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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.

My wife and I have spent many hours working in rescue organizations. The number of animals dumped each day is astounding. People dispose of pets like trash then run out again on a whim and buy another puppy from another Petstore, keeping the mills in business.

We have a dog from a mill. She is a Border Collie. Not well bred and overly-anxious. When she gets over-stimulated she spins and grabs her tail over and over. This is a disorder common amongst dogs that spent countless hours locked in a small cage. High-energy dogs that were bred to run...trapped in a cage no larger than they.

These are "companion" animals...not livestock. They have come to rely on humans over thousands of years of domestication. They deserve so much more than they get.

Ignorance is not an excuse. Tolerance is not an excuse. There is NO excuse for the suffering.

Thank you.

Stephen G. Kleinhenz