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From: SHERI ONEILL [sherionl@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2009 11:11 AM
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
Subject: Recommended Regulations/ Canine Health Board
Attachments: Old Crouton 1.jpg; 100_0572.jpg; Number 2.jpg

Dear Sirs/Madams,

This letter is to show my support for the recommended regulations made by the Canine Health Board regarding standard of care in breeding facilities. These recommendations should be the absolute minimum for these breeding mills.

My husband and I fostered a dog that was rescued from one of these facilities. "Crouton" lived in a filthy wire cage that was stacked in a dark room with no light or electricity. When she was rescued, she was terrified to be outside because she had spent her whole life in darkness. The first few weeks that we had her, she would cower under a bush when we would take her out in sunlight. She walked with her back legs jutting out behind her, because her cage was too small and she wasn't used to standing up all the way. We started walking her on a leash outside while speaking in a soothing voice. After a great deal of rehabilitation, it was amazing to watch her progression from hiding under bushes to eventually running around the yard with a joyful expression on her face while testing out her legs. All of our neighbors were amazed at her transformation. She was eventually adopted and now loves going outside for walks with her new family.

Most dogs from these facilities are not this lucky and spend their entire lives in darkness, standing on wire, their eyes burning from the ammonia generated from their waste. Crouton was lucky that she was relatively young and was able to be rehabilitated.

I've attached 3 photos of Crouton. The first was taken after she was rescued and was partially groomed (She was too frightened to have her face groomed). The second is about 2 weeks after we started fostering her. We would hold her in our lap outdoors while petting her to let her know it was nice being outside. The third was taken about a month after fostering. You can see the beginning of her transformation.

Please support the Board's recommendations and help the dogs living in horrible conditions in our state's puppy mills.

Warmest regards,
Sheri O'Neill