
From: Smith, James M.
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 7:24 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW:
Attachments: puppy mills are WRONG! so is the government.rtf

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2010 JUL 29 A 11: 13

#2785

From: Courtney Touchstone [mailto:horsejumper585@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 8:13 PM
To: gtuma@state.pa.us; stcrawford@state.pa.us; rredding@state.pa.us; dduer@state.pa.us; jlsmith@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:

if you delete this email before even reading it, you should, and i hope you do, go to sleep tonight feeling ashamed of yourself.

i don't understand why you are repealing a law that you have already signed off on.

have you seen puppy mills? can u imagine giving birth to 6 puppies all at once in a cage, not being able to stand up or walk around because the floors are so painful? never getting to see the sun or the sky or run around on the soft earthy green grass?

so many dogs are rescued from terrible places they are forced to call "homes" and brought to shelters. then, only 25% of people adopting dogs come to these shelters, the rest all go to pet stores and BUY a dog for hundreds of dollars, instead of RESCUING a dog from a terrible situation and giving it a real place it will love to call home.

95% of dogs from pet stores are originally from puppy mills.

is it necessary to breed these poor female dogs over and over again, forcing them to give birth to one puppy after another until they're so tired they can't do it anymore, so they are either put down for "not having a use anymore" or die from EXHAUSTION and NEGLECT after an unhappy life in a painful, lonely, disgusting, smelly, claustrophobic CAGE!?!? (with wire floors?? i mean what IS that??? do you want to walk around barefoot on WIRE?? ew that cuts up your feet and is painful. ya i didn't think so. if you don't have to, why do they? and don't say "because they're dogs, they're animals, they don't mind, because they DO! just because they're animals they still deserve the same love and RESPECT that we do!!!!)

don't give these sleazy breeders more support, or more of a reason to keep putting these poor animals through any more of the torture they, and thousands of others have already suffered.

i've recently heard, that:

Rendell's Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding recently decided to support Pennsylvania's puppy mill industry by officially adopting a policy whereby pregnant and nursing mothers are deprived of access to outdoor exercise runs for eight months of every year. 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. Does Secretary Redding honestly believe that commercial breeders keeping over 500 breeding dogs will be able to carry each and every dog outside twice a day? It is physically impossible. And how will state inspectors prove these animals have been exercised? **THEY CAN'T!!**

PLEASE read what i have attached. this is the email that inspired me to write this to you. from Main Line Animal Rescue

<http://mlar.org/> <<< the owner of this amazing animal shelter was a guest on Oprah, for being so phenomenal, and changing the lives of so many dogs.

i've adopted ALL of my AMAZING dogs from this fantastic shelter, and i have never met more loyal and loving dogs. it's because they have known so much worse that they appreciate what they have now.

please do something about this. i am 15 years old and i love animals more than i love anything else in the world. i ride horses and love any animal there is. i am trying to make a difference. please assist me in doing so.

Sincerely,
Courtney Touchstone
Philadelphia, PA

P.S. i have added picture of me riding such loving horses, and of my amazing RESCUE dogs, i have RESCUED from this shelter, and have improved their quality of life by such amounts.

P.P.S one of the dogs in this photo (the coon hound) i FOUND on the road in southern Virginia, while i was on a bike ride. people drop off a new neglected dog at my horseback riding camp every year, thinking we will take in the poor creature and nurture it. i named this dog Daisy. she was skin and bones when she found me, and i managed to help her gain 10-15 pounds in 2 weeks. we found (exact number) 16 ticks in her EARS, and 14 more on her body. it's dogs like this that need the help of rescue shelters, and if you DONT HELP

The New Busy is not the too busy. Combine all your e-mail accounts with Hotmail. [Get busy.](#)

Why is the Rendell Administration supporting the illegal actions of PA's Department of Agriculture? Our 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. After four years of promises and after boasting "the toughest dog laws in the country," Governor Rendell and his staff are now refusing to enforce the very law Governor Rendell signed in 2008. Making matters worse, they are 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. (see video at the end of this email - mill dog housed on wire unable to walk properly)

If this isn't bad enough, Rendell's Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding recently decided to support Pennsylvania's puppy mill industry by officially adopting a policy whereby pregnant and nursing mothers are deprived of access to outdoor exercise runs for eight months of every year. 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. Does Secretary Redding honestly believe that commercial breeders keeping over 500 breeding dogs will be able to carry each and every dog outside twice a day? It is physically impossible. And how will state inspectors prove these animals have been exercised? They can't.

Animal lovers throughout Pennsylvania should be outraged by what Governor Rendell, Secretary Redding, Rendell's Chief of Staff Steve Crawford, Special Secretary Jessie Smith, and Director of Dog Law Sue West are trying to do. By attempting to circumvent our new laws, they are condemning millions of dogs to lives of untold suffering. We worked hard for these new laws. We can't let them be taken away from us without a fight. The dogs are counting on us. We need to write Governor Rendell and his staff and tell them enough is enough - they need to enforce our new laws as written. PLEASE COPY AND PASTE THE EMAIL ADDRESSES AT THE END OF THIS EMAIL. We have included IRRC's email address so your email can be an official comment.

Please ask your friends and family to write as well. Contact your state representatives and state senator. Don't give money to any organization that is not actively fighting to get dogs off wire flooring in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. If you are contacted and asked to donate your hard earned money and they tell you 50% wire is best - tell them to tell their story walking. They're trying to deprive PA's dogs of what they were promised under Act 119. If anyone contacts you and asks you to support the Canine Health Regulations, don't do it - not until the section allowing dogs to stand on wire flooring is removed and not before Secretary Russell Redding withdraws his policy depriving adult dogs in commercial kennels access to outside exercise runs.

After you write, Secretary Jessie Smith and Director Sue West will offer excuses:

- 1) Secretary Smith will tell you the Department of Agriculture will deny breeding dogs unfettered access to outside exercise runs because puppies can get stuck outside. Has Secretary Smith never seen a mother dog carry a puppy in her mouth? And why can't the breeders (who

are making a fortune from breeding these animals) check their dogs periodically to see if any of their puppies are stuck outside? Many believe Smith and West are willing to confine mothers to small cages in hot barns rather than insist their friends, the commercial breeders, comply with our new laws and make the necessary structural improvements to their kennels (adding outside runs).

2) Secretary Smith will tell you the Department is allowing commercial breeders to house their adult dogs on wire so they can be with their nursing puppies. While it is optional to house puppies up to twelve weeks of age on wire flooring, it is illegal to house their mothers on anything but solid or slatted. If the breeders want to keep the mothers and puppies together, they should place the puppies on solid flooring with their mothers.

3) Secretary Smith will tell you it is more sanitary to keep the mother and puppies on wire - it is also more sanitary if the breeders clean every day. Hutches with wire flooring allows the breeders to avoid cleaning their kennels every day, which is required by law. Tell Secretary Smith and Director of Dog Law Sue West to stop coming up with new ways to protect the breeders and do what they were hired to do - protect the dogs of PA. It is more sanitary if the mother dog can eliminate outside and not be forced to eliminate near her puppies inside.

4) Secretary Smith will tell you that whelping boxes will now be required for pregnant dogs and nursing mothers - and the whelping boxes will have solid flooring. What the Department is doing is allowing breeders to use 50% wire flooring and they want us to believe that whelping boxes will satisfy the solid flooring requirement of Act 119. The Department of Agriculture is deliberately trying to mislead the public. They're giving us half of something we already have. Under our new dog laws (Act 119), solid floors are **REQUIRED** for the **ENTIRE** surface of the floor in the dogs' cages.