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Message = I support the regulatory changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The draft regulations that were recently released by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions and humane breeding practices.

Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. Additionally, the regulations should limit the number of dogs that can be kept in one cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs.

I rescue pugs, and most come in horrible condition due to abuse and neglect. But the worst conditions come from puppy mill breeders. We always run out of money and foster homes for these poor dogs. They need extra vet care due to the suffering and lack of good food and water, no vet care, or shelter from the cold and heat, in addition to being over-bred from a very young age. They usually come to us full of ticks as well.

Most are blind or partially blind due to being left outdoors with the sun beating down on them. They also have cuts, severe skin disorders, badly infected ears and teeth. Some die before they can even be placed in their foster home. The ones that live have suffered all their lives.

This is not the way companion animals should be treated in a civilized country.

Thank you,
Mary Carpenter