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Message = I whole-heartedly 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. Our Governor has made promises to make Pennsylvania a better place for dogs being held in kennels and commonly known as puppy mills and I for one would like him to back up his promises with actions. Actions that improve the quality of life for animals in this state, actions that will help stop the suffering of dogs who are social creatures and not just livestock, actions that will enable me to feel better about the government of the state in which I reside.

Every kennel must be required to have a visible, safe source of heat and air-conditioning. If kennel owners can not afford to do this for the animals in their care, then they should not be keeping their kennel license nor profiting from the misery of the dogs under their control.

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.

Thank you,
Deb Sweigart
Concerned Lancaster County resident