

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

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Comments:

In the year 2000 I adopted a rescued poodle puppy born in a high-volume puppy mill. Due to poor breeding, this puppy was afflicted with a Grade 6 PDA (the most severe degree heart murmur). As no veterinarian would issue a health certificate in order to fly the puppy to me, it was necessary to enlist a caravan of volunteer drivers to transport him through several states as far as Jackson, MS where I claimed him. I took him to my vet for a checkup and he referred me to Louisiana State University Veterinary Hospital for further diagnosis. The puppy was 12 weeks old at the time and LSU advised me he was not in a healthy enough condition to undergo heart surgery. They asked me to build him up for another month and then return. At 16 weeks of age, my puppy was given approval for surgery and he underwent extensive heart surgery with many problems encountered. It cost me around \$3,500.00 and Joey (the puppy) is now 7 years old enjoying life to the fullest. Joey was a good example of the poorly bred, sick dogs that come out of high-volume commercial breeders. Puppy millers who treat dogs as nothing but "crops" need to be closed down immediately. I wholeheartedly endorse very strict regulations for commercial dog breeders and feel they should be more strenuously monitored. This is an extremely cruel industry.

/s/ Joan Garvey