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January 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. Although the changes may have been designed to improve conditions in PA's puppy mills, I fear they will unfairly target responsible dog owners.

According to section 21.14(3)(ii), an individual who fosters dogs for a humane society or animal shelter would be considered a kennel, even if they personally foster only a single dog:

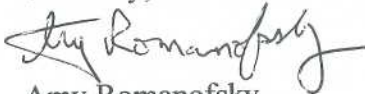
.... Each temporary home utilized by the establishment shall be treated as a separate kennel location. All temporary homes shall be subject to inspection by the Department.

This is ludicrous. Most foster homes do not have kennels. We care for the dogs in our homes and would therefore be unable to comply with the kennel regulations regarding housing, sanitation, etc. Foster homes, small rescue groups, and hobby breeders provide superior care for their dogs in their own homes, and should not be held to the same rigid standards required for commercial kennels.

These regulations presumably were not meant to cause a hardship for responsible rescue groups, responsible foster homes, and responsible breeders. Unfortunately the proposed changes appear to unfairly target those who are already doing things the right way.

Let's find ways to enforce existing laws to end the suffering in puppy mills, such as more manpower, more stringent penalties for non-compliance, education for puppy buyers, and putting offenders out of business once and for all.

Sincerely,

  
Amy Romanofsky

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