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Bender, Mary

From: M.D. Donald J. McGraw [d.j.mcgraw@solutions-by-ces.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 9:13 PM
To: Mary Bender
Subject: Pennsylvania Proposed Changes to Kennel Regulations

M.D. Donald J. McGraw
916 College Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15232-2702

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March 13, 2007

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Mary Bender:

The new requirements for the space and exercise for dogs are not based on accepted husbandry standards or scientific research. They are premised upon neither sound common sense nor an informed appreciation of animal behavior. They are instead a misadventure of good intentions and the absence of practical experience. Anyone with even a passing understanding of canine evolution would know that they are pack animals, at their most secure and comfortable in the presence of others of their kind. Dogs are derived from a common experience of hunting together, as well as eating and sleeping together. Affording them separate but equal space is benefiting only yet another misconceived anthropomorphism. It is all well and good to wish to improve the conditions for dogs, but this cannot be accomplished by imposing unrealistic and inappropriate standards upon responsible breeders, sportsmen and owners. Such stringent and incorrect regulations will only accomplish driving knowledgeable and caring professionals and private owners out without having the slightest impact upon those cruel and irresponsible operators whose bad behavior has prompted these ill-conceived proposals. Far more harm will be the result of these notions, as more animals will become available to those who already ignore the basic standards of care because responsible owners will not be capable of meeting these industrial levels of expense. I urge you to reconsider these unreasonable and scientifically inaccurate regulations and instead invite respected professionals and experienced owner/trainers to offer their input to any such future discussions. representatives of

Sincerely,

Donald J. McGraw, M.D., M.P.H.