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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

From: Michael Lurski [seramike19@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 17, 2009 12:58 PM
To: Kaufman, Kim
Cc: Jewett, John H.
Subject: Canine Health Board recommendations

Dear IRRRC Members:

I am a vice-president of Airedale Rescue and Adoption of the Delaware Valley. As such, I have rescued and helped heal numerous Airedale terriers that have been harmed--physically, emotionally, and temperamentally--by unscrupulous and negligent puppy mill and kennel owners and operators. I can share numerous horror stories and, fortunately, many success stories with you, but I am writing to urge you to act responsibly and humanely for our state's dogs by supporting the recommendations made by the Canine Health Review Board which you are currently reviewing. Experienced veterinarians make up the Board. They act on behalf of our dogs, not business interests or politicians with agendas harmful to our canines.

These vets were chosen by both the Republican and Democrat leaderships. The recommended regulations enjoy bipartisan support and were approved unanimously by the vets on the Board.

Frankly, I and other dog lovers have been appalled by the ventilation, lighting, and flooring standards long practiced in this state. They have been horrifying! We no longer desire 19th Century standards. Let's keep up our joint efforts to bring Pennsylvania into the 21st Century regarding humane treatment of dogs. Allow our state to become a leader in this area, so as to erase the long-standing negative reputation that it has possessed for so many years.

Funding is often a significant factor in approving regulations. However, the proposed regulations will not cause the state to incur any additional costs by their enforcement. Commercial kennels may incur some additional costs, as they should, so that their dogs are humanely treated. And even they will benefit because they will be selling healthier dogs and enjoy an improved reputation, thus potentially increasing the volume of the sales.

But, the bottom line is simple. We must do what is RIGHT! Values and principles do matter.

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P.S. My wife and I share our lives with two wonderful rescued Airedale terriers, both of whom first entered our lives with multiple problems, all preventable. The breeders and former owners were unconscionably abusive and negligent. We have now had a total of five Airedales in the past twenty-one years. We hope to have many more during the remainder of our lives. It surely is optimistic to hope that there will be fewer and fewer problems, prevented by more humane regulations, that come with these dogs.