Revised Kennel Regulations Get Approval

(Continued from Page A1) enforcement of the state's Dog Law. This includes the authority to create regulations to carry out that enforcement.

According to comments included in a proposed order, expected to be signed by state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius, for those concerned about attempts to link local municipal zoning authority with the state's licensing of kennels, that request was rejected.

"Caernarvon Township, Lancaster County, and IRRC requested that local zoning approval be made a prerequisite to the issuance of a kennel license by the Department (of Agriculture), the comments state.

"The Department (of Agricul-

ture) rejects this suggestion. The community in the development of Dog Law does not provide a basis upon which the Department can refrain from issuing a kennel license once the conditions of licensure are met.

"Any person seeking to operate a licensed kennel in the commonwealth must obtain a kennel license and comply with local zoning. The Department views these as two distinct requirements, and is disinclined to entangle them."

Except for one provision that exceeds federal regulations, the changes to ammendments to the state Department of Agriculturepromulagated regulations reflect a state government-wide effort to have state regulations coincide with federal regulations, and an effort to include the regulated regulations.

Work on the regulations has occured over the past several years, with input generated by the state Dog Law Advisory Board, a consulting group representing the spectrum of interest within the state dog industry, and a number of other groups and individuals concerned with the regulations.

According to the 18-page order, "(The amendments to the Dog Law) are intended to facilitate enforcement of the Dog Law by providing kennel licensees a clearer picture of what is expected of them.

"The amendments draw language from kennel regulations promulgated by the United State Department of Agriculture ... which contain more specific language regarding housing and sanitation requriements for kennels."

The order contains a summary of comments and explanations for decisions made by the PDA regarding specific requests for change in regulations.

Overall, the significant changes to the regulations include that the dimensions of kennels are now to be determined according to the measured dimensions of the animal, not the weight, as has been the practice.

Also significant are provisions that increase and make more specific the amount of time that water is offered to dogs, in transit or in stationary confinement.

New minimums also have been set for the function of raised. screened flooring and the amount of solid resting place per animal confined.

New qualitative minimums have been set for lighting standards for interior kennels, and for the function of shelter materials

Additionally, a definition for an "attending veterinarian" has been made which clarifies who qualifies to hold that title and what authority and responsibilities they have in judging whether a real situation conforms with the intent and letter of the regulations.

The set of regulations seem to reflect a more realistic treatment of the variety of dogs.

For example, the confinement dimensions had been set according to a breakdown of three weight classes — 5 square feet for dogs up to 25 pounds; 8 square feet for dogs weighing from 25 to 45 pounds; and 12 square feet for dog weight more than 45 pounds.

The point was argued that with a dog breed such as Basset Hound an animal can weigh 45 pounds but not require the same confinement dimensions for comfort as would a 45-pound English Setter.

Dimensions for kennel runways also had been provided according to dog weight under the outgoing set of regulations. Runways are to be considered the same as any confinement area, as far as minimum dimensions.

The new regulations set up a formula for determining dimension of floor space, based on the length of

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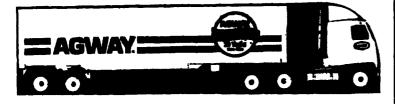
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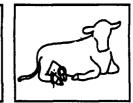
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According to the final proposed regulations, in order to determine the amount of floor space: "1. Measure the

- length of the dog, in inches, from the tip of its nose to the base of its
- "2. Add 6 inches to that number.
- "3. Square that sum. "4. Divide that product by 144.
- "5. That quotient equals the minimum required floor space for that dog, in square feet."

As an example given in the regulations, a 24-inch long dog would required 6.25 square feet of floor space.

The regulations already provided that height and width of the confinement structure (referred to as the 'primary enclosure") should be so constructed and maintained "to provide sufficient space to allow each dog to turn about freely and to stand erect, sit and lie down in a comfortable, normal position."

This has been modified to the extent that the "interior height of a primary enclosure shall be at least 6 inches higher than the head of the tallest dog in the primary enclosure when it is in normal standing position."

Also added, as regards floor space, the regulations state that for female dogs with nursing pups, additional floor space is to be provided "based on her breed and behavioral characteristics, and in accordance with generally accepted husbandry practices as determined by the attending veterinarian.

"If the additional amount of floor space for each nursing puppy

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