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March 15, 2007

Deborah Haney-PO Box 524
Mt Gretna, PA 17064

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

2007 MAR 30 PM 3:06

RECEIVED

Mary Bender
PA Dept of Agriculture
Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

RE: Proposed Dog Law Regulation amendments

Dear Ms Bender:

Thank you for allowing the public this opportunity to express opinions on the proposed kennel regulation changes. I attended the most recent Dog Law Advisory Board meeting on March 14, 2007. At that time I did make a statement and now wish to submit such to you in writing.

I believe you need to revise Section 21.24 (b11) with regards to grass in the outdoor facility area. I think it is important that regulation states that the area be kept manicured and free of weeds. However, I believe the dogs should be able to have their brief, 20 minutes per day of exercise on a grassy area. Have you ever watched a dog romp in grass and roll on it's back? They would not have that luxury on concrete or gravel as your current proposal suggests. Also gravel or stone can very easily cause cuts in tiny dog paws.

I recently rescued a tiny (now 2 lbs) chihuahua from a puppy mill in Manheim, PA. It was thrilling to watch her first steps on grass. It's been so cold since I've had her...I only let her outside for the first time yesterday in the 70 degree temps. She took a flying leap from my patio (which is exactly level with the grass) onto the grass. She had no idea what she was going to "land" on, but decided to take the "leap of faith". She was thrilled with it! I'm sure you have no idea what it is like to watch these mill dogs take their first steps on grass. They have no idea what grass is. But they have all quickly learned the joys of running in it. So I hope you will reconsider this amendment.

I was also happy to know that the Board will be taking a tour of a kennel(s). I certainly hope that you choose a large commercial breeding facility (K-5) and also a small commercial breeding facility (K-1). I have been in both types and barely any of the current regulations are being followed. I can't imagine them following any new regulations. I also believe it is extremely important that you show up at the kennel unannounced. You need to see the daily operation "as it is", not after a quick dispersing of "extra" dogs and a quick clean-up.

Thank you again for proposing these new regulations. I do fully support the thoughts and suggestions of the ASPCA, as were presented by Cori Menkin. And thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Deborah S. Haney

