

**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 a small hobby breeder of Papillons and Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, and I am very concerned about the proposed changes to me, a small in home breeder of quality animals. I urge you to take into consideration the current changes in the Pa dog law, and how this will have an impact on people just like me. I don't believe this legislation was initially aimed at the small home hobby breeder, however it will as I read them.

*** 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.**

*** 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 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 obligations of owners of "temporary housing" which are made subject to inspection by the proposal are not enumerated or limited.**

*** 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.**

First of all, without having all of the wording, changes and amendments in hand to review, only the Pa bulletin statement, it is very difficult for me to even begin to know what wordings, changes and amendments that are being considered! In veiwing the Pa bulletin, I do see one major change that will certainly impact me, a breeder of less than 16 puppies per year. It is the definition of "Establishment" I have attached part of the Pa bulletin and highlighted the areas in question. First of all, this legislation is calling me the "establishment" In this one instance of your proposed regulation it will be unlawful for any kennel to purchase a dog from me in the state of Pa!!!! How absurd is that!

I am requesting from you a COMPLETE Dog Law enforcement copy for all changes to the current law. Complete with all the changes, wordings, amendments. I find the Pa Bulletin to be only HAZY at best. I am sure the wordings, amendments and interpretations will be very unfriendly to the home breeder.

I have contacted my Senator, his office has told me this law would not have any bearing on me, a hobby breeder of less than 26 dogs per year. I certainly question that! It may have been written to affect only the Puppy mill operations, however with this one instance of the definition of "establishment", I have already proved the Senator's office wrong! How will I know if the buyer of one of my quality dogs is a licensed kennel? I am sure I cannot rely on the honesty of each individual I speak with, I do try my best at obtaining only quality homes, but when I own some of the top bloodlines in either breed, it would be very realistic to have a kennel acquire such fine specimens under false pretenses.

I have also read about some crazy interpretations that the Pa Dog Law would not allow dogs to run on grass! How absolutely ridiculous! Where would these poor dogs be kept, on concrete? That doesn't make any sense at all! Lighting, air exchanges, come on now, I am sure this wording has been kept from the public on purpose.

In closing, I have literally thousands of dollars in my beautiful home kept animals, yes I have receipts to prove this, and I am opposed to any changes in the Pa Dog Law that I cannot read in full! The Pa Bulletin only gives a hazy outline, not clear changes to the current Pa Dog Law. I feel that Govenor Rendell's team was also incomplete without having involved the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs involved. He may have had a member of AKC, but not of someone closely in tuned with Pennsylvania breeders. At the bottom of this letter, I have highlighted from the Pa Bulletin, exact wordings that would involve me a small hobby breeder,

please, please understand the ramifications you are considering and protect the

LOVE OUR DOGS, and would never expose them to horrendous conditions of puppy mills! The sacrifices we make for our dogs is tremendous, meticulous and caring. I have put thousands of dollars back into the community in my meticulous caring of my dogs in veterinarian fees, licenses, certifications, advertising costs, computer systems, email capabilities, feed, supplies, groomings, photographs, etc. and therefore again urge you **NOT** to allow the current regulations to become law! The wording alone is unclear and the home breeder is **NOT** informed from the Pa Bulletin. My suggestion to you is to post the complete Pa Dog Law in its entirety in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, it would only be in this way the public can comment fully. I also ask that the entire proposed changes be sent to me, without them I am **COMPLETELY OPPOSED TO ANY CHANGES IN THE DOG LAW.**

Sincerely,



Susan Bowers

13364 Route 322

Brookville, Pa 15825

Annex A

TITLE 7. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART II. DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

CHAPTER 21. GENERAL PROVISIONS; KENNELS; LICENSURE; DOG-CAUSED DAMAGES

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 21.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this part, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

* * * * *

Establishment--The premises including the home, homestead, place of business or operation of any individual or person, including a dealer, which includes all of the land, property, housing facilities or any combination thereof, on, in or through which any dog is kept, bred, harbored, boarded, sheltered, maintained, sold, given away, exchanged or in any way transferred. Establishment shall encompass all of the individuals or persons residing thereon. It may be public or private and includes an individual, person, organization, business or operation, which utilizes offsite or temporary homes to keep, maintain, breed, train, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away, adopt, exchange, or in any way transfer dogs.

(b) Prohibitions on dealing with unlicensed kennels. It shall be a violation of the act and this chapter for any kennel to keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away or in any way accept, deal or transfer any dog from a kennel or establishment operating without a license in violation of sections 206, 207 or 209 of the act (3 P. S. §§ 459-206, 459-207 and 459-209), without the express written permission of the Department. In addition, it shall be a violation of the act and this chapter for any kennel to keep, harbor, board, shelter, sell, give away or in any way accept, deal or transfer any dog from a kennel that has had its license suspended or revoked, without the express written permission of the Department.