

#2785

From: [redacted]

**From:** Smith, James M.  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2010 11:01 AM  
**To:** IRRRC  
**Subject:** FW: Act 119

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#2785

**From:** Sue Miller [mailto:srmiller@pa.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2010 10:53 AM  
**To:** gtuma@state.pa.us; stcrawford@state.pa.us; rredding@state.pa.us; dduer@state.pa.us; jlsmit@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

As a concerned animal advocate and animal rescue volunteer, it is a well known fact that Pennsylvania is still dubbed as the Puppy Mill Capitol of the East . . . wow, what an honor! Please believe I witness first-hand proof of this every day just trying to make a difference in many of these dogs lives in the hopes that some will be re-homed. And, we all know too well that there is no hope for many others. Anyone who has even an ounce of compassion for dogs should understand that Act 119 should remain unchanged but, I also understand that money talks, and licensing these horrendous puppy mills is big business for the Commonwealth.

Pennsylvania's 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," changes are in the works to the very law Governor Rendell signed in 2008. Making matters worse, there are attempts 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.

If this isn't bad enough, recently a decision was made 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 the new dog law (Act 119), every adult dog in a commercial breeding kennel is now guaranteed unfettered access to an outdoor exercise run, but breeders are being told that if they carry their dogs to an exercise area, they will satisfy the law. Does anyone 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.

By attempting to circumvent Pennsylvania's new laws, millions of dogs will be condemned to lives of untold suffering.

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.

Lawmakers must 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. Under our new dog laws (Act 119), solid floors are **REQUIRED** for the **ENTIRE** surface of the floor in the dogs' cages.

Please do what is best for the animals and your conscious, not what is best for Pennsylvania lawmakers' pockets.