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DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION



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

Dear Ms. Bender:

My wife, Marsha, and I are serious hobby breeders and exhibitors of Cairn Terriers. We have been actively involved in these activities for approximately 13 years and are members of the Lancaster Kennel Club, the Potomac Cairn Terrier Club, The Cairn Terrier Club of America, The Midlands Cairn Terrier Club (U.K.), and the Southern Cairn Terrier Club (also U.K.). In additions to these aforementioned affiliations, I am a member of the Eastern Stewards Club and actively provide stewardship assistance to AKC registered judges at numerous conformation shows in our region.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. My wife and I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but we 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 small, hobby 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.
- The obligations of owners of "*temporary housing*" which are made subject to inspection by the proposal are not enumerated or limited.
- There is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements.

- The regulations will require wholesale renovation, if not rebuilding, of many kennels already built in compliance with current federal and/or state standards. There is no scientific foundation for the arbitrary, rigid engineering standards specified.
- 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 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 list of examples listed above is far from a complete list of the deficiencies with the proposed regulations. My wife and I both associate ourselves with the more detailed comments on this proposal by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

The Bureau has tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced. If, after implementing its recently announced enforcement program, the Bureau finds it is still unable to prevent inhumane treatment of dogs because of specific deficiencies in the existing regulations, it should cite these specific deficiencies and propose changes based on them. The current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured, and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. We urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel P. & Marsha S. Quinn".

Daniel P. and Marsha S. Quinn