

2559

**"DIAMONDS IN THE  
RUFF"**

Betty Ann Hillwig  
231 N. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18104  
(610) 395-5279  
E-mail: MollyTuck@rcn.com  
Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers



January 11, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender,

In way of introducing myself, I am Betty A. Hillwig, of 231 N. 38<sup>th</sup> St., Allentown, Pa. 18104 and have recently retired as the Director of Elections and Voter Registration for Lehigh County. I also serve as the Del-Val Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier dog club's Legislative Liaison to the American Kennel Club. In addition to that, I am the current President of our local Kiwanis Club. As you can see, I am quite involved in several aspects of community service.

There are many serious issues that I see happening as a result of the proposed changes to the Pa. Dog Law. As a breeder of Soft Coated Wheatens, who shows and loves this breed, I would be hard-pressed to be able to live with these changes. May I cite a few examples:

The "temporary housing" would require many of us who breed specific dogs for the betterment of the breed and those of us in the dog fancy who love showing and handling our breed to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate.

The ruling that dogs of different sizes may not play or interact is actually quite foolish. There is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis, in fact would be contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices. This would mean I would have to separate my 16 lb Jack Russell from my 30 - 40 lb Wheatens, causing undue stress among very good friends and playmates.

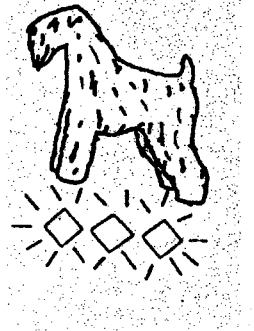
Smaller breeders such as myself and others in my club, in fact others who belong to the AKC, who maintain their dogs in their own homes, but are covered by the Pa. Dog Law, provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, and in turn, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial standards.

There are so many other proposes that I find offensive and ridiculous, but would make this letter too long. I feel that you need to go back and take another look at your proposed changes. While we all hate the thought of unscrupulous breeders and puppy mills, I think that the current laws need to be properly enforced before trying to make new ones. The Bureau is unable to regulate bad kennels and/or puppy mills adequately. Maybe we should concentrate more on the ways to strengthen our enforcement team before adding more troubles for them to handle.

RECEIVED  
2007 JAN 25 AM 9:12  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

**"DIAMONDS IN THE  
RUFF"**

Betty Ann Hillwig  
231 N. 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18104  
(610) 395-5279  
E-mail: MollyTuck@rcn.com  
Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers



I thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts .

Sincerely,

*Betty Ann Hillwig*  
Betty Ann Hillwig, Vice President  
Del Val Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club