



United Against Puppy Mills
P.O. Box 7202
Lancaster, PA 17604

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Working Together to Break the Chain of Cruelty

An Overview of Act 119 of 2008 and Adoption of the Canine Health Board Regulations

In 2006, United Against Puppy Mills circulated a petition to implore Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell to change the state's Dog Law. More than 30,000 signatures from residents of the commonwealth were gathered by UAPM to send a strong message to the Governor that the public, at large, believed dogs in these kennels were being abused, neglected and that an overhaul of the Dog Law was overdue.

House Bill 2525, ***now known as Act 119 of 2008***, was introduced by state representative James E. Casorio (D-Westmoreland) with the intent of improving the conditions and care for the breeder dogs in large scale commercial kennels throughout Pennsylvania.

A main component of the legislation was the banning of wire strand flooring in the kennels. In addition, dogs were to have enclosures that provide unfettered access to an outdoor exercise area.

Yet another part of the original legislation specifically addressed environmental standards including temperature highs and lows, humidity levels, ammonia concentrations as well as lighting and ventilation.

Both the House and Senate agreed that dogs in the commercial breeding kennels should not be forced to live on wire and should have constant access to an exercise area.

Unfortunately, the Senate – ***by amendment from the Senate Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Michael Brubaker (R-Lancaster/Chester)*** – refused to include standards that would specify temperature highs and lows, humidity and ammonia levels as well as lighting, ventilation and other pre-determined environmental conditions as part of the law.

Instead, the Senate Ag & Rural Affairs Committee created the Canine Health Board – an additional layer of bureaucracy – to create these standards.

The Canine Health Board wrote regulations that addressed the environmental conditions in the commercial breeding kennels. ***They further reinforced that no dogs in commercial breeding kennels should be placed on wire and that they should always have access to exercise.***

Dog Law Regulations in Pennsylvania are not adopted as “law” based solely upon a vote from the House and Senate. Instead, they must be reviewed by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC), be open to public comment, allow for input from the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Dog Law and the Attorney General's office in addition to a vote from the House and Senate.

When the Bureau of Dog Law was given their opportunity to review the Canine Health Board regulations, ***they rewrote portions that would allow for pregnant and nursing mothers to be placed back on wire as well as deny these dogs the opportunity to exercise.***



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THIS WAS NOT THE INTENT OF THE LAW.

If the regulations as currently changed by the Bureau of Dog Law pass, the breeder dogs in commercial kennels will realize little to no improved change insofar as their day-to-day living conditions.

THIS IS NOT WHAT PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS WANTED.

For additional information on the Canine Health Board Regulations, see the [UAPM Fact Sheet](#)

**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP THE PASSAGE OF
THESE NOW DAMAGED CANINE HEALTH BOARD REGULATIONS**

If you believe that the Regulations, as changed by the Bureau of Dog Law, should NOT pass, please consider taking the following actions:

1. Immediately contact Governor Ed Rendell and insist he pull the Regulations

Email: erendell@state.pa.us

Phone: 717-787-2500

Fax: 717-772-8284

USPS Mail: 225 Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120

2. Immediately ask your state representative and senator to tell the Governor to pull the Regulations

Find Your Elected Representative and Senator:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> - Use the search feature in the upper right hand corner

3. Ask your state representative and senator to vote **"NO"** when the Regulations come up for a vote.

Time is of the essence – please consider taking the above actions TODAY.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, THE BREEDER DOGS IN PENNSYLVANIA NEED YOU.

THANK YOU FOR BEING A VOICE FOR THOSE WHO CAN NOT SPEAK!

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