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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 5:02 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: Act 119 Comments

2009 OCT 29 AM 9:40
RECEIVED
NONPROFIT REGULATORY
PREVENTION COMMISSION

From: Liz Williamson [mailto:LWilliamson@pspca.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 4:53 PM
To: AG, CHBcomments
Subject: Act 119 Comments

As a Pennsylvania SPCA Humane Law Enforcement Officer, I investigate claims of animal cruelty, abuse and neglect in the State of Pennsylvania including commercial kennels. Our powers are granted by the State of Pennsylvania and we uphold the state's animal cruelty laws, contained in section 5511 of the Crimes Code.

I am writing today in full support of the proposed regulations for lighting, ventilation, and flooring as proposed by the Canine Health Board under their authority of Act 119 passed last year. As part of our investigations of Pennsylvania's commercial kennels, we witness the horrific suffering and even death that are a direct result of the lack of proper standards. In my opinion, the lack of proper care is all too often driven by the desire to increase profits per animal in commercial breeding facilities.

Based upon my 20 years experience as a Humane Law Enforcement Officer, these proposed regulations will improve the lives of animals in commercial breeding kennels. In fact, many non-profits and smaller organizations comply with these regulations daily, and I see no reason why larger "for-profit" organizations can not comply with basic standards of care.

More specifically, I support the Canine Health Board's proposed regulations pertaining to ventilation and temperature. As part of my investigation of commercial breeding kennels, I have witnessed severe dehydration, significant amounts of stress and discomfort, and even heat stroke and sadly, death. As a result of poor ventilation, I have witnessed an increased incidence of respiratory illnesses such as kennel cough and even pneumonia.

As a result of inadequate flooring, I have witnessed significant orthopedic issues with the feet and legs of both the puppies and breeding mothers in Pennsylvania's commercial kennels. I have witnessed feet that are bleeding, splayed, and raw as a result of inadequate flooring.

As a Humane Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Pennsylvania, the Canine Health Board has met its charge and I fully support the regulations as proposed. As an animal lover and resident of Pennsylvania, I support the regulations.

George Bengal
Director of Law Enforcement, Pennsylvania SPCA

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