

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

I am writing to express my concern over the applications for kennel licences made by Allan Horst and Laura and Julianne Martin. I am very opposed to the granting of these licenses. Thirteen puppy mills in one township is too many, let alone adding to that number. What could possibly motivate one's self with having so many "licensed" kennels in one district other than the profitability of producing mass amounts of pups for sale?

Any moral person, animal lover or not, would have to be appalled and deeply offended at the conditions under which puppy mill dogs that are bred for profit are kept. It is well known that these dogs often suffer a miserable existence with little or no care, are overbred, deprived of veterinary care and live in confinement with little or no proper socialization. Is this acceptable to anyone but those people that breed dogs for profit? If you are a caring person with some compassion you will deny an application of having yet another "kennel" AKA a puppy mill in your backyard.

It has been brought to my attention and is widely known that hundreds upon hundreds of the puppies being sold out of Minto Township are sick with Coccidia, Giardia, Parvovirus and Brucellosis, in spite of your efforts to manage such kennels as stated in your Kennel Bylaws. Your Bylaws address inspections on such kennels, however it is well known that notice is given to such visits. It is absurd to give weeks or even a day's notice of an inspection. How completely ludicrous. How foolish does one have to be to think that these operations are not cleaned up in the weeks or days leading up to the inspection. Your Bylaws require that dogs are kept in sanitary conditions and are provided a "sufficient designated space for the proper enrichment and socialization of puppies". When you have 100's and 100's of dogs, do you really think this is possible? That is why surprise/random inspection is so important. Does the Township want accurate information from the inspections or are you just going through the motion?

With the proper documentation that you demand in your Bylaws, such as confirmation of the number of dogs and gender of each dog in these kennels be recorded, and that all dogs are immunized properly, plus all sales with the names and addresses of people who buy puppy mill dogs, this would indicate clearly a major source of income for such operators. All this documentation would be valuable to Revenue Canada, and hopefully you are sharing such information, even though I am sure a lot of these transactions are made in cash.

Your claim is that the kennels in the Town of Minto are required to abide by the guidelines as set up by the "Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations", from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Assc. However, your reputation proceeds itself in being a haven for Puppy Mills. Is this something you want to be in favor of?

The internet and social media have provided a platform for decent people who want to see a change in demanding tougher laws and their enforcement in dealing with this ongoing concern of puppy mills. In saying that, Minto Township Council should be cautious in granting licenses to a business that does not have favour of the electorate.

I am asking you to please, start curbing the insatiable need for some people to profit out of the misery of dogs. We, the people that try to be the voice of these poor animals are doing our best to get people to "adopt, not shop". Could you do your part?

Respectively,

YOUR NAME HERE