



Canine Comfort
a non-profit
organization helping
dogs in need

February 17, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

This statement is being submitted in reference to the Hearing on the Charitable Deduction discussion now occurring.

This statement is submitted on behalf of the following not for profit organization:

Canine Comfort, Inc.
P. O. Box 242
Aniak, AK 99557
907-675-4815
canine.comfort@hotmail.com
<http://canine-comfort.org>

In order to comment on this hearing, a brief description of Canine Comfort's activities is in order. Founded in April of 2008, Canine Comfort provides for much needed services such as food, shelter, medical care and permanent homes to abandoned, abused, and neglected dogs in Aniak and the surrounding area. There are no other similar services/shelters with-in 100 miles. The staff is comprised of volunteers and operates solely on donations. In the past few years we have been able to expand our services and are now reaching out to the surrounding villages up and down the Kuskokwim River. Each year, the number of animals whose lives are affected by abuse and neglect increases, and our services are needed more and more.

This organization is located literally in the bush area of Alaska on the Kuskokwim River. There is no road access, all travel in or out is accomplished by air or sea routes only. Temperatures in the winter regularly drop to -35 degrees Fahrenheit or colder for weeks on end. This time is particularly hard on abandoned and/or abused animals. Due to the isolation, purchasing supplies is particularly expensive. A 50 pound bag of dog food available in town for approximately \$30 costs us \$60 by the time the airfreight and postage is paid.

We are a small organization and have no other avenues of fund raising available to us other than donations. We have some corporate sponsors as well as many individuals who donate our operating budget. Curtailing the tax benefits these organizations and individuals receive for donating will negatively affect the amount of operating capital we are able to raise.

Canine Comfort provides a critical service to the communities in rural Alaska. This is done on a very small budget with a lot of volunteer hours. We request that you support our efforts by not reducing the amount corporation and individuals are able to deduct for contributions.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sweeney, President
Beverly LeMaster, Vice President
Susan Luchsinger, Secretary/Treasurer

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