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OCTOBER 21 2009
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 21, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:


Let me introduce myself, my name is Joan L. Huber. I am soon to be 74 years old, and have been breeding and showing AKC dogs for 61 years. I am not a puppy miller, however I applaud those who want to get rid of those who mistreat animals, I have been wanting this done for years. I myself am **known all over the world** for breeding the best Miniature Schnauzers who are not only beautiful but also healthy. People from all over the world have purchased dogs from me for not only loving companions, but also to be shown in conformation, agility, earth dog and other such events. I have had over 600 champions that have been attributed to my name and bloodline. My bloodline is on every continent of the world. I invite you to my web site at www.blythewoodschnauzer.com.

I always thought that I would stop breeding when I was either physically unable to do so or have died; and since my health is excellent and my family is long lived I should be doing this at least 15 more years. But now I am finding myself in a dilemma. The very people who I have wanted you to get rid of due to their deplorable treatment of animals are directly affecting me and my business through this new dog law. I have contributed to the economy of this state, and this state is now repaying me by giving me the choice of harming my dogs through some of these provisions and ruining my business; or closing my business permanently; or moving to another state which is no choice in this economy or at my age. I do not have savings anymore due to circumstances in the past. I cannot get a home equity loan or a new home loan that could help me with some of these things due to a combination of the economy and the previously mentioned past. I have always been able to pay my bills and have a little left over that I generally used for my dogs, and rarely on myself. I do not get enough in Social Security a month to remotely cover my home loan let alone all the other bills that come with home ownership. The income that I bring in is through showing client dogs and breeding these wonderful dogs. These new standards would put me out of business, I would have to watch my wonderful dogs be placed either by myself or others and I would eventually lose my home. All of this would be felt world wide and would anger many.

Puppy millers and those who abuse dogs should be closed down. Responsible breeders such as myself who have done everything right from the very beginning should not be penalized and forced out of business. Top professional breeders guarantee their dogs; even take them back if their owners can no longer care for them. Many of us have been told by their dog wardens that our facilities are the best in their investigative area. Professional breeders are now finding themselves deficient for the first time. We are being lumped with the low life puppy millers by animal activists who don't want any breeders and a governor who accepted money for his campaigns from these people.

Surely there are better ways to rid this state of these puppy millers without harming people such as myself? Please do not put these absurd rules into place. Listen to the veterinary association that spoke at the hearing in October. Many of these proposed rules would be detrimental to the proper nurturing of dogs. I, on several occasions, have invited anyone to see my place and view my happy and healthy animals. I again extend this invitation to you.

Sincerely,


Joan L. Huber

IRRC Chairman Arthur Coccodrilli
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

October 21, 2009

Dear IRRC Chairman Coccodrilli,

I have been made aware that there are proposed changes to Section 28a of the Canine Health Board Standards for Commercial Kennels. After reviewing these proposed changes I have concerns and would encourage you to vote "NO" to these changes. Please consider the following reasons.

Under Section 28a.3, requiring lighting in a kennel to be between 50 – 80 foot candles would be harmful to animals exposed to this high intensity. A typical home is between 12 – 20 foot candles and commercial properties are between 15 to 30 foot candles. Forcing dogs to endure this intensity of lighting would be inhumane. The proposal also calls for lighting to be 50 to 80 foot candles during the day and 1 – 5 foot candles on a night cycle. After researching the cost to achieve this level of lighting with a diurnal light cycle, I believe the costs could be over \$18,500. Besides the inhumanity to animals, the exorbitant cost may cause good kennels and breeders to give up their businesses.

Also kennel owners would be suspect if their animals were to display characteristics such as panting, elevated temperatures, and nervous shivering. They might face fines or civil penalties for insufficient ventilation when in reality there might be a very natural explanation for the symptoms. Dogs pant when they are playing on a warm day, puppies have elevated temperatures when they get their inoculations, and the presence of strangers (the dog law inspectors) might cause nervous shivering in many dogs.

I would also like to point out that under Section 28a.4.7, it is stated that a floor may be subject to microbial assessment. However, it is possible that even after it is sanitized, if a dog urinates or defecates on the flooring it will show positive for microbial assessment from the digestive tract of the dog. Therefore it might be impossible for the kennel owner to fail this assessment when in reality the kennel is sanitary.

As you can see, there are real concerns about this proposed legislation. I encourage you to vote "NO" to these proposals because I believe that, although designed to improve conditions, they may be detrimental to the existing well maintained kennels. Thank you for your consideration and time.

Sincerely,

Blythewood Puppies
6531 Upper Ridge Road
Green Lane, PA 18054

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