

Mr. Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
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I own a pet store, in Delaware County, Pa., Booth's Corner Pet Supply. It is a 1500 sq. ft. full line pet store that also sells puppies. Everyone who comes to the market has to stop by to see the puppies. Some spend over an hour watching them play. In my last inspection from the dog warden he stated that he is amazed that he has never received a single complaint about our store. He said that is almost unheard of. I have dealt with over 100 different professional breeders in the Pa. area from State College to Philadelphia and Lancaster to Sunbury. This year I have had to buy puppies from Ohio, New York, and Delaware. I always wanted to be able to go to the breeders personally, see the parents and their facilities and really get to know the breeders, their kennel, and their breeding stock and make sure I wanted to support them and feel good about giving a 1-year warranty to my customers on the puppies I sell. Now that has been taken from me. I no longer can. I can drive 2-3 hrs every week to get puppies locally, but driving 18 hours to three different states is not possible. Now I am forced to deal with dealers and be less confident on where I get my puppies. The few remaining local breeders that have remained in business will absolutely be driven out of business if the Canine Health Board Regulations are left stand as written. There is no industry that has as much government over sight and tough regulations to follow as the commercial kennels in Pa. The puppies I sell are going to a loving home where they will have a long happy life. There is no law that requires for air conditioning, no regulation that mandates air flow, no 24 hr surveillance or monitoring, no ammonia or carbon monoxide readings, no cage size restrictions, no unfettered outside access. In fact some home owners never take their small dogs outside because they live on the 6th floor apartment and train them to go on pee pads or in dog litter boxes. There are no lighting standards in their home and I'm sure not a single home reaches the level of 50 Ft. Candles at the shoulder height of the dog. Some home owners put their dogs in a cage while they're at work that actually has a wire floor. There is no humidity monitoring or standards and amazingly most will live long, happy lives and die of old age.

Are there bad homeowners that should not buy a pet or own one? Yes, and we try are best to weed them out but in no way should laws be passed that take all the enjoyment out of owning a pet and restrict the 99% who do right just for the 1% that does wrong! In the same way you should not put 100% of the commercial kennels out of business just because some do not do a good and respectable job! Just because someone abuses a child doesn't mean we outlaw human beings from having babies. Hospitals do not even have the regulations for human beings that the law is now requiring for dogs. This is ludicrous!

When you have licensed kennels you have some over sight and the ability to inspect and keep tabs on the conditions. When that licensed kennel disperses his dogs to 10 other people and closes his kennel you now have 10 small unlicensed kennels that have no standards, no over sight, no inspection and no one to keep tabs on conditions.

Please! I plead with you to let common sense prevail! Do not let the animal right activists ruin an entire industry and make life worse for the dogs they are blindly trying to protect! Please oppose the Commercial Kennel Canine Health Regulations in the strongest possible manor.

Gerald Kreider, Owner

Booths Corner Pet Supply

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