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Kathy Cooper

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From: Staszewski, Linda [LStaszewski@ASBG.com]
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To: IRRC
Cc: Staszewski, Linda
Subject: PLEASE HELP!!! puppy mills
Importance: High

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408
(717) 787-3062
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Chairman of the Independent Regulatory Review Committee (IRRC):
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Governor Ed Rendell

Cracking down on Puppy Mills in Pennsylvania

Dear Ms. Bender,

I implore you to use your authority to help these poor defenseless animals. WE NEED YOU!!!

Many Americans still buy their dogs from pet stores. And most pet stores get the dogs from puppy mills – factory farms where thousands upon thousands of **mother dogs spend their entire lives in small wire cages giving birth after birth after birth to puppies of every breed.** These puppy mills are **places of horror** – almost entirely unregulated. The unscrupulous breeders have no concern at all for these poor animals and are often cruel to them physically, also. The puppies themselves are often sickly and suffering from genetic deformities that only show up when it's too late to take them back to the store. Where do they end up? **In our shelters and our broken hearts.**

3/14/2007

One of the worst states for puppy mills is Pennsylvania. But last fall, Gov. Ed Rendell (D) announced a commitment to cracking down on the puppy mills by proposing changes to dog law regulations. Best Friends supports Gov. Rendell for his commitment, but there are some major problems with the new regulations, and **we hope the governor will work with Best Friends, Because You Care, Anna House, Broken Arrow Sanctuary, and local non-profit rescue and foster groups** to address these problems.

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. THIS IS ESSENTIAL. These are people who volunteer and care so deeply and passionately about the rights of defenseless animals and their welfare.

Your help is SO VERY IMPORTANT. Please do the right thing.

Thank you so much.

Best,

Linda Staszewski

Health, Safety & Environmental Manager

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