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To: Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
Arthur Coccodrilli,

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Dr. Deborah Krupp

Date: March 14, 2007

2559

Re: "Puppy Mill" Proposed Regulations

I am writing in support of the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. I have serious concerns about the adequacy of cage conditions, cage size requirements, temperature conditions, and humane breeding practices as outlined in the proposed standards

I agree with the Coalition Against Misery that every kennel should be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning; that regulations should limit the number of dogs that are kept in a cage; and that breeding regulations be consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

Furthermore, 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 groups are organized specifically to save and care for the dogs abandoned by owners because of sickness and genetic disorders caused by bad breeding practices at Puppy Mills.

Finally and of the utmost importance, 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.

It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. The inhumane, disreputable people who over breed these animals caring only for the money that they bring in should be shut down and prosecuted for their illegal abuses. And legislators and government officials who look away as if it is not happening must be held accountable for aiding and abetting these crimes.

Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs. It is time for Pennsylvania to rid itself of its reputation as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East and instead prove that we can and will right these wrongs at any cost.

Thank you.


Dr. Deborah Krupp