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# UNITED STATES CANINE REGISTRIES

Dedicated to supporting and strengthening the role of dogs and responsible ownership in traditional and contemporary lifestyles.

January 5, 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,

The member organizations of United States Canine Registries, which represent the interests of more than a million dog owners across America, strongly oppose the overly restrictive rules and regulations that are proposed for kennel owners in your state. The enforcement of regulations such as these will effectively serve to shut down, or severely curtail, the activities of the concerned, caring home/ hobby breeders in Pennsylvania, which will create a greater demand for puppies being produced by the commercial puppy farmers.

Puppies produced by hobby show breeders come from parents that are carefully selected for correct temperament and screened for all known health issues in their breed. They are raised with love and provided with superior care and socialization, and grow up to become the best possible family companions with the least amount of problems. Puppies from home/hobby breeders are generally sold on spay/neuter contracts, and they are welcomed back by their breeders at any time during their lives if they develop any sort of problem or if their owners cannot keep them.

Commercially bred puppies are produced for profit only, with no concern for health, temperament or the careful breeding of future generations. A far greater percentage of commercially produced puppies present unmanageable health and temperament issues and eventually end up being surrendered to shelters or rescue organizations.

While we support the careful control and monitoring of the large scale commercial facilities, which must be done to ensure that at least minimum standards for the housing and health care of the animals in those facilities are met, we would argue that applying the same restrictive and excessively burdensome regulations to the thousands of small residential hobby and show breeders will be detrimental to your state in the long run. Pennsylvania stands to lose the millions of dollars of revenue that are currently being brought into the state by events that are supported and managed by the core of home/hobby breeders that live there.

There are 226 conformation events alone listed for 2007 in PA. Many are large and prestigious, with long histories (such as the Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Bucks and Trenton, Montgomery County, Harrisburg Blue and Gray Cluster, Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association and American Spaniel Club). If you shut down the breeding and showing activities of the very people who give their time, energy and experience to the staging of these events, the events will cease to exist and your state will lose millions of dollars in tourist revenue every year.

We urge you to reconsider this matter and withdraw the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations.

Yours truly,

United States Canine Registries

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Official Spokesperson: Lt. Col. Dennis J. Foster (US Army Ret.), Executive Director  
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