**Coalition Against Misery
2207 Concord Pike #157
Wilmington, DE 19803**

Endorsement Form

The undersigned endorses the comments made by the Coalition Against Misery with regard to the proposed Pennsylvania Kennel Regulations.

Name: Dawn Whelan

State: Arizona

Email: dwhelan2000@hotmail.com

Comments:

Please make it mandatory to provide adequate care and living conditions for these poor prisoners who can't defend themselves.

Puppy mills should be completely banned. These animals don't deserve this. They were not put on this earth just for our pleasure to do with what we please.

I have an adopted dog that was liberated from a puppy mill. She has a half inch scar around her entire neck where either a collar or rope was left on her when she was a puppy and as she continued to grow, the collar/rope was never loosened and her skin grew around it. It then had to be surgically removed.

She was being used for breeding and had several litters before she was rescued. She would have been used till she could no longer produce, and then probably would have been left to die. No living creature deserves that.

Signed Dawn Whelan Date 2/9/07

Please fax this form to CAM 203-409-3851

#2559

Rec'd 3/19/07

Name = sumer sheahen
State = pennsylvania
Email Address = littletattoogirl@hotmail.com

Message = I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The draft regulations that were recently released by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that can be kept in one cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

Thank you

1600 Copies of form letters

Bender, Mary

From: Tracy Ray [tracyraypa@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 11:18 AM
To: mabender@state.pa.us
Subject: Proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations

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

February 12, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a

2/13/2007

provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]-->State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->6. <!--[endif]-->Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->7. <!--[endif]-->Report-writing and record-keeping;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->8. <!--[endif]-->Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->9. <!--[endif]-->Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->10. <!--[endif]-->Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->11. <!--[endif]-->Animal hoarders; and
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->12. <!--[endif]-->Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages

below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tracy Ray

Don't get soaked. Take a quick peak at the forecast
with the [Yahoo! Search weather shortcut](#).

2/13/2007

Bender, Mary

From: Mikus, Julie [mikusj@upmc.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 10:22 AM
To: mabender@state.pa.ua
Subject: Proposed dog law regulations

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

February 2, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a concerned citizen of the state of Pennsylvania, I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 per day of violation.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide

"proof of current and proper veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to require dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

1. The penalties in § 21.4(1)(iii) for "failure of an individual to comply with licensure provisions" should be increased from \$25 to \$300 per violation to \$25 to \$300 *per day of violation*.
2. The Secretary should be mandating to file suit to enjoin operation of unlicensed kennels where the kennel is not in compliance with the standards in the regulations and is unable to qualify for a license.
3. I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for doubling the required cage size. This is perhaps the most important change that can be made to improve the quality of life for dogs in commercial breeding facilities in Pennsylvania. This provision should remain in the regulations regardless of opposition from breeders. This section should be further strengthened by adding a provision stating that where more than one dog is housed in a primary enclosure, the primary enclosure must provide adequate space for all dogs. For instance, if the enclosure houses two dogs, it must provide double the cage space that would be required for a single dog. If it houses three dogs, it must provide three times the cage space, etc.
4. I also commend the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for including a provision that requires the dog wardens to visually observe the physical condition

of each dog. However, the provisions regarding orders of veterinary care should be strengthened to state that the owner must provide "proof of *current and proper* veterinary care for the dog." This provision should also be amended to include excessive matting and excessively long toenails as indications of lack of proper veterinary care. Inadequate grooming can lead to painful medical issues for dogs, including skin lesions from excessive matting and leg and joint injuries from failure to keep toenails appropriately trimmed. Moreover, the section should be amended to *require* dog wardens to order a veterinary check on dogs that exhibit signs of infection, contagious disease or parasite; or that appear to be in poor health where proof of current and proper veterinary care is not provided.

5. A new subsection should be added to § 21.30 clarifying the required training for dog wardens. Training in the following areas should be added into the regulations to expand upon the requirements set forth in 3 P.S. § 459-901:

1. State laws relating to dog licensing, control and owner responsibilities;
2. State and federal laws relating to animal care, cruelty and neglect;
3. State laws relating to dangerous dogs;
4. State and federal law relating to lack of arrest powers, proper use of search, seizure and warrants;
5. State and federal laws relating to pounds and shelters;
6. Basics of cruelty and neglect investigations for referral to appropriate authorities;
7. Report-writing and record-keeping;
8. Overview of the legal system, court structure and terminology;
9. Basics of interpreting animal behavior;
10. Identification of injury, disease, abuse and neglect in dogs;
11. Animal hoarders; and
12. Civil liability issues.

6. A new section should be added to the regulations mandating that the Department and dog wardens coordinate and work with law enforcement when applicable. It is imperative that the department work with law enforcement, and specifically Humane Society police officers, to ensure that both the cruelty laws and the Dog Law are adequately enforced.

7. A new section should be added to the regulations requiring that a licensee must have enough employees to carry out the level of husbandry practices and care required by the Act and its regulations. Additionally, the employees who provide for care and husbandry or handle animals should be supervised by an individual who has the knowledge, background, and experience in proper husbandry and care of dogs to supervise others. The licensee must be certain that the supervisor and other employees can perform to such standards.

8. Stacking primary enclosures on top of one another should be prohibited. Stacking cages creates an unnatural environment for the dogs. Additionally, it makes observation of the dogs

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

February 13, 2007

RE: Comments on proposed Dog Law regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

I respectfully submit this comment on the proposed changes to the Dog Law regulations.

First, I would like to commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing amendments to the Dog Law Regulations to improve conditions for dogs housed and bred in commercial breeding operations in Pennsylvania. **It should also be noted that the proposed changes to the regulations do not bring hobby breeders under the Act. The same people who were exempt from the former regulations (i.e. hobby breeders who raise, breed, move, sell, etc. fewer than 26 dogs per year), will continue to be exempt under the revised regulations.**

Furthermore, I fully support the comments submitted by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on behalf of its members, and incorporate them herein by reference. Specifically, I strongly support the following:

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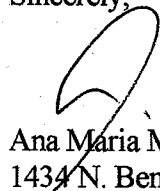
more difficult and creates sanitation problems. Even with a tray or partition between cages, it is likely that the partitions may overflow, causing feces, urine, food, water, and hair to fall onto the dogs located in the cages below.

9. The section on wire mesh flooring should be amended to make it at least as strict as the federal Animal Welfare Act, which requires that metal strand flooring be greater than one-eighth of an inch in diameter (9 gauge) or coated with a material such as plastic or fiberglass. Language should also be added requiring that all primary enclosures that have wire mesh flooring also have a resting board of sufficient size to allow each dog in the enclosure to lie in a full lateral recumbent position and be able to make normal postural adjustments. Resting boards are necessary to provide for the comfort of the dog and to allow the animal to have some time away from living on grated fencing. Providing resting boards will result in fewer foot lesions and other foot and leg injuries to the dogs. A solid resting surface that is impervious to moisture is also a more natural environment for the animal, provides a draft-free surface and enables the dog to retain its body heat. A dog feels most vulnerable when lying down, and forcing a dog to lie over an exposed area can contribute to anxiety. Humane standards and survival standards are separate, and creating an environment that merely allows for survival does not necessarily make such an environment humane.

10. Contrary to what the breeding industry states, the engineering standards specified in the proposed regulations do have a scientific foundation. The standards in the proposed regulations are more akin to acceptable husbandry practices. They will bring the engineering standards up to par with, if not above, those set forth in the Animal Welfare Act. Contrary to the hobby breeders' contention, the new regulations will not bring hobby breeders under the purview of the Dog Law. Only kennels that keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, or transfer *a cumulative total of 26 or more dogs* in one calendar year will be required to comply with the new regulations. As a result, true hobby breeders are still exempt from the law. Good husbandry practices dictate that anyone harboring a larger number of dogs (26 or more) should comply with certain engineering standards to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the dogs. The Dog Law and its regulations are aimed at regulating larger and commercial breeding facilities. Therefore, the new regulations will not affect hobby breeders, contrary to what the breeding community suggests.

Once again, I commend the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement for proposing regulations that will improve the conditions for dogs housed and bred in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. The changes I have noted above will further ensure that such dogs are protected. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ana Maria Mena
1434 N. Benton Way
Los Angeles, Ca. 90026