

June 5, 2007

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Dog Law Bureau Director, Independent Regulatory Review Commission:

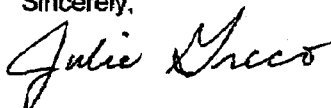
I support the changes to the commercial dog regulations submitted by the Coalition Against Misery. The proposed regulations by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture that were recently published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin do not adequately address the issues of temperature control, cage conditions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

I am strongly opposed to commercial breeding kennels where the costs are minimized by providing substandard care and conditions for the dogs in an effort to increase the profit. I am writing to request that you immediately take steps to address the horrific conditions in commercial kennels in Pennsylvania. 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 are kept in a cage. And finally, we ask that you include breeding regulations consistent with those established by reputable breed clubs.

I am the owner of three Bernese Mountain dogs who were rescued from puppy mills. One of them, Sherman, lived three years in a puppy mill and came to me sun bleached red and without muscle tone from sitting in a cage his whole life....he was terrified of people. He has flourished under my care and enjoys life as a pet and not a moneymaking source. He also enjoys air conditioning in the summer after having lived three years of his life suffering in a cage in Ohio under the blistering sun where the temperature can reach over 90 degrees. He also enjoys being inside out of the rain and prefers soft surfaces to sleep on after living his life sleeping on the hard surface of a cage. He suffered the most out of my three puppy mill rescues and has been with me for two years. I still see fear in his eyes and we continue to work on teaching him to trust humans.

It is a profound embarrassment that Pennsylvania is known as the Puppy Mill Capital of the East Coast. Please take steps to ensure that the new regulations provide humane conditions for the dogs. I am haunted by what my dogs have lived through in puppy mills. I hope some day regulations will be in place to provide better living conditions for these poor animals. Hopefully some day there will be no more puppy mills and no more dogs will suffer these inhumane conditions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Julie Greco

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