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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

2559

March 13, 2007

Members of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture,

We, at Petland Corporate applaud when any state works to improve the overall standards of the pet business. Properly written and applied standards and regulations are good for both the pets and the customer that we serve, which in turn is good for the businesses themselves. There are however, several elements of the proposed legislation that would not improve the quality of care that a puppy receives at a pet store, instead would make the care prohibitively expensive and drive good pet stores out of business.

Section 21.22 mandates that all new puppies received into a store be quarantined for 14 days. Petland has protocols in place that ensure that every new puppy is veterinarian inspected in store and is quarantined for 24-48 hours. There is no state in the United States that recommends a 14 day quarantine period. Although we take great care of our pets, we feel that their time in a store should be minimized, and pets should get into their new homes as soon as our consulting vet authorizes such release. Our average stay in a kennel is 14 days. This legislation would create a problem of having puppies that "grow old" in our care.

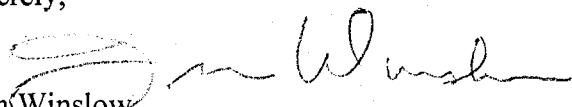
Section 21.23 mandates that cage space be twice the current standard. One must remember that there is a difference between what makes sense for an adult dog long term versus a puppy for short term. No state has mandated kennels to be of this size in a pet store. Our kennels are very well made and costly. The kennel fixtures themselves at the current dimensions cost over \$50,000 to purchase and install. A new kennel of the proposed size would be a considerable investment. Cost aside, a pet store would not be able to fit a kennel of double the size into an existing store layout. This proposal alone would cause many pet stores to go out of business thus eliminating many jobs.

Additionally, Section 21.23 requires cumbersome record keeping of exercise time. We build our stores with exercise and socialization rooms. These rooms are designed so that our pets can be exercised and socialized. In the past we have attempted to keep track of every time a pet is exercised, the process is very cumbersome and time consuming and does not achieve the goal like good old fashioned common sense. Good business practice

dictates that a well socialized pet goes home quicker than those that are not well socialized. In our business, it is common business practice to have a well socialized kennel.

Again, we at Petland welcome the opportunity to provide feedback that helps protect our pets and our customers. We conduct business in dozens of states and throughout the world and we have a variety of pet oriented legislation in those different areas. We feel that good legislation must be fair and balanced which promotes entrepreneurial investments thus creating new jobs. Please let me know how Petland can provide more assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

  
Brian Winslow  
Director of Operations