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**From:** Neff, Dena F. [DNeff@seic.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 13, 2009 2:08 PM  
**To:** CHBComments@state.pa.us  
**Cc:** Kaufman, Kim; Jewett, John H.; Smith, James M.; Schalles, Scott R.; Wilmarth, Fiona E.; Stephens, Michael J.; Totino, Michaele; Gelnett, Wanda B.; Harris, Mary Lou; IRRRC; denaneff@comcast.net; neffer@comcast.net  
**Subject:** Recommended Regulations/ Canine Health Board

We strongly urge you approve the Canine Health Board's proposed regulations. Our understanding is that the state will not incur any additional costs enforcing these regulations, and any costs incurred by the commercial kennels should be considered minimal level investments to provide quality products to the consumer – medically healthy dogs.

Being involved with multiple rescue groups, my husband and I see on a weekly basis the physical and emotional damage of animals living in mills. We have seen eyeless dogs, legless dogs, severely matted dogs, dogs with rotted teeth, dogs with feet so flat, they have a difficult time walking.

The emotional damage inflicted on these dogs by kennel operators is often much more severe and harder to treat. If you are a dog owner, then you know dogs are social animals and should respect and enjoy interacting with their human owners. Instead, many breeding dogs coming out of puppy mills fear humans because of the abuse they experienced at the hands of kennel operators and their staff. All they want to do is run away and hide in any place where an 'abusive human' cannot get to them. We have a few rescued dogs in our foster care network that even after 8 months of living with their foster parents and other non-rescued dogs, fear human touch an interaction.

Nikki, our Shiba Inu, was rescued two years ago from a puppy mill in Lancaster County. She lived in an outdoor hutch with wire flooring, did not receive daily exercise, and was exposed to all types of weather without meaningful protection. She still wakes up 2 years later – frantic – crying during the early morning hours, for no apparent reason. She is also terrified of loud noises. We believe she experiences nightmares, and still remembers her life in the puppy mill.

These regulations for ventilation, lighting, and flooring are the prerequisites for operating a responsible breeding business that places high value on the production elements – the breeding animals – and should be implemented. With theses improvements in place, we can then start to address the emotional treatment of dogs in these kennels.

Thank you for approving the Canine Health Board's regulations – the dogs will thank you too.

Dena and Stephen Neff  
Phoenixville, PA

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2009 OCT 13 PM 2:15  
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