

Name = Amanda Graham
State = Baltimore, Maryland
Email Address = amanda-graham@juno.com

Message = I am an active volunteer with a dog rescue, Cockers Spaniel Adoption Center, Inc. (www.cockeradoption.org) and I support the regulatory changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery

Dogs are able to feel pain and misery...and most modern breeds are highly social animals. The conditions they suffer in a typical commercial breeding kennel cause them not only physical pain but leave them unsocialized and terrified. CSAC recently took in four dogs from a puppy miller in Pennsylvania, and they were suffering from parasites, upper respiratory infections, cherry eyes and skin infections. They are also underweight and scared of just about everything. All they have known in their lives up until now is being bred again and again and raising litter after litter of puppies. They've not known kindness or any kind of decent care. I feel most strongly that this is wrong and it makes me angry to think that there are people who profit from causing this kind of suffering.

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. It's the right thing to do.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Amanda Graham