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From: Smith, James M.
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 8:50 AM
To: IRRC
Subject: FW: Act 119

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#2785

From: Mike Miller [mailto:mwm@tricity.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 8:32 AM
To: gtuma@state.pa.us; scrawford@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: Act 119

I urge all of you to keep Act 119, which was signed into law in 2008, unchanged. Has anyone actually taken a moment to think what it must be like to live the life of a puppy mill dog? These dogs are kept in cages their entire "useful" lives. How would any of us like to be kept that way? Yes, some people say they are only animals, but how can anyone that has loved an animal close their eyes to the suffering of these dogs? I know we can't change the mentality of those who think they need a specific breed or one of the new "cocktail" breeds, but the lives of the breeding dogs can be made slightly better by not changing this law in any manner. Of course, it is the hope that one day there will be no puppy mills, but that is another subject entirely. If Pennsylvania is going to be known as the Puppy Mill Capitol of the East, let's at say we are attempting to make these dogs' lives better. We all also know that these regulations won't be adhered to by certain puppy mill operators, but hopefully, those not in compliance will be cited at some point and made to comply. And, some operations have gone "underground", but let's all work for the betterment of these animals. Every one of these thousands of dogs has feelings and if they could speak, they would not want to live like this. The surgeries they have to endure without anesthesia and pain medication is torture enough, including forced debarking. And, supposedly the law has addressed this practice (except those who have gone "underground"), so please take a moment and put yourselves in these animals places. Would you want to live your life on a wire floor or not have you feet touch the grass? I know puppy mill licensing is money in Pennsylvania's pocket, but let's keep taking steps forward, not one step forward and two steps back.