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January 10, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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2007 JAN 24 AM 10:49

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender

SUBJECT: Doc. No. 06-2452

The newly proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations have been brought to my attention. As the owner of several companion dogs, I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

Because I wanted the best chance at getting a healthy dog with a good temperament, I purchased my dogs directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large-scale commercial kennel. I wanted to know that my puppy had been exposed to a variety of normal household situations and was prepared to live the life of a family companion in my home. By buying directly from a reputable breeder, I was able to see the conditions in which my puppy was raised.

The proposed changes, particularly those applying to "Kennels-Primary Enclosures," are of particular concern to me. It is my understanding that in these proposed changes, if a cumulative total of 26 dogs are housed at "the Establishment" during a calendar year, then licensed breeders will be required to have housing facilities that comply with the specifications outlined in the proposed changes. Small scale breeders who fall into the Class 1 designation, would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp, or raise their dogs within their homes. These breeders, who strive to produce dogs which are true to breed type, of good temperament, and, inasmuch as possible, free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet these proposed standards.

I credit my dog's good temperament to thoughtful breeding and to the love and attention that my breeder gave my puppy. Most importantly, this included exposure to everyday sights and sounds, such as:

1. My puppy was taken outside to potty on grass regularly. This is of importance to me, as it helped with the housebreaking process.
2. In a home situation, my puppy was exposed to different surfaces and noises such as kitchen appliances, television, and other noises that occur in my home.

My puppy was given an opportunity to interact with other dogs, which helped develop social skills needed to meet other dogs we come in contact with.

While I applaud the efforts to improve the living conditions for the dogs and puppies being raised in commercial facilities, I find it a great disservice to the reputable breeder, whose standards far surpass in many ways, what these proposed amendments mandate. I, for one, want the choice to buy from a small scale, reputable breeder, and oppose these amendments.

Sincerely,


Wil Teeter