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

2007 JAN 11 AM 10:13

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender,

1/5/07

I was born into a dog showing and breeding family and have had a lifetime or involvement in many facets of the dog fancy. At 67 years of age I only have two dogs a Chow Chow and an American Eskimo Dog, both are show quality, have obedience titles and work as therapy dogs. I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. It looks to me like Mr. Rendell's attempt to use Dog Law Enforcement to look like a good guy to the country, if gone unchecked, will ultimately scrap the good and responsible breeders of pure bred dogs and others involved with the true welfare of animals for an outcome that could be achieved with the regulations as they now stand. Some examples that are of most concern to me the following:

- The definition of "temporary housing" would require an individual such as myself to tell the many friends that visit me with their dogs when they come to a dog show in PA that they can not bring their dogs because I would be required to get a kennel license. It would curtail the fostering of rescue dogs if they were only staying for a day while in transit to their new homes. This measure is punitive to those individuals that care for the welfare of dogs. It would also require me to reject my friends who chose to travel with their dogs and would discourage Co-ownership of dogs. I find this personally invasive.
- I find the proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs completely baffling. It goes against my knowledge from over 40 years of dog training and raising along with countless courses in animal behavior and husbandry.
- The massive physical requirements for a kennel, now in compliance, would render most small hobby and home kennels obsolete. The engineering changes would be such a large economic burden that it would discourage those who are the most diligent in providing healthy and sound dogs to the public from breeding.
- Requirements for excessively record keeping would be a burden to the small kennel that only produces a few puppies a year while favoring the large corporate dog farms that turn out puppies by the hundreds and can afford to hire someone for the sole purpose of recording the time in minutes each dog is walked and the number of times water dishes are changed. Records of the kennel facility have little to do with the actual welfare of the dogs or the quality of the puppies that are produced.
- The only thing that I would applaud in the proposal is the added support for the Dog Wardens who do a fine job with their few number and limited financial backing.

These are just some high lights of concerns I have with the massive document of proposed changes in how our current Dog Law is to be administered. I feel that committee member Cindy Miller's statement to the dog law advisory board on Dec. 14th expressed the situation quite well and should be noted when this proposal goes back for revision. The regulations that are currently in place are sufficient to rid the state of "puppy Mills and those who are keeping dogs in poor and abusive conditions.

Sincerely yours,



Sandra Voina

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DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

