

2785

**From:** Brownfield, Jill [jbrownfiel@state.pa.us] on behalf of AG, CHBcomments [CHBComments@state.pa.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2009 9:58 AM  
**To:** IRRRC; 'wgevans@pasenate.com'; Kerry Golden; 'kebersole@pasen.gov'; 'dhain@pahouse.net'; Thall, Gregory (GC); MULLER, JENNIFER; Kennedy, David C. (AG); Smith, Jessie L  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Dog Laws

RECEIVED  
 2009 SEP 23 AM 10:28  
 NOTARY PUBLIC  
 JENNIFER MULLER

**From:** drsmith57@verizon.net [mailto:drsmith57@verizon.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2009 5:57 PM  
**To:** AG, CHBcomments  
**Subject:** Proposed Dog Laws

I hope that my comments are received the same as a resident of your state. I would like to commend the board for taking action on a serious problem. I purchased a dog from a puppy mill about six years ago. I was not aware of what defined a puppy mill at that time. The owner is still in operation now under a new name. It was "Puppy Love" at the time. What a joke that name turned out to be. The State's Attorney brought a class action suit against the owner to which I received about \$24.00 This wasn't anywhere near the amount I spent to keep the dog alive after I got him home. He is still doing fine, but suffers from tooth rot and gum disease.

I have since adopted a rescued dog from another puppy mill. Cami had never set foot on grass, rolled in the snow, learned to play, or got a chance to be a puppy. She was a breeder for over four years. It has taken months just to get to where she will let me hold her. She still is unsure with someone touching her paws/legs. I don't know why, or what was done to her. I do know that I can still detect fear and mistrust in her eyes.

I am a police officer in the state of Maryland. I know that you can pass as many laws as you want to, but if the enforcement is lax, the laws are a waste of time. Until you can educate the puppy mill owners about the damage that they do and that violations of the laws will result in severe penalties, nothing will be accomplished. I have hear the excuse of religious beliefs as to why the animals are mistreated. I really dislike those who will hide behind their God to make what they do seem their right. I have seen where several religious group have conformed to the state's laws in other areas, why not this one also. Is money more important than the basic needs of a defenseless animal? Their actions are not from a need to survive or from a need for food.

Again in closing, I would stress the enforcement aspect of the regulations. There needs to be consistent actions by inspectors and enforcement agents. Thanks for your time.

Respectfully, David R. Smith.