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**From:** Smith, James M.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 3:00 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** FW: The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" ~Gandhi (1869-1948)

#2785

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**From:** Megan [mailto:megan.monek@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 28, 2010 2:10 PM  
**To:** stcrawford@state.pa.us; rredding@state.pa.us; dduer@state.pa.us; gtuma@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:** The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" ~Gandhi (1869-1948)

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IRRC  
2010 JUL 28 P 3:48

**"Anyone who has accustomed himself to regard the life of any living creature as worthless is in danger of arriving also at the idea of worthless human life". ~ Albert Schweitzer**

I am writing you today in an attempt to prevent the state from lifting some of the rules currently placed on dog breeding facilities. And to possibly sway the state to set down even more rules.

I recognize that in the current economy everyone should be able to run their business in a way that yields the highest possible profit BUT in the case of animal breeding this is not a time to loosen the laws on the proper treatment of animals.

If you have ever attempted to walk barefoot on gravel you may have an idea of what it is like for a dog to stand on wire. It is painful, it does cause long term damage and it is completely unsanitary to have any animal with open wounds exposed to people or other pets. Everyone knows how nice it is after a long winter to open all the windows and get some fresh air, well some of these dogs have never experienced fresh air. Many have spent their lives breathing in the dander and parasites of the hundreds of dogs they share a room with.

There is a clear and undeniable link between animal abusers and child abusers. Is it not animal abuse to allow dogs to live in such deplorable conditions? Since I think anyone would agree than I have to ask if the children of those running such facilities have been checked for signs of abuse. Not to mention that as a home owner I would not be allowed to keep a pet that was injured and denied medical care or in a cage that was causing the injuries but if I put a sign up calling my house a kennel those same animals loose all rights. In our township I've seen neighbors call animal control on dogs they think don't get walked often enough. I'm not sure when we, as people, stopped looking at dogs as companions and in many cases assistants and started seeing them as cash crops. It seems to me that somewhere in time we forgot that we are supposed to be the only one of God's creatures with the ability to have compassion and emotion for others.

**"Cruelty has cursed the human family for countless ages. It is almost impossible for one to be cruel to animals and kind to humans. If children are permitted to be cruel to their pets and other animals, they easily learn to get the same pleasure from the misery of fellow humans. Such tendencies can easily lead to crime." ~Fred A. Mc Gran, 1895**

The reality of the situation is; if the laws on proper boarding and care of breeding animals were stricter it would ease the financial burden put on the cities and ultimately the state. There would be less unwanted pets roaming the streets lessening the burden on animal control offices. Not to mention the added state income that would come from kennels being fined for not following the guidelines set in place to insure that the animals are safe. How much money was spent earlier this month rescuing the dozens of dogs from a South Philly home? Setting harsher rules for breeders, legitimate or puppy mill may decrease the sheer number of unwanted dogs that ultimately drain the finances of state and local government. It seems a "win-win" situation – the animals are safe and the state may have extra funds to make a dent in the never ending financial problems. I'd even venture a bet that there are animal rights activist who'd be willing to volunteer their time or work for very little pay to help with the inspections – just a thought. There are people who want to help and those who are begging for the opportunity to make a change.

I for one do not want the legacy of my generation to include the senseless torture of innocent animals.

Below is a sampling of quotes from men whose legacy will outlive most of ours but whose message is undeniable:

**The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" ~Gandhi (1869-1948)**

**"To educate our people, and especially our children, to humane attitudes and actions toward living things is to preserve and strengthen our national heritage and the moral values we champion in the world". ~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy**

**"I think how we treat our animals reflects how we treat each other ... And it's very important that we have a president who is mindful of the cruelty that is perpetrated on animals ..."~Barack Obama President Elect USA**

**"To inflict cruelties on defenseless creatures, or condone such acts, is to abuse one of the cardinal tenets of a civilized society - reverence for life. ~ Jon Evans**

Thank you,

Megan Flanagan-Monek

Ardmore, PA