

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

January 10, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am the owner of two dogs that I purchased from a breeder. The dogs are 10 and 11 years old and I have gotten so much pleasure from these wonderful pets. I also have a relative that has a kennel. A Vet friend of mine told me of his concern for the proposed changes.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and/or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

Examples of problems with the proposal are the following:

* 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. **(My dogs were purchased from a household breeder.)**

* 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 proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices. **(My vet could not understand this proposal at all.)**

Good breeders and conscientious breeders follow the rules and regulations now. Bad breeders that do not follow the rules and regulations will not follow the new ones either. (Bureaucracy is the word that comes to my mind concerning these proposals.)

Sincerely,



Patricia E. Gostomski
181 Home Dr.
Pgh., PA 15223

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