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Senate of Pennsylvania

Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

12-27-99

Original: 1993

McGinley

Copies: McGinley

Bush

Cocodrilli

Harbison

Sandusky

Wyatte

Notebook

Jewett

Dear Mr. Nyce:

Thank you for the Dog Purchaser Protection regulation developed by the Office of Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. This final form regulation, which contains the public notice that will be posted in establishments where puppies are sold to the public, was sent to the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on December 7.

I think that the Bureau of Consumer Protection and the Attorney General should be congratulated for a thorough and excellent job.

I look forward to the publication of this regulation in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. It occurs to me that it would be a benefit to the buying public, as well as to sellers, if the other forms called for in Act 27 of 1997 would be published as well, at least as minimum guidelines. For example, the Attorney General has developed a form for retailers to give puppy buyers at the time of sale. This form is very clear in its adherence to Act 27, and would be very helpful to consumers in their understanding of the process of obtaining a replacement, refund, or reimbursement for veterinary costs up to the purchase price, if the dog they buy is ill or dies.

Unfortunately, a number of sellers are continuing to use their own "guarantee" forms at the time of sale. These may be misleading or do not conform to the law. One such form that was brought to my attention stated that the seller did not provide refunds under any circumstances. Other sellers are claiming ignorance of the law and are not providing any material pertaining to state law or to any type of warranty to buyers at the time of purchase. If the form developed by the Attorney General for use at the time of sale were published with the provision that its contents are the minimum standards which must be given to buyers or that must appear in any store warranty, I think that would be very helpful. I would like to make another suggestion with regard to the regulation. If possible, it should be mailed to all state and federally licensed kennels and pet shops in the state. Enforcement of the law would be enhanced if such a mailing were undertaken.

Again, I would like to compliment the Attorney General for a fine job, and I would like to commend the staff of IRRC, particularly John Jewett, who worked closely with my office to clarify questions pertaining to the law's intent. Thank you for all the hard work on this regulation. I hope that it will help to address problems consumers have faced with regard to the purchase of puppies ailing from communicable or genetic conditions caused by improper breeding practices.

Sincerely,
Stewart J. Greenleaf

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