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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
COMMISSION

Director Sue West  
Dog Law - 2301 N Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

October 21, 2009.

Dear Director West,

I am writing this letter to ask you to vote against the proposed changes to Section 28a of the Canine Health Board Standards for Commercial Kennels. I believe that many of the items are vague and may cause kennel owners to be unfairly accused of poor maintenance of kennels. Please consider the following comments.

In one part of the proposed changes, it is possible that kennel owners would face fines, civil penalties, and lifetime criminal charges if their dogs were to exhibit such things as dogs panting, elevated temperatures, nervous shivering, etc. which are all behaviors a dog may exhibit due to other reasons than poor ventilation. Kennel owners could falsely be accused of poor ventilation when in reality the cause could be a very natural reaction to other causes.

Concerning the proposed ventilation requirements, it is possible that owners would have to spend \$118,000 to bring their facilities to code and then another \$35,000 to maintain per year. This ventilation requirement would also create a drafty environment for the dogs which is direct violation to the federal code. High expenditures and unhealthy conditions certainly should indicate that this should not be approved!

Also in Section 28a.2, the proposed changes indicate a required level of 10ppm for ammonia. Is this based on scientific research – is there scientific basis for this number?

In Section 28a.3, a shady area is required in an outdoor exercise area. According to the proposal, the area of shade should be large enough to protect all dogs utilizing the exercise area – this seems rather vague.

I believe that in Section 28a. 4.5, stating that all floors and drains must comply with the latest edition of applicable codes, are also vague – what code is this referring to?

I hope that you will vote against these proposals because I believe in their vagueness it is possible that kennel owners may be misjudged even though they are running very well maintained and viable kennels. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely, *Phares Horning*

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