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**From:** Tom Hickey, Sr. [thickey1@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 16, 2010 12:58 PM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Fwd: Canine Health Board Standards

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Attached below are my comments in support of the proposed regulations.

----- Original Message -----  
Subject: Canine Health Board Standards  
From: thomas\_g\_hickey@vanguard.com  
To: thickey1@comcast.net  
CC:

August 16, 2010

Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
RE: Comments on Proposed Kennel Standards

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Thomas G. Hickey, SR., and I am Founder and Chairman of DogPAC, a PA political action committee created with the sole purpose of ensuring that effective legislation is enacted to protect dogs in PA. Today DogPAC represents over 24,000 citizens who were very active supporting passage by contacting their PA legislatures during the passage of ACT 119 in 2008, in fact, over one million emails were sent utilizing our website, [www.savingpuppies.com](http://www.savingpuppies.com), to elected state officials in Harrisburg in 2008 urging them to support the Governor in this historic legislation.

Additionally, I have the honor of serving as a member of the PA Dog Law Advisory Board since 2006 and was very active working with the administration in crafting Act 119.

I wholeheartedly support the proposed regulations in their entirety and respectfully urge your approval. If approved by the commission, dogs in commercial kennels will for the first time have protections and safeguards in place in the following areas:

Flooring - regulations requiring solid or slatted floors for dogs over twelve weeks of age

Ventilation - safeguards to ensure that the air that dogs in commercial kennels is safe to breathe and protect from airborne disease(s).

Lighting - standards to ensure that proper lighting is in place to allow those responsible for their care and well-being to see them at all times.

Temperature - heat index standards to ensure that temperatures do not reach conditions that endanger the well-being of dogs.

I am proud to have participated in the creation and implementation of these new laws. For the first time in Pennsylvania's history dogs in commercial kennels will have care standards that are humane. That being said I am also aware of one very important outstanding issue that will require addressing by the legislature: The situation where newborn puppies and their mother are together after birth. When developing the legislation over the course of over a year back in 2007 we addressed both the issue of dogs over twelve-weeks of age and puppies under twelve-weeks of age. Unfortunately, the situation that did not get addressed involving a mother and her puppies together after birth did not get addressed.

Currently under law solid floors and outdoor exercise are mandated for over-twelve week old dogs, and not for under twelve-week-olds. This

oversight will require legislation to correct this loophole. I plan to actively participate in the crafting of that legislation and have already initiated discussions with members of the PA General Assembly to make them aware of the outstanding issue and the need to correct it. As with the passage of ACT119, I expect overwhelming support for this corrective piece of legislation in the coming months. But until that time the right thing to do is to approve the proposed regulations to ensure that the dogs in PA's commercial kennels are afforded the protections that these regulations provide. Much time, effort and thought went into making sure that these regulations provide safeguards from abuse and neglect and it is imperative that the commission approve them.

I respectfully request that the commission approve these regulations as submitted.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Hickey  
Founder and Chairman, PA DogPAC  
Member, PA Dog Law Advisory Board

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Thomas G. Hickey  
Corporate Systems Integration  
610.669.9530  
[thomas\\_g\\_hickey@vanguard.com](mailto:thomas_g_hickey@vanguard.com)

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Sent from my Android phone with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.