
From: Smith, James M.
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 2:59 PM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: Why is the Rendell Administration supporting the illegal actions of PA's Department of Agriculture?

#2785

From: Danette Cathcart [mailto:danettec@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 1:44 PM
To: gtuma@state.pa.us; stcrawford@state.pa.us; rredding@state.pa.us; dduer@state.pa.us; jsmith@state.pa.us; suewest@state.pa.us; dkennedy@state.pa.us; skniley@state.pa.us; nwyatt@state.pa.us; ashriver@state.pa.us; sbattisti@state.pa.us; scampbell@state.pa.us; lsimmens@state.pa.us; ckopp@state.pa.us; Smith, James M.
Subject: Why is the Rendell Administration supporting the illegal actions of PA's Department of Agriculture?

We worked long and hard to have some of the toughest dog laws in the country in PA. I am the owner of a former puppy mill breeder (a Siberian husky) who, at the time she left the mill, was unable to walk on solid ground because of living in a cage with wire flooring.

The PA new dog law clearly states adult dogs in commercial kennels can no longer be housed on painful wire flooring (solid or slatted only) and every adult dog is required to have unfettered access to an outside exercise run. Why are Governor Rendell and his staff are now refusing to enforce the very law Governor Rendell signed in 2008 by attempting to push through regulations which would allow commercial breeders to use 50% wire floors in their dogs' cages? Breeding dogs will once again be forced to stand on painful wire - wire that entraps their legs and causes their feet to become ulcerated and splayed.

Under our new dog law (Act 119), every adult dog in a commercial breeding kennel is now guaranteed unfettered access to an outdoor exercise run, but Secretary Redding is telling breeders that if they carry their dogs to an exercise area, they will satisfy the law. Who will monitor these actions? The honor system has obviously not worked in the past.

These changes are unacceptable! I expect our lawmakers to support not only those with business interests in the Commonwealth, but also those people who expect the humane treatment of companion animals. There were many compromises made when these bills first went through the Senate. We need to STOP watering down these laws!

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