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**From:** Brownfield, Jill [jbrownfiel@state.pa.us] on behalf of AG, CHBcomments [CHBComments@state.pa.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2009 4:56 PM  
**To:** dhain@pahouse.net; IRRRC; kebersole@pasen.gov; Kennedy, David C. (AG); Kerry Golden; MULLER, JENNIFER; Smith, Jessie L; Thall, Gregory (GC); wgevens@pasenate.com  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed Regulation of the Canine Health Board for Standards Commercial Kennels

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BOARD COMMISSION

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**From:** info@nycleverk9.com [mailto:info@nycleverk9.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 27, 2009 3:31 PM  
**To:** AG, CHBcomments  
**Subject:** Proposed Regulation of the Canine Health Board for Standards Commercial Kennels

Dear Sir/Madam:

As a trainer specializing in dog behavior, I have encountered many clients who unwittingly had purchased dogs that came directly from and can be traced to Pennsylvania puppy mills sold under different guises of supposedly reputable "breeders" affiliated with false, supposedly reputable dog clubs in PA. In addition to physical problems, these dogs can exhibit many behavior problems including fear of and/or aggression towards people and dogs, severe separation anxiety and extreme fear or aggression on walks. In fact, these dogs often have several behavior problems concomitantly, overwhelming their owners as they struggle to cope and causing sadness as they are unable to enjoy normal dog behavior and the many pleasures associated with owning a dog.

PA has been known as the "puppy mill capital" of the US for a long time and I advise every client to be extremely careful in purchasing a dog coming from PA, period. The number of reputable, AKC registered breeders in PA is entirely dwarfed by the puppy mill "breeders" who swamp all advertisements selling dogs from PA, also earning PA the unsavory reputation of rampant false advertising in selling dogs.

The current inhumane conditions and suffering caused to PA puppy mill dogs is absolutely horrific and the resulting distress and injustice in selling these dogs to their owners is appalling. I strongly endorse the regulations proposed by the Canine Health Board which are based on scientific, factual research and which can finally help to end the inhumane, unbelievable cruel misery of the current conditions in puppy mills and consequential physical and behavioral problems caused to dogs by PA puppy mills.

Thank you.

Christina Shusterich, BA, CBC  
President- NY Clever K9, Inc.  
[www.nycleverk9.com](http://www.nycleverk9.com)