

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



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Dear Miss Bender,

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. Please read what I have to say..

I am a small "in home" hobby breeder. I am very concerned about the new regulations because * The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeding households to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate.

* Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.

* The record keeping requirements with respect to exercise, cleaning, and other aspects of kennel management are excessively burdensome and serve no useful purpose, as it would be impossible to verify their accuracy in all but the most egregious circumstances. Such egregious circumstances already violate existing regulations.

* The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices.

The above is far from a complete list of the deficiencies with the proposed regulations. I also associate myself with the more detailed comments on this proposal by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

Doesn't it make sense that pets that will live in a home with a family should be born and raised in a home with a family?? I would welcome anyone to come visit my home, see the conditions I provide for my babies...and yes, I consider them my babies. I don't do this for profit, I breed to better the breed, and to produce the most wonderful puppies that go on to be loved and cherished pets.

I'm so afraid that you people are missing the mark here...if you destroy the "in home" breeders who love their dogs enough to choose to live with them, we will be left with only puppy mills. It's so sad that the puppy mills will pass the inspections and continue to mass produce poor quality pups. Have you or anyone involved in the regulations ever taken the time to compare the quality of puppies found at a USDA kennel to

puppies bred and raised in the home? My puppies are held, cuddled, loved from the minute they are born. They are kept in an exercise pen in my living room and kitchen. They are in the center of our home, and are used to sounds and smells in the home. They are held every single day. Because they are in the center of our home, the puppy pads are changed much more often than if they are in a kennel...the blankets are washed and changed several times a day to keep the pups clean, but to also keep our home smelling clean. An "in home" breeder has more motivation to keep things sanitized.

Most communicable diseases are common in the kennels, but here in my home, I have never had one case of kennel cough, or parvo, coccidiosis or any other communicable disease for that matter. I associate with other "in home" breeders who are striving for the same goal as I am. We are the ones who are raising the healthy, quality puppies for the public..

If your concern is truly for the animals, then please consider what I've said here, how can a kennel compare to what I can offer in my home?

sincerely,

an "in home" breeder of quality puppies