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From: Brownfield, Jill [jbrownfiel@state.pa.us] on behalf of AG, CHBcomments [CHBComments@state.pa.us]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 3:38 PM
To: dhain@pahouse.net; IRRRC; kebersole@pasen.gov; Kennedy, David C. (AG); Kerry Golden; MULLER, JENNIFER; Smith, Jessie L; Thall, Gregory (GC); wgevans@pasenate.com
Subject: FW: Hopeful

From: Wendy Lewis [mailto:welewis0@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 23, 2009 2:08 PM
To: AG, CHBcomments
Cc: kkaufman@irrc.state.pa.us; jjewett@irrc.state.pa.us; sschalles@irrc.state.pa.us; jsmith@irrc.state.pa.us; fwilmarth@irrc.state.pa.us; mstephens@irrc.state.pa.us; mtotino@irrc.state.pa.us; wgelnett@irrc.state.pa.us; mharris@irrc.state.pa.us
Subject: Hopeful

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

October 23, 2009

Dear IRRRC Members,

It is my understanding the Canine Health Board's recommendations are currently being reviewed and decisions will soon be made that could ultimately change the future of commercial dog breeding facilities in Pennsylvania.

I am sending this letter to you as a reminder that there are so many people, like myself, who are hopeful changes will be made to help improve the quality of life of thousands of voiceless dogs that, as I write, are living in deplorable and unfathomable conditions. I understand and respect the fact that large breeding organizations depend on the money made from the sale of their dogs as a main source of income, but they must be required to provide basic living conditions i.e., adequate lighting, appropriate flooring and necessary ventilation.

I will readily admit my opinion of puppy mill breeders is biased, as I am the owner of two victims of a Lancaster, PA breeding facility. Although my puppies dealt with severe anxiety, fear of people, food compulsion, etc., I know those horrible days are over and they will forever be part of a loving family. Unfortunately, the true victims of such mills are breeding males and females whose sole fate is to produce puppy litter after puppy litter, dollar after dollar. They never receive human contact, are never allowed to get out of their cages, and some have never seen the light of day. Disgraceful. Ideally, I would like to see every last puppy mill shut down and be a thing of the past. However, commercial breeders are a reality, and the very least we can do is make their living conditions acceptable.

You don't need to be a dog lover, or a dog owner to understand the urgency behind this issue...just human.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lewis

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