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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

ORIGINAL: 2241

February 25, 2002

Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Secretary Hayes: 

Pursuant to the Regulatory Review Act of 1986, I submit the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking I.D. No. 2-135, Amendments to (Dog Law) Licensure Provisions.

You have received several letters of comment from the public and from certain interest groups. I would like to specifically call your attention to letters submitted by the Federated Humane Societies of PA (January 10, 2002) and PLAN (January 22, 2002). It is apparent from almost every commenter that adjustments to the proposed regulatory language must be made to more clearly identify the process of assigning a lifetime license number to a dog that has been, or will be identified with a microchip.

Additionally, both of these commentators expressed desire to see Section 21.4 remain within the regulations, with adjustments proposed by PLAN. While I understand that the law contains the penalty language, I see no reason not to repeat it within the regulations, especially since it appears there currently. We have learned that those who must abide by the law and regulations can do a better job if presented with complete information, even if it seems repetitive.

The comments submitted by Ms. Irwin regarding Section 21.53 have merit. Sections 205 (a) and (b) of the law do establish fees for license transfer. If no fee is proposed for recording a new residence for a lifetime license owner, then perhaps that could be stated in the regulation.

Lastly, there is some language within the Background section that precedes the proposed regulatory changes to which I would like to call your attention. There are two references to "more humane" treatment of dogs and method of identification. These references are inaccurate and infer that tattooing is inhumane. These regulations are being proposed to provide for a new method of permanent identification, period. Both tattoos and microchips are considered humane methods of identification and I would encourage you to remove any references to humane treatment of dogs when revisions are made.

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Thank you for your consideration and I encourage you to make changes to the proposed regulation to reflect the comments as described above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond Bunt, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Raymond Bunt, Jr., Majority Chairman
Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee

cc: Christian Herr
Rick Burd
David Kennedy
✓ John Jewitt