

From: Smith, James M.
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 7:27 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: re Dog Law and kennels with wire floors

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#2785

From: AltNurs@aol.com [mailto:AltNurs@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 03, 2010 2:13 AM
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.
Cc: governor@state.pa.us; lieutenant-governor@state.pa.us; sgrove@pahousegop.com
Subject: re Dog Law and kennels with wire floors

To: All persons involved with enforcing the Dog Laws.

On Wednesday, July 14, 2010, the Department withdrew the proposed regulations of the Canine Health Board and added a provision 28a.8.(e) allowing 50% of the flooring of cages housing mother dogs to be exempt from the ban on wire flooring. The Department then resubmitted such regulations to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The Department did so without the consent and approval of the Canine Health Board and without even advising them of such action. It should be emphasized that the Department has no authority to draft and submit proposed regulations on behalf of the Canine Health Board.

I must say I was ecstatic that PA finally passed the needed laws for commercial kennels. For so many years we have tolerated puppy mills and been known as the puppy mill capitol. However, apparently passing the laws doesn't mean the administration has to enforce them ?

The 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. However, these laws are not being enforced and 81 waivers were issued. Working with rescues I have seen the damage done to these dogs feet. The dogs can be crippled for life with the feet being ulcerated or splayed. Even worse than refusing to enforce the law is to try to put through legislation to use 50% wire floors in their dogs' cages. The law that was passed needs to be enforced...PERIOD. Your job is to do what is best for dogs...not to pander to commercial breeders.

It is also a joke to tell kennel owners that they can carry pregnant and nursing moms outside. The law is they must have unfettered access to an outside run. What commercial breeder, some having hundreds of dogs will carry them out twice/day. This is basically just telling the breeders they don't have to follow the rules and common sense would tell you it isn't going to happen. If there is a problem with puppies getting stuck outside...then obviously the breeder isn't paying attention. If he can't take the time to check for the puppies being outside...he certainly doesn't have the time to carry out the moms. If they are reputable breeders they will build runs. IF they are not, they should be shut down. That is the law !

The law also states kennels should be cleaned daily. If that is being done...it is easier to clean a flat floor than a wire cage. The mother needs to get away from the puppies and should not be eliminating around the puppies. That is again only common sense for sanitary reasons.

There is finally a law protecting dogs in commercial kennels. Please do your job and enforce this law. I will also be writing my representatives.

Jackie Williams
New Cumberland, PA