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Gelnett, Wanda B.

From: Ame Kessler [akessler@animalrescueinc.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 2:45 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: Fw: Re: Amendment to Dog Law Regulations

2559

2007 MAR 16 AM 7:41

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

-----Original Message-----

From: Ame Kessler
Date: 3/15/2007 2:07:14 PM
To: mabender@state.pa.us
Subject: Re: Amendment to Dog Law Regulations

Dear Ms. Bender,

While we are totally supportive of regulations to help control problems that exist in the large commercial dog breeding kennels, our "shelter" is unique in comparison to any other shelter in Pennsylvania. We do not fall under the same category as the Humane Society or SPCA. While we are a "shelter", our animals are housed differently since we are a sanctuary for life. Our animals are grouped by personalities not by size or gender. Un-neutered animals are not "housed" together nor allowed to play in the dog yard until they are neutered and properly socialized. Those that do not "fit in" with a group are matched with a buddy. Dogs that are more comfortable in the company of cats are allowed to cohabitate with them. This allows us to confidently adopt those dogs into homes that currently have cats. We strive to socialize our animals for their health and well being which in turn makes them a more desirable pet to adopt. The only shelter that comes close to Animal Rescue, Inc.'s layout is Best Friends Sanctuary in Utah.

Animal Rescue, Inc. Has been a "Sanctuary for Life" for over 30 years. To adhere to the new regulations would not only cost our non-profit organization an astronomical amount of money, it would also be extremely distressful to individually cage dogs that have had their "freedom" since their arrival here. We would not be able to continue providing the public services that we do. We currently offer a subsidized, low cost spay and neuter program for cats and dogs. Some local rescue groups use our services to help cut their costs in adopting out pets as well. We help to control the feral cat population by offering "Trap, Neuter, Return" programs for Pennsylvania & Maryland. Animal Rescue, Inc. Also strives to educate the public on proper animal care, responsibility, training for "problem animals" and commitment to family pets.

We would like the opportunity to give you a tour of our Sanctuary so that you may understand our position. We feel that while an amendment is being made to the current Dog Law, a category for shelters that do not euthanize or with unique housing/exercising layouts should be included. If you would like to

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accept our invitation for a tour, please contact Ame Kessler at 717-993-3232
ext. 225.

Thank You,

Grace Froelich
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