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## Pennsylvania Governor signs "Puppy Mill Bill"

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On Oct. 27, Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell (bottom center) held a ceremonial public signing of Pa. House Bill 2525, which will help to improve the treatment of dogs in puppy breeding operations and provide better health care for dogs living in kennels.

Rendell, who along with his wife, Midge, adopted two former puppy mill breeder dogs, was angered by recent reports that two Pennsylvania puppy mill operators shot and killed 80 dogs after state dog wardens ordered the men to perform kennel repairs and seek veterinary care for 39 dogs that had fleabites and fly bites.

Pennsylvania's previous dog law did not prohibit kennel owners from euthanizing their dogs with firearms, even if the dogs were healthy. "Effective immediately, we have done away with the right of people to destroy their own animals, □□? Rendell said. "Only a veterinarian can euthanize animals at a commercial farm. □□?"

The bill also offers additional protection for dogs in commercial breeding settings, such as doubling the minimum amount of floor space given to each dog, eliminating wire flooring that destroys a dog's feet over time and providing — for the first time — a mandatory exercise regimen for dogs. It requires that dogs have access to water at all times and proper ventilation. The bill also provides new enforcement tools to the Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement, such as the ability to assess civil penalties and administer search warrants.

The ceremonial public bill signing took place at the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services (CARES) veterinary hospital in Langhorne, Pa. Gov. Rendell said that he had immediately signed the bill into law on Oct. 9 when it first came across his desk.



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